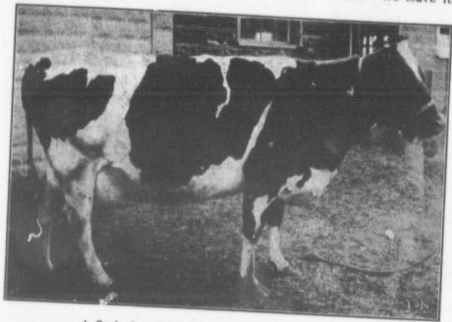


### Grade Cows Worth High Prices\*

Edmund Laidlaw & Sons, Elgin Co., Ont.

Breeding is the starting point in the building up of a dairy herd. The question naturally arises, "How are we going to make the start? Are we going to use the scrub bull because we can buy one for a few dollars, or because we may have the use of one for 50 cents a service? Are we going to use a beef-bred bull because he is handy? No! We must first make up our own minds as to the dairy breed that we want. Then if we cannot secure the use of a good pure-bred bull of that breed we can make no more profitable investment than to purchase a good bull.



A Grade Cow that Sold at Public Auction for \$162.00

The value of a good pure bred dairy sire is well exemplified in the record of the cow illustrated herewith and which was bred by Edmund Laidlaw & Sons, Elgin Co., Ont. Particulars about this cow and how she was bred are given in the adjoining article.

We consider that a good sire is 85 per cent. of a herd.

It is a much easier matter to secure a good dairy sire to-day than it was a few years ago on account of the official testing being carried on by the Dominion government and the various breeders associations. We have no other way of determining the ability of a young sire to get producers except by judging from what his ancestors have done.

#### INDIVIDUALITY ALONG WITH BREEDING

We must not, of course, overlook the individuality of an animal and purchase him merely because some of his ancestors have made a good record. The saying is true in most cases that like begets like. Therefore can we expect to get nice, straight stock from a droop-rumped, slab-sided bull? To illustrate these points we will give a little of our experience along the line of breeding.

Some years ago when the younger members of our firm were small and going to school we had a very good herd of grade cows. We thought we had a scheme whereby we could make nearly as much money with a lot less work. We tried it, to our sorrow. We purchased a pure-bred Short-horn bull with the idea of raising a dual purpose cow; one that would retain her milking qualities and at the same time give us some good beef steers. The outcome was that the heifers we got would not much more than raise their calves. Our cheese factory cheques were small. If the steers paid for the feed they ate they did well.

#### THE MISTAKE RECOGNIZED

Before our old cows were all gone we saw our mistake. We then purchased the first prize Holstein bull calf at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto. He was from a cow with a re-

\*Mr. Laidlaw was one of the successful competitors for 1909 in the Dairy Farm Competition, conducted by Farm and Dairy, during the past two years. This article is a part of an essay prepared by Mr. Laidlaw as required of him by the rules of the competition. Articles by prize-winning farmers, in which they give their actual experiences, are featured by Farm and Dairy each week. Tell your neighbors about them, and get them to subscribe to Farm and Dairy.

cord of 14,000 lbs. of milk in 10 months. The outcome of this cross was very pleasing. We never got a poor milker in the lot. It must be remembered that we did not use any of the beef bred heifers in this cross. We used only the old cows and bought some grade Holsteins.

This cross produced two-year-olds that gave from 7,000 to 9,000 lbs. of milk in the season. One of them at four years old produced in nine and a half months, when milked only twice a day, 13,111 pounds of milk. This cow at our sale, held on March 15, 1910, sold for \$100. The lowest price realized for any of this cross was \$90. We leave it to Farm and Dairy readers to say which line of breeding was most profitable.

#### POINTS OF INTEREST

One thing we would like to emphasize: A breeder should make up his mind which breed of cattle he wants before he starts and then stick to the breed he starts with. Do not use a sire of one breed and then turn around and use a sire of another breed to cross on the daughters of the first sire and expect to improve the stock. Another thing we would like to emphasize is: Do not buy a bull merely because he is registered. There are pure-breds of all breeds that are a disgrace to the country. When there are as many pure-breds as the country is blessed with now, one can easily secure a good one and at a reasonable price.

What is a few dollars extra invested in a good bull! Suppose you get 20 heifers and keep them until they are two years old. If they were scrubs they would bring \$30 a head and that is putting it high. On the other hand note what those from the pure bred sire will bring.

The grade heifers at our sale at an average age of one year and nine months, brought an average price of \$77 a head. The difference in value of the two lots of 20 heifers at that rate would be \$940.

We do not have to pay \$940 to get a good bull. We can get plenty of them good enough to head a grade herd at from \$75 to \$150. Suppose we pay \$150. We would then have a net profit of nearly \$800 even if we had the scrub bull given to us. If we stopped to figure out the difference in the profit at the pail it would be far greater than the figures quoted.

The result of our experience points strongly in one direction and that is along the line that has long been advocated by our best authorities. It is the results that count. We are all after the good things and what we have accomplished is quite within the reach of others.

The only way to arrive at the amount of meal to be fed is to keep a daily record of the milk produced from each individual cow; then let the attendant be governed by this as well as by the condition of the animal.

### Concentrates in Rations for Cows

D. D. Gray, Farm Foreman, C.E.F., Ottawa

The feeding of concentrates is a great problem for the dairyman to study; there are many things that go to make up the profitable blending of the different kinds of meals with the fodder that is to be used as the basis of the ration. If one could go by the mere analysis of the feeds, as the chemists give them to us it would be an easy matter. The digestible nutrients and the energy expended by the cow in the digestion of these nutrients is a great factor that one must determine, and control, in the preparation, and blending together of the different feeds used. For instance corn as fodder analyzes practically the same as corn ensilage, with the exception of water, but to the experienced feeder it is known to fall far short of giving the results that are got from feeding ensilage. This is due to the fact that a great deal of the energy built up by the nutrients in corn fodder is expended in the digestion of them, thus leaving that much less for milk production.

Aside from the blending of the meal or meal mixture to suit the different kinds of fodders used as a basis, there are the likes, and dislikes, and the assimilation of the cows to be studied; these vary a great deal—so much so, in fact, that to feed to the best advantage each cow has to be studied separately and the feeding governed accordingly. Some cows require and make use of a much larger quantity of meal than others. Then, there are cows that can make good use of such a large proportion of roughage that they require a relatively small grain ration.

### Corn for Exhibition Purposes

Albert E. Tole, Kent Co., Ont.

In selecting ears of corn for seed or for exhibition purposes, I often select some of it before the corn is cut. In husking, I pick out the best looking ears, not always trying to pick the very largest ears but rather the best matured, most even, and those well filled out at both ends of



A Champion of the Last Canadian National Exhibition

Martinella of Don, 561, was first in her class and junior champion at Toronto, 1909, and also first at Ottawa. Note her distinctly dairy type and her well balanced, level udder. She was bred and is owned by D. Duncan, Don, Ont.

the ear.

For exhibition, I pick the ears as near the same size and color as possible. White corn should have white cobs, yellow corn should have red cobs. The corn for which I received second prize in the Field Crop Competition at the Guelph Winter Fair last year was eight-rowed White Flint. I have been raising this kind only for 11 or 12 years and have gotten it very true.