

The Farm.

Be Regular With Your Cow.

Habit in domestic animals is stronger than in man, because there is less of that thinking power that enables man to turn aside or to go higher. Cattle, horses or sheep are quick to take on habits and slow to throw them off. What is true of their outward actions is alike true of their internal functions. Feed a cow twice a day, at 6 a. m. and 6 p. m., for a year, and as regular as a clock she will start home to her stall in time to begin eating to the minute. Milk her with regularity, and with like regularity she will have her milk on tap. Vary the time for either feeding or milking, and she is thrown out of her reckoning—is disturbed in her habits—becomes irregular, has to be sent for, does not give down her milk as cheerfully nor in as liberal quantities.

These are facts familiar, of course, to all who have ever handled or observed cows. But the practical importance of regularity in milking is not rightly appreciated. There is no surer way to reduce the value of a good cow than by irregular milking, unless it be imperfect milking—not milking clean—or handling the cow roughly.

The Oregon station has been trying an experiment on this point. It took six cows and divided them into two lots as near alike in condition as to age and length of time in milk as it could. One lot was fed and milked regularly at 5:30 a. m. and 2:30 p. m., while the other lot was fed and milked at hours ranging from 5 to 7 a. m. and from 4 to 6 p. m., which last is too common a practice among farmers. This was kept up for three weeks, the amount of feed being the same for each lot. As a result those fed and milked regularly increased their milk production 59 per cent, while the other lot shrank 44 per cent.

This difference of 10 per cent in three weeks between regularity and irregularity only partially illustrates the value of the one and the disadvantage of the other. Both results tend to increase and to become fixed habits of the cow. Thus the careful man who is methodical will keep his cows improving, while the cows of the careless man are falling off every year. Fix your hours for milking and feeding and stick to them, rain or shine. Allow nothing else to interfere with them.—(N. B. Franklin, in Jersey Bulletin.)

Forcing the Egg Supply.

It is not such a difficult matter to make the hens lay in summer as in winter, but nevertheless a little careful forcing will make every hen lay just a few more eggs a week, and they represent the extra profits paid for knowledge of the business.

Forcing the hens to lay eggs is simply assisting nature to perform its work in the highest degree. We supply them with the needed elements to make eggs. All the so-called tonics and stimulants do little or no good unless food of the right kind is supplied. The tonics may increase the appetite and the stimulants may force the system to more active work, but the gain is only temporary, and in the end a reaction is more than likely to follow. If the right foods are given the tonics and stimulants may on occasion do good, but as a rule a healthy hen needs neither. It is only when she is run down and not in good condition that she requires either a tonic or a stimulant.

All this being taken for granted, the work of forcing the egg yield resolves itself into careful methods in feeding the hens. They must be given food that will not all go to fat, and if in spite of the selection of the food the birds show a tendency to fatten up to rapidly they must be forced to take more exercise. Keep the laying hens busy in scratching a good part of the day, and they will eat more and lay more. Feed them plenty of ground green bone, pulverized shells, grit and green things. All of these including scraps of meat, contain the elements needed by the laying hens. Be more careful in feeding corn, which is sure to produce more fat than eggs, and the bread, meal and similar fattening articles. After one has fed the birds liberally, forced them to take plenty of exercise and attended to their general health there is little more that can be done. That is about all the forcing that will pay. There are other artificial methods, but their utility is rather doubtful.—(Annie C. Webster, in American Cultivator.)

Pure Breed Hogs.

It does not cost any more to raise full blooded stock than half breeds and inferior scrubs. The only difference in the cost is the initial purchase. The full blooded naturally costs several times as much as the inferior animal, but in the end one

such animal may prove cheaper than three or four of the scrubs. The farmer who starts in with the idea and buys only a few blooded stock as he can afford it, increasing his herd gradually, may find in the end that he is in a much better position than his neighbor who buys any sort of hogs simply because they are cheap. The reason why more do not start in with this idea is because they have the erroneous belief that it costs more to maintain the blooded stock.

This is not true at all, for the fine hogs do not require more food nor better surrounding than should be given to every farm animal that is worth anything. If the farmer's style of keeping hogs is to neglect them and let them practically shift for themselves, the scrub stock may be better suited to his purpose, for the half wild animals are undoubtedly harder than the well bred ones, and they will be able to pick up a living much better on a cold, cheerless and almost foodless range. But where the animals are kept carefully, according to modern ideas of hog raising, with sufficient food to nourish them and proper shelter and protection, the blooded animals are just as cheap to support as the poorest scrub.—(Swine Advocate.)

Getting a Start.

To know the best way to make a start in life when one has nothing to begin on is a question that puzzles many a young man to-day. If older farmers would tell more of the way they made their start, they might be the means of indirectly helping many. I would suggest that we need never expect something from nothing, and no one cares to help any one who will not help himself. Then, what is to be done? Get ready for work and be equal to all emergencies. Look up some good man or firm and seek employment. Determine to save a part of your earnings to go toward making a start for self. Always strive to please your employer.

It is a mistake to think you must sow your "wild oats." Do not do it, for it is only a loss of your best days; besides you realize no benefits from it. I would labor on until I had saved from \$300 to \$500, then I would be very careful to invest it to the best advantage. I would buy only the necessities to begin with, such as a fairly good team and harness, plough, cultivator, harrow, wagon, a good cow or two, a few hogs, some feed and seed and household furniture, striving to make my previous earnings and savings pay for the things necessary to begin farming with. By a little figuring you will be able to make an estimate and know just how much you can pay for each article needed.

Anything you do not need is dear at any price. We must not expect to have all kinds of machinery, vehicles and luxuries to start with, but begin at the bottom and go up step by step. Fortune may seem to come very slowly for some time, and, indeed, at times it seems very discouraging, but keep right on, always pressing forward and using economy and good judgment in all your undertakings.—(Prairie Farmer.)

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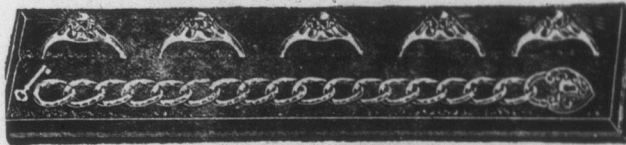
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