

Dairy Herds at the O.A.C.—How They Are Being Improved

Holsteins Reach a High Average of Production—Ayrshires Progressing Rapidly—Jersey Herds Being Strengthened

THE dairy herd at the Ontario Agricultural College is maintained for a two-fold purpose: firstly, to provide suitable animals of the various dairy breeds for giving instruction to the students in the judging and choosing of dairy cattle, and, secondly, to provide animals for use in conducting investigations in the different phases of breeding, feeding and management of dairy cattle, which is an essential part of the work of an institution of this kind. When the above purposes are fulfilled, the dairy herd occupies the same position in the organization of the Experimental Farm that the average dairy herd occupies on the average farm, that is, to turn into a marketable product at a profit the ordinary farm-grown feeds as well as those usually purchased by the average dairy farmer.

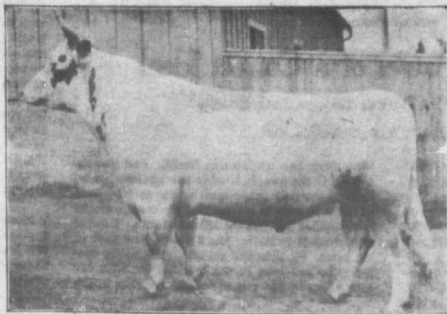
The dairy herd consists on the average of about ninety head throughout the year. These consist of Holsteins, Ayrshires, Jerseys, Dairy Shorthorns, and one or two Grades. To give each of these breeds a representation, therefore, there is not really a very large herd of any one breed. To be precise, there are usually about thirty Holstein females, and from sixteen to twenty of each of the other breeds, in addition to the herd bulls and a few bull calves usually on hand.

College-Bred Holsteins.

The Holstein herd is practically all of College breeding, and the milk and fat records that have been attained from this breed during the past few years, amply justify the care and skill with which the herd has been built up during the past ten or twelve years. The quality of high production in the herd can be attributed largely to the purchase in 1907 of the well-known bull, Johanna Rue 4th's Lad, 2165, and the great breeding cow Totilla De Kol Pierletje 3445, from the herd of Matt. Richardson, of Caledonia. Although an old bull at the time, Johanna Rue 4th's Lad was used successfully for four or five years, and now practically all the females in the herd are his daughters and grand-daughters. This bull now stands near the top in both the R. O. P. and R. O. M. in regard to high producing daughters and valuable breeding sons, and it is interesting to note that every one of his daughters in the R. O. P. has a yearly average of about 3.6 per cent., which is .15 per cent. higher than the average of the breed in the R. O. P. annals. This same characteristic of the high butter fat content is noticeable in those of his daughters in the college herd which averaged slightly better than

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3.6 per cent. in both R. O. P. and private tests. Following this bull there was used for two years a son of the noted cow, Lakeview Rattler, who has sired some of the really good animals in the herd. One of these in particular, Molly Roe Rattler, out of a daughter of Johanna Rue 4th's Lad, has made the following fine records as a 3-year-old, on twice-a-day milking, in R. O. P.: Milk, 16,975 lbs.; butter fat, 640 lbs.; butter, 800 lbs., and dropped two calves in less than thirteen months. In R. O. M. she made 24.50 lbs. butter in seven days, under the same conditions. This year in



Hobland Surprise (Imp.)

At the Head of the Ayrshire Herd at the Ontario Agricultural College.

her 4-year-old form she is producing nearly 30 per cent. better under similar conditions.

During the year ending August 31st, 1916 the thirteen cows of the herd, 3-year-old and over, one of which had but three teats, and one was fourteen years old, produced an average of 15,072 lbs. of milk and 551 lbs. fat, which is 160 lbs. fat and 600 lbs. milk more than the 123 mature Holstein cows listed in Vol. 7 of the R. O. P. report; nor was this result obtained by excessive or extravagant feeding, because the average profit per cow, over cost of feed, which includes also the cost of feeding until the next calving, was \$103.21. Moreover, with the exception of two of these cows, all produced two calves within fourteen months.

The best record made by any one cow was that of Young Springwood, a five-year-old Holstein, which gave 29,110 lbs. milk and 821 lbs. fat in 365 days. This cow was milked only twice a day

during the year, and this amount of milk and fat is believed to constitute a world's record for production under these conditions.

A Promising Ayrshire Herd.

The Ayrshire herd at the College has not yet built itself up to the same high standard of production as the Holsteins, but is making great progress every year. About two years ago a great improvement was effected by the purchase of three imported young females and one of the best sons of Hobland's Masterpiece. Shortly afterward the most unlikely members of the herd of this breed were disposed of, and with the new animals and the best of the old herd, a new start was made. The improvement during the past few months has been marked, and the writer expects during the next three or four months that all the cows of over two-years-old will have reached the average of over 10,000 lbs. milk and 400 lbs. fat in the R. O. P. test.

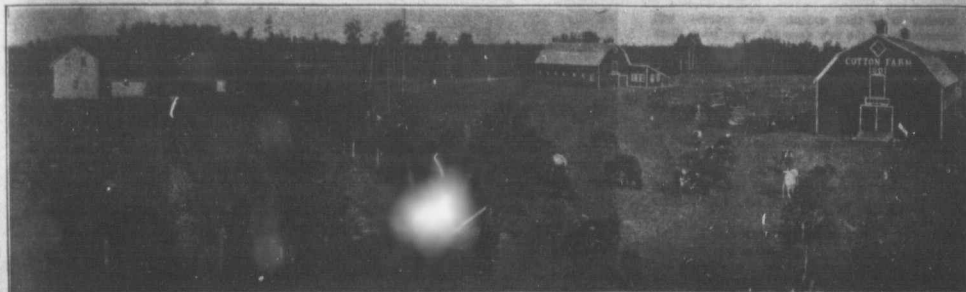
This production, combined with that well-known breed characteristic of producing milk and butter cheaply, is an inkling that in the near future the Ayrshires will make their Holstein sisters in the same herd look to their laurels. As an indication of the quality of the Ayrshires, one of the largest and most discriminating breeders has lately selected a bull from the College to head his herd.

Jersey Herd Strengthened.

Regarding the Jerseys in the herd, the same remarks apply as were made of the Ayrshires. Three years ago three fine imported heifers were added to the herd rather small representation of the breed. Until the past year,

these were rather unfortunate in getting few living heifer calves, so that it is only lately that they have helped add to the numbers of the Jersey herd. However, there was being used an excellent bull, Brampton Merger, from a cow that held the Canadian record of the breed for milk at two years old. He had sired some fine heifer calves, the oldest of which has made a very creditable record as a two-year-old. These heifers, with the imported cows and one or two lately added form the nucleus of a very promising Jersey herd. Two cows have within the past few months finished records of over 400 lbs. fat and 3,000 lbs. milk, while two more are making promise of better production still when their R. O. P. year is up. There has just been purchased as a herd sire, a fine young bull sired by Viola's Bright Prince, and out of an imported 3-year-old with an R. O. P.

(Continued on page 14.)



Though Flanked on every side by Trees the General Appearance of this Place Makes its Location Unmistakable. In the Park Country of Western Canada.