The Record of Performance Summarized

General statements will soon no longer avail in breed discussions, as the Canadian Record of Performance will furnish us with such a great amount of authentic information regarding the profitableness of the dairy breeds as to make mere statements of opinion of none effect. In the Record of Performance we have tests, made under Government supervision, of all the leading dairy breeds, and numerous tests of the two dairy breeds most under discussion. In a border jot on this page we publish a summary showing the yearly production in pounds of butter fat of all of the cows in each breed so far tested in Record of Performance. To us the results of our investigation into Report No. 4 of the Canadian Record of Performance is most convincing testimony of the fact that there is good in all breeds and that success in dairying is more a matter of getting the best strain of the breed you like than in impartially choosing any breed as being the most profitable.

A study of the border jot herewith will show that in all cases the Holsteins have averaged somewhat higher in fat production than have the Ayrshires. A more complete study of the report, however, shows a wide variation in the producing abilities of animals in both breeds, there being very high producers in both breeds, and that there have also been many Ayrshires and Holsteins tested that just produced enough to qualify for Record of Performance, and many in both breeds that did not qualify at all. Ayrshire fanciers claim, with some show of justice, that their cattle being smaller eat less and are therefore just as profitable as is the higher producing Holstein. This claim, which seems reasonable, will be put to test when the system of feed records that is now being conducted in connection with the Record of Performance test is got on a better basis.

CHANNEL ISLAND BREEDS LEAD

A noteworthy feature of the Record of Performance tests is that in no class are either Ayrshires or Holsteins on top in the average of all animals tested. For instance, in the class for cows five years old and over, the Jerseys averaged 515.99 lbs. of butter fat, the Guernseys 430.74, and the Holsteins were between the two with 438.63 lbs. of butter fat. In the four-year-old class the Guernseys are on top, and in the class for three and two year olds the Jerseys again have the highest average production. Many dairymen have been inclined to regard the Jersey and Guernsey as the rich man's cow and not at all suitable for the commercial dairyman, and not in the same class with either Holsteins or Ayrshires. Record of Performance results show that here also it is strain that counts, and not breed. Of course, the smaller number of Jerseys and Guernseys tested make the results less authoritative and less indicative of the general producing ability of the breed than are the Ayrshire and Holstein results.

Did we determine the average milk production of the different breeds we would find the Holsteins far in the lead; but their test was the lowest of any breed. Of the 74 aged cows tested, their average was only 3.34 per cent. butter fat, as compared with 3.96 for Ayrshires, 4.82 for Guernseys, 4.45 for French-Canadian, and 5.24 for the Jerseys. Only three of all the Holsteins tested to date have averaged over 4 per cent. fat for the whole lactation period. Several animals qualifying have tested below 3 per cent., and one animal we note with a test of only 2.77 per cent. Here again, however, strain is more important than breed, as Holsteins are recorded testing 4.45 per cent. and Ayrshires as low as 3.26 per cent. Guernseys in all classes varied from 4.82 to 6.13, and the Jerseys from 4.14 to 5.75 per cent. of fat.

Record of Performance Averages

FIVE YEARS AND OVER

Ayrshire:	67 averaged	390.889 lbs.	butter fat
Holstein:	74 averaged	438.636 "	" "
French Can.	8 avg'd	339.023 "	" "
Guernsey:	1 averaged	430.74 "	" "
Jersey:	3 averaged	515.09 "	" "

FOUR YEARS OLD

Ayrshire:	23 averaged	363.346 lbs.	butter fat
Holstein:	33 averaged	429.595 "	" "
French Can.	1 avg'd	357.48 "	" "
Guernsey.	1 averaged	495.74 "	" "
Jersey:	2 averaged	437.965 "	" "

THREE YEARS OLD

Ayrshire:	41 averaged	345.67 lbs.	butter fat
Holstein:	42 averaged	398.555 "	" "
French Can.	1 avg'd	308.79 "	" "
Guernsey:	1 averaged	384.9 "	" "
Jersey:	1 averaged	459.33 "	" "

TWO YEARS OLD

Ayrshire:	82 averaged	296.364 lbs.	butter fat
Holstein:	84 averaged	358.590 "	" "
French Can.	7 avg'd	250.894 "	" "
Guernsey:	7 averaged	370.807 "	" "
Jerseys:	7 averaged	381.628 "	" "

Until feed records are published along with milk and fat records the question as to which breed contains the most economical producers must remain in abeyance. Really it will never be settled, as there will always be profitable and unprofitable cows in all breeds. The biggest lesson of the Record of Performance is that strain, not breed, should receive first consideration.

We got 300 lbs. of honey from two hives of bees last summer. They didn't swarm, but got right down to work. We have had honey morning, noon and night, and it is the cheapest food we can get, as well as one of the most delicious. The bees do not involve a great deal of labor, either. —Mrs. Alec. McGregor, Peterboro Co., Ont.

A Scene in New Ontario—Hogs Assist in the Making of the New Home

Grading and Packing Poultry

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All poultry should be put up in an attractive style. It should be selected for quality, assorted for size, and packed in approved style in new boxes of proper size and suitable material, holding 12 birds each. The determing of the quality, the assorting as to size, the style of packing, and the appearance and shape of the boxes to use, are approaching a uniform standard. Grading and packing should be done as soon as the birds are properly cooled. No oirds should be packed the same day that they are killed.

The Poultry Producers' Association of Canada gives the following classification for different breeds of poultry:

Selects.—To consist of specially fattened chickens, extra well fleshed, and of superior finish and appearance, unbroken skin without blemish, straight breast bone, and neatly packed in packages that hold one dozen birds; the package shall be made after the plan recommended by the Department of Agriculture and illustrated in Bulletin No. 7. One package shall include only birds of a uniform size and color of flesh and legs.

No. 1.—To consist of well-fleshed chickens of neat appearance, straight breast bone, no disfigurement. Packed in neat, strong boxes.

No. 2.—To consist of fairly fleshed chickens, packed in neat, strong packages.

The term "chickens" in the above three grades shall mean all birds under seven months of age.

Fowl.—Meaning hens not over two and a half years old, shall be graded the same as chickens, but shall be marked "fowl," and must not be mixed with chickens.

Cocks must not be included in these grades.

Birds that have been sick or show any indication of disease, birds that have food in the crop, that have decidedly crooked breast bones, that have blood or other dirt upon their bodies, shall not be included in these grades.

All birds must be dry plucked, gradually but thoroughly chilled before packing, not dipped in water. Put on the market undrawn, having head and feet on.

PACKING

If the poultry is to be marketed immediately, pine boxes may be used to good advantage and are cheaper, but if the poultry is to be frozen and stored, whitewood or cotton boxes should be used. Basswood, which is free from dark colored wood, may be used and is low priced. There are different sizes and styles of boxes used for packing various classes of poultry, and the specifications herewith given may be used for the various classes of birds indicated.

Box No. 1.—18x17x4 inches inside. This box will hold 12 domestic packed chickens, packed broiler style, weighing from 30 to 35 pounds a dozen.

Box No. 2.—19x16 x 8 inches inside. This box to contain 12 roasters, 48 to 59 pounds a dozen; also 12 fowl, weighing 54 pounds and up a dozen; also 12 duck, weighing 33 pounds and under a dozen.

Box No. 3.—20 x 16½x8½ inches inside. This box to hold 12 roasting chickens, 60 pounds and up a dozen. It can also be used for very heavy fowl weighing about 70

(*Continued on page 9*)