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## STOCK

### Separating the Sheep From the Goats.

As a result of the new meat inspection law in the U. S., it will practically be impossible for the packers there to substitute goat flesh for mutton. 'Tis said that the Yankee does not take kindly to goat meat, there being a prejudice against it. Predictions are made that it will only become popular after a long advertising campaign on the part of the packers. Goat meat is said to have rather a more gamey flavor than mutton, and might probably suit those gourmets who like three and four-year-old wether mutton. At one U. S. market, Kansas City, from ten to twenty thousand goats per month were taken by the packing houses.

From now on, the goat will be valuable principally as a brush destroyer and a producer of mohair, and many of the large bands in the west will likely have to be reduced as there will be no way to dispose of the surplus wethers and old does.

### Milk Records and Some Results.

The attention of owners of milch cows has within the last two or three years been directed, by the various agricultural educationists, towards greater production on the part of the common cows of the country. An attempt on such a large scale cannot be expected to yield big results all at once, but even where honest and careful work has been done the results are most encouraging and afford sufficient proof as to the wisdom shown in initiating such measures. In Scotland and in other parts of Europe somewhat similar tests are being carried on, as in eastern Canada, and from Old Country sources we glean the results are equally profitable and encouraging. Than John Spier of Glasgow, no one man has done more to improve the milking qualities of the Ayrshire. When he visited Denmark for the first time, about 21 years ago he was struck with the large amount of private testing that was carried on. At that time the milk was only weighed. Eleven years ago co-operative testing came into vogue in Denmark. At the end of three years the scheme had done so well that a second was inaugurated. At the present time there were about 420 or 430 associations throughout the country. Sweden had, two years afterwards, followed the lead of Denmark, and in the south of that country alone there were now more testing associations than in all Denmark. Norway had also taken up the idea, which was also gaining ground in Holland.

The Highland and Agricultural Society had, till this year, been willing to defray the full cost of the necessary apparatus to any society taking up the subject, and the local society could keep it up after the first year. The Highland Society also paid two-thirds of the expenses of the man that looked after the testing. An expert tester could easily look after forty or fifty cows every day.

The first duty of every breeder of cows was to

breed from the animals that would give plenty of milk, and good milk at the same time. If this principle were continued generation after generation, it would not be difficult to raise the standard and get anything that was reasonably in view.

### THE PROFITABLE AGE OF COWS.

A first-prize cow at the London Dairy Show was twenty-four years old. In their own milk records they had particulars of a number of cows sixteen to twenty years old that surprised even their own owners by their large yield of milk. A cow of this type would not have tuberculosis more readily than any other, though such was not generally believed. Milk records showed that in the majority of cases the oldest cows were those that really paid; but he knew some farmers were inclined to argue that cows should be discarded at the age of six or seven years—the time the cow was at her best. The bulk of his work in the winter nights of the past few years, he continued, had been wading through statistics on the subject; and if anything impressed him, it was the error some people fell into by slaughtering their cows too soon. He was also quite certain that thousands of the very best breeding bulls, that should have been preserved, had been slaughtered before their merits were known. Both the cows and bulls should be kept as long as they remained in a good healthy state; age alone was no excuse for discarding them.

The Danes had turned what thirty years ago was a feeding animal into a dairy animal by the process of selection. The milk record scheme was proving very beneficial in Denmark. For instance, four farms in Vegen had 495 cows, which in 1895 gave an average of 670 gallons, and in 1903 this quantity had been increased to 730 gallons. In other three cases the increase during four years had been 146, fifty-seven, and thirty-eight gallons respectively. In some cases the yield was calculated both in gallons of milk and pounds of butter.

### THE RESULTS IN SCOTLAND.

In Cumnock last year the cows had been tested for thirty-four weeks. Many of them had gone dry within that period. Now, most people had the notion that a heavy milking cow gave very poor milk; but results showed that this theory was all wrong. It had also been found that in the very best herds there were one, or perhaps two, animals that did not pay. Very often this was a big cow, or one entered in the Herd Book that had been retained on account of its showy appearance, and without any consideration of its milking qualities. Such a cow would have been better parted with at the very beginning. It was always dangerous to draw conclusions from a few figures, and he had taken care not to fall into that error, when dealing with the milk records. Ten per cent. of the best in each herd at Cumnock gave an average of 826 gallons, while an equal number of the poorest gave only 526 gallons. In order to pay for grazing alone, a cow would require to produce 300 gallons of milk per annum. He had sometimes been twitted that the figures here were taken from one of the best districts in this part of the country. The lowest part of the Fenwick district was, however, between 600 ft. and 700 ft. above the sea level. The Fenwick farmers were the only party in Scotland that had a scheme going on for

any number of years. After a time the Fenwick Society had applied for assistance, and took tests every month, and afterwards for the whole year. In the latter case the time of calving made no difference in the figures. Fenwick, till ten years ago, had been a cheese-making place; but the farmers there had gone into the milk trade, and there was no appearance of their turning back now.

