

time, and time which may be money, but it is by far the safer and more satisfactory in its results, and it must be recognized as a higher grade of dairy farming. A good combination, in starting, is to buy the number of cows desired, and good animals, of the sort determined in advance. If one's means will permit, include a few superior cows, and a first-class bull at any rate. Let the cows selected be such as have had two calves, and perhaps three, so that they may be judged by their own development and yet be young enough to improve and be in full profit for some years. With a herd thus formed, begin at once the work of improvement by breeding and selection. Sell promptly any cow which proves unsatisfactory and replace her by the best increase of the herd, or purchase occasionally an animal which will raise the average quality.

A dairyman can hardly be advised to buy at once a full stock of pure-bred cattle of any one breed, if his sole object and dependence for profit is to be the dairy product of the herd. Such a venture will necessitate large investment, and should include the breeding of registered stock, for sale at remunerative prices, as a part of the business. I should consider, well-bred and well-selected grade cows, of the line of blood desired, to be the most profitable animal for the practical dairyman, or at least the best to begin with. If he is enterprising and progressive, the owner will hardly be content with grades only. He may perhaps begin with only his bull pure bred; presently he will want a registered cow to match, then one or two more. Thus he will steadily and properly working toward a purely bred herd. If the breed chosen is the right one for the object sought, it will soon be found that the more of this blood the herd contains the better. Starting with half bred cows (the offspring of pure bred bulls and dams of mixed or uncertain blood), the next grade, three-fourths pure, will prove better dairy stock, if the bull is what he should be and the increase has been culled. Another step higher is better still, better for the dairy, and so the grading goes on until the blood of the herd is practically pure. The best dairy results may thus be reached, but the herd has a taint. It lacks pedigree. Its increase however excellent in dairy performance, must pass for and sell as grades. The owner feels this, and is pretty sure to gradually replace his well bred cows, almost pure bred, with fully pedigreed and registered animals. This end is reach-

ed sooner and easier by starting with one or two registered females, and, of course, a registered bull. Moderate investment and the lessened risk of loss in the hands of one unaccustomed to handling registered stock, and finding a market for the surplus, doubtless favour grades for the dairy herd. Of course argument and the probabilities of success, based upon the fixed principles of breeding, are on the side of the pure-bred, registered stock. In the hands of experienced men the latter prove the more profitable in actual practice.

In these days any dairyman who wants registered dairy animals of any of the approved breeds can get them if he cares to make the effort. The beginner in registered dairy stock cannot be too strongly urged to buy and breed on the basis of the individual and family merit and dairy record, and not upon pedigree alone. Pedigree is undoubtedly of much value and should be well studied; it is the best guarantee that the calves to come will make good cows. But the pedigree should be supported by uniform excellence in the family, and by evidence of merit in the particular animals bought. Although the investment is greater, there is more certainty of good results, if mature cows are brought which show what can be expected of them, if they have not already made a record, than if calves or undeveloped heifers are selected. It certainly is also economy, having chosen the right breed, to purchase good representatives of that breed, rather than be content with only average or even ordinary animals. Successful dairying has proved that the greater profit comes from the best cows, whatever their kind. This is as true of pure-bred or registered stock, as of common cows. It is better to pay three hundred dollars for three excellent cows than to pay the same amount for four good cows or five which are only fair. A really superior dairy cow of a superior family, with pedigree which gives assurance of calves equal to the dam, if not better, is always worth a large price. Such an animal adds much to the average value of any dairy herd. In buying registered cattle, deal only with men of reputation as breeders and of strict integrity; "the best part of a pedigree is the name of the breeder."

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