

How Show Steers Were Bred From Grade Heifers.

It is generally conceded by all stockmen that a good sire pays a handsome dividend when used on the herd, but here is a concrete example; John Kopas & Sons, of Elora, who have no pure-bred cattle on their farm, but are believers in good sires, bred ten grade heifers in 1918 to Gainford Matchless, a son of that noted Shorthorn sire, Gainford Marquis. It is a foregone conclusion that the service fee would be several times that usually charged, and Messrs. Kopas actually paid \$10 for each service. These ten heifers were only of average quality, and they dropped six heifer and four male calves. The heifers have been retained on the farm for breeding purposes, and the males were castrated but kept in a thriving condition and are now being fitted for show purposes. These steers have been given every chance, but they had no nurse cows, and as their dams were heifers it is natural to conclude that the milk provided was somewhat limited. Had nurse cows been used, undoubtedly better gains would have been made; as it is, the four Gainford Matchless steers, at an average age of twenty months, showed an average weight of 1,371 pounds. Taken as individuals, "Pete" born January 15, 1919, weighed 1,425 pounds on October 15, 1920; "Georgie," born January 18, weighed 1,360 pounds on October 13; "Mack," born February 17, weighed 1,420 pounds; and "Duke," born April 15, scaled 1,280 pounds. These weights are exceptionally good and indicate that the steers are of A 1 quality and have been well looked after. The accompanying illustration of the four steers shows them to be straight, deep, thick-bodied individuals, and if Messrs. Kopas exhibit them at the coming Winter Fair they will be strong contestants for the red ribbon. By the way, we understand that Messrs. Kopas were offered 35 cents per pound, live weight, for these steers some time ago, but this they refused, preferring to hold them and exhibit them themselves.

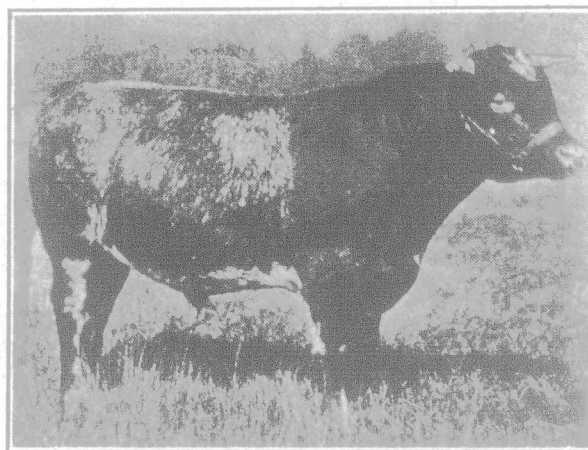
Everyone may not be so fortunate as Messrs. Kopas in mating grade heifers with a sire of the stamp of Gainford Matchless. However, the quality of the sire is an important factor and the quality of the offspring, nine times out of ten, is superior to the offspring of the average quality sire. Comparatively few are willing to pay ten dollars service fee, even with registered stock, let alone grades. In the case of Messrs. Kopas it paid exceptionally well to do so, and what they have done can be duplicated by other farmers who will use a good bull and feed liberally. It must be remembered that feeding is an important factor. Breeding without feeding will not develop a show animal. Cattle of the stamp shown in the accompanying illustration are always in demand. There are altogether too few of them going on our market, and one reason is that breeders are not far-sighted enough to purchase an outstanding sire, or to pay a service fee charged for the use of a good bull. The way to make a profit on beef cattle is to breed the best and finish them at an early age. These four steers stand to return a handsome profit no matter how they are disposed of for they are the kind that is always in demand. Anyone doubting the advisability of using the best sire available, regardless of service fee, should breed some of their heifers to a sire of outstanding quality, and others of like character to the type of sire generally used and note the difference in the conformation quality and thriftiness of the offspring. Good blood pays, and pays well.

Interesting Young Men in Live Stock.

The rising generation will be the breeders and stockmen of the future, and the way the young folk become interested in good stock determines largely what they will contribute to the upbuilding of the live stock industry ten, twenty or thirty years hence. Breed associations which are looking to the future should utilize every fair means to interest the young people in their particular breed. The present breeders will not always be the leading lights, the ranks must be recruited from the boys and young men. Until recently comparatively little was done publicly to particularly interest young folk in better live stock. Some fathers encouraged

their boys by giving them a calf, lamb or pig and permitted them to fit the stock for shows, and to dispose of the progeny as they see fit. Others gave the stock, but when the lad's hopes were raised to concert pitch, and he was planning on going more extensively into live stock raising and making a reputation for good stock like his ideal live stock breeder in the adjoining county, his plans were blighted by father disposing of the full-grown calf, lamb or pig, and putting the cash into his own pocket. It is a case of the boy's calf, but father's cow and this grasping policy has nipped in the bud a promising career in the live stock world. When will fathers wake up to the fact that they cannot in justice treat their boys this way, and that their work and ideas are worthy of some recognition. On many home-steads to-day one of the sons would be happy in his work of taking the burden off father's shoulders had he been given a ghost of a chance to put his ideas and thoughts into action.

