

Suggestions For Feeding, Management of Beef Herd

By S. L. WILLIAMS
Assistant County Agent

On the well managed farm beef cows are generally bred in the late spring or early summer in order that they may calve at the proper time. In Eastern North Carolina under average conditions the bull is allowed to run with cow herd during May, June and July, and the calves arrive in February, March and April the following year. During the remainder of the year the bull is kept in a small strongly fenced pasture, or lot either by himself or with a bred cow for company. This same procedure, with perhaps some variations to suit local conditions, is followed in Piedmont and Western North Carolina.

There are several advantages for having the calves come at this time of the year. Dry cows can be much more easily and cheaply wintered than cows nursing calves. Winter and early spring calves usually grow off faster and make better animals than calves dropped in the summer and fall. Calves dropped close together in the spring of the year can all be weaned at the same time. Their uniform ages make it possible to pasture, house and feed them together.

Winter Feeding and Care of Calves

Beef calves are generally weaned at about eight months of age. Unless the herd is running on excellent pasture it is often practical to have the calves eating some grain before they are weaned. This prevents a set-back that might otherwise occur before or at weaning time.

The first year, and especially the first winter, is a critical period in the calf's life. If it is to be fattened for the market at an early age it should, where practical, be started on grain when two or three months old and never be allowed to lose its calf fat. On the other hand in the case of the heifer calf that is to be kept for breeding purposes, or steer calves to be carried over, one is more interested in proper growth than degree of

fatness. Unless the mother is a poor milker the calf will usually do nicely running on good pasture with her until about weaning time. As previously stated, where it is practical to do so, it is well to have the calf on some supplementary feed prior to weaning. When this is impractical, feeding should by all means start at weaning time and be continued until pasture has made a good start the following spring. An average beef calf dropped in February or March should weigh about 400 pounds at weaning time. He should be wintered in such a way that he will gain from 60 to 75 pounds.

Suggested Wintering Rations

For 400 pound calves: corn silage, 12 pounds; legume hay, 5 pounds; corn stover at will. Mixed hay, 10 pounds; corn and cob meal, 2 pounds; cottonseed meal, 1 pound.

For 665 pound yearlings: corn silage, 20 pounds; legume hay, 5 pounds; cottonseed meal, 1 pound. Corn stover, at will; corn and cob meal, 1.5 pounds; cottonseed meal, 1 pound.

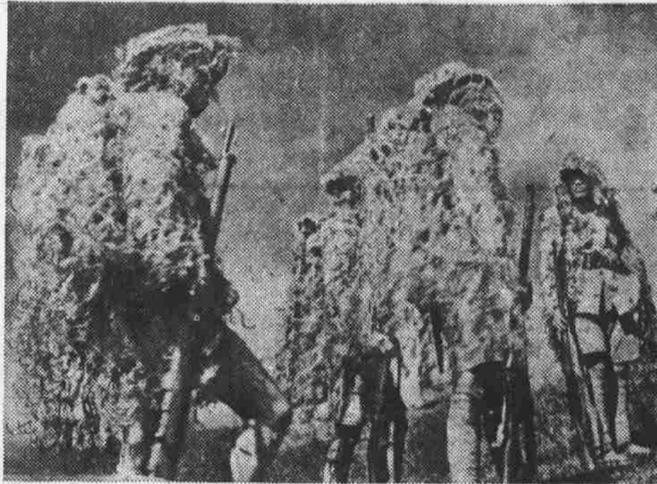
For 850 pound cows: corn silage, 25 pounds; legume hay, 5 pounds; corn stover, 5 pounds. Mixed hay, 15 pounds; corn and cob meal, 1 pound; cottonseed meal, 5 pounds.

General Feeding Suggestions

Good pastures are the basis of economical beef production. The use of both permanent pastures and annual supplementary pastures for summer grazing and both mature and green crops for winter grazing are strongly recommended. (See Extension Circular No. 202, "Pastures in North Carolina").

Silage made of corn, cane, or even legumes and grasses is becoming more and more popular as a winter feed for cattle. In the Coastal Plains area of the state where much use is made of corn and soybean stalks, velvet beans and green winter grazing crops, silage is excellent for filling in the gaps between permanent pasture and the time the corn fields are ready for gleaning in the fall and between the preparing of the fields

Camouflaged Troops Baffle Japanese



Some of the crack troops that defended the city of Wuhan, China, when the Japanese soldiers pushed up the Yangtze river in their drive on Hankow camouflaged themselves with vegetation before going into action. Blending perfectly with the landscape, it was almost impossible for the enemy to detect them.

and the time permanent pasture is ready for grazing in the spring. In other sections of the state silage preserved either in the trench or upright silo is being used more and more as a winter feed and in some instances as a supplementary summer feed in time of drought. It should not be understood that silage is a complete but is a valuable succulent feed for all classes of cattle.

