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Feeding the dairy calf. Bulletin no. 20 April 1922

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The Banker-Farmer News Bulletin

WISCONSIN
BANKERS'
ASSOCIATION

A Little Journal of Agricultural
Information for the Farmer

BANKER-
FARMER
EXCHANGE

BULLETIN No. 20

APRIL, 1922

Feeding The Dairy Calf



It is necessary to raise about 400,000 dairy heifer calves annually in Wisconsin to maintain the present cow population, and it is necessary to raise an additional large number to furnish the dairy cows for the newer sections of the state and to supply the large demand for dairy stock from outside sources. It is important that these be raised to produce thrifty and well developed individuals.

Compliments of
BANKER-FARMER EXCHANGE

1822 Chadbourne Avenue,
MADISON, WIS.

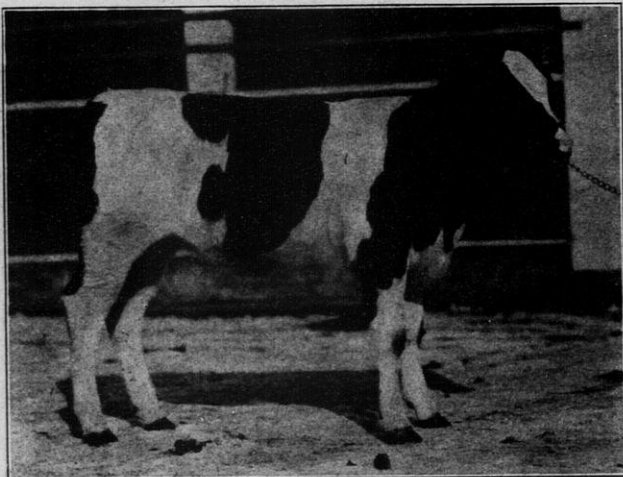
Feeding The Dairy Calf

R. S. Hulce, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin

FEEDING THE YOUNG CALF

A common practice is to leave the calf with the cow for two days although other successful calf men remove the calf the first day. A good appetite is essential in teaching the calf to drink.

It is better to under feed slightly than to over feed the young calf on milk; a general guide being to feed one pound of milk daily to each ten pounds of live weight. At all times the watchful eye of the feeder is necessary.



This calf was raised on skim-milk on the plan described in this bulletin.
Average daily gain, 1.9 pounds.

DURATION OF WHOLE MILK PERIOD

If the substitute for whole milk is to be skim milk the change from whole milk can be gradually made when the calf is about a month of age. If the substitute is to be whey, the whey can gradually be introduced when the calf is a month of age but it will be advisable to continue to give some whole milk until the calf is about six weeks of age.

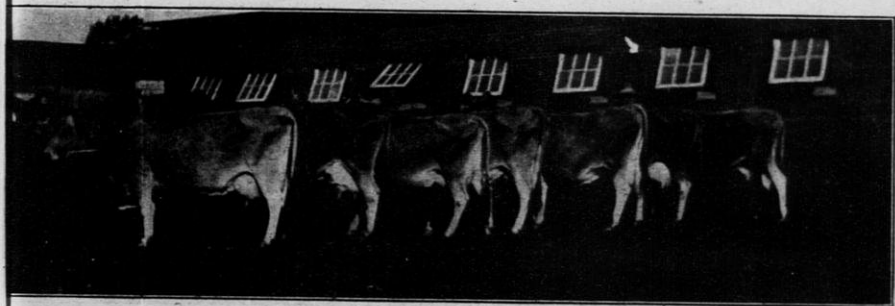
If the substitute is to be calf meal or simply hay or grain, the whole milk can be reduced slightly when the calf is about five weeks of age, but not dropped entirely until the animal is about two months of age. It is very important that water be offered.

SKIMMILK

If the supplement to the whole milk is skimmilk, the amount of skimmilk fed daily after the whole milk has been dropped is for a few days about the same amount as that of the whole milk being fed before the skimmilk was introduced. The amount of skimmilk fed is gradually increased until the calf receives twelve to eighteen pounds daily, depending upon the amount of skimmilk available for calf feeding purposes.

FEED AND CARE

It is practically useless to breed better livestock if they are not properly fed. The of purebreds will degenerate rapidly under poor management, and prove a serious disappointment. One of our County Agents reports that he has seen purebred sires a or two old which have been practically starved after weaning and which at two s of age are smaller than thrifty six months old calves. Improved livestock cannot be counted upon to manufacture milk and meat efficiently in large quantities unless supplied with abundance of the right kinds of feed and surrounded with conditions that make large production possible. The enterprising breeder cannot over emphasize importance of proper feed and care.



Seven purebred Jersey cows produced an average of 10720 pounds of milk and 555 pounds of fat. These cows were all sired by Winnie Pedro King who was sold to the butcher for \$55 before his merits as a breeder were discovered. A tremendous loss to the dairy industry.

