

Ayrshire Sires Used for Three Generations

Wm. Wightman, Glengarry Co., Ont.

For three generations we have been using pure bred Ayrshire sires in our herd. The improvement that we have wrought, bringing our herd up from ordinary mongrels to the place where they are uniform in conformation and coloring, and such good producers that last year 23 cows, including the heifers, averaged well over 8,300 lbs. of milk in the year has been due entirely to the introduction of pure blood through the sires used as we have bought no pure bred females. My grandfather started the work, my father continued it, and now I in turn am carrying on the work that they laid down. I am working along the same lines that they followed so successfully.

The most important point in herd improvement is in the selection of the sire. We trace back as far as possible in a sire's ancestry in order to make certain that they are of a good milking strain. One poor sire will destroy the good effects of several high-class ones. We have learned from experience that too much care cannot be taken in tracing up a bull's ancestors. Some years ago I bought an Ayrshire of good appearance, but he was a failure. As soon as I found my mistake I sold him and all his stock. And you may be sure I took more care in the selection of the next one.

RECORDS HELP IN SELECTION

Did a new beginner have the misfortune to get such an animal it would be a great disappointment and, much more, a heavy loss to him. It is easier now, however, to select good animals as most breeders keep individual records, and it is easy to pick the best producers.

A great mistake that many of us make is to allow our good pure bred sires to go to the butcher as soon as we are done with them. One animal that I purchased and used in my herd was from the famous "White Floss." His stock proved to be such a success that when I was through with him he was retained in this locality for breeding purposes until he died, and from him comes some of the best Ayrshire stock in the country.

I cannot understand why so many of our farmers show so little interest in the selection of their sires. There is no place where their poor management is so quickly exposed as at the factory, when the milk records of neighbors are compared. The farmer with good cows will have the largest amount of milk every time, although he has not more cows.

I must here emphasize the benefit that we receive from alfalfa. I find that there is nothing like it for feeding a herd of dairy cattle. We are at the present time milking 26 cows. We keep records of their milk production, and they run from 7,000 to 10,000 lbs. of milk for the milking period of 10 months. This is not due all to breeding. Feeding enters in also. And alfalfa enters largely into the feeding.

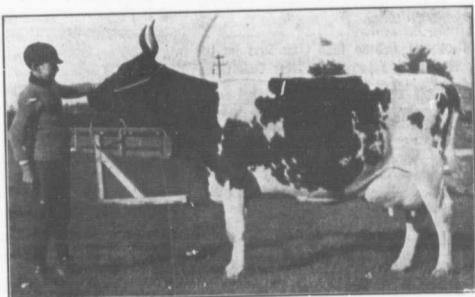
Drying dairy cows in due time is an item of importance. Some cows will take all the time needed for rest without any assistance from us. The persistent milker, however, we must dry six weeks to two months before she freshens anew.

Dry feed, skipping one milking, then two, then three, not stripping dry; those, coupled with careful watching of the udder, will almost invariably effect results easily and safely—J. Dickson, Oregon, U.S.A.

To Develop a Persistent Milker

Wm. Turner, Wentworth Co., Ont.

Our endeavors to develop our dairy heifers into persistent milkers start when the heifer has its first calf. We take great care in milking the heifers, using them as quietly as possible so as not to get them in the habit of kicking. Many a heifer is spoiled during its first year from lack of such care. If the heifer shows signs of drying



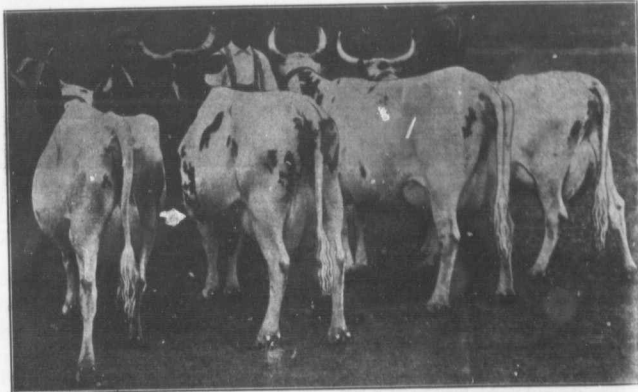
A Fine Combination of Dairy and Breed Type

Auchenbrain Fannie 9th—22,525—owned by R. R. Ness, Howick, Que., has a show yard record that cannot be beaten in Canada. She was first in her class and champion female of the breed at both Toronto and Ottawa this year. In addition she is a grand dairy cow. Note the large, strong middle, the magnificent udder and large, well placed teats of this cow.

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

too soon, we still continue to milk her even if the quantity of milk does not pay for the time spent. We know, however, that we will be doubly repaid during the next period of lactation, for she will then keep up the flow until the proper time to stop.

A cow that has got into the habit of slackening in her milk flow too soon after calving can be made into a good milker by persistent care. We bought a cow four years ago that in her first season of milking was almost dry in six months. We still milked her, however, and she is now a grand milker.



The Type of Producers that are Adding to the Fame of the Ayrshire Breed

The kind of Ayrshires that are bred by D. M. Watt, St. Louis Station, Que., combine good breed type with producing ability to an unusual degree. Notice the grand udders on these cows. Money invested in animals such as these illustrated is better than a bank account—a long way better.

An Expert Herdsman Talks on Calves

Wm. Retson, Herdsman, Agr. Col., N.S.

We have found it the best plan to let the calf suckle the cow for the first two days. This gives the calf what it requires, and puts the udder in good condition. On the third day we teach the calf to drink from the bucket. If it does not take to the milk readily we do not force it to drink. We allow the calf to get thoroughly hungry, and then it will soon drink of its own accord. We find it no harder to teach a calf to drink, after having suckled the dam, than one separated immediately form its mother. On the contrary, the former is in a much stronger condition to learn.

For at least the first two weeks, the calf should be fed on whole milk, and in the case of a somewhat delicate calf, for a week or so longer. We use the milk from the cows giving the lowest percentage of butter fat for calf feeding. If the calf is strong and thrifty, at the end of the second week we commence feeding separated milk, gradually decreasing the whole milk, till, by the time the calf is a month old, it will be entirely fed on skim milk.

TEACH TO EAT GRAIN

In the meantime, however, the calves should be taught to eat grain. They will soon acquire a taste for grain if a handful of oats and bran is put in the corner of the manger. If they are very backward in eating grain we put an older calf in the same stall. This will give them the needed encouragement. The grain should be fed immediately after the calves get their milk. This generally does away with the tendency to suck one another.

We prefer to have the calves running loose in box-stalls, two or three in each stall, if the stalls are large enough. This generally affords them enough exercise during the winter months. If one has the time, however, it is a good plan to turn them out in the yard for an hour or so, but only on very fine days.

LOTS OF FRESH AIR NEEDED

Good ventilation is very essential. The calves require lots of fresh air; but they must be carefully shielded from all draughts.

We have good sweet hay, preferably clover, in a rack within reach of the calves at all times.

We have fed calves on a number of the so-called calf meals and other concentrates, but have never found anything better than a mixture of bran, oats, and silage, four parts each of bran and

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A Type of The profit of bringing the high adoption of soon be better horse. The handsome, breeding of horse used light horses that we will ing horses we now do. The horse bred of the have the be but he has with less effort what we w breeding of good strong demand for motile havi horse to a There is farmer's dr may be day to use the d ways reduc our driver, in the barn son get so to drive.