

ECONOMICAL FEEDING OF THE FARM STOCK



Superior Type of Farm Horse.

(By J. T. GRANGER.)
The farmer, like any other business man, should study the most important question of economy.
Much of the farmer's capital is invested in work and breeding stock. If he feeds them economically, at the same time keeping them in good working and salable condition, he is following out business principles.
If, on the other hand, he either stints them or allows them to waste provender and grain, he loses money.
The writer, in traveling among farmers, sees many methods of feeding employed. One friend gives his horses and mules hay and corn in abundance, but is very careless about watering and cleaning out the stalls.
Old and young stock are treated alike. The colt three months old gets his corn and hay ration, less in proportion, but still just the same feed, irrespective of cost or age of the animal. No attention is given to details of stable management.
By the time winter is past the stock on the farm (old and young) have eaten tons of hay and quantities of corn, but with the advent of spring they are not in salable condition.
Another farmer feeds liberal grain rations to his horses and mules, but sells off his good hay and feeds only refuse forage.
Here we have a misplaced idea of economical feeding on the farm. For this man's stock will be rough and in poor condition when spring comes.
Another instance of poor judgment in feeding. The writer saw a farmer

way; and if not cared for properly even until his childhood days are over, he cannot be expected to make a high figure.
There is no objection to weaning in fairly good time, but it is absolutely essential to give some good substitute for milk.
By way of grain, good crushed oats may be served as generously as they are cleaned up. Carrots are good and sweet hay may be given whenever eaten with a relish.
The oats should be old and the hay not of the present year's crop. Too many foals should not run together, else the weaker go to the wall.
Economic feeding means good, solid feed, fed regularly, no waste, yet no stinting. Good warm quarters, good bedding, fresh water in liberal supply at least twice a day.
Follow these simple rules and the appearance of your stock next spring will justify the extra trouble.

BEST LOCATION OF HOUSE FOR SWINE

Structure Should Be on High Ground, Well Drained—Ventilation Is Important.

(By A. R. WILLIAMS.)
Locate the house for the hogs on high ground. That is the first and one of the most important things to consider. The location must be well drained, and if the soil is light and sandy, or porous, so as to afford good soil-drainage, so much the better.
The house should have direct access to the pasture if that is possible, even if it is a short walk from the barn. In fact, the farther away from the barn and the dairy house the better.
If it can be located near a stream of running water it will be a decided advantage, because hogs like to cool themselves in clean water or clean mud; and running water affords this, as well as pure drinking water, which is absolutely necessary.
It is all well enough to say that hogs do not like to wallow in mud, and do so only from necessity, but that is not so. They like mud because it is cooling, and it is an effectual lice killer.
It is not good for hogs to be compelled to lie in mud, and keep constantly covered with it, but a good wallow, occasionally, seems to agree with them.
Of course hogs may do without mud, provided they are able to reach clean water, and are kept free from lice by spraying.
There are many styles of hog houses, and every man must decide for himself which is best under his conditions. The best house is one that has perfect ventilation, plenty of light.
For farrowing purposes or for individuals, the movable house is excellent. This kind of house is easily set up and taken down, and it also may be placed on runners by which it can be easily moved from one pasture to another.
The roof should be sloping enough to allow the rain to run off quickly, and there should be enough windows to let in the sunlight and air.
Foundation of Hog Herd.
On no account start the beginning of your future herd with anything but a pure strain of thoroughbred hog. Buy registered stock; one knows then what he is getting.
Horse Appreciates Blanket.
If you do not think horse blankets would be appreciated by the horses these cold evenings or mornings, try sleeping without any covers yourself.
Keeping Disease Away.
The first step in keeping diseases away from hogs is to keep silt away from them.
No Place for Scrub.
The scrub pen has no more place on the farm than the scrub anything else.



Two-Year-Old Mule Colt.

this winter who was selling off both grain and hay and putting the money in his pocket and feeding reduced rations to his work and breeding stock.
Here was the very worst example of mismanagement, entailing a loss hard to make good.
Make these resolutions: Don't give all your best feed to your work teams or breeding stock, at the same time neglecting all sanitary arrangements; don't think that liberal grain rations with common forage will fill the bill.
Don't sell the grain and hay to such an extent that you may have to buy from your neighbor next spring.
Corn stover with grain will do from now until the first of April, but brood mares and weanlings, also one and two-year-olds, will require some bran along with corn ration, or they will not be thrifty after the winter season is gone.
All stock should be well housed, well bedded and well watered. No amount of food will give good results unless the stock is taken care of in every respect.
With regular work horses and mules on the farm during the winter period a good feed of corn morning and night, with plenty of cut corn stover, will do. With brood mares and colts some hay and bran should be added.
Take a brood mare, for instance. Give her six ears or two quarts of shelled corn, with two quarts of bran, morning and night. Give a feed of hay, gloves preferred, for the morning meal, and the same grain ration, with plenty of stover, at night.
For the young stock a little less corn, but plenty of hay and stover, and probably a little less bran.
No scrub hay well bred the colt may be if not treated generously in the winter he will seldom pay his

DAIRY FACTS

WINTER FEED FOR THE COWS

Important for Dairyman to Provide an Abundance of Different Feeds to Keep Up Milk Flow.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)
During the winter months it is generally found difficult to provide such food as is necessary for the dairy cow to keep up the regular flow of milk.
At this season of the year feed is generally scarce—the proper kind for the dairy cow—and that which we have on hand is often of an inferior quality.
After coming off the green fresh grass they do not relish such dry feed and being of an inferior quality one will soon notice a great decrease in the flow of milk.
For this reason it is very important for the farmer to try to provide an



