

## Menie District Ayrshire Breeders' Sale.

The Menie District Ayrshire Breeders' Club held a sale of Ayrshire cattle at Campbellford, on April 2. A number of choice representatives of the breed were catalogued, but the prices were rather disappointing to the consigners. The highest price paid was \$230 for Rose of Springbank, a six-year-old cow, by A. S. Turner, of Ryckman's Corners, and consigned by E. A. McCook. The purchaser was W. Haggerty, of Stirling. This cow gave, under ordinary farm conditions, 8,078 lbs. of 4.2 per cent. milk in a lactation. However, she is a cow that appears capable of doing much better. A number of 1918 calves were in the sale and they sold around \$30 to \$40, consequently the average for the sale was low. However, this is no reflection on the quality of the offering. Following is a list of the animals selling for \$100 and over, together with the purchasers:

Lillie, E. B. Stansell, Vienna.....	\$215.00
Sprightly Bob of Menie, J. Peoples, Hemlock.....	100.00
Oakland Juno, A. Hume, Campbellford.....	160.00
Stella of the Maples, Chas. Pettifer, Campbellford.....	100.00
Kenmuir of Menie, J. Clifford, Warsaw.....	125.00
Red Rose, F. Howe, Campbellford.....	105.00
Snow Flake, A. J. Grills, Codrington.....	122.50
Jessie of Menie, Wm. Stewart, Menie.....	175.00
Beth, J. Locke, Campbellford.....	100.00
May, F. Howe.....	200.00
Humeshaugh Belle, W. J. Haggerty, Stirling.....	100.00
Oakland Claribel, Thos. Kerr, Campbellford.....	105.00
Flora 2nd, H. Donnel, Campbellford.....	102.50
Rose of Springbank, W. Haggerty.....	230.00
Oakland Jean, W. Tummin, Madoc.....	150.00
Mabel.....	122.50
Seymour Belle, T. Fry, Campbellford.....	210.00
Pride of Burnbrae, Chas. Pettifer.....	122.50

## The Mechanical Milker.

The scarcity of help is leading many dairymen to consider the mechanical milker as one means of enabling them to maintain the present size of their herds. To install a milking machine requires considerable investment; consequently, it is but natural that information regarding the various makes and about the practicability of the mechanical milker should be ascertained before a machine is purchased. Undoubtedly, the milking machine is a labor saver. It will milk as many cows in an hour as would require about three men. It does uniform work from day to day, and, except in rare instances when some of its mechanical parts have become broken or worn, it is always there, ready for milking at the right time. It helps out on Sundays as well as on Mondays. There has been considerable complaint about the quality of the milk drawn with the milking machine. However, it has been proven that where reasonable care is taken, the quality can be kept equal to that of hand-drawn milk. At the Experimental Farm considerable work has been done in an effort to gather as much information as possible regarding the cost of operating a milking machine, the reliability of service, the uniformity of milking, the cost as compared with hand milking, and the effect on the quality of milk. In Special Circular No. 13, of the Dominion Experimental Farms, the following information is given:

"Every dairy farmer with a herd of twelve or more cows should consider seriously the installation of a milking machine. The experience of an ever-increasing number of practical farmers, coupled with that of a number of our experimental farms and stations, goes to prove that these machines are decidedly advantageous.

"The average cost of installation, taking into consideration the five most popular machines on the market, would be in the neighborhood of \$500, for an outfit to milk four cows at once. Such an outfit would be large enough for a twenty-five to thirty-cow herd. For a twenty-cow herd a three-cow outfit would be sufficient for a twelve to fifteen-cow herd, a two-cow outfit would be sufficient. For each reduction of one unit in installation there will be a reduction of approximately \$100 in the cost price. This brings the average cost to \$16.60 per cow for the large herd, \$20 per cow for the medium-sized herd, and \$25 per cow for the small herd. This, in turn, goes to show that while the cheapest installation for work done is with the large herd, nevertheless the first cost is not excessive in the case of a small herd.

"The annual cost of operation for a twenty-five to thirty-five-cow outfit, including repairs, power, labor in caring for engine and washing machines, interest on investment, and ten per cent. depreciation on machine, would amount to approximately \$225.

"The above is approximately one-third of what the farmer is at present paying his hired man, where board is not taken into account. Divided between thirty cows, this brings the running expenses to two cents per cow per day.

