THE DAIRY.

The Hungarian Government fixed the price of milk to the producer at $11.88 per 100 lbs. after August 25, 1918, for the city of Budapest.

In the Province of Orel, Russia, a sum of one million roubles (about $500,000) has been set aside for the establishment of a model dairy farm.

The average milk consumption in Switzerland in 1917 was 575 pounds. Out of a total of 3,200,000,000 pounds 9,500,000 pounds were retained by the producers, 1,075,000,000 pounds were used for the rearing of calves and pigs.

Jewel Pontiac Segis, a United States three-year-old Holstein, has recently completed a yearly record of 27,068.5 lbs. milk and 1,171.15 lbs. butter. She displaces Duchess Hengerveld Krondyke, whose record is 22,897 lbs. milk and 1,129.22 lbs. butter.

Beauty Beets Walker Segis has recently taken first place among senior two-year-old Holsteins with a yearly record of 25,343.3 lbs. milk and 1,040.63 lbs. butter. She displaces K. P. Manor Kate, whose record is 22,106.4 lbs. milk and 1,023.4 lbs. butter.

At Korsor, Denmark, a margarine factory which had been manufacturing 6,000 lbs. margarine daily was ordered by the Food Council to cease manufacture after October 1. Was it ordinary satire that led to the further order to use all the raw materials left over, for soap manufacture.

The Holstein-Friesian Register catalogues 162 Holstein sales which have been held between January 1, 1918, to June 30, 1918, in Canada and the United States. In this period 8,635 animals passed under the hammer for an average price of $296.92, and a total value of $2,563,889. An average price of $400 or more was reached in 15 sales.

Where Cow Testing Proved Its Value.

Cow testing, either by private or co-operative methods is now recognized by all the leading dairymen as being the only way by which the actual performance of dairy animals can be arrived at. It is well known that a cow may give a large quantity of low-testing milk and still yield a smaller quantity of butter-fat than an animal that gives a yield appreciably lower but whose milk test is markedly higher. One of a great many such examples that might be cited occurs in the list of the six highest records in the seven-day butter class for mature Holstein-Friesian cows. The fifth cow in this list produced 29.87 lbs. fat from 567.9 lbs. milk. The sixth cow yielded 785.4 bs. milk or 215.5 lbs. more than the fifth cow but produced only 28.84 lbs fat, or 1.03 lbs. less in seven days than her competitor. Many instances of a similar nature occur in the list of cows that have yielded 96 lbs. fat in 30 days, and what holds true of this one breed in this connection can be duplicated in every class of every other dairy breed. Nor is the color of the milk a reliable guide to its richness in butter-fat. There is no known test that is so satisfactory as the record of each cow's performance by means of the milk scales and the Babcock test.

In Denmark cow testing has been taken up very extensively, and because of conditions attendant upon high prices for land and feeds, the acceptance and general use of records and tests in Denmark occurred much earlier than in Canada and the United States. There the use of the test quickly took on a co-operative aspect, and co-operative cow testing associations were formed whereby this work could be most economically performed for all the herds in one neighborhood. The first cow-testing association was formed, according to one authority, at Askoo, Denmark, in 1895. By 1904, 390 cow-testing associations had been organized in Denmark, 273 in Sweden, 160 in Norway, 62 in Germany and 21 in Finland. Since the adoption of these associations in other countries, Canada and the United States have followed suit but more slowly. Eckles presents a table of the results secured with one Swedish herd from the work of a test association. There were from 50 to 70 cows in this herd, and in six years there was an increase of 4,013 lbs. milk and 141 lbs. fat per cow annually. This was accompanied by an increase of 614 feed units. A feed unit is the basis of the Danish system of determining cost of production. Increased consumption of feed is a natural corrollary to increased milk and fat production, but in the case of this herd each 100 feed units gave an increase of 70 lbs. milk and 3.1 lbs. butter as a result of selection through herd testing during the six years.

PICK THE COWS.

