

LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY



Eddie Collins
Drinks

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Demand the genuine and avoid disappointment

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Ten Livestock Suggestions for May

WITH the cattle on pasture, after a long, hard winter, the cattle raiser experiences a feeling of relief. If the cattle have not been turned on the pasture too early and there is ample acreage to furnish an abundance of feed throughout the season, a comfortable feeling is justified. But many a man who has been delighted with the rapid gains of early summer, when moisture is generally abundant and pastures luxuriant, has been sadly disappointed later in the season when dry short pastures, ticks and flies destroyed the gains made earlier in the season.

II

Cattle on good pastures seldom give large profits for grains or concentrates fed. If, however, the dairy cow will pay for a liberal allowance of grain, with a profitable increase in milk, she should get the grain feed. A dairy cow giving less than 30 pounds of milk a day, if on good pasture, is not likely to give profitable returns on any concentrates generally available in the South, except cottonseed meal. As much as five pounds a day may be safely fed when the cow is on pasture, if she will pay a profit over and above its cost by an increased flow of milk.

III

If the pastures are heavily stocked, feed is likely to become scarce when the usual dry weather of August and September arrives. Under such conditions it may pay to feed three or four pounds of cracked corn seed cake a day to the animals to be sold this season. By this means the best or fattest of the cattle may be fit for market the latter part of July, when cattle are scarce on the market and prices good, thus reducing the number of cattle to be grazed when the pastures are yielding least.

IV

There is nothing better than a good liberal acreage of sorghum to help out or supplement the dry, short pastures, which are almost certain to come later in the season. If it is not needed for soiling—feeding when green—it makes good silage or splendid dry roughage for late fall or winter feeding. The sweet sorghums are not appreciated or used as largely as they should be in the humid South. As the non-saccharine sorghums, milo, kaffir, feterita, etc., are more valuable, because more certain and productive than corn in the dry sections of the Southwest, so will the sweet sorghums usually produce more feed than corn on the lands of those parts of the South where the rainfall is more abundant.

V

Corn will be scarce and high-priced in the spring of 1916, as it is now. Much of it will be fed to hogs this fall at a loss, while the next spring the work stock will have their allowance cut or corn will have to be bought at a high price. A bushel of corn saved is one made, and the time to both make and save it is now. Make the corn by planting a large area of the best land and save it by planting soy beans, peanuts, and cowpeas and velvet beans in the corn, to fatten the hogs this fall. An acre of sweet potatoes or artichokes to balance the soy beans and peanuts will still further save the corn.

If corn is to be fed the hogs, why not plant the corn and peanuts or the corn and the soy beans together and allow the hogs to gather both? It will be cheaper than gathering the corn and feeding it alone in a dry lot.

VI

It may not pay to push the growth of the young pigs now being weaned, on a full ration of high-priced feeds, but it will probably pay to feed a little corn and tankage, or rice polish and tankage, or other grain feeds, until

the pigs become old enough to make good use of the grazing crops, which should be ready in August and September.

If the pigs are starved this summer they will have to be carried through the winter, which will take considerable feed. It will be more economical to give them that grain now, provide good grazing crops this fall and save carrying them through the winter.

VII

Salting the cattle once every week or two may or may not be better than no salt at all; but salt provided so the cattle can take it as they want it will almost certainly pay.

VIII

Marketing the pasture crops through tick-infested cattle means taking less for your feed. If you regard it as good business to sell your grass on the best market, you will not feed it to ticks. Here is a chance for many farmers to put into effect some of the "better marketing" they talk so much about. We have known many a farmer to become much excited about the need of better markets for his products, who marketed his grass through ticks and four-cent cattle, instead of through six-cent cattle. We need better marketing facilities for all our products, but for none more than for our grass. Ticks and scrub cattle furnish a poor market for feed, but the furnishing of an improved market is within the reach of any farmer who will use a purebred sire and kill the ticks.

IX

No, we are not going to overlook this chance to again insist on mowing the pastures. Perhaps you remember seeing something on this subject in these suggestions some time in the past, but are you going to keep down the non-pasture plants in the pasture this season? That is the question. Just so long as we see weeds, briars, and brush growing in the pastures, where grass ought to grow, we are going to keep "harping" on this subject. All we ask is that those who don't believe it pays to keep down the non-pasture plants, just ask the opinion of the cattle. They are no theorists and they won't know that a theorist insists that it pays to keep down the weeds and briars; so if you mow half the pasture they will give you a genuinely practical opinion on the subject. Any man who is not so blind that he won't see, can understand the answer the cattle will give to this question. We insist the cattle are not theorists, even if we are, and that they ought to know where they get the most feed. O, yes, it looks better also, but that is not the reason the cattle like to graze on the mowed part of the pasture.

X

Is it really a mud-hole and a breeding place for disease that the pigs seem to enjoy on a hot day, or is it the water that attracts them? As long as we like hog meat, especially ham and bacon, as much as we do, we are not going to admit that a hog doesn't like clean water better than filth. Water, except to drink, is not necessary for a hog, if he has shade; but clean water to wallow in is good for him. Why not provide a wallowing vat that can be cleaned out occasionally? Too much trouble? Well, we have known men who thought it too much trouble to take a bath.

I had to wait until I could get the \$1.25 but I have it and am glad to say, and am sending renewal. I never miss an issue if I can help it. I know you keep so close up with the legislators and congressmen I love to follow you. This I do by reading all in this grand paper and then let them hear about what we need as fast as possible. I don't see any other way for us to get in the lead but to read and follow our leaders who are trying to do us good.—I. O. P., Houston, Va.

I want to express to you my appreciation of The Progressive Farmer. We are using it for class reference work and find it a most instructive and helpful paper.—Eben D. Schulz, San Antonio, Texas.

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