

Establishing a Dairy Herd*

A. D. Foster, Prince Edward Co., Ont.

The foundation is a very important part of any building. It is true of a dairy herd. At the request of Farm and Dairy I shall herein outline my experience in establishing a dairy herd.



A. D. Foster

When selecting my foundation females, I endeavored to get cows that belonged to a good family, cows that were good individuals of that family. One might better put money into one good cow than into two poor ones.

After having decided to start a dairy herd, I went to the well-known Holstein breeders, Henry Steven & Son, at Lacombe, N.Y.

There I saw the great De Kol 2nd, the foundation cow of the De Kol family. She was an object lesson. It was easy to see that she was a great cow. I decided to get something well related to her. After looking over the stock of heifers coming two years old, I selected Helena DeKol's DeKol. She proved to be all I expected and more. This cow freshened at two years, one month and six days old. She milked heavily from the start and at the end of a month, she had gotten up to 56 pounds a day. Mr. Steven, advised me to test her early. I thought, however, that I would get her to 60 pounds a day, but she got the scours and went down in her milk. However, she gave 362 21-32 pounds of milk, which produced 12 pounds, 12.8 ounces of butter, (80 per cent. fat), in seven days. This was considered a good record at that time. Out of 63 heifers under two years and a half old that reported tests to the advanced registry, she was second for the amount of milk, and fifth for butter, winning one of the butter prizes given by the American Holstein Association.

The question may be asked, "Why did this heifer give such a good account of herself?" It is not probably due to the blood lines she carried? She was sired by De Kol 2nd's Butter Boy, undoubtedly the best son of De Kol 2nd. His sons have more and higher official record daughters than have the sons of any other bull. Her dam was a daughter of Helena Berk, sired by De Kol 2nd, Netherlands. This gives Helena De Kol's De Kol 85 per cent. of the blood of De Kol 2nd. Helena De Kol's De Kol has a daughter, Helena Pieterje, that produced the World Champion heifer, Butter Boy Helena Pieterje.

HERD DESCENDED FROM ONE COW.

About three years ago I decided to have my herd all descendants of one cow, and that cow is Helena De Kol's De Kol. A plate of her is reproduced herewith. We have only two females that are not direct descendants of Helena, and I believe we are not making any mistake in this

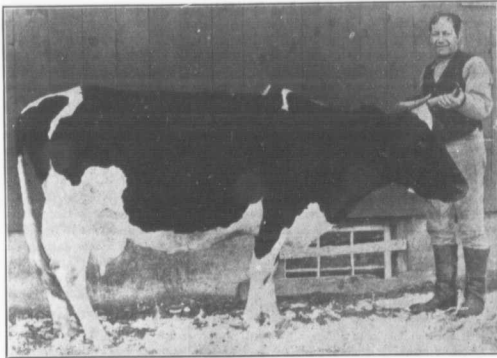
Mr. Foster was one of the prize winners in the dairy farms competition conducted last year by Farm and Dairy. His herd scored high. This article is one of the three essays that the rules of the competition required Mr. Foster to write.

matter. Her descendants are of uniform type and produce shapely udders.

In selecting a sire, I always choose a good individual, and one whose ancestry traces to large producing cows. I try if possible, and see his dam. I see if she had a good shapely udder, nice teats, not too large nor too short, and milks easily. I do not forget that the bull is half of the herd. I would give preference to an aged sire. If he has daughters milking, all the better. I can then see what they are likely to do. I do not allow the bull to serve too many cows, and I draw the line at one good service.

MISTAKEN BY APPEARANCES.

I do not discard a heifer if she does not just suit me as an individual. I sold a heifer, Helena Pauline, at four months old because her hide was thick and harsh and her eye was not as plump as I liked to see. I thought she looked too beefy and coarse to make a good cow. She is now seven years old and has developed into a great cow. She changed hands last winter at something like \$500, and is now owned by Mr. S. J. Foster. She has been entered in the yearly Record of Performances test, and is likely to eclipse the famous De Kol Plus the champion Record of Performance cow of last year.