DAIRY COW DEMONSTRATION.

NATIONAL DAIRY SHOW 1918.

No. of Cow	I WOULD		PRODUCTION	
	Keep	Cull	Milk	Butter-fat
1		X	10,573	503
2	XX		10,615	531
3		?X	8,711	544
4	?X		2,523	149
5		X	4,511	276
6	XX		3,448	179
7	X		8,058	417
8		?X	8,954	421
9		X	4,330	275
10		X	4,439	217
11	X		4,779	240

One of the most outstanding and undoubtedly the most convincing examples of the value of cow testing and test associations that it has ever been our pleasure to view, was staged at the National Dairy Show, held in Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 10-19. Here were placed on exhibition eleven Jersey cows from a cow-testing association. Behind them, hung on a stretched line, were their yearly milk and butter-fat records as indicated by the accompanying illustration, which is an actual picture of these cows. A large sign invited anyone to pick out the five best cows, and to make it a real test, the cards seen behind each animal were covered with a blank card, so that their real records could not be seen until the animals had been picked out, when the outer card could be lifted and one's estimate compared with the actual performance of the animals. Small cards similar to the one printed herewith were handed out by an attendant, except that the columns were all bare. The representative of "The Farmer's Advocate" undertook to pick out these five cows and see what was so difficult about it.

We were not nearly as successful as we expected to be. Of course, it was probable that there would be some difficulty in picking out all of the five best cows, else the big sign would not have been made to look so inviting. Nevertheless, we were disappointed and undertook to find out how other guessers were faring. It appeared that not long before we had gone over the cows, two men who were more or less noted for their ability to judge Jersey cattle had gone over the string and picked out the five cows which they thought were the best. The fourth cow from the left, the one showing the big white patch near the udder, had, apparently, every characteristic which is desirable in a good milker, and she, therefore, was selected as one of the five best, but imagine the crestfallen look on the faces of these men when they found that she was actually the poorest cow in the lot and had yielded only 2,523 pounds of milk and 149 pounds of butter-fat. Similarly, the sixth cow from the left, the small dark one, possessed many of the characteristics of good milking cows, and although she was not in good condition there were a great many who placed her near the top. They, too, were doomed to disappointment, since her yield was only 3,448 pounds of milk and 179 pounds of butter-fat. Very few of the dairymen who attempted to pick out the best five cows were able to get even three of them; in fact, the only man to our knowledge who was able to get three of the best cows was a city dweller who tried it for fun, and frankly admitted that he knew nothing about dairy cattle. The table which appears herewith is a sample of one of the hundreds that were handed in to the attendants. The figures as to milk and butter-fat production were entered on this card after the man who made it out had marked which ones he would keep and which ones he would discard. It will be noticed that two of the cows are marked especially good, with two xs, while others were in doubt, as denoted by a question mark. A short examination of this card will provide an idea as to how nearly the five best cows were picked out.