"The average hired man will not milk more than seven cows per hour, which, at twenty-five cents per hour, costs 7.2 cents per cow per day for hand-milking. One man with a milking machine can milk twenty to twenty-five cows per hour, which brings the total cost of machine-milking, including the above-mentioned daily expenses, to 4.5 cents per cow per day. This is a saving of considerably over one-third and in a large herd would enable the farmer to dispense with at least one, if not two, men, or it would liberate these men for other important lines of increased production. It also enables one man to milk many more cows than it is physically possible for him to milk by hand.

"Not only does a machine decrease the cost of milking, but it gives uniformity in milking. All cows are milked in the same manner every day, and every good dairy farmer knows this is important and that it is hard to obtain with the general run of farm hands.

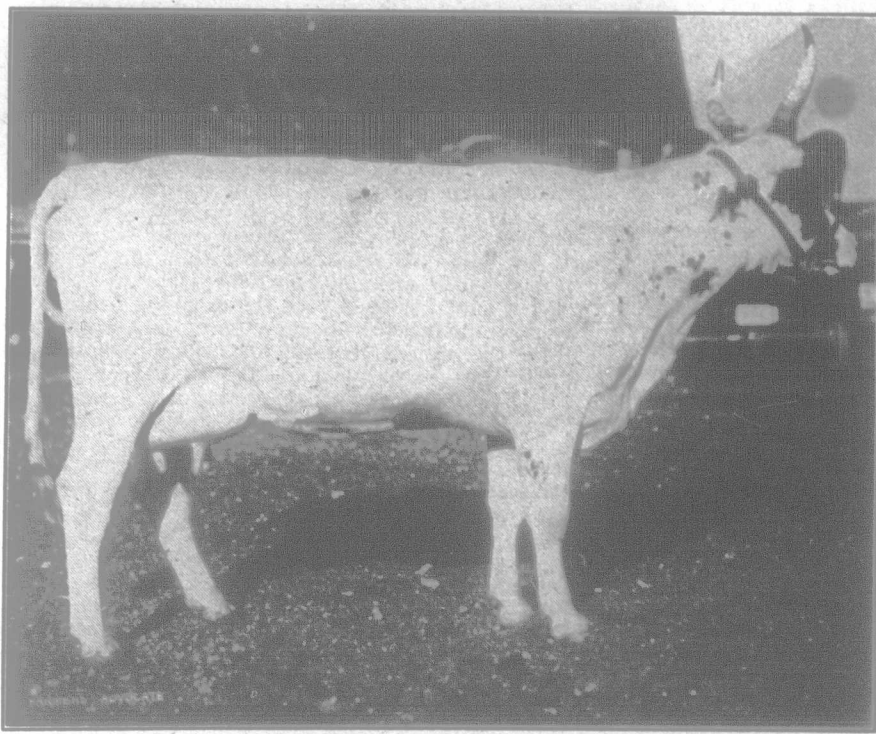
"A machine when properly installed and equipped with a reliable source of power is always there ready for work. Breakdowns are comparatively rare and usually easily remedied. Wear and tear is not excessive, considering the nature of the machine, and provided the latter is given proper attention.

"A machine that is properly adjusted and handled will not injure the cow's teats or udder any more than the average farm hand. Three years' experience of mechanical milkers on the Central Experimental Farm does not show that the cows dry off any more quickly than when milked by hand. There is no more, if as much objection to the milking machine on the part of the cows than there is to hand-milking. Old cows used to hand-milking object most, and may not let down their milk readily, but heifers take to machine milking like ducks to water and require hardly any stripping. Stripping by hand after taking the machine off is advocated by all users, as well as makers, as a precautionary and economical measure.

"If the machines are properly handled in the barn, and likewise properly washed in the dairy, the milk produced will be as good as or better than that produced by hand-milking. Where extra pains are taken with the machines and the care of the milk a very high grade of milk can be produced. Careless handling results in bad milk and ultimate failure of the machine.

Last, and of far more importance than the cost price or make of the machine, comes the question of the efficiency of the operator. Handling the machine is a job for the farmer, his son, or some hired man who has an interest in the success of the machine and the cows. For best results the operator must be quick and quiet, with an eye for details. Know the machine and the cows, and adapt the one to suit the other, giving each their proper share of attention at the proper time.

"Any of the more prominent makes of milking machines upon the market will do good work, provided they are properly handled."



Briery of Springbank 3rd.

First three-year-old Ayrshire at London for A. S. Turner & Sons, Ryckman's Corners, Ont.

