

polled animal with short legs, and deep, thick, well-fleshed body.

These grades are nearly always fine feeders, resembling the pure Angus more closely than would be expected. When mature they are usually twice the size and value of the "natives" of the same age, and give far better results for food consumers. From our observations, we think the Angus a very suitable breed for this and other similar localities. They are very hardy, good breeders, little liable to disease, arrive early at maturity, and thrive well, even when kept on coarse feed or pasture. Their beef is of excellent quality. They are not classed among the milking breeds, but usually raise their calves well.

#### PRIZE ESSAY.

##### The Best Method for the Registration of Stock.

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The subject before us has been discussed not a little during the last few years; and it is, indeed, worthy of much consideration. Nothing is of more importance to the stock-raiser than a proper registration of pure-bred animals.

That a thorough reform in this matter is most desirable cannot be doubted. Under the present system the farmer is imposed upon. Animals are kept for breeding purposes for no other reason than that they are registered in some stock book, and can boast of being thoroughbreds. Animals too often of inferior quality, and whose ancestors, it may be for many generations, were utterly unfit for breeding purposes, are sold to the farmers at "fancy prices," simply because they are registered in one of these herd books, and so thought to be of superior breeding. The farmer is deceived, and also the man who bred and sold such an animal; for the farmer, once deceived, too often passes judgment on the whole breed, or, perhaps more often, on all thoroughbreds, and in this way the sale of the entire stock is injured. Thus the present system is unfair not only to the farmer but also to the breeder. The inferior animal, under the present system, can be registered in the same book with the superior one. Thus the progeny of the good and poor animals stand on the same footing as regards breeding. Now, this is contrary to the very principles of registration. Why were animals registered as pure breeds? Simply because they and their ancestors possessed some superior quality or qualities which recommended them for breeding purposes; therefore, herd books were formed for the purpose of preserving the purity of blood, and all animals registered on such records have until this day been sold at an advanced price. But what do we now find? Animals which do not possess the excellent qualities for which their early ancestors were formed into a breed and recorded, animals whose direct ancestors for a number of generations have been of inferior quality, registered on this record side by side with the animals of superior quality, and traced through a long line of excellent stock. And the ordinary farmer, who has not had the opportunity of examining the herd books (and even if he had, would, in many cases, be little wiser), will pay as much for the stock of one as that of the other. We are all fully aware that at the present time many wealthy men are entering upon the breeding of pure-bred stock—men who scarcely know a good animal when they see one, let alone how to breed one. Such being the

case, we can only expect to see the breeds degenerate in their hands. Formerly, the custom was to kill all animals that were not considered fit for breeding purposes. This system is, I believe, followed in Europe to some extent to-day, but in Canada such a thing is seldom known. When Canadian breeders learn to breed only from the best, and to record no animal which is unfit for breeding purposes, then, and only then, will Canadian-bred animals sell as high as imported ones.

Now, if every breeder would follow such a system, all would be well; but they will not. As things are, no man wants to keep his inferior animals unregistered, and thus deprive himself of \$150 or more for each, while his neighbor records animals equally inferior, and hundreds of others worse than his own are recorded. No; when others sacrifice money to save the breed and protect the farmers, then he will; and what better can we expect? And thus it goes on from bad to worse.

Now, what is to be done? It is plain that the registration of only such animals as are of a certain standard is most desirable; but how is this to be accomplished? This is the most difficult part of the question, and I will only venture to throw out a few suggestions.

Would it not be well for each Association to make out a scale of points, considering a certain imaginary form to be the perfect representative of their special breed, and requiring that each animal be raised to a standard, not more than a certain per cent. beneath the object of perfection, and providing that the standard and the object of perfection could be changed, say, only by a two-thirds vote of the Association? Of course, this would require the appointment of efficient officers for examining and reporting on all animals for which application for registration is made, and would thus incur considerable expense; but, certainly, something of the kind is most desirable.

Perhaps the necessary funds could be obtained from the Government; but this is only a suggestion. In any case, the Government should not have the appointment of the necessary officials. We have had too much of that already. Men appointed by Government are seldom appointed on account of their efficiency, but rather in pay for their support; and their object is not often to promote the interest of the country, but rather that of their party. Perhaps the desired end could be brought about without the expense which it might at first appear to require. Suppose that the necessary officials, having been appointed, time tables be made out, showing the time at which they would be prepared to examine stock at the various sections, and each breeder be required to make application for the examination of such stock as he may wish to register, a certain time previous to the arrival of the officer in his section, and to give satisfactory evidence that such stock is eligible for registration—providing the approval of the examining officer. This might save a great deal of unnecessary expense for travelling. Of course, if a breeder should be dissatisfied with the report of the officer, he should not be compelled to abide by his judgment, but should have the opportunity of having his animals examined by another official. The expense in this case should be largely borne by the breeder if the animal should be found unfit for registration.

Now, of course, I do not present the above as

the only, or even the best, means of accomplishing the desired result; but that the best alone should be registered I have not the shadow of a doubt.

It is true that many breeders would lose by this system, but they are only the poorer ones—the ones that had better leave breeding alone, anyway. As there would be less animals registered, those which came up to the standard would sell at a higher price, and thus be more remunerative to the good breeder; and that it would be far safer and better for the ordinary farmer, no one will hesitate to admit, as the registration of animals would be to some extent a guarantee of their individual excellence. Then, again, as each animal would be judged by a scale of points, it would be the object of every breeder to bring his animal as near as possible to the object of perfection established by the Association controlling that breed, and thus a degree of uniformity would be promoted which could not otherwise be done, and capable breeders would be always "breeding up."

I quote as follows from the report of the Holstein-Friesian Association, which met in Buffalo in March last, as given in the Country Gentleman:—"Vice-President Huidekoper brought up the question of the best method for reducing the number of bulls in market. It was a problem with all the breeders of blooded stock, how they might restrict the number. Some associations of breeders had increased the price for registering males, but all plans had thus far failed. The prevailing idea of the Association seemed to be that the best plan for the Holstein-Friesian breeders would be to make a rule that a man should only register half as many males as females. The matter was referred to the officers to report a plan at the next meeting." Now, could not that Association effect the desired result and at the same time accomplish another aim, that of developing the breed? Why not—instead of requiring that each man should only register half as many males as females—adopt a system by which only the best be accepted? Would it not be well for the officers of the Association to consider this matter, and take the lead of other Associations in this respect; then will their breed continue to hold a higher and still higher position in the minds of the people. Now, I hope that it will not be thought that I underrate the value of pure-breds as registered under the present system; far from that. I believe that the pure-bred has been of incalculable value to good stockmen; men who know how to use the best, and use them to advantage, are well aware of their value. I believe, however, that a system could be adopted by which their value could be much increased to the breeder and to the every-day farmer.

To breed from grade sires is hazardous, but, certainly, to pay high prices for inferior pure-breds is ruinous. Then let us see that there be no such animals recorded.

Let me urge upon the readers of the ADVOCATE not to let the matter of registration drop here, but think it up! talk it up! and write it up!

In conclusion, let me say, it is with much pleasure that from time to time I read the monthly prize essays published in your valuable paper. These essays alone I consider worth more than the subscription price. We have been taking the ADVOCATE upwards of eight years, and it is always a welcome visitor, ever increasing in quality and material, and always ready to promote the interests of the farmer.