

# FARM AND DAIRY

&

## RURAL HOME

### THE OFFICIAL AND OTHER TESTS FOR DAIRY COWS EXPLAINED

In this Article Farm and Dairy Readers are Informed of the Various Tests Talked of by Breeders of Dairy Cattle. Be Sure to Read it, and When Your Neighbor asks you What R. O. P. and R. O. M. or A. R. O. Means You can Tell Him

NOW that official testing of pure bred cattle is becoming so popular, many farmers are asking what the difference is in the character of the different tests that are being used. To those, other than expert breeders, who are not acquainted with the nature of the various tests, the following information may be of interest.

In Canada there are three different forms of test two official and one private. The first test that was introduced was that is known as the Record of Merit, or R. O. M. This test is used by members of the Holstein-Friesian Association. When they have an animal that they desire to have tested, arrangements are made with the Agricultural College or Ontario Department of Agriculture to have an official sent to their farms. This official remains on the farm while the test is in progress and is supposed to weigh and test the milk of each milking, even when the animals are milked, as they sometimes are, four times a day. This government official certifies the correctness of the test. Generally these tests last for only seven days. Most of them are made shortly after calving. Sometimes the tests are extended over 30 days. In some cases seven day tests are conducted eight months after calving. Such records give a more accurate idea of a cows value as a persistent milker. These are sometimes called the seven day and 30 day tests.

#### A FEW EXAMPLES

Canadian Holstein-Friesian cows that have of late obtained a reputation through great records made in the Record of Merit are, Evergreen March, owned by G. W. Clemens, St. George, Ont., and May Echo Verbelde, owned by F. R. Mallory, Frankford, Ont. Evergreen March in seven days produced 29.45 lbs. of butter and 711.2 lbs. milk; in 30 days her record was 97.81 lbs. butter and 2,988 lbs. milk. May Echo Verbelde, although a young cow, in seven days produced over 24 lbs. of butter. A daughter of May Echo Silva, owned by M. E. Maybce, Trenton, Ont., recently completed a seven day record of over 21 lbs. This animal is now owned by Mr. Hardy, of Brockville.

Similar tests are conducted by Holstein breeders in the United States. In the States the test is called the Advanced Registry Official or the A. R. O. In both Canada and the United States a list is kept of animals that produce over a certain amount of milk and butter during the periods of the test. Cattle that pass the tests are enrolled in the Record of Merit in Canada and in the Advanced Registry Official of the United States. In the A. R. O. are several cows that have produced over 30 lbs. of butter in seven days. Pontiac Clothilde De Kol 2nd owned by Stevens Bros. in N. Y. State in A. R. O. test made the world's record of 37.2 lbs. of butter in

seven days and 135.33 lbs. of butter in 30 days. The former world's champion butter cow, Grace Fayne 2nd's Homestead, owned by H. A. Moyer, also of New York State, produced 35.55 lbs. of butter in seven days.

Another test in Canada that is rapidly gaining in popularity is what is called the Record of Performance or R. O. P. This is conducted under the auspices of the Dominion Government. Breeders, who desire to secure yearly tests of their pure bred animals inform the Dominion Department of Agriculture. They are required to weigh the milk of their animals for each milking, and to keep a careful record of the same. At periods uncertain to the breeders, officials from the Department of Agriculture visit their farms and spend two or three days there. These officials weigh and test the milk of the cows and compare the results with



"Citerne," An Individual of a Breed Native to Quebec Province

This hardy breed of dairy cattle—the French Canadian—is very popular in Quebec. Individuals of the breed are being admitted to Record of Performance. To qualify in this test a mature cow of the French Canadian breed requires to give 5,000 lbs. milk and 306 lbs. butter in within 365 consecutive days and calve within 15 months after the commencement of the test. "Citerne" is one of the individuals in the herd owned by Jos. Thoun. L'Assomption Co., P. Q.

the records kept by the owners of the animals. This gives a fairly accurate check, and helps to insure the recorded record being approximately correct. If the official of the Department finds that the weightings of the owners of the cattle are suspiciously high, they call more frequently at such farms. Should they find that any man has tampered with his records, such a breeder will be prevented from entering any more animals in the Record of Performance. Animals of all the leading dairy breeds have been entered in this test, and as the test extends over a year, it is felt by many to be a more valuable record than the shorter tests, even if it may not be quite so accurate. Before animals can qualify in this test they must drop a second calf within 15 months from the beginning of the test. Many splendid records have been made in the Record of Performance by Holstein, Ayrshire and Jersey cows. May Echo, a Holstein, bred by F. R. Mallory, Frankford, and now owned by H. J. Allison,

Chesterville, Ont., produced in the year 23,700 lbs. of milk and over 1,100 lbs. of estimated butter. Primrose of Tanglewyld, an Ayrshire, owned by Woodissee Bros., Rothsay, Ont., produced 16,195 1-2 lbs. of milk testing nearly four per cent. and containing 631 lbs. of butter fat. A Jersey cow that has made a good record in this test is Brampton Lady George, a two-year-old owned by B. H. Bull & Sons, of Brampton. She produced 11,000 lbs. of milk and 536 lbs. of estimated butter.

Another form of cow testing also conducted by the Dominion Government, but which is not official, is that where any farmer who desires to find what his cows are doing, making no difference whether they are grade or pure bred, agrees to enter his cows in one of the cow testing associations, a considerable number of which have been formed by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. Members of these associations simply agree to weigh the milk of their cows a couple of times during the month, and arrangements are made by the government to have this milk tested, either by the local cheesemaker, or by some government official. These records are not official and they should not be confused with the records previously described. This latter test is conducted merely for the benefit of the owners of the animals. The Record of Merit and the Record of Performance tests are conducted largely with the object of enabling breeders to prove the records of their cows to be accurate, and to protect buyers from fraudulent private records.

#### GREAT IMPROVEMENTS MADE

Cow testing associations by giving the farmer an opportunity to determine the production of the individual animals in his herd enable him to breed scientifically and great improvements have been made by many farmers in their dairy herds through following up the information obtained by cow testing. Perhaps the greatest improvement in a dairy herd through cow testing recorded, was made in the herd of A. J. Davis, of Woodstock, Ont., who in four years increased the average production of his herd from 1500 to 9144 lbs. of milk or an increase of 103 per cent. Mr. S. A. Freeman, of Culloden, in four years increased the average production of a herd of over 70 cows by 30 per cent. In three years Mr. J. K. Moore, of Peterboro, Ont., increased the production of his herd from 6709 lbs. of milk to 8078 lbs., an increase of 33 per cent.

I would like to have some of the Farm and Dairy readers, who are dairymen, tell me how to produce milk from our average cows for 87 cents per cwt. or thereabouts.—Carman S. Metcalfe, Prince Edward Co., Ont.

Success in corn growing consists in the selection of varieties best suited to the locality in which it is to be grown, using only the best seed, sowing in well drained land and following intensive cultivation. In Eastern Ontario early maturing corn should be grown.—T. Mason, Live Stock Branch, Ottawa, Ont.