## Test and Keep on Testing.

There is a difference of opinion among dairymen as to the comparative value of the short and long-term tests. Some claim that the seven, fourteen and thirty-day official tests reveal the possibilities of the animal, and that they can conduct that test when they haven't time to keep records for a full lactation period. There are others who bank on the yearly test to show a cow's real value as a producer. The length of tests varies and there are tests for three-teated cows and for cows at different dates after freshening. Some are apt to think that there are too many tests, but is it possible to have too many? One noted dairy authority states, "You cannot have too many tests." As yet, far too few dairymen do any testing. They work along from year to year without knowing exactly what individuals in their herd are capable of doing at the pail. True, they may get a good quantity of milk at a milking, but does the cow keep up the flow from week to week? It is the cow that keeps on producing a good quantity month after month until near the time to freshen again and that transmits her qualities to her progeny, that pays dividends. When only a few heifer calves are saved to replenish the herd, they might as well be from the best cows. Some claim that they do this without the bother of keeping records, but from our experience it is not the best-looking cow that gives the largest returns. Then, too, any variation in milk yield from day to day can be noted if records are kept, but, where the milk is not weighed a variation of two or three pounds would pass unnoticed. Records enable dairymen to conduct feeding experiments in order to ascertain what

quantity or kind of concentrates each animal will pay most for.

The shorter tests can be conducted under the supervision of some official, which lends possibly greater value to the figures than the semi-official results. To keep a supervisor an entire year would come too expensive for the average dairyman. In fact, there are very few instances where one would be justified in going to this expense. A cow can be fed in such a manner as to force production on to the utmost for a short period. Some cows will stand this forcing for one hundred days, a few for a full lactation, but the majority of cows would not endure the strain and breed regularly. It is unfortunate that all the cows which make the high records do not reproduce themselves year after year. The phenomenal records made by a few cows and their progeny have done a good deal to advertise the breeds they represent; they show the possibilities of milk and fat yield. Some records recently made would have been considered impossible a few years ago. However, the limit has not yet been reached. There are greater records yet to be made, and they will be made by breeders who have for years been paying strict attention to the breeding, feeding and selection of their breeding stock. The value of the official and semi-official tests is ascertained when it comes to the disposal of breeding stock. These tests also have a value to the purchaser as they enable him to know what the animal or its ancestors have done, instead of taking the animal only on its individual merit. While type and form must not be lost sight of there is something more to consider if the average production of the herd is to be increased. Purchasers of dairy stock are now enquiring for the records, and many a dairyman has missed a sale because he could not show in black and white what a particular cow, her progeny, or ancestors, had done either on short or long test.

Testing is a business proposition and something which every dairyman should do. A man must decide for himself as to the comparative value of the short or long tests. It is certainly fine to be able to say that a certain animal gave six or seven hundred pounds of milk, and twenty, twenty-five or thirty pounds of butter, in seven days, or that a record of twelve, fifteen or

twenty thousand pounds of milk was made in a lactation period. Like tends to produce like, and the average cow will pass these good qualities on to her progeny. "The sire is half the herd" is an expression commonly used, and it contains a good deal of truth, as his influence is exerted not only on one or two individuals, but on the entire herd. Thus, if progress is to be made it is essential that particular attention be paid to the choice of a herd header. Before making a purchase, look up the records of the dam and grandam, and if they are not as high as or higher than the records of the individuals in your own herd no increase in the average yield for the herd will be made by his progeny. Always try to get something better than you have had previously, and to do this it is necessary that you know what the animals have done on test. May Echo Sylvia, Jean Armour, and Sunbeam of Edgeley are representatives of three

dairy breeds which among others have done a good deal to advertise their respective breeds. Each has made very creditable records, and has had the constitution and ability to continue making big records year after year. It was testing that made these cows and their progeny famous and gave them phenomenal value. If there had been no short or long-term tests would these cows have been known from coast to coast? We think not. There are cows in some of the most obscure herds that have the breeding and capability of heavy production, but they are kept in the background because their owners do not find time or the inclination to test. In your herd there may be a heifer or mature cow that, if given a little extra feed and attention, would head the list in the seven, fourteen, thirty, one hundred, or three hundred and sixty-five-day test. It is to the advantage of every dairyman to test every individual in his herd. If you have a cow that you think would make a good test for a short period, have her officially tested and then continue keeping records till the end of the lactation period. You may not be able to give her as much care during the entire year as you would for the seven or thirty-day test, but you will know what she is capable of doing under ideal conditions, and also what she will do under average conditions. Some cows are good for a short term, while others are long-distance cows. The yearly test, or the test for full lactation, possibly shows the cow's real value better than the short test. Some claim there are discrepancies in the semi-official test, owing to the fact that there is no supervisor over the weighing. However, we must take it for granted that the average dairyman is honest. In fact, there is little chance for padding the weights, as a supervisor comes unheralded at various times during the year to check