

Points for Judging Beef and Dairy Types of Cattle.

[A correspondent and subscriber asks for the publication, in the ADVOCATE, of the points for judging cattle of both beef and dairy types.]

To describe at length the various points by which the two types are judged would require considerable space, and even then the lesson would be incomplete, as it is impossible in words to give a description that will convey to the mind of another the ideal type in either class. It is a study that is best prosecuted by means of object lessons and the comparison of animals in real life. The next best means is perhaps by comparison and study of pictures, taken from life, of first-class animals. In this regard the pages of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE

long, wide and level. The hook points should not be broad or prominent, especially in the bull; they may be broader in the cow, but extreme width at that point is objectionable; a smoothly-turned form, without patchiness or prominences, being the ideal. The tail-head should be broad, level and neat-fitting; the thighs broad, full and long, tapering gradually toward the hock; the buttocks and twist full and far down, especially in the bull. Good handling qualities of hair, hide and flesh are very important, as they are indicative of that indescribable property known as *quality*, which is a clear index of thrift, of a good feeder, and of first-class beef-making propensities. Good handling means a soft, mellow hide; not thin and papery, but rather thick and pliant, filling the hand well when

grasped, and there is felt underneath it a peculiar softness even in lean animals, which is pleasant to the mind, and which, like charity, covers many faults. In this virtue the hair is abundant, soft and of fine texture, and there is sometimes found an under or second coat, of velvet-like feel, which it is pleasant to touch and not easy to forget. Other important points are the head and legs. The head should be of medium size, inclining to short rather than long, clean cut, broad between the eyes, and slightly dished; the horns moderately short, flat and slightly incurving and drooping; the neck short, thick and strong in the bull, with a strongly-muscled crest; a large, full and clear eye, indicating masculinity, courage, spirit and vigor, without any tendency to viciousness. In the female: the neck longer and finer, the eye placid and gentle, and the expression of countenance full of feminine character. The legs should be medium to short, straight, standing firmly under the body, a fair distance apart, and the bone below the knee fine, flat and of good texture.

The carriage and general appearance should be easy, active, sprightly, and a nicely-balanced development of all parts, perhaps best described by the word symmetry, should characterize the animal as a whole. Other things being equal, a shapely and well-developed udder on a cow of the beef breeds adds much to her appearance and usefulness, and should receive no small degree of credit.

The dairy breeds have certain features in common, though differing in breed character and peculiarities, and the ideal formation is becoming more generally accepted, approved and uniform, as it is becoming more generally acknowledged that utility and beauty are not incompatible in the dairy cow. The more important features of dairy form and function are much length and depth of barrel or coupling, indicating a capacity for large consumption and utilization of food; fineness of withers, thighs and limbs; width and openness of ribs, which should be long, with a deep downward

curvature; a large spinal column, well defined and open spaced; the fore quarters lighter than the hind quarters, and spare, not fleshy; the back narrow at the withers, broad at the loin, and moderately so at the hooks; hind quarters long, broad and level; a straight back being preferred, other things being equal; thighs inclining to light, thin and more or less incurved, leaving room for the development of the udder, one of the most important features in the cow. In the scale of points adopted for the different dairy breeds, from 30 to 35 per cent. is credited to udder and teats, about three times as much as for any other feature. The ideal udder is well-balanced—that is, long, broad and deep, running well forward, and well up behind—evenly quartered, level on the sole, and not fleshy nor pendulous, and the skin should hang in loose folds behind when the udder is empty, and be fine, elastic and pliant; the hair on the udder should be soft, and the color of the skin a creamy yellow; the teats a good medium size and length, and squarely placed, well apart and pointing slightly outward; milk veins well branched and tortuous, and entering the abdominal wall well forward and through large orifices or milk wells. The milk veins increase in size with age, and are not a sure indication of deep-milking propensities, as they may be torpid, while in others the veins less prominent may be more active. The

