[Method of Rearing Young Cattle] Arthur Young

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Ingredients
skim milk
treacle
linseed oil cake
molasses

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Northumberland

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Description

Report on several failed experiments in feeding calves, followed by a recipe for milk that was successfully used. nn.363_64. Microfilm Reel 8063.

Transcription

METHOD OF REARING YOUNG CATTLE.

[By Arthur Young, Esq; F. R. S.]

THERE are two objects in rearing calves, each of which is of great importance: 1st. To effect it without the assistance of milk at all;--and 2d. To improve skim milk in such a manner, as to make it more nutritious; it being well known that there is a prodigious difference in the growth and thriving of the animal, when fed with new or skimmed milk. I followed the method of gruel made by barley and oats ground, with the greatest exactness, last year, with two calves, both of which, so far from being reared, were so reduced that though I changed their diet to milk, upon finding it would not do, yet I was too late with the change, and they both died. I will not condemn the method from one experiment, but i must own I have many doubts of its ever proving a real and entire substitute for milk.

During my residence in Ireland, I had the opportunity of buying calves at the low price of twenty pence to three shillings, which induced me to make my ex-

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periments on this enquiry. Knowing; before I went, the cheapness of calves, I had collected various receipts for weaning them; among others, hay tea, bean meal mixed with wheat, flour, barley, and oats, ground, nearly, but not exactly in Mr. Budd's proportion; but principally flaxseed boiled to a jelly, and mixed with warm water. This being recommended more than the rest, I tried it on more calves. The general result I well remember. Of above thirty calves, I reared not more than three of four: and I was convinced, as strongly as the experiments of one season could convince me, that none of the methods tried, deserved reliance. Barley and oatmeal, with a little flax jelly, reared the few that escaped, except one, on which a trial was made at the suggestion of my coachman, who had rear-

ed many calves. He desired to mix two-thirds skim milk and one third water, with a small addition of flax-seed jelly, dissolved. That calf recovered quickly from the low condition it had been reduced to,

and afterwards throve well. I intend multiplying my experiments in the enquiry after the first object, as often as I am able; all I can assert is, I have hitherto had no success.

I now come to the second object, that of improving skim milk, a desideratum as much to be desired as the former. The moment I received the very satisfactory communication from that great patron of every patriotic endeavour to serve the public, the Duke of Northumberland, I tried it exactly according to the recipe below, and at the same time recommended it to two farmers in different parts of the kingdom, who, I knew, were solicitous for discoveries of this kind. It answered with me as well as I could with the first season, and has stood a second test. The farmers to whom I communicated, report also favourably of it; in all cases it has appeared to do better than skim milk alone. Thus one material step is gained, not the complete establishment of the method, which can only follow multiplied and va-

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ried experiments, but a proof that it may be very safely recommended, to those who are the most cautious, and the most fearful of incurring expence.

RECIPE

Take one gallon of skimmed milk, and in about a pint of it add half an ounce of common treacle (melasses) stirring it until it is well mixed. Then take one ounce of linseed oil cake well powdered, and with the hand let it fall gradually, in very small quantities, into the milk, stirring it in the mean time with a spoon or ladle, until it be thoroughly incorporated. Then let the

mixture be put into the other part of the milk, and the whole be made as nearly warm as new milk, when it is first taken from the cow, and in that state it is fit for use.

N.B. The quantity of the oil cake powdered, may, from time to time, be increased as occasion may require, and as the calf becomes inured to the flavour of it.

Annotations
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Method of Rearing Young Cattle recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes:
https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/49