WISCONSIN A LEADER IN THE PRODUCTION OF PUREBRED LIVESTOCK

Wisconsin is well adapted to the production of purebred livestock. Her soil and climate are good. Her farmers are wide awake and intelligent, and possess the spirit of co-operation. Wisconsin is noted for her small farms managed largely by owners, who expect to spend their lives on their farms and therefore possess a keen interest in working out a permanent system of agriculture. They realize that the production of purebred livestock is the highest type of farming in America, and they are filled with intense enthusiasm for pursuing the vocation. The future of Wisconsin Livestock industry is full of great possibilities.

CO-OPERATIVE BREEDING

The times demand team work in the breeding of livestock. It is hard for a single individual to get very far in the breeding game, but when twenty, thirty, or a hundred men get together for a definite purpose there is no measuring of their power and influence. This co-operation stimulates breeders to produce animals of superior quality. Several small farmers can club together and purchase proven sires. These help advertise the entire community.



Four daughters of Egglea Mercedes which show an average of 82 pounds of butter fat, or 35% over their dams.

This idea of community breeding is being successfully worked out in various forms in a number of localities, notably Ashland, Bayfield, Marinette, Loyal, Appleton, North Lake, and Independence. At North Lake and Independence, arrangements have been made for the appointment of committees representing each breed interest of the community. These committees pass upon the qualifications of every sire introduced into the community by the respective groups and as far as practicable make recommendations relative to any purebred females introduced into the community. Prof. Geo. C. Humphrey, of the Wisconsin College of Agriculture, and the Director of the Banker-Farmer Exchange are members ex-officio of these committees and will give any advice or assistance possible in the selection and purchase of desirable breeding stock.

THE BUYERS' OPPORTUNITY

Present conditions are favorable to buyers. Many farmers and breeders are discouraged at present low prices and with the tight money market are slow to increase their investments in better stock. Now is the time to buy grade and purebred livestock. Experienced farmers, bankers, and business men should stimulate their introduction and encourage the establishment of foundation herds, which will reap the benefit of the rise in prices which are sure to come in the near future.

"I believe if the farmers of the State will make use of the Exchange it will prove one of the cheapest and most satisfactory ways of locating good stock and seeds that have been offered. Judging from the letters that I have received from the patrons to whom I have shipped hogs sold through the Banker-Farmer Exchange, they must be as pleased with the results as I am." V. C. Tiedt, Juneau County.

"I have had some dealings with the Exchange and am well pleased. It not only helped me and my neighbors who have bought or sold through the Exchange, but has helped the Holstein breeders Association and the County more than one or two years of hard work on our part." W. C. Katel, Kewaunee County.

"We would like to thank you for the service which the Banker-Farmer Exchange is rendering us. Your department is supplying a real need and we will be pleased to see it grow in popularity and usefulness, as it surely will do." Ward Brothers, Jefferson County.

"I wish to express my satisfaction with the service of the Banker-Farmer Exchange. Last year I sold seed barley through the Exchange and recently you sent me purchasers for my surplus stock. There is a factor in your work that distinguishes it from the ordinary advertising. You seem to reach a fine class of buyers. This is natural for they are men of business habits who are in touch with the banks. Such men know what they want and are satisfied when they get it." W. J. Dougan, Rock County.

"Just a line to let you know how well pleased I am with the manner in which the buyers are being handled here. We have just gotten out the two carloads of Guernseys for the Indiana and Michigan men you sent down and they as all the others went away without a single complaint; on the opposite they have very positive praise for the way they were handled.

"I am extremely interested in building up a real staple market for our cattle and am willing to devote considerable time to it. I realize that the buyers must get good cattle at market prices and not be held up for inferior goods, as that would kill it. Mr. Bennett is being very careful to take them to only reliable farmers and he is not easily fooled. I am so well pleased with the way this is going that I want to encourage you in the good work you are doing and to say 'KEEP SENDING THEM ALONG, WE WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM IN GOOD SHAPE.'" J. B. Ely, Pewaukee State Bank, Waukesha Co.

"Mr. Robert Spencer has sold cattle listed with you. We certainly can say that Mr. Spencer has had remarkable results from listing his stock with you." Bank of Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin.

Co-operation With Other Agencies.

The Banker-Farmer Exchange is doing everything it can to co-operate with the State, County and local breed associations, County Agents, cow testing associations and others for extending the market for livestock. In a number of instances we have been able to arrange for local field men through the cow testers, breed secretaries, and county agents, for the handling of buyers desiring to purchase car load lots.

Expense.

The local banks make no charges for their services. To help support the central office and pay for stenography, postage, advertising, etc., the seller is asked to pay the Banker-Farmer Exchange a five percent commission on sales made to parties referred to him by the Exchange. In case of carload lot shipments, which call for the services of a local field man to drive from farm to farm, the buyer is asked to pay the commission instead of the seller.

Selling Listed Stock Through Other Channels.

Listing stock for sale through the Banker-Farmer Exchange does not in any way interfere with selling them through other channels, and when thus sold there is no commission or other obligation except to notify the Exchange that the stock has been sold.

Opportunities For Sale Through the Exchange.