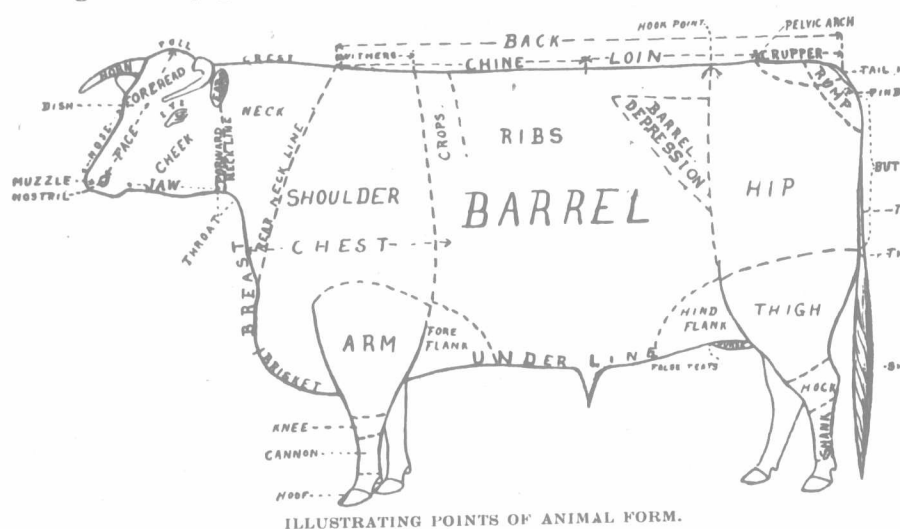
Berkshire-Tamworth Cross for First-rate Bacon Hogs Cheaply Produced.

In the Ingersoll, Ont., district, the merits of the Tamworth are pretty well understood, as they have been bred there for the Ingersoll Packing Company for a number of years; in fact, ever since the Company introduced a shipment of boars of that breed from England several years ago. Crosses, rather than pure-breds, are favored, because they are believed to be more economical feeders, and to produce these the

TAMWORTH DAM IS PREFERRED.

This is the conclusion arrived at by Mr. David Lawrence, whose farm we visited just at the commencement of seeding. Mr. Lawrence usually keeps from four to five brood sows busy producing material for bacon that is readily purchased by the Ingersoll Company when they are ready, usually at about eight months old. He also keeps a pure-bred Berkshire boar (Fig. II.) to sire his own pigs, as well as many of his neighbors'. The Tamworth sows (represented in Fig. I.) are invariably good mothers, producing strong, even litters, large enough to raise well. The sows are, as a rule, tractable, and careful with their young, seldom injuring a piglet, even though it be weak and helpless. Of course, the sows are intelligently fed and cared for previous to and at farrowing, so as to have them active and kind at the critical time. Mr. Lawrence has a model hogpen, but that is used chiefly for growing and fattening pigs, the sows being allowed to farrow in quiet box stalls in the basement of the main barn.

Mr. Lawrence has tried Berkshire dams and Tamworth sires, but the sows usually had small or uneven litters, and were often cross and bad to manage at farrowing time. The Tamworth dams give the offspring long, deep sides, almost solid

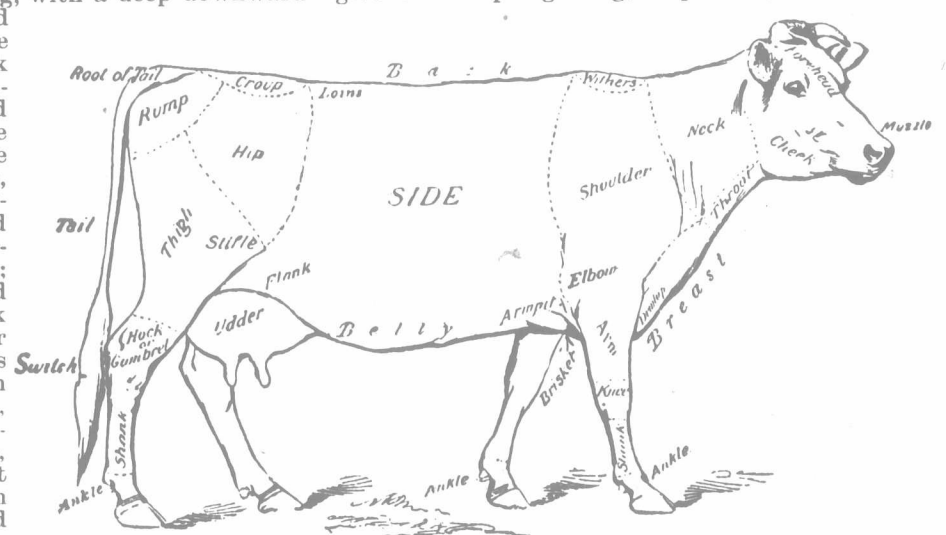


ILLUSTRATING POINTS OF ANIMAL FORM.

