

When You Buy a Cow

Some Exterior Indications of Milk Production

J. Hugh McKenney, Elgin Co. Ont.

I HAVE always banked on the scale and tester as the one reliable means of knowing the individual milking capacity of the dairy herd. It occasionally happens, however, that I wish to purchase an animal from a neighbor. Perhaps he has failed to keep any record of performance. In such a case one's judgment must be largely based on any indications of milking ability that her general conformation may bring to light. This may or may not be supplemented by the owner's acquired knowledge, but if so, it will be necessary to size up the latter as well as the cow. Eagerness to sell, sometimes leads to more or less exaggeration, intentional or otherwise. Then, there is the fellow who is as mum as a clam. All he will say is, "There's the cow, you can see for yourself." I am always suspicious of this kind. If a man has a good thing he can't help saying so, though in his enthusiasm he may forget to place proper emphasis on some of the weak points.

In looking over a dairy cow, the thought uppermost in my mind is, how much milk will she yield. That is what I am paying out my good money for; that is what I expect to feed her for. She must show promise of giving good results. With this idea foremost, the udder is naturally suggested first, because it is here that the actual milking of the milk takes place. Now, I favor a large udder every time, but want to know right at the start of what texture it is. Even though it has the appearance of that belonging to a 30-pound cow on test, yet if it does not milk out small and soft like an empty glove, with no sign of beefiness, I stop right there. Having been fooled once with a big meaty udder, I don't propose to be bitten again on that point. The shape too, is of importance. Development should have been made horizontally, rather than vertically, that is, it ought to be carried far forward along the belly and well up behind between the thighs so that a complete half circle is visible from a side view.

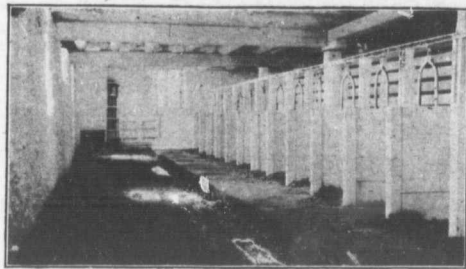
As the milk secreted in the udder depends on the blood conveyed thereto by the so-called milk veins, one on either side of the belly, rising from a hole in the abdominal wall, it is essential that these veins and milk wells be of good size in order that a liberal blood supply be furnished to the udder.

The Source of Production.

Next, I want to follow this milk-yielding blood back to its source. By what process is it produced and what indications are there of the degree of ability that a cow possesses in performing this function? To get a fair idea of her qualities in this respect, I want to know if the respiratory and digestive organs have the best possible chance of doing their work properly. That may be the case, the chest should be deep and the ribs well sprung to insure a large lung capacity. The abdomen should be broader than the chest, and hips set well apart to provide for eating and digesting large quantities of food. If these two points are satisfactory, the cow in question will show a decidedly wedge-

shaped conformation common to most high producers. Such animals are likely to be veritable machines for manufacturing the food-laden blood and rushing it to the secreting tissues in the udder.

But this power to elaborate milk from blood is associated with another feature—that peculiar



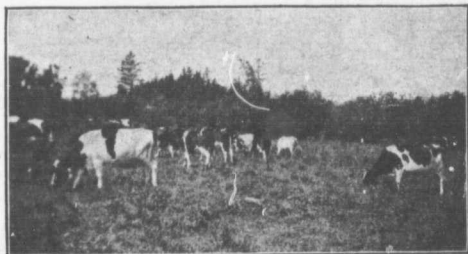
A Stable that Meets with the Approval of the Health Inspector.

The milk produced in this stable, that of R. J. Waller, Peterboro Co., Ont., is retailed in the city of Peterboro. The stable is therefore visited by the Health Inspector at frequent intervals, who gives it his unqualified approval. Notice the simplicity of the fittings. Lots of whitewash, plentiful lighting, and good care explain its desirability.

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

nervous temperament, the exact opposite of the placid character of the animal that turns its food into flesh. The nervous disposition one looks for in the good dairy cow shows itself in a bright prominent eye, the broad forehead indicating a large brain room, and, generally speaking, in the loose open character of the carcass as compared with the closely knit, compact frame of the ideal beef animal.

