

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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AND N.-W. T.

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high vigor, thrift and the best feeding qualities are not found. In male animals a strongly muscled neck and a masculine but not coarse head is desirable, as indicating energy and prepotency as a sire. A comparatively short head, broad between the eyes, a full, clear, bright eye, broad muzzle and strong jaws and lips, are indications of a good constitution and a good feeder, as also are well-sprung and deep ribs. A comparatively short back, giving the appearance compactness, with a wide, strong loin, are qualities which betoken strength and endurance, while a long-coupled animal of any class is apt to sag in its back, to prove lacking in force and feeding qualities, and more liable to digestive ailments and disease. In all animals the shape and quality of bone in the limbs, and their placing, is of supreme importance; clean, flat bone, of fine texture, being essential as a token of quality, soundness and strength. While in judging horses

the shape and quality of the feet, pasterns and hocks are of first importance, and practically fix the value of the animal for any purpose, it is from a breeder's standpoint, nearly of as great consequence in the case of other classes of farm stock, that they stand well up on their feet and have their legs well placed under them, with this difference, that while the pasterns of the horse to best fit him for speed or for draft should be moderately long, sloping and springy, cattle, sheep and hogs should stand straight up on their hoofs and pasterns, and all, especially

and deep, the flanks, fore and aft, well let down, the back and loins thickly and smoothly covered with natural flesh, the hooks not prominent but smoothly turned, the hind quarters long and level, and the buttocks and twist full and far down, especially in the case of the bull. The legs should be short, strong and well placed, the handling quality of the skin mellow, moderately thick and pliable, and the hair fine, soft and furry, which is an indication of a good feeder, and one that makes good use of its food.

The standard for dairy cattle, while differing materially in many points from that for the beef breeds, is essentially the same, in so far as the indications of constitution are concerned, large heart and lung room, and capacity for working up large quantities of food into milk being a *signa qua non* in a dairy cow. The principal difference in the conformation of the two classes is that while in the beef breeds width of chine and thickness of flesh is required, in the dairy breeds narrow withers and spareness of flesh is preferred, and this is not incompatible with a good constitution, since the heart and lungs are situated low down in the chest, and the thick or thin withers are largely the result of difference in the early feeding and training of the two classes. Feed a dairy helper fat in calfhood and keep her fat till she reaches maturity and her value for dairy purposes will be seriously impaired, as will also her chances of winning in the show-ring. The breeding and training of the dairy cow should tend to produce an animal at maturity having good spring and depth of ribs, thick through the heart with smooth, sloping shoulders, fine, sharp withers, a moderately long, level back, a broad, strong loin, a strong spine, well-defined and open-spaced, broad and wide spaced ribs, with much space between the last rib and hook point, broad and moderately prominent hooks, long, broad and level hind quarters, thin thighs, soft handling skin and hair, and withal, and perhaps most important of all, since the standard gives nearly thirty per cent. of value to these points, a large and well-balanced, evenly-quartered udder, and good-sized, well-placed teats, the udder running well forward and well up behind, not fleshy, but flexible, elastic and covered with soft skin and hair. Bulls and young females not in milk, of the dairy breeds, are more difficult to judge than are those of the beef breeds, as in the latter the same standard practically applies to male and female, old and young alike, except that masculinity of appearance and spirit, indicating prepotency, are required in one section, and femininity in the other, while in the dairy breeds the conformation of the bull differs from that of the cow in that the former is relatively lighter in the hind quarters than the cow, the functions of maternity requiring the broader conformation of hind parts in the female.

In judging sheep, the rules laid down for judging beef cattle apply in the main, the principal difference being that of breed character and of the fleece, which has to be considered, and this



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horses, should walk well, for a horse that cannot walk well rarely trots well, and the easy, active, swinging walk counts for much in any class of stock where competition in the show-ring is close. To require that competing animals walk as well as stand still is a point that should never be forgotten by the judge, for observation teaches that skilful and experienced showmen can, in some instances, place an animal standing so as to show for more than it is worth, and in other cases by keeping it constantly moving can do much to divert attention from the fault of a sagging back or other defect.

In judging cattle of the beef breeds, we look for symmetry of form as of next importance to strength of constitution and breed character, and for top and bottom lines nearly level, though not absolutely straight, remembering always that nature invariably neglects right angles and delights in gentle curves. The shoulders should be wide on top, but smooth, neither prominent nor bare, and the crops, or the part immediately behind the shoulders, should be broad and full, the ribs springing well from the spine and being long



A MEDICINE HAT OAT FIELD, SCENE ON THE FARM OF JNO. HAWKES.