During the past year the Banker-Farmer Exchange has received 692 inquiries for 9690 head of cattle. Of these, 1470 head are from within the State and 8220 head are from other States. We have effected 60 individual exchanges within the State and have sold 32 carloads of grade and purebred Holsteins and Guernseys outside of the State. These have gone as far north as Canada, east to Maryland, south to Georgia and west to the State of Washington. As the Exchange becomes better known these figures will naturally increase and the market for their surplus stock that is not only State-wide, but Nation-wide in its scope. The farmer can start the machinery of the Exchange working for him by simply listing what he has for sale at his local bank or writing directly to the BANKER-FARMER EXCHANGE, MADISON, WISCONSIN.

WHAT DO FARMERS THINK OF THE BANKER-FARMER EXCHANGE? LISTEN!

"I heartily endorse this Banker-Farmer Exchange. It brings the farmer and the banker into closer relationship and mutual understanding, and brings the buyer and the seller together regardless of distance." U. O. Kaempf, Shawano County.

"The Banker-Farmer Exchange offers the best service in selling livestock. It brings the buyer and seller together. Rates are very reasonable. I am much pleased with your method of doing business. All farmers should get busy and boost, as it is a very valuable move for our State, because it interests the farmer who does not have the ready cash to buy better sires for his herd." John P. Laux, Outagamie County.

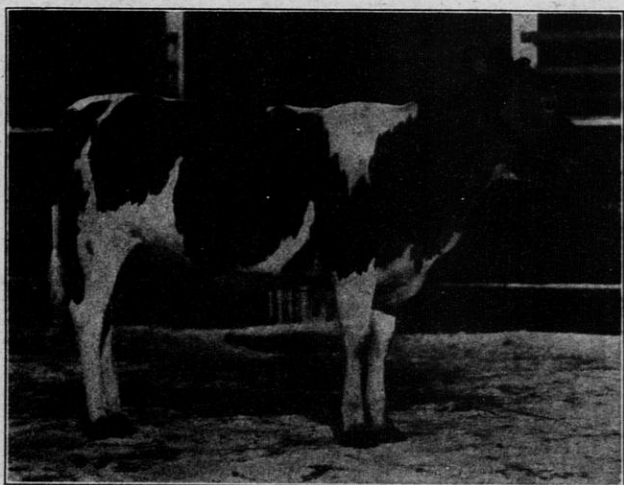
A good grain mixture to give to calves that are being raised on skimmilk is one consisting by weight of oats 50, wheat bran 30, linseed meal 10, ground corn 10.

WHEY

Whey can be fed in amounts similar to skimmilk except that the change to whey and the increase of the whey later will have to be more gradual than in the case of skimmilk. To obtain good results the whey need not necessarily be fed sweet but it should not have come in contact with unsanitary tanks, cans or pails.

HAY AND GRAIN WITHOUT SKIMMILK OR WHEY

If no supplement to whole milk is to be used except hay and grain, the calf



A WELL-GROWN YEARLING

Skim-milk fed for the first eight months.

should be allowed all of the grain it will consume until about four months of age. Up to this age the grain can best be kept where the calf can eat at will; after this age it is advisable to weigh or measure the grain to the calf at each feeding time, otherwise it is apt to overeat on grain.

A good grain mixture to feed calves being raised on whey or on a limited amount of whole milk is one consisting of equal parts by weight of oats, ground corn, wheat bran and linseed meal.

HAY FOR CALVES

A fine grade of mixed clover and timothy hay is good for young calves. Later when the calf is receiving skimmilk, whey or other substitutes, a fine grade of clover or alfalfa hay is best. Alfalfa sometimes has a tendency to keep the bowels of a young calf rather loose.

WATER FOR CALVES

Offer the calves water. In winter the chill should be removed from the water. It is especially important that water be offered twice daily or kept accessible to the calf being raised on a minimum amount of whole milk with no other liquid supplement.

CALF QUARTERS

The calf pen need not be expensive but the floor should be kept well covered with dry bedding. A second essential is that in winter the stall be moderately warm and have ventilation enough so that the place does not become damp. A third essential for winter conditions is that direct drafts be avoided. A calf can stand a fairly even low temperature better than short exposures to a direct draft. There is a great advantage in keeping each calf separate as it lessens the chances of spreading disease and does away with the objectionable practice of calves sucking each other.

THE FEEDER

Two persons given charge of two groups of calves, the groups being as near alike as it is possible to get them, may secure very different results even though the total amounts of the same feeds are used. The results are different because one feeder was observing and used good judgment; the other feeder dumped the feed before the calves mechanically and hurried away as soon as possible. The first feeder will be successful at raising dairy calves; the second will not.

The Banker-Farmer Exchange

THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY

for farmers to procure **GOOD HIGH GRADE CALVES** of all breeds and get a start several years in advance over grading up from common cows.

The **BANKER-FARMER EXCHANGE** is in touch with calves for sale in all parts of the State. Write us for particulars.

We have purebred **SEEDS** of all kinds for sale. These are from reliable growers and are tested for purity and germination.



1822 Chadbourne Ave.

See your banker or write

Banker-Farmer Exchange

D. H. Otis, Director.



Madison, Wis.