

Farm and Household

Hints to Dairymen. A healthy milk cow, in full flow of milk, says Howard's Dairyman, will drink an average of one hundred pounds of water per day.

There are four main reasons why most of the dairy farmers waste so little money from their cows. First, poor cows, machines that are not calculated for the business; second, summer dairying, making milk when it is the cheapest and letting the cows go dry when it is the dearest.

If we were asked to name the four principles of success in dairy farming they would be, good dairy cows to start with, winter dairying, cheap food and plenty of it. The essential is a man who has brains enough to know that he needs knowledge, and who is wise enough to reach for it whenever he can get it.

The losses in farming do not come as often from lack of knowledge as from failure to practice what is known to be the approved method. Every farmer who pays to sprinkle a little plaster on the mounds in his yard every once in a while, but who neglects to provide it for his animals at any time, is not ready to plant seed, and yet how many stand by and see it work into the ground under the stable all the time, burying dollar after dollar as winter wears away.

It ought to be settled beyond dispute that it pays to provide good shelter for all the stock of the farm. The plan is as follows: To provide for this about of the time when it may be wanted. The water which dairy cows drink, if impure, will spread the impurity and the quality of the milk.

Results of Feeding Farm Stock. Rules for successful feeding of stock of all kinds, and for keeping them in good health, says the American Cultivator, are few and simple enough, yet it needs some judgment and experience to follow them, or to know when they are being observed faithfully.

First—And most important, should be the giving of food at regular hours. The first meal of the day should be early enough to prevent the animals from getting hungry for it after they are stirring in the morning, which is usually as soon as it is light enough to see distinctly in winter, and at sunrise in summer.

Second Rule—Always give enough, and never overfeed. Here judgment is needed and watchfulness. If there are any indications of a failure to eat the amount given, promptly remove all that amount, and make the next feeding less liberal. If there is much uneasiness and desire for more unobtainable after the amount given, do not give more than, to encourage the habit of looking for a supplementary feeding, but be more liberal the next time.

Third Rule—Watch the effect of the food carefully, both the character of the animals and the character of the food, and vary the food in kind rather than amount if anything seems wrong. A few roots or a change of water may prevent the necessity of employing a veterinarian.

Fourth Rule—Remember the cold, frosty mornings are more stimulating to the appetite than warm, foggy mornings. The course of feeding should be regularly adjusted at a colder day.

Fifth Rule—After the animals have eaten enough, clean out the feeding troughs. Do not keep either good food or oats constantly before them. These rules are applicable to both horses and humped cattle, and their observance will result in sleek-looking animals, with a less amount of food consumed than is used by those half-breed feeders who never have a deep-looking beast.

Care of Sheep in Winter. Since winter has come, my sheep are in sheds, where they will remain till spring. They have tanks of water constantly before them, with salt. Could I have the temperature of the shed arranged so that the water would never freeze, but keep as close to the freezing point as possible, it would best suit me. If it becomes much colder than this suddenly, sheep will cease to drink freely, and they will get off in the amount of fodder that they eat, and in a few weeks of extreme cold weather they will run down in condition that they will be but a shadow of their former selves—a fat condition in which to get them to produce one cent more each.

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