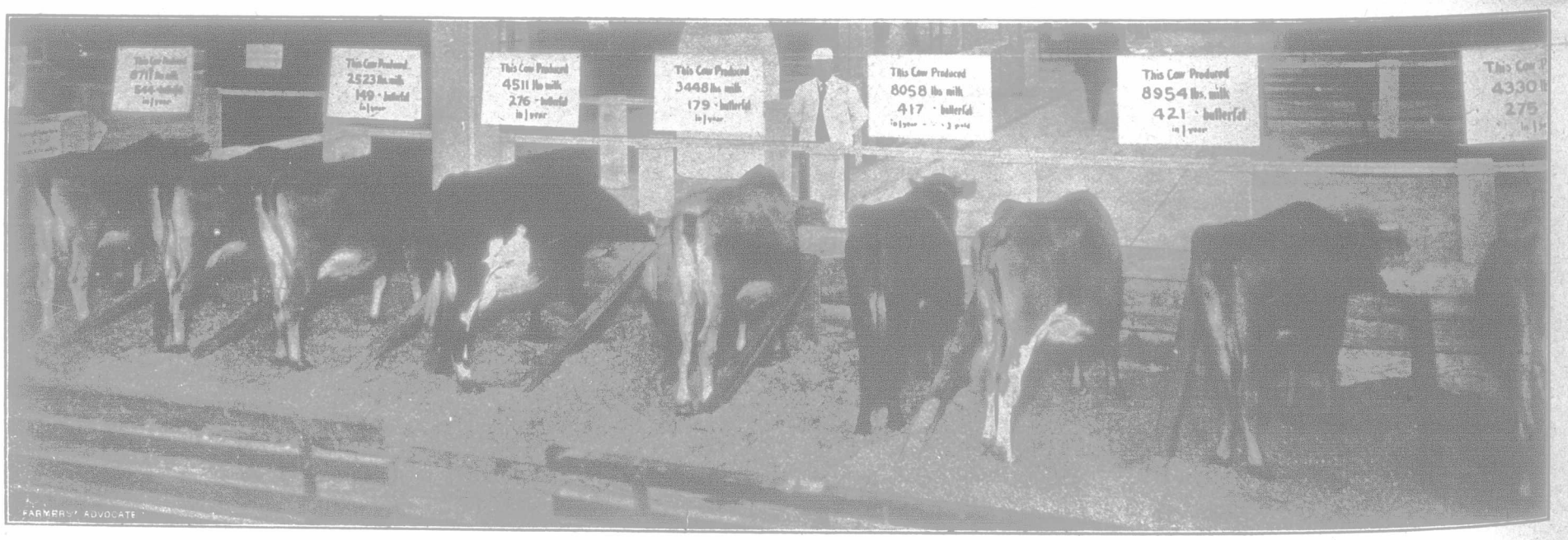
We would not like to give the impression that all the judging in the show-ring is of no avail and that there is nothing in conformation or dairy type. Far from it. There is a great deal to be learned from a careful study of the points of a dairy cow, but there is a very large factor in addition and that is the inherent characteristic of the individual which is largely determined by inheritance and the ancestry of the animal. To fly in the face of breeding, and individuality as indicated by the test, is like expecting water to run up hill. To do so courts disaster and disappointment. The test is the only thing that is infallible.

Inside The Dairy Stable

Darkness and dirt usually go together in the dairy stable. It is almost impossible to maintain a clean, airy stable when the light is so poor that but little sunshine ever reaches the inside, and the owner cannot see plainly to discover the unsanitary conditions that surround his cows. Plenty of light is very essential and goes hand in hand with a pure atmosphere in the race against germs and general debility. Sunlight is the greatest natural enemy of almost every form of bacteria. It is often stated that there should be a minimum of four square feet of glass to each animal, but in some stables, particularly where the space inside is not used economically to house the stock, this window space is insufficient. Windows set flush with the inside wall and extending nearly to the ceiling from a height about four feet from the floor, prevent an accumulation of dust and dirt on the ledges, allow the light to reach a great deal of the floor space, and the height prevents the animals from breaking the glass.

Floors.

Stable floors, too, are often poorly made and conducive to unsanitary conditions. A good floor is easily cleaned, impervious to moisture, comfortable, durable and not too expensive. Dirt floors are comfortable and cheap but rarely, if ever, sanitary, for the reason that they are most difficult to keep clean. Cheap barns may have dirt floors that are passable if a gutter is provided for the urine, and if the cows can stand on very solidly packed clay covered with plenty of straw. Wood is a material which is comfortable and much warmer than cement, but at present is very expensive. They last longer if laid in contact with earth so that the moisture is retained constantly, or when provided with air space below so that a free circulation of air can be kept up. Rapid decay of wood floors takes place when both moisture and air circulation are absent.



If You Were Asked to Pick Out the Best Five of These Cows from the Cow-testing Association at Barnesville, Ohio, Could You Do It Without Looking at the Cards ?