There are a host of other little signs that help one in a measure to discern the productive ability of a cow when resort cannot be had to a carefully kept record of her milkings. The trouble is one may be tempted to put too much weight on them. After all, a strong constitution, large



Uniformity that is the Result of Good Breeding.

Some of these cows, the property of W. F. Bell, Carleton Co., Ont., are pure bred. Others are Holstein grades. He would be a shrewd stockman who could accurately separate the two. Just another evidence of the fact that herds with a breedy appearance and good producing ability may be had by any dairy farmer who will consistently use good bulls of one breed.

digestive capacity, and a good udder with secretory powers sufficient to perform its peculiar functions, are the main points to look for. Personally, I pay little attention to the diameter of a cow's tail, the square inch area of her escutcheon and similar details. If bossie passes motion on the three important points mentioned in the foregoing, matters of less import have a way of falling into line.

Money is the idol of the age; plain living and high thinking the ideal.

How Your Time is Wasted

WITH labor as scarce and as high as it is at the present time every effort should be made to use the available labor, farm power, and all machinery in the most efficient possible manner. If 25 per cent. of the seed corn

fails to germinate there will be but 75 per cent. of a stand. This means that one-fourth of the time of the men who plow the ground, prepare the seed bed, plant the corn and cultivate the crop will be wasted. If this is coupled with a deficiency of plant food in the soil there will be a greater reduction in the labor efficiency of all men, teams, and machinery employed in growing the crop. It is times such as these that compel everyone to take an account of stock. Certainly one of the most inefficient practices on the farm

is the constant cultivation of land that fails to produce its maximum because poor seed is planted or the ground is sour or water-logged or deficient in plant food, preventing large crops.—J. W. Henceroth.

Tractor Experience in Huron

And Something of Its Limitations

J. N. Kernighan, Huron Co., Ont.

SOME time ago Farm and Dairy asked for our experience with our gas tractor. I delayed answering until we could determine how it would work on the land in the spring. It has been a poor spring to work the land, as it never dried out properly, but the tractor proved that it could do the cultivating quicker and better than horses where the land was not too hilly.

In the first place, I would not advise anyone buying a tractor if his land is hilly, because good work cannot be done on hills, either plowing or cultivating, especially if the land is light, as the engine will slide slip. Our tractor is an 8-16 horsepower oil burning, and we find that it has power enough to draw three 18-inch plows, or a six and a half foot stiff tooth cultivator with the harrows behind, where the ground was level, but where there was a hill to climb the harrows were too much of an over-load for it. A 10-20 horsepower would work much more satisfactorily where the land is rolling, because you would have the extra power to carry it over the tough spots.

With the six and a half foot cultivator fifteen acres can be cultivated in ten hours with the eighty-rod rounds, and between four and five acres plowed.

We find that the coal oil gives perfect satisfaction in the engine. We have never had to clean ours since we got it, and also the engine runs smoother on the coal oil than on gasoline, and there seems to be as much power in the oil when the engine gets thoroughly warmed up.

It is rather hard to figure the difference between operating it and horses, but taking prices now, coal oil, 20 cents and oats 80 cents, it would cost for the engine, oil, 15 gallons per day, \$3.00; cylinder oil, etc., 50 cents, making a total of \$3.50. Figuring on a four-horse team, and I doubt it four horses would draw the cultivator, certainly not

the season at 80 cents in favor of the same amount. We find one gallon and three p

W E hear men them street. Less He is a young samed the two years ago Holstein fence is all before start toward steins to rep under his fa well worth it with the fa made what a clover, corn a put money to stored fertiliz father and s biased trail to

The soil near which the most blow ar ridges running was on one of the Snowden under cultivat tated against attempted to grain as a c income. Succ come when d The first cow grades. But the system of agri a cash crop a on the place as manure. G improved, and nature of the hit the growi but good profit being grown. A is continually s

"We started or five years Snowden, Jr. cow's milk nigh at the end of just what each us. Of course, ing for some ye had judged the appearance and do at the pall. figures influence Holstein, becaus ing of our Holst

A Start Wit "Two years ago Mr. Snowden, in registered cattle, sale of P. H. Jon made just 8,000 i She is now (early a day, and she c a Belleville sale, a more pure bred f Ornydie Pieters