

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

PROFIT ON BABY BEEF

It is only since the slump following the war that baby beef was introduced, and confusion soon followed among producers, dealers and consumers as to what baby beef really was. Consequently, in 1926, the secretary of agriculture, under the authority of the meat inspection act of 1906, ruled that baby beef must be the product of steers or heifers of beef breeds, from seven to 18 months of age, and the weight from 600 to 1,200 pounds, on the hoof.

The hearty reception of baby beef by the packers was due to the demand of the consumers for small joints and cuts, a demand which is fully as emphatic now as it was following the war. At first the range-men were dubious and hesitant about selling six or eight month old calves at 300 or 400 pound weights instead of holding them to two years old and reaching 800 to 900 pounds as feeders.

But it was not long before the federal experiment stations and a few of the cattlemen showed that they could raise, on the same range, 30 per cent. more beef at the baby age than by the system of holding for two or three years, and that their profits were correspondingly increased.

The demand for baby beef—long yearlings—is still imperative. For six years that grade has topped the market.

The effect on the ranges is surprising. It is not unusual to see ranches on which not a two-year-old is visible. All are breeding cows, calves and yearlings, yet such ranches are producing from 30 to 40 per cent. more beef than when the stock was all held to two or three years.

This new system of beef production gives the cattlemen a far more rapid turnover. Formerly the calves were held on range until two or three years old, but now the spring calf is sold in the fall to go to the feedlot and is finished by spring. The moving of calves off the range at an early age makes it possible for the ranchman to carry nearly twice as many breeding cows on the same range.

An illustrative report comes from a western herdsman. He says: "I used to run about 1,000 cows and branded 650 calves each year. That made, all told, cows, yearlings and twos, 2,300 head all my range would carry. Now, I'm running 2,000 cows and brand about 1,300 calves with no twos to graze and the range carries them all finely. Last year the calves ran to 350 pounds average—I've good grades—and I sold in November for \$27 a head—about \$36,000. If they had been twos there'd have been only 650 head at the most and they'd have fetched at the same time as feeders about \$29,000."

A SAFE PRODUCTION

Many poultrymen are anxious to get pullets into production quickly in the fall in order to round them into heavy production as soon as possible. This idea is not always best, for it is possible through the feeding of concentrated protein feeds, especially quantities of meat scrap, to bring pullets into production too early, at a sacrifice of body weight and fat.

Following these methods leads to the result that they will go to pieces after they have laid heavily for a few weeks. It is also undesirable to try to force them for the last possible egg before they have attained full maturity.

What is a safe egg production? The exact answer will vary with different strains of birds on different poultry farms and under different methods of handling. But, in general, it can be said that the pullet flock housed when it is around five months of age should gradually pick up in production, until, if correctly fed and handled, it will be laying from 30 to 50 per cent.

As a flock approaches the 50 per cent. point it is getting into the danger region, because as production increases, unless the feeder is especially careful, eggs will be laid at a sacrifice of body weight, health and vigor.

So as egg production increases to and beyond 50 per cent., the birds must be examined frequently to see that they are losing weight. If they must be fed increased quantities of grain and mash.

It is possible by forced feeding and the use of lights to run a pullet flock up to 60, 65 or even 70 per cent. production, but few are able to maintain a steady flocking after that point and prevent the birds from going to pieces after a few weeks.

The average poultryman will be much safer to hold his birds around 50 per cent. during the coming fall. As production is forced above this point we always notice a marked decrease in size of egg; so let us try for a safe, profitable production.

WHAT IS AN IDEAL RANGE?

The answer is different for each poultry keeper, for each has an individual problem. The number of birds is the determining factor in each case, but general principles apply to all.

Every flock of 100 pullets or more should have an exclusive summer range. The colony houses should be placed in a different location each year. Where a large number of pullets are being ranged, it often becomes necessary to move the houses to two or three different locations during the summer. The range should be large enough to permit of this, and at the same time leave another portion not so much used this year, so as to serve as a suitable location for houses next year.

In some cases it is not desirable, or may be impossible, to move the houses. The problem then is to protect the adjacent ground from heavy contamination. This can be accomplished by gradually moving (10 to 20 feet daily) the feeding and

FEED PLENTY ALFALFA

Alfalfa or clover hay should be supplied to pigs being fattened in the dry lot. Good quality leafy hay is the best substitute for pasturage during the winter season. It is not necessary to chop or grind the hay in order to mix it with their grain. Pigs will consume enough alfalfa if good quality hay is kept in a rack where they can help themselves at any time.

KEEPS 'EM GROWING

Alfalfa hay is the key to success with fall pigs. It may be fed whole in racks with good results.

drinking equipment away from the roosting quarters after the pullets become accustomed to the summer houses. The pullets stay where the feed and water are located and, if suitable shelters to provide shade and keep feed dry are provided, they can be ranged from 500 to 1,000 feet away from the roosting house during the day, especially if trees and shrubbery provide shade and shelter.

In this way the pullets return to the houses only at night to roost, and the premises around the house do not become much contaminated. They may sometimes be used for the same purpose the following year.

THE TOLL OF ABORTION

Contagious abortion is unquestionably the most serious disease now affecting the dairy animal. Losses from the disease are experienced in many ways. The loss of the calf itself, as recent investigations show, is a minor item in the total of losses. Reduced production, sterility and other troubles are other causes for loss.

Recent investigations have brought out some indications of the losses incurred in milk production because of infection with the abortion disease. There both infected and abortion-free cows were kept in the same barn and fed the same rations. They were of the same general type and breed, but the reacting cows gave less milk and butterfat. During a three-year period the average milk production per year for the infected cows was only 5045.6 pounds of milk per cow per year; this was 28 per cent. below the healthy cows.