The following figures were those of 1905, the first year of testing. Compared with the best cows in the same herd, the poorest cows not only gave a very little more than one-half the quantity of milk, but less as regards milk fat. Each farmer received a copy of the results in his own herd, and he could show the milk record of his cows to the intending buyer without the public knowing anything about his good or bad results, as each farm was represented by an alphabetical letter. As a rule, it was found that the good milking cows were invariably the cows that milked longest. It was, of course, easy for a farmer to point out a cow that had given the largest yield at one time, but, unless records were kept, he could not tell accurately which one gave the biggest quantity in the year. For instance, a cow that had given about 66 lb. of milk in one day was only twelfth out of thirty-five as regards milk per annum. The best cows, on the whole, had milked for forty-three weeks, whilst the worst only milked thirty-six weeks. This difference, it must be remembered, was between cows on the same farm, not between the top and bottom cows over all. The cows referred to would be on the same grass, and get the same rations, so it was apparent that it was not a question of feeding.

### MILK OF NEWLY-CALVED COWS.

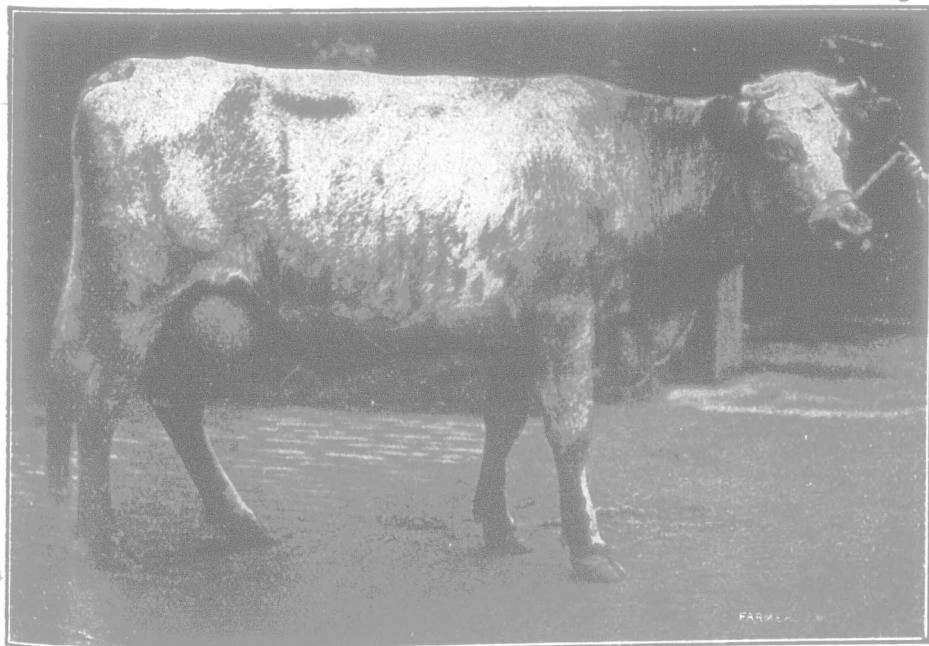
It was a common belief that most cows gave poor milk after calving. The results of the tests had not upheld this theory. The milk of cows calved three to six days had shown an average of 3.75 butter fat; of those calved one or two weeks, 3.56; and of those calved three weeks, 3.23. The latter figure was the lowest during the year: after a month the percentage gradually rose again. If a really good milking cow were not fed a proportionately large quantity of food, she would take the fat off her own body. The reason of the decrease in the percentage probably was that the cow did not get her full allowance of food until about a month after calving, until her stomach had strengthened, when the percentage would accordingly rise again.

### The Farmer's Advocate a Good Emigration Agent.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Being a reader of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE which you so kindly send me, I must say that it is a very useful journal and I have learned a lot of useful subjects from it. I read them and then send them on to my neighbors—farmers—as we are very pleased with them. One of my friends, a farmer, through me lending the ADVOCATE, said "I will go and see what Canada is like." He went last March and the last we heard of him he is doing well, so you see your journal has done good. Cambridge, England

F. W. CRISP.



BARRINGTON DUCHESS 31ST.  
First-prize Shorthorn Cow, Inspection Classes, London Dairy Show 1906.



RED ROSE.  
Winner of first-prize, Barham Cup and Lord Mayor's Cup for Shorthorns, and reserve for Spencer Cup in milking trials, London Dairy Show 1906.