Helena De Kol's De Kol, 3901

This illustration shows the foundation cow in the herd of A. D. Foster, Prince Edward Co., Ont. There are only two females in Mr. Foster's herd, which are not direct descendants of Helena De Kol's De Kol. Read Mr. Foster's article on this page, in which he tells how he built up his uniform and high producing herd. His methods of breeding are worthy of careful study.

Helena Pauline gave nearly 400 pounds of milk more in April this year than De Kol Plus gave last year in the same month. Helena Pauline is a half sister to the world's champion heifer, Butter Boy Helena Pieterje, that gave as a two-year-old 555.9 pounds of milk and 22.208 pounds of butter in seven days. She dropped her second calf one year and 13 days from the time of her first calving and gave 91.6 pounds in one day and 622.1 pounds in seven days, and 2,520 pounds in 30 days. She produced 24.5 pounds butter in seven days and 95.34 pounds in 30 days. There are three sons of De Kol 2nd in this heifer's pedigree, and there is but one outcross, that of her dam, she being sired by Sir Pieterje Josephine Mechtild. Such breeding, if judiciously done, would not do harm. The De Kols have been inbred in every way, and yet they are among the best producers to be found.

One more point which I wish to mention, about the matter of founding a dairy herd, is that of the care of heifer calves. The dam should be dried off two months before the calf is dropped. With many Holstein cows, it takes a month to get them dry and one should commence three months before the calf is expected, in order to give the cow two months of rest. I always provide my heifer calves with food that will give

good growth and not fatten. I do not breed them until 20 months old.

Hay Making by Machinery

Chas. Duffield, Wellington Co., Ont.

We have been successful in curing hay during the past 10 or 12 years through using the following method: As soon as the dew is off the grass, cut an amount which can be conveniently handled at one time. Follow with the tedder to loosen up and spread out the bunches gathered by the mower. If the crop is heavy clover, a very good plan is to run the tedder through it again in the afternoon to turn it over and give the sun a chance.

Next morning, as soon as the dew is off, if the weather looks fine, run the tedder through it again. About noon take the side-delivery rake and run it into light, fluffy windrows. If weather has been fine, the hay should now be in excellent shape to go into the barn.

THE HAY LOADER A LABOR SAVER.

We use the Dain one-man hay loader. It is a wonderful labor saving device. Coiling the hay in some districts is common, but this method is fast dying out. The loader is making rapid progress owing to scarcity of labor and high wages.

Should the hay be caught by a sudden shower after you have raked it into windrows, pass the tedder down the windrow to lift it up and spread it in order to give the sun a chance to work on it again. If your hay is not too heavy it is a good plan to take the side-delivery rake and turn the windrows over as soon as the sun has dried the ground. This lightens the hay and gives the sun and wind a chance to work on it, and the hay will be in good condition again in a very short time.

Sometimes if the weather is catchy, we put our hay up in small coils. When the sun comes we throw them out in straight rows and take them up with the loader. We believe, however, in air curing hay with the side-rake and tedder, as it gives a much better quality of hay than the sun bleached hay put in coils.

Essentials in Breeding Light Horses

J. P. Fox, Dundas Co., Ont.

Horsemen who have accomplished the most have been those who have had some definite purpose that they have kept constantly in mind. To be successful requires practical knowledge of the business coupled with great energy and push.

There never has been, and probably never will be, a time when any stallion or particular breed will attain any very prominent place unless the horse or breed actually has merit. If the horse has merit a market for him and his stock can be worked up if the owner keeps at it persistently. It will require the expenditure of some money and much thought to establish a high reputation, either for some particular stallion, a breed or a stock farm; but in the end, if judiciously managed, the owner will be fully repaid for his trouble.

THE TROTTER BREEDS IMPROVEMENT.

Much has already been accomplished in many different lines, and yet there are plenty of comparatively unworked fields. There is a good field for one whose preference is in that direction for building up a reputation for the production of uniformly superior carriage and gentlemen's roadsters.

Plenty of stock farms are famous for the production of speed, but the trotters fall short of meeting the requirements of the market, as they lack in nearly every essential point just what the markets require. They have no particular type. They are produced in nearly every size, shape and breed known. They are wonders in their class, but they do not suit the fancy of 90 per cent. of the purchasing public.

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