

Thinks a Separate Breed Better

F. R. Mohr, Frankford, Ont.

A dual purpose breed of cattle is, in my opinion, an impossibility. It is just as impossible as a general purpose breed of horses. We can admit the individuality of animals, but we cannot conceive of a breed making progress towards two diverse ends. Take any breed, for example, and let two sets of men breed for different purposes, and what is the result? Confusion. But, we must admit, that there are individual animals of the beef breeds which would do credit to any dairy herd. There are also, occasionally, animals of the dairy breeds which are better adapted to laying on flesh than to giving milk. But, are these individuals dual purpose?

Let them rather be called "out-laws."

The breeders of dairy cattle do not wish to produce animals of a tendency to store a large amount of flesh. The Galloway, Devon and Polled Angus breeders do not desire a cow to give a large quantity of milk. But the Shorthorn men seem to be divided in opinion. They believe that the Shorthorn has no peer as a breed for the production of beef. Let that be conceded. But the market for meat, and the high price of feed, has made the fattening of steers less profitable than formerly. Consequently, with the prices of dairy products soaring, we hear more about the dual purpose and the dairy Shorthorn. But it is hard to cater to two diverse

markets. The dealers, or so-called breeders of Shorthorns are procuring good financial returns from importing, breeding, and selling, stock for breeding purposes. But the feeders, or the men who are making most out of their farm produce, are not satisfied, consequently the agitation for something that will give more milk.

The chief claim of the dual purpose men is, that cows can be procured that will feed their calves, and give surplus milk enough to make a profitable dairy business. This, however, would seem like a dangerous experiment, because the production of milk might be carried too far, and great injury done to the meat producing qualities of the breed. There would be no rudder on the ship. The tendency to develop the breed would be influenced by the market. Which ever product was selling at the most profit, beef or milk, would influence a great many breeders, consequently great fluctuations in the popular type would take place, and, possibly, in the scramble for dual purposes, the present high standard of excellence for meat production would be impaired.

Would it not be more satisfactory to go one step further, and say dairy Shorthorn, rather than dual purpose? It would save confusion, and be more true of the desired type. Or, perhaps, a better suggestion, from a flesh producing point of view, would be to form an entirely distinct breed of milking Shorthorns, with a herd book of its own. The dairy Shorthorn men could then make their cattle eligible to this herd book by a production test, and set a higher standard than any of the dairy breeds now have achieved.

It may be that the Shorthorn men in discussing the milking qualities the breeds, are promoting their own interests, considering the state of the market. But that they mean or desire to leave the present high standard in search of a dual purpose myna, will not be believed. They know now that by breeding along certain lines that the production will

be consistently good, but when they leave those lines, to attempt an entirely different object, the result would be chaos.

More than Good Looks Were Needed

D. Robertson, Hutton Co., Ont.

Cow testing is one of the most important questions affecting dairy farmers. A man may be a good feeder, may study carefully his cows and be well posted in the care and breeding of his herd, but unless he keeps an individual record of each cow and uses the Babcock test as well, he is not at his best.

We have been using the scales and testing our herd for three or four years. Previous to this, we were not raising any calves but buying our cows as needed. We had no record of good cows as appearances go. We soon discovered, however, that something more than "good looks" was needed, and we began to keep records. We had scales placed in a convenient place near our separator room, and on the way to this room with each cow's milk the milk was weighed and makes record of weight on sheet and at once leaves the milk in the room where it is entirely shut off from the stable. The record soon showed us the best looking cows, even the cow with the ideal dairy type, was not, in every case, the best paying cow. We were convinced that if we wanted to grade up our herd, we must raise our own cows, so we discontinued buying cows and for the past three years have been raising self-bred cows from our best producers. We were able, also, at the end of each year, to take stock intelligently and to value our cows at their proper worth, and knew exactly where we were to get rid of.

The record keeping is a great incentive to the milkers and feeders. The milker will do his best to keep up the flow of milk after he thereby doing better and cleaner milking. The feeder will watch the effect of the different feeds and the manner of feeding and watering as well. Being able to see at once how any rough treatment or exposure to cold or draughts will lessen the flow of milk, while kindness and good care will increase it. The time taken in weighing the milk is fully compensated for by the extra attention given to the herd by the attendants.

Again, the keeping of records will tell you the best time of the year for the cows to freshen. We have found that our cows that come in during the fall or early winter will, during the year, give more milk than if they come in at any other season. We have not as yet been able to complete a system for keeping an accurate account of the cost of production. This is important, however, and until the dairyman can tell exactly the cost of producing the milk, he has not solved the whole question.

Every man who keeps cows should weigh and test the milk of his herd. If he cannot do this, let him join one of the many cow testing associations which are formed or are being formed throughout the Dominion by the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

How to Produce Dairy Cows

"The necessity for good dairy cows and how to produce them," was the subject of an interesting address delivered by Prof. W. B. Richards of the North Dakota Agricultural College at the recent Dairyman's Convention at Winnipeg, Manitoba. He said, was passing through the same experience as other new provinces and states had done. The dairy cow was most valuable for converting feed into profit. The lack of profit in dairying was due largely to the lack of good cows.

Good milkers could be obtained only with great difficulty. If a poor producer is fed, the cost of produc-

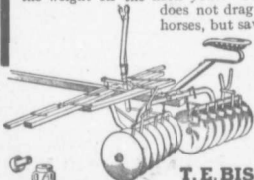
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