

THE
CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST,
 AND
Transactions

OF THE
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF UPPER CANADA.

VOL. V.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1855.

NO. 10

POINTS OF DIFFERENT BREEDS OF CATTLE.

The New York State Agricultural Society has issued the following system of estimating the relative value of the various points of several distinct kinds of cattle. It is a subject of growing importance in this country, and one that is confessedly surrounded by many difficulties.—We can hardly expect our readers to agree with every thing contained in the subjoined paper; but most of them will look upon the information it contains as highly useful and suggestive to all breeders and judges of cattle; and for the benefit of such we are induced to publish it.—*Editor.*

POINTS OF EXCELLENCE IN CATTLE.

Adopted by the New York State Agricultural Society, for the guidance of the Judges at their Annual Fairs.

The numbers affixed to the points described form the *maximum* that is to be allowed for each; and in proportion as the animal under examination is deficient in any point, so will the Judges decrease the number, even should nothing be allowed for that point.

Points which are characteristic, and therefore common to a *breed*, though very valuable in themselves, are marked comparatively low, because they are easily obtained and demand but little skill or attention on the part of the breeder; nevertheless, an animal not possessing the characteristics of *its own breed*, must of necessity be almost worthless. On the other hand, it will be observed that points of less value, perhaps, in themselves, but which are characteristic *deficiencies* in the breed, or at any rate difficult to sustain at their maximum excellence, are marked numerically high, as they go far to complete or perfect the natural excellence of the animal.

Again, for the above reasons, it will be found that the *same* points, in *different breeds*, have different numerical values attached to them.

POINTS OF A SHORTHORN COW.

PEDIGREE—showing unbroken descent, on both sides, from known animals, derived from Eng-

lish herds, as found in the English or American Herd Books, and without this, an animal can not compete in this class.

- 3 THE HEAD, small, lean and bony, tapering to the muzzle.
- 2 THE FACE somewhat long, the fleshy portion of the NOSE of a light delicate color.
- 2 THE EYE is of great significance and should be prominent, bright and clear—“prominent,” from an accumulation of “adeps” in the back part of its socket, which indicates a tendency to lay on fat—“bright,” as an evidence of a good disposition—“clear,” as a guarantee of the animal’s health; whereas a dull, sluggish eye belongs to a slow feeder; and a wild, restless eye betrays an unquiet, fitful temper.
- 1 THE HORNS—light in substance and waxy in color, and symmetrically set on the head; the EAR large, thin, and with considerable action.
- 2 THE NECK—rather short than long, tapering to the head; clean in the throat, and full at its base, thus covering and filling out the points of the shoulders.
- 14 THE CHEST—broad from point to point of the shoulders; deep from the anterior dorsal vertebra to the floor of the sternum, and both round and full just back of the elbows; sometimes designated by the phrase, “thick through the heart.” These are unquestionably the most important points in every animal, as constitution must depend on their perfect development, and the ample room thus afforded for the free action of the heart and lungs.
- 5 THE BRISKET, however deep or projecting, must not be confounded with *capacity* of chest; for though a very attractive and selling point, it, in reality, adds nothing to the space within, however it may increase the girth without.—It is in fact nothing more nor less than a muscular adipose substance, attached to the anterior portion of the sternum, or breast-bone, and thence extending itself back. This form, however, of the brisket indicates a disposition to lay on fat generally throughout the frame, and in this point of view is valuable.
- 4 THE SHOULDER, where weight, as in the Short-horn, is the object, should be somewhat upright and of good width at the points, with the blade-bone just sufficiently curved to blend its upper portion smoothly with the crops.
- 8 THE CROPS must be full and level with the