Times are changing. Public spirited men, financial corporations, exhibition boards, breed associations, etc., are devoting time and money towards interesting the youth of the land in better live stock, and in en-



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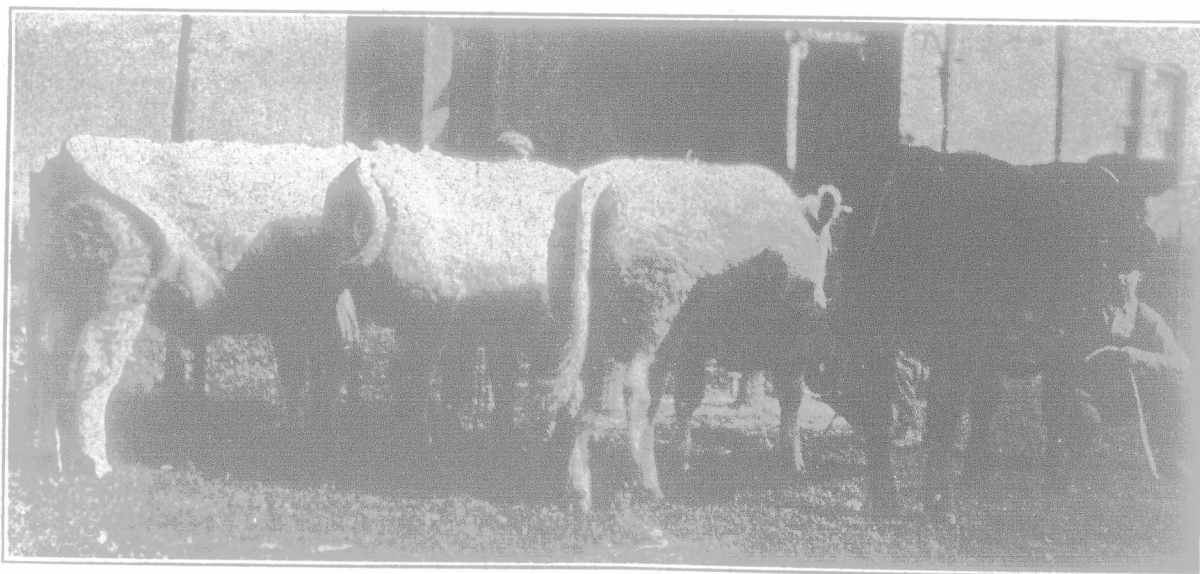
First senior yearling shorthorn bull at London for Percy De Kay, Elmira, Ontario.

couraging them to own, fit, show, or breed animals for themselves as the nucleus of a herd or flock. Pig clubs have awakened a keen interest in the boys and girls of many counties in United States and Canada. The records kept, and the showing made at exhibitions are creditable indeed.

Sheep clubs and calf clubs are an important factor in developing livestock breeders and judges. Judging competitions have been conducted at local fairs for years in Ontario, where young men try their skill at placing animals in the ring and giving reasons. The Canadian National Exhibition has for several years attracted many young men from different parts of the Province to the judging competition, and the Western Fair this year drew a large entry.

In Western Canada liberal prizes are offered in classes for beef calves or yearlings fitted and shown by young men under seventeen or eighteen years. The prizes are of such proportions as to entice a boy to do his best in fitting and showing. This movement is spreading Eastward, and it is expected that there will be a class at the Western Fair in 1921 for senior calves owned, fitted and exhibited by boys under seventeen. If a first prize of say \$75 was offered and the prizes decrease by five dollars down to ten, is it not worth while taking extra pains to select a good calf and fit it? Then, there is a possibility that the breed association will offer a liberal prize for the top animals if sired by a registered bull of their particular breed. The association have done it in the West and there is no reason why they should not do it in the East.

The banks are beginning to take a keen interest in club work and are loaning money on the boy or girl's personal note. This is a good business from the banks standpoint, as every new customer is an asset. It also enables boys and girls to start into the live stock business on their own account. Some who have borrowed money for a registered heifer have, in a short time, proven to their parents that it pays to keep good stock.