Water that is clean and fresh should be available at all times.

Salt preferably in the coarsely pulverized form should be accessible to cattle of all ages at all times.

Minerals are playing a more and more important role in the nourishment of livestock as time goes on. The best way to supply minerals is through the feed but in view of the fact that much of our feeds are grown on soils deficient in minerals it is well to keep a mineral mixture where cattle can help themselves to it at will. A simple, inexpensive mixture is: Limestone, ground to a fine powder one part, steamed bone meal one part, salt one part.

General Suggestions

Regularity in the time of feeding is very important.

Shelter in the form of an open shed or a well lighted and well ventilated barn will conserve manure and make the cattle more comfortable in bad weather if it is kept well bedded. If not the cattle will be better off in the fields or woods where they may select their own bedding ground rather than be forced to lie in the mud and filth.

Cattle barns and sheds should always be provided with gutters and eaves spouts to carry rain water away from the feed lot.

Heifers may be bred when they are 18 to 20 months old providing they have made normal growth at that age. It is a mistake to allow heifers to get bred too young. It generally stunts their growth and often results in calving time trouble and a dead or under developed calf. Do not leave this matter to the discretion of the bull but keep him well away from the heifers that are not old enough for service.

Breed for spring calves unless there is a peculiar situation on the

farm that makes fall calves more practical.

The bull is a very important part of the successful herd of cattle. He should be a good individual of the breed represented. The right kind of a bull will improve the herd through his offspring while an inferior animal will in the same way cause the herd to degenerate.

A bull should be at least two years old and well grown for that age before he should be allowed to run with the cow herd during the breeding season. If younger than that hand breeding should be practiced and only one service to the cow allowed. A well grown bull over 14 months of age may be used on 8 or 10 females, one service to each.

Bulls should be kept in strongly fenced enclosures except during the breeding season when they may be allowed to run with the cow herd.

Dehorning in the commercial herd should be done at the proper time. As a general rule the younger the cattle are when dehorned the better. Caustic soda or potash used on the buttons of very young calves will prevent the horn from developing. A small calf dehorner, or gouger as it is sometimes called, can be successfully used on calves up to two or three months of age. From this age up to about 10 months a mechanical dehorner especially designed for calves is best. Beyond this age mechanical clippers or a saw is generally used.

It is advisable that dehorning, when done with anything but caustic, be done during cool weather to avoid fly infestation. Even in cool weather it is a good precaution to use pine tar or other good fly repellent.

Castration of bull calves may be done at any age. As a rule it is best done from a few weeks of age up to five or six months. If postponed much longer than this the calves may develop masculine characteristics to the point they will be "staggy" which is quite objectionable in steers. This operation may be done with bloodless pincers or a knife.

A further expansion of turkey production is expected in 1939 because of favorable conditions existing this year, says C. J. Maupin, State college extension poultryman.

GIVE Furniture For a Merry Christmas

There's nothing more completely expresses the spirit of Christmas—and is bound to give joy and happiness for many years to come... It's worth considering. Our store is crammed with Furniture of exceptional beauty and style which will make your selection a stand-out — no matter what you buy. No gift is more appropriate than something for the home.

A practical gift of lasting beauty

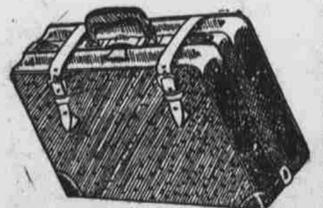


A GORGEOUS CONGOLEUM GOLD SEAL RUG IN A SPLENDID CHRISTMAS WRAPPER



- RCA VICTOR RADIOS
- EAGLE AND DIXIE RANGES
- MOHAWK AXMINSTER RUGS
- CHATHAM BLANKETS
- CARPETS
- CEDAR CHESTS
- LIVING ROOM, BED ROOM AND DINING ROOM SUITES
- CHAIRS, TABLES, LAMPS
- BED SPRINGS AND MATTRESSES
- LUGGAGE
- PICTURES

And Hundreds of Other Items



MACON FURNITURE COMPANY

FRANKLIN N. C.