

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

Agriculture Department

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MILKING ON THE SABBATH

Milking on the Sabbath is a question and problem we have had to face here in Texas. After a period of experimenting, we have quit milking from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. So, far, it has been practical and beneficial.

Overall, the animal health has improved. There has been a slight increase in milk production. We have little to no mastitis problems now, whereas, we had some because of lack of cleanliness and substandard mechanical handling in conjunction with resting the cows on the Sabbath. I am sure all this together has produced the result we are getting. (Of course if you lack faith you have lost before beginning.) The cause of every mastitis case that has appeared since we have begun this program has been traced to mechanical malfunction or a wrong handling practice.

Here is an outline of what we do:

We feed regularly throughout the week until Friday. At noon on Friday we lock the cows in a dry lot (water o.k.) away from any feed except dry hay. We milk Friday evening before the Sabbath giving them one half ration in the manger before the Sabbath, letting it simply lie there until the cows are turned out around noon on Saturday. If your feed (other than that fed during the milking period) is pasture, simply open the gate to the pasture. All we do on the Sabbath is open a gate.

We milk then again Saturday evening after the Sabbath and again begin giving the cows a full ration of feed at this milking period.

This procedure is working fine here, however, we are still experimenting. The decision of following it is entirely up to the individual. If you decide to go ahead with it, we would appreciate hearing your results. Please feel free to write us if you have further questions.

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