A Fine Type of Dairy Cow.

abundance of different feeds to make up for this dry or inferior feed.
Of course the flow of milk cannot be kept up to what they give during the spring and summer when pastured, but with plenty of first-class hay, such as alfalfa and good clover, and fine feed of bran and corn meal kept on hand that it may be fed liberally two or three times a day as slops, there will not be so much decrease in the milk supply after all. That is, if it is given to them liberally and regularly.
Do not think it is a waste to feed such feed when there isn't anything but dry hay of some kind to feed on. On the latter, the cow can barely maintain her flesh, much less keep up the milk supply.
When we have good clover hay and alfalfa, not so much of the bran, fine feed or meal is required, as both, when cured properly, are very strong feeds and cattle thrive on them.
I am not going to attempt to give the amount that should be fed, as I leave that for the dairyman to decide for himself. What I wish to impress upon the reader's mind is this: The necessity of having on hand always a liberal supply of bran, meal, fine feed, etc., to go with the dry hay or corn fodder, which is generally of an inferior quality, fed at this season of the year.
Without the above feed mentioned, it is impossible for the dairyman to obtain good results during the season when cattle are not pastured.

TASK OF DEHORNING CATTLE

Operation Is Most Frequently Performed to Prevent Animals From Injuring Each Other.

Cattle have been dehorned since about 1790. The operation sometimes is performed to remove horns that are broken or otherwise injured, but most frequently it is to prevent horned animals from injuring one another. Usually it is considered justifiable on account of the benefits that are derived from the operation.
The growth of horns on calves may be prevented entirely by the liberal use of a strong solution of ordinary lye; or if the use of a solution is not desirable it can be purchased at drug stores in the form of sticks known as caustic potash. This should be applied immediately after birth to the place where the horn makes its appearance. Care should be exercised when using this remedy because the lye will eat away all the skin with which it comes in contact.
Various kinds of instruments are used for the removal of the horns of older animals. If an ordinary saw is used it should be sharp and fine, as this lessens the danger of splintering the bones of the head during the operation. If a large number of animals are dehorned, quicker and safer work can be done with a "dehorning instrument." This can be purchased of any veterinary supply company for \$7.50 to \$10.
It is best not to dehorn during the fly season. Sometimes the horn is cut close to the head and cavities are opened which become filled with maggots if flies are prevalent. The animal suffers intensely, if this happens, and there is a rapid loss in condition. If cavities are accidentally exposed a small piece of cotton, smeared with tar, may be applied to the wound and held in place by means of a bandage around the head. This also is of great value if excessive bleeding follows the operation. If maggots gain entrance to the cavities of the head they should be washed out with a weak, watery solution of ordinary dip.

FARM ANIMALS

FEED FOR THE DRAFT FOALS

Youngster Makes One-Half His Mature Weight First Year of His Life—Ration From Wisconsin.

The feeding of draft foals is a very important matter. One only appreciates this when he realizes the fact that a draft foal makes one-half his mature weight the first year of his life. The foal must be fed, not starved, if he is to develop into a good draft horse. The foal fed an improper and unpalatable ration the first winter usually has a big middle and two very poorly developed ends.
Considerable attention has been given to feeding draft foals at the University of Wisconsin the last few years. At one year of age they have weighed from 1,000 to 1,200 pounds. These foals were all accustomed to a small amount of grain before five months of age when they were weaned. After weaning they were given the following ration until turned on grass at about thirteen months of age.
Ration for 100 pounds mixed feed: 65 pounds crushed oats, 15 pounds corn meal, 10 pounds bran, 15 pounds finely cut alfalfa or clover.
They were fed all of this mixture they would eat three times a day and were given no hay other than that in the mixture until they were about one year old. The amount of this mixture eaten per foal per day varied from 9 to 15 pounds (20 to 30 quarts)



Fine Type of Draft Stallion.

according to age. Much of the time the feed was dampened and thoroughly mixed before feeding. The advantages of the damp mixture seemed to be the variety of wholesome feed and the relish with which it was slowly and thoroughly chewed.
Where one cannot feed so varied a mixture as that described, a ration of 20 per cent bran, cut alfalfa or cut clover with 80 per cent crushed oats fed as described will prove very effective. Foals do not appear to be able to make as good use of whole oats and hay as an older horse. When fed those feeds separately and whole they eat less feed and have a greater tendency to "pot belly."

PICKED UP IN THE HOG LOT

Overcrowding Is Anything but Economical Plan—Alfalfa Furnishes Excellent Grazing for Pigs.

Do not keep too many pigs together and compel them to sleep in one nest.
The most economical gains in pig feeding are obtained by a judicious blending of nitrogenous and carbonaceous foods.
Crossing may improve the hogs for the feed lot alone, but not for the purpose of perpetuating their kind.
Every hog grower should make a great effort to have a few acres of alfalfa, because it furnishes unusually valuable grazing for hogs, and can be pastured off several times during the season.
There is nothing more disgusting than to have a lot of unruly hogs running at large about the farm buildings. With modern woven wire fence, it is easy to confine them within their proper limits.
There is nothing gained by mixing corn meal with chopped alfalfa, except to insure larger consumption.
The longer any herd or family of hogs is subjected to a ration of corn or confined to small pens and barren yards the lower will be their vitality and prolificacy.

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