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Extensive Tests of New Cow Feed

Experiments Made by Department of Agriculture at Its Farm in Maryland.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)
 Extensive tests of the value of various new feeds for dairy cows have been made by the United States Department of Agriculture at its experiment farm, Beltsville, Md., and the results are now made available generally in Department Bulletin 1272, just published. Details of the work were carefully planned to insure a fair test. In every case the feed tried out was compared with some standard feed as similar in composition as could be obtained, and one that might be replaced by the new feed if found satisfactory.

Fish Meal Found Good.
 Fish meal, though not so palatable as cottonseed meal, was found to be worth, pound for pound, 20 to 25 per cent more than prime cottonseed meal. The cows would eat all that was offered, and no bad effects on the physical condition of the cows were noted. The flavor of the milk apparently was not affected in any way either by exposing the milk to the odor of fish meal or by feeding the cows four pounds of the fish meal before milking.

Peanut Feed—containing 27.25 per cent crude protein possesses a nutritive value not exceeding 74 per cent of prime cottonseed meal. It is thought that the protein content affords a fairly reliable guide in estimating the value of this feed in comparison with cottonseed meal.

Potato meal is worth not more than 78 per cent as much as cornmeal. The maximum value that can be assigned to velvet-bean meal is 95 per cent that of cottonseed meal.

Sweet potato meal appears to be almost as valuable as cornmeal. Potato silage and corn silage were found to possess about the same feeding value.

Apple-pectin pulp compared with dried beet pulp was found to be less palatable and less efficient as a feed.

Hydrolyzed sawdust is unpalatable, contains but little nutriment and can be fed only in small quantities. The maximum value that can be assigned to the sawdust is 14.5 per cent of that of cornmeal.

Supplementing With Molasses
 Supplementing with molasses a ration that is already suitable is not economical. Compared with an equal value of hominy feed the molasses appears slightly less valuable. Molasses renders feeds of poor quality more palatable and induces a greater consumption of nutrients, a matter of importance in feeding exceptionally high-producing cows.

Details of the experiments are contained in the bulletin, which may be had free, as long as the supply lasts, upon request of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Better Breeders Render Big Service to Industry

There are two classes of people producing pure-bred animals, those who are doing constructive breeding and those who are doing destructive breeding, says Prof. L. V. Starkey, animal husbandman at Clemson college. Those doing constructive breeding are rendering a great service to the live stock industry because they study blood lines, make careful selections, cull the herds intensively and leave the live stock business better than they find it. Those who are doing destructive breeding go at the proposition blindly. They know very little about what constitutes an ideal individual and less about pedigrees. Their herds are poorer when they quit the business than when they began. They believe that because an animal can be registered it should sell for a high price. They place more emphasis upon the registration papers than upon conformation and the ability to produce economically.

Hogging Down Crops Is Quite Economical Plan

Careful experiments have shown that hogging down crops is an economical method of fattening hogs. The average of six trials where hogs were fed ear corn and tankage or wheat middlings in dry lot, compared with hogging down corn, shows that the hogs in dry lot gained 1.50 pounds per pig per day and required 311 pounds of feed per 100 pounds gain, while the hogs that were allowed to gather their feed gained 1.50 pounds per pig per day and required only 476 pounds of feed per 100 pounds gain. When the crop is removed much of the fertilizer value is lost, but when it is grazed about three-fourths of the plant food is returned to the soil.

To Prevent Milk Fever Cows Should Not Be Fat

To prevent milk fever, cows should not be allowed to become very fat at calving time. Their ration should be rather light, but should not be changed abruptly. A dose of half a pound of Glauber's salts may be given a day or two before calving, and the dose repeated when the cow becomes fresh. The cow should be watched closely and if the symptoms of milk fever are noticed a competent veterinarian should be called immediately. If treated promptly, cows affected with milk fever seldom die, but the veterinarian must know how to administer treatment promptly and effectively.

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