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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE DAIRY AND COLD STORAGE COMMISSIONER,

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(Extracts from the Report of the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, 1911.)

GOOD REASONS FOR COW TESTING.

From correspondence with members of cow testing associations the following good reasons why every dairy farmer should commence and continue the system have been classified

Individual Cows.

1. Cow testing enables one to find out the poorest cows, those not paying for their feed, so that they may be got rid of.
In many cases one-quarter of the cows in the herd have been discovered to be not worth keeping, in some cases half the herd and even as high as three-quarters have been turned out.
This means certainty in dairying, no more guess work as to individual performance.
2. Cow testing shows that many cows considered only average are really the best in the herd.
3. Cow testing points out definitely which cows are the best producers, both in milk and butter fat.
4. Cow testing proves that many cows considered the highest in test are really the lowest.
5. Cow testing saves good cows from being beefed, they are found to be profitable when actual yield and cost of feed are considered.
6. Cow testing shows that many fine looking cows do not bring in much cash from the factory.
7. Cow testing helps to discover the great difference in persistency of flow.
8. Cow testing brings to notice the slightest variation in flow and urges one to seek for the cause of the shrinkage.

Herds as a Whole.

9. Cow testing helps to increase the total yield of milk and fat from the same number of cows.
10. Cow testing brings in larger returns from fewer cows.
11. Cow testing helps to build up a profitable herd quickly because heifers can be selected from the best cows.

Feed.

12. Cow testing allows more discrimination in feeding, apportioning the grain according to the yield of fat.
13. Cow testing emphasizes the benefit of liberality in feeding succulent, digestible food stuffs.
14. Cow testing abundantly proves that it pays handsomely to give dairy cows the best of care and kind treatment; this includes regularity as to milking, early stabling in the fall, protection from cold rains, spraying to protect from flies; and above all, particular attention to cleanliness, light and ventilation in the stable.
15. Cow testing demonstrates that many good cows can be kept at a smaller cost of feed. This is not stinginess, but economy.