

FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas



The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

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THE BREEDING OF DAIRY CATTLE

Points on How to Improve the Dairy Herd for Sure and Profitable Production. A Summary of an Address by Prof. Barton, of Macdonald College, Quebec, at the Guelph Winter Fair

THERE are two ways of building up a dairy herd—by buying and by breeding. While buying may be the shortest method, the man who raises his own stock is better off in the long run.

The records of grade dairy cows in Canada are a disgrace. We must look to pure bred sires or any advancement. The name "pure bred" itself does not stand for much. Why? There is a natural range of quality in all strains. It is not held that all the animals in a good breed are high-class individuals. Breeders to-day are not careful enough in eliminating the culls and misfits.

The unprecedented demand for pure bred stock increases the danger of feeding too many of these misfits. Speculation, too, is doing serious injury to breed interests. Ignorance is the part of both the buyer and the breeder is largely responsible. Many do not have a clear idea of the most desirable type. I wouldn't advise a man to go into the breeding of pure bred cattle unless he has a proper ideal in view.

All breeders are working for merit, at a great many are working at the wrong end. They are aiming to produce a few animals of extra merit, but at the same time are not culling the poor ones. We should breed only on individuals which produce uniformly good offspring. Performance is a good basis to work from, but the sales and tester are not everything. No matter how good a producer an individual may be, if she has not the necessary type she should not be used to raise breed stock.

I know of one high producing cow that made world's record, and of seven daughters and grand-daughters, not one ever became as good a producer. This particular cow, though a high record maker, was of poor type.

The crossing of a good individual with a rather indifferent one of the same breed is likely to give the same results as crossing two animals of different breeds—you don't know what you're going to get. It is best to confine breeding to a few of the best individuals.

Breeding individuals should be representative of the breed and of breed character. It is difficult to raise high-class stock from plain cows. In respect to type, utility should be sought rather than the over fine type. Once the type

has been established, select from within the strain.

Strength and substance are important. Our cows to-day are working at higher pressure than did the cows of some years ago. Then summer dairying was almost universal and the cows were dry several months during the winter. Now that the demand for milk in our cities is increasing so rapidly, winter dairying is coming into vogue and cows are dry only a short time. The heavy feeding relative to winter

of the calves, not breeding too young, care taken to develop the milking qualities, such as proper feeding, and conservation of strength. The extreme high tests that many breeders are working for are liable to reduce the strength of the cow. Overworked animals cannot be the best breeders.

Addition by Elimination

E. F. Eaton, Colchester Co., N.S.

"Blood counts," remarked the penitence for-given count to the rich meat packer's daughter. "Oh, yes, and horns, hair, hoofs, everything; nothing goes to waste in daddy's business," was the practical response.

The foregoing is a joke. At least I read it in the joke column of our local newspaper. A thought that occurred to me is that this joke also exemplifies the efficiency of our packing concerns, an efficiency that is characteristic of almost all of our great centralized industries to-day. I have been informed that in many industries the main lines of manufacture are sold at cost and that all of the profit is made on utilization of the by-products.

Farmers are just beginning to wake up to the fact that we too must keep our eyes open for the leaks or we will get left in the race. In the past we farmed virgin soil that would yield crops under the poorest management. We were not as thrifty as we might have been. In fact, we could not afford to chase too strongly after small things. But the day is rapidly passing. The day is coming when we will need to make our profits by attending to the small losses that heretofore we have never given a thought.

One of the most frequent sources of loss I believe is in the manure pile. We have not been taught to put a premium on fertility. I should estimate that with a herd of 20 cows, and the manure simply piled in the barnyard in a careless way to leach and fire-fang, that the loss in one year would amount to at least \$100. A pretty substantial leak.

My father has dealt considerably in agricultural implements. He knows just about how much each farmer in the locality spends for implements, and he tells me that on a farm of average size the loss through the poor care of the implements and from consequent short life, amounts to at least \$100, and in some cases he believes it is nearer \$200. Another leak worth taking care of.

We surely need to take a leaf from the business book of that Chicago packer whose daughter gave his secret away.



On Pastures Green in Sunny Southern Alberta

Alberta dairymen contribute largely to the grand total output of the Canadian dairy industry, and many fine pure-bred herds are found in the province. The Holsteins here illustrated are a few from the herds of Hinchey Bros., who have made a name for themselves on the Western Fair Circuit. Cows such as these make good foundation stock for the building of a great and profitable industry.

dairying has weakened stock. A number of fine herds have been destroyed by over work.

Breeds, of course, vary as to standard size. While we do not want over grown animals of any particular breed, we want them up to the average. In one herd I saw 100 Jerseys, of the best 50 cows, 15 weighed over 1,200 pounds; only eight weighed less than 900 pounds. Of the 50 poorest, only four weighed over 1,200 pounds, while 34 weighed less than 900.

There are defects to be remedied in all breeds. We can see this at any show of dairy cattle. In the matter of records, we want uniformity of performance; not spurts. The cow that makes a high record this year and does poorly the next, or does well for one month and then drops off rapidly, is not the most desirable.

In the development of the breed, there are four main contributing factors: Better feeding