One group of eight half sisters, sired by the same bull, passed through their first pregnancies abortion free and gave birth to normal calves. Their first calf production records were used as a basis for estimating production at maturity. Six of these became abortion infected. Only one of these six animals ever reached her estimated maximum production. As a group, the six lacked an average of 84 pounds of butterfat each of producing the estimated maximum, but the two which did not become abortion infected exceeded their estimated maximums, one by 38 pounds and the other by 79 pounds of butterfat, or an average of 58 and a half pounds each.

CARE OF HEIFER

The most neglected class of stock on a dairy farm are the heifers from the time they are a year old until they first freshen. It is unwise to pamper young growing heifers and it is often desirable to let them develop pretty largely on roughages, using concentrates only when necessary to hold them up in condition and vigor. But as the heifer approaches first freshening extra feed and care must be given her. This is especially true of the heifer producer. If they are not put in good condition before they freshen, the heavy milk production tears them down after two or three months into decided unprofitability.

The more observations and experience we have in handling dairy cattle the more we are convinced that it is impossible to get a good heifer too fat just before she freshens. This fitting must be started long enough before the heifer freshens so that she can have some let-up in feeding for the last week or 10 days.

For heifers that are to freshen this fall, access to pasture is beneficial. Those females that are on pasture regularly seldom have difficulty at freshening time. Other roughages are unnecessary if the pasture is good. The grain allowance should be liberal. Ten or 12 pounds daily will be found about right for most heifers. The better feeders may take more than this and it can well be given to them.

MILKING MACHINES

Objections are sometimes raised to the use of a milking machine on the ground that the time saved over hand milking is more than offset by the extra time and labor required in washing the utensils. But despite the increased labor in washing the milking machine equipment, says a prosperous farmer, the use of a machine the milking and cleaning could all be done in half the time required by hand.

It is recognized that milking machine equipment is often expensive, but in our work the saving in cost of labor more than offsets this expense. As a matter of fact, the average cost of milking our herd by machine was 25 per cent. less than by hand.

We carried on several different trials in an effort to determine the labor economy and the saving in cost that might come through the use of a machine. In the various trials different numbers of cows were used. The results mentioned constitute an average of all the trials and the average number of cows was 22. The man who has fewer cows than this will not derive quite so much benefit with the machine. On the other hand, in larger herds the use of the machine can be exceptionally profitable.

There is another thought that cannot be ignored in connection with the use of a milking machine: Not only did it save time and cost in the milking operation, but a great deal of drudgery of milking was removed.

TURKEY RAISING

The value of a pure-bred size is nowhere more evident than in turkey breeding. To secure better males should be the first step in producing a better market turkey. The selection of larger-size females for breeding the following season should come next. After this, under no condition should inbreeding be followed. This practice at once lowers the vitality of the offspring and reduces its size.

ALWAYS A SUBSTITUTE

Barley is one of the substitute crops to which farmers probably will turn if the European corn borer gets to be a serious handicap to corn growing in Iowa. Like some other crops, barley is not so seriously injured by the borer as is corn.

DRILLING INCREASES YIELD

Larger yields of soybeans, both of seed and hay, are secured when the crop is drilled like small grain than when planted in cultivated rows.

Dies to Save Baby



Mrs. Catherine Casserly, Jersey City, N. J., mother of three, who died of heart disease when about to submit to transfusion operation for her baby nephew. (International Newsreel)

Red Cross Worker



Miss I. Malinde Havey, of Washington, D. C., who is en route to Porto Rico to direct Red Cross nurses on stricken island. (International Illustrated News)

Studies Red Cross



Baron Erik W. Stjernstedt, secretary-general of the Swedish Red Cross, who is a visitor in the United States to study activities of the American relief organization. (Harris and Ewing)

Goes Musical



Graham McNamee, famous radio announcer, who will enter ranks of concert singers and make a tour of 100 cities. He will not abandon broadcasting entirely, however, for the thrill of "telling the world" about big news events is one that will remain with him forever. (International Newsreel)

Just Before They Hopped Off



Left, William Thaw, II., famous war ace, who piloted Lockheed-Vega plane as entry No. 33 in non-stop race across the country; right, Mrs. C. H. Herrick kissing navigator-husband goodbye. (International Newsreel)

Bellanca plane, Oliver (Boots) Le Boutillier and George King, Godspeed; below, Mrs. C. H. Herrick kissing navigator-husband goodbye. (International Newsreel)

For Luxurious Tea-ing



The above picture shows a flamingo tea gown of hand-painted tool velvet and American silver lace which was designed by an American artist for the Lacc Exposition and Fashion Show. The butterfly-like appearance of the creation aroused much interest on part of those in attendance. (International Newsreel)

Popular in Capital



A striking beauty from the South is Miss Saranell Wilson, daughter of Representative from Louisiana and Mrs. Riley J. Wilson, who already has become popular member of the Washington younger set. She has just returned from three months' tour of Europe. (Harris and Ewing)

Son of Dictator



Miguel Primo de Rivera, son of Spanish dictator, photographed at luncheon in New York commemorating fifth anniversary of his father's government. He is an attache of the Spanish embassy in Washington. (International Newsreel)

His Princely Fortune in Jeopardy



While Prince Christopher, of Greece, uncle of the present pretender to the throne, and his wife, the Princess Anastasia, were vacationing on the Cote d'Azur in France, his fortune was depleted by stock losses to the extent of half a million dollars. Only the action of a close friend in Rome in summoning Christopher home prevented still larger loss. (International Illustrated News)