

enough surplus to provide for at least two other farms that raise hogs; for there are thousands of farmers in the East, South and West who do not produce their own work animals, and who must buy. Wayne Dismore.

The Cow to the Rescue

In Southern Mississippi the farmers have been depending on cotton exclusively for their profit. Consequently, when the section was devastated by the boll weevil in 1908, disaster faced thousands of farmers.

In this one community before the appearance of the weevil the crop averaged nearly 32,000 bales, but the year following, the appearance of the pest the crop fell to 18,000 bales, the year following that to 8,000 bales and in 1911 only 3,168 bales were produced, which was practically one-tenth of normal crop.

The farmers were facing ruin. They could no longer borrow money on the prospective crops and they were forced to mortgage their farms. The nearby cities suffered also and conditions everywhere were serious. Mills gave up their operations and every line of business was affected. When the farmers tried other crops they found the soil so badly depleted in fertility that they were unable to make a living in that way.

The farm stock consisted of a few mules, a few scrub cows and a few razorback hogs with practically no crops to feed them.

Finally, the Department of Agriculture started to promote dairying. In this particular community a creamery was built and real dairy cows were introduced. However, before the cows came the farmers were shown how to raise legumes through which they improved the condition of the soil and they were also induced to raise corn and build silos.

The next step was the establishment of the cow-testing association, through which the farmers were shown their unprofitable cows. As a result, a grading process was followed and the farmers were given financial support by the business men and the bankers. This section is now prosperous and the farmers are enjoying better times than they have ever known. "King Cotton" has been supplanted by the "Dairy Queen" and the result is inevitable. Furthermore the influence of this community is being felt in others near by and thus prosperity when introduced by the dairy cow spreads.

What About the Ram?

A trip through any of the larger stock markets at this season of the year is sufficient evidence that the quality of the lambs being offered could be very much improved. Feed is altogether too scarce and expensive to warrant feeding it to anything but the best class of livestock, only those that will make economical gains for the feed consumed should be maintained. The use of better stock rams on the flocks of the prairie provinces would soon result in a great improvement on the stuff coming to market. The old country breeders have always been looked upon as successful men in their particular line, they have laid well the foundation for the improvement of livestock in their own as well as other countries, and the secret of their success can be traced largely to the fact that they were satisfied with nothing but the best to head their herds and flocks. The same is true in the old land today, it is not uncommon for an ordinary sheep breeder in England to pay as high as \$150 for a ram to head a grade flock, and \$1,000 is not considered an extraordinary figure for one to mate with a pure-bred flock. Until a breeder becomes firmly convinced that a pure-bred ram of the desirable conformation is the surest road to success in breeding, no material improvement can be expected. The difference in price between a good ram and an inferior one is frequently made up in one year in the enhanced value of the lambs.

Hints on Selection

In the selection of a ram the following points should be kept in view: he should possess plenty of vigor and vitality, this is denoted by a masculine bold appearance, coupled with broad



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