Four Steers Bred by Messrs Kopas from Grade Heifers and a Good Pure-bred Sire.

There is another side to the club work and the showing and that is the business training which goes with it. If a boy in his teens has a bank account and has occasion to deposit and draw money or make deals with older breeders, he acquires a business instinct which is valuable and he develops into a better businessman than if he is out of his teens before he is allowed to handle money of his own. The present work with the youth is building for better manhood and womanhood, and Canada will be a stronger and greater nation for the present work being done to interest the young people in better agriculture.

Accommodation for the Hogs.

On many farms there is a commodious and up-to-date piggery, while on others the hogs are given a corner of the main stable or a lean-to in the yard. It is very convenient to have modern buildings for handling all classes of stock, but it is not absolutely necessary to go to great expense to provide a place for the pigs. They want it dry, well ventilated, and free from drafts. These essentials can be secured without a heavy outlay. No doubt you have noticed that the pigs which winter under the straw stack are thrifty, seldom crippled, and always ready for their meals, while those in a more expensive place do not always make the same gains. We do not advise going back to the early methods of housing the hogs under the straw stack, but this method does give suggestions which may be of value when erecting a new piggery. The straw loft with the pole or loose-board ceiling over the pigs is usually to be preferred to the tight-board ceiling. The straw absorbs the dampness and also provides a means of ventilation. We have heard men who have been successful in raising pigs claim that under no consideration would they have anything but a pen with a straw loft. Having the straw stored overhead also makes it more convenient for bedding the pigs.

The pig is not a particularly hot-blooded animal, and, as a rule, there is a good deal of dampness and a clammy atmosphere in the piggery that is not properly ventilated. This is particularly bad for the young litter. To overcome this some men have a couple of large stalls in the end of the piggery for young cattle, and claim that the bovines make a decided difference in the temperature and atmospheric conditions of the piggery.

The barnyard with a shelter in the corner makes ideal conditions for the brood sow. She needs plenty of exercise, and sufficient feed to keep her in a thrifty condition. To confine the sow to a pen for any length of time during the gestation period is to invite trouble at farrowing time. Roots and a little grain make a splendid ration. Of course, it is not good for the sow to be chased around too much by the cattle, but if she has sleeping quarters in the yard she can usually get out of the way when the cattle are out for exercise.

Many piggeries are not warm enough for the litter farrowed in mid-winter, and if possible it is advisable to give the sow and her litter accommodation in the cattle stable. Where this is not possible, some use an A-shaped colony house, which is about 6 by 8 feet in dimensions. During the time when pigs are small a lighted lantern hung in this pen, when the outside temperature is below zero, will make a considerable difference in the temperature of the pen. However, one does not like to leave a lighted lantern hanging in a building if it is anyway close to the main barns. In the new piggery at the O. A. C. the farrowing pens are opposite the boiler-room, and in this way they can be kept quite comfortable. The average farmer does not have this convenience, however, and must depend on housing the pigs in buildings where the temperature is moderate.

Hints on Sheep Raising.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

As this is the time of year to prepare for next year's crop of lambs, I would suggest that every flock-owner, or shepherd, go over his flock of ewes most minutely, and do away with anything that is not likely to be a good producer, as the ewe that does not raise an average lamb has no right in the flock. And I consider it is almost as essential to know the lamb produced from each ewe, as to know the calf from each cow. Some good shepherds practically know their sheep by name. However, everyone may not be able to do this. Therefore, it may be necessary to number each ewe and lamb.

The choice of a ram is a matter of the utmost importance. The best is not too good. Whatever the breed may be get the best pure-bred ram you can afford to buy. While I believe in pure-bred stock of any kind, if raising lambs for market, good results may be obtained from one cross, as you will often get more weight. For this purpose I would prefer the Border Leicester ram, and you can cross him with almost any other breed. Do not have breeding ewes over fat, as this is detrimental to the lamb crop, but always have them in good healthy, thriving condition. It is a good policy to commence feeding a little whole oats at least two weeks before the breeding season; and feed the ram a little whole or crushed oats, and cracked corn all through.

Sheep should be kept in a dry, but by no means, warm building, with plenty of overhead ventilation. Avoid a low roof or ceiling. If ewes are in fairly good condition to start winter with, they may be carried through at a minimum cost. Plenty of well-cured clover hay with a very little grain and wheat bran, and a small allowance of turnips. Always discontinue the turnips at least six weeks before lambing. The time to feed well is after lambing. At this time I prefer a ration of