from time to time afford helpful material by the reproduction of photographs of representative animals of the different breeds and types. The April 1st issue, without any premeditated provision for the purpose, contains good representations of the beef and dairy types in the photo-engravings of a Shorthorn and an Ayrshire cow. Of books treating upon the subject, "The Study of Breeds," by Prof. Shaw, included in our "Farmer's Library," is the most up-to-date, and is a valuable contribution to the available literature on the subject. Each of these classes is mainly designed in breeding and trained in practice and treatment for a special purpose: the one for the production principally of the largest quantity of high-class meat in moderate superfluous; the other for the largest quantity of milk of high-class quality. In the former the object is to convert the food consumed mainly into meat; in the latter, mainly into milk. In both types an essential qualification is a strong and vigorous constitution, which calls for a broad chest and sufficient depth and spring of ribs to afford ample room for the play of the vital organs—the heart and lungs—which play so important a part in the maintenance of health in making plenty of pure blood, sending it in sufficient supply and vigor throughout the whole system, and in appropriating and assimilating food to the best advantage, giving a profitable return for what is consumed.

It may seem at first sight somewhat difficult to reconcile the indications of constitution in the two types, beef and dairy, from the fact that in the former we demand a broad breast, withers and chine, and full crops and foreflank, as among the principal requirements for robustness and vigor; while, on the other hand, the theory of a wedge shaped, and even "a triple wedge shape," form for a dairy cow has been in some quarters preached with such extreme persistency that to combat or deny *in toto* the soundness of that doctrine of certain schools, and of a section of the dairy press, would doubtless be regarded as unpardonable heresy. An extreme view of that form would possibly lead one to fear a lack of constitutional vigor, as it seems to call for narrowness in the front quarters where the vital organs are situated, but if it is understood to mean not narrow before, but broader behind, it becomes acceptable and even defensible. Thinness or sharpness of withers in a dairy animal may be and is desirable when accompanied by good width through the heart, and good length or depth of ribs, affording ample room for the free working of the internal organs.

In judging beef breeds the following general rules are important and tolerably safe: Look for a compact form, wide and deep, and but moderately long in coupling; a good back, wide all the way from neck to tail and thickly fleshed, especially on the loin and upper ribs where the most valuable cuts of meat are found; wide and deep front quarters; smooth shoulder points; the neck vein and shoulder blade well covered with flesh; the shoulders, especially in the female, sloping back gradually, and thinner where they join the crops. Mr. Carr described a heifer at Warlaby as having "shoulders like a salmon," which well indicates the ideal formation. The chine and top of shoulders should be broad, especially in the bull, and the crops, the part just behind the shoulders, should be full and as nearly level with the shoulders and ribs as possible; the ribs should be well sprung, rounding out well from the spine—long, deep, close spaced, and coming well forward and backward; the foreflank full and deep; the hindflank deep, full and thick, making a straight underline, or nearly so, and the girth around the heart and hindflank nearly equal. The hind quarters should be



ILLUSTRATING POINTS OF ANIMAL FORM.

Tamworth color, while the Berkshire sire gives thickness, thrift and early maturity, which is facilitated by their being contented, but good feeders.

Economy in feeding is studied, but grain is not withheld from sows suckling big, hungry litters, from young weaned pigs not thriving well, or pigs at the finishing period. Sows in pig usually get their living on grass in summer and roots (sugar beets) in winter, with one feed each day of slops, with a little chop added. They are housed two weeks before farrowing, where they are to have their litters, and are fed better, so as to strengthen them to raise their offspring well. They are petted and scratched occasionally to accustom them to being handled afterwards if necessary. The pen is cleaned out every day and bedded with dry cut straw, which is given in limited quantity, especially