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## THE WORK OF THE COW TESTING ASSOCIATIONS

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The work is of National Importance, it has justified its introduction and is destined to strengthen the foundation of our great national industry, Dairying.

**W**HAT is a cow testing association? As these associations have been in existence in Canada for three or four years a description of the methods employed would seem almost unnecessary. But as many men have still need to learn them, the system may be described briefly. Members are admitted on agreeing to take weights and samples of milk of each cow in the herd at least every 10th day. The necessary time means only a bare ten minutes a cow per month. This should not be considered as any extra labor, but as much a part of ordinary farm operations as spraying potatoes or grooming horses. The Dairy Division, Ottawa, bears the cost of testing.

The work is necessary because individual cows of the same breed, or in the same herd vary so greatly in total yield. Without testing it is impossible to judge what milk tests; there are hundreds of cows supposed to give milk containing a normal percentage of fat, but which in reality tests very low, 2.5, 2.2 or lower. Yields vary tremendously; five individual cows in the same district in July gave yields of 540, 630, 720, 840 and 970 lbs. milk. Individual cows in the same herd on the same feed vary from 2,500 to 5,600 lbs. milk in the season.

### COMPARISON OF 3 COWS, SAME HERD, TOTAL YIELD, 7 MONTHS\*

The most Profitable.	The least Profitable.
Weight of milk,..... 5595 lbs.	2790 lbs.
Weight of fat,.... 186 lbs.	110 lbs.
Yield of cheese,.... 509 lbs.	272 lbs.
Value of milk, \$55.95	\$27.90
Cost of feed,.... 21.00	21.00
(7 months, at \$3.)	

Profit, .....\$34.95 \$8.90

This is but one instance of hundreds of such differences. Two mature animals in the same herd, both freshening in spring, give startlingly different total yields, which would remain undetected unless weights are noted down. The best yield is double the poorest, therefore, many would say, the one cow is worth twice as much as the other. As they each consume about the same value of feed the net profit should be considered. It will then be seen that the better cow gives five times as much profit, and should be rated accordingly.

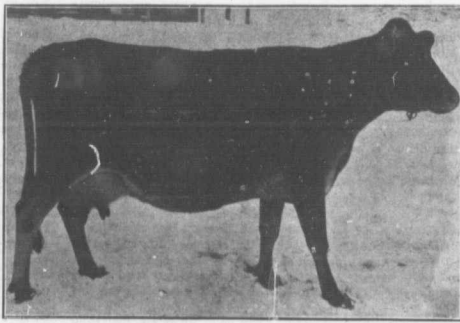
The work was introduced here because of the remarkable revelations of records in other dairy sections of the world. Thanks to the press, the best dairy thought cannot be confined within the boundaries of any one country; it is international. When it is stated that in such sections are to be

found hundreds of herds producing from 7,000 to 10,000 lbs. milk, it surely should be an incentive to dairymen here to have more records worth showing. We are scarcely yet awake to what similar records may lead.

### HAS JUSTIFIED ITS INTRODUCTION

What has been already accomplished in Canada has amply justified its introduction: and further, has abundantly proved the necessity of its continuation and rapid extension.

Many men can point with satisfaction to an increase of 25 per cent., 35 per cent. and 50 per cent. in the milk yield per cow. Some men have



A Representative of the Jersey Breed at the Guelph Winter Fair Last Month  
Jersey cow, 48 months and over—1st, Cantata of Normandy, A. J. C. C. 16947, B. H. Bull & Sons, Brampton, 130.20 lbs. milk, testing 4.7 per cent. fat, in three days' test.

doubled the yield. One man for instance has raised his average production in two years from 4,500 to 6,100 lbs. per cow, while the factory average remained at 3,400 lbs. Hundreds of farmers are now taking up the work in earnest, finding it, as they state, of immeasurable benefit.

Systematic improvement of the dairy herd cannot be made until records form the starting point. We cannot create an improved herd, we must select and develop. All the skill of the world's wise men cannot construct one cell of the millions of which the body is composed; not weave one square inch of the delicate fabric in which the Creator has wrapped us. The best we can do is to assist—to work in harmony with—to improve—to develop. Records of production are the only sure and certain guide in selection and improvement. First must come the root of the whole matter, a personal conviction of the system's value; the branches and fruitage of higher attainment will surely follow and add a new charm to life.

The work is spreading and is likely to grow. Members this year sent in records for as many as 6,500 cows a month as compared with 2,800 cows in 1906. It appeals to the shrewd common business sense of the practical dairymen. We cannot remain content with poor records; we must progress or be out of the running; consistency is the badge of stagnation.

Record work has shown Canadian dairymen that they may reach a definite work in dairy breeding and dairy feeding. New purposes are being given, and means whereby it is possible to know when they are accomplished.

### APPEALS TO BOYS AND GIRLS

The work assists the solution of domestic problems of farm life; it appeals to the boys and girls, riveting their interest in home economies. It induces the hired men to milk cleaner, so that from that source alone an extra 500 lbs. milk per cow may be obtained. The best kept and the neatest records are evidently those sent in by some of the gentler sex, and where the women get interested we may always count on steady improvement.

A knowledge and interest concerning the business affairs of the household must act as an influence towards a higher and more genuine respect on the part of the young men and women of the country for the business of farming. The home nest will be forsaken less and less by the young fledglings when it holds forth to its young people a partnership in the daily doings.

The work calls forth the best efforts of intelligent humanity in providing better care and attention for the most patient, and hardest working species of farm stock. When the effect of cold, neglect and exposure is reflected in the records, the necessity of better treatment is forced on the owner's attention. The unfailing law of retribution, "whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap," applies to the housing and feeding of dairy cows. Liberality is repaid, kindness is not lost.

When the shrinkage in milk yield from one month to another attains the startling figures of 30, 40 and even 50 per cent in some cases, while with other herds it is down to 20, 18 and 13 per cent., it makes one consider a change of methods, and such wise provision as will secure a persistent flow.

The work is undertaken with one dominant purpose constantly in view, a study of individual cows with a view of increasing economical production. While the selling price of cheese in Liverpool, be it 45s. or 65s., is beyond the patron's control, the cost of production of milk is immediately under his eye, and can be reduced by learning what records have to teach. The selected herd can produce milk at one-third the cost of many an average herd. Why not save the difference?

The promising individual must remain undisturbed.

\*An address before the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association at Prescott last week.