



It's Wise and Practical Progressive Ideas

FARM AND DAIRY

& RURAL HOME



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 Advantages of the Graded Prize List

A System by Which the Prize Money in a Class is Distributed According to the Number of Entries

NOW that fall fair time has arrived, and the interest of many farmers and breeders is centred in the contests of the showing, many of them will be wondering whether or not the system by which prizes are distributed is the best that can be devised. That it contains many incongruities all will admit. When a definite number of prizes are given in each class irrespective of the number of animals shown, cases are sure to arise in which there are either many disappointed exhibitors or some unclaimed prizes. A professional breeder, with a strong herd from which to draw his show animals, may succeed in carrying off the bulk of the prize money in nearly all classes of his breed, thus discouraging amateur breeders. As to the distribution of the prize money between the breeds, one may predominate throughout the district covered by a fair, yet receive no more prize money than another that is but little known. These and other instances of injustice in the present system may raise the question of the possibility of devising a system by which the prizes would be more justly distributed and which would therefore enable the fair to more nearly fulfil its function in encouraging the breeding of better animals.

The graded prize list has been devised to meet the objections to the old system of distributing money. It appears to be fairer from all standpoints. It is not claimed to be perfect, but the claim is made that it eliminates many of the most undesirable features of the old system. Experience may reveal many ways in which it may be improved. It always takes time to introduce an innovation, no matter how meritorious it may be, and there may be some who would object to the introduction of the new system, but given a fair trial it bids fair to be a success.

The main features of the new system is that the amount of prize money fluctuates according to the number of entries in each class. The larger the number of entries, the more money is distributed. The upper table shows the number of cattle prizes and their value according to the number of entries shown in each class (except champions or specials), as given at the Calgary Fair, where the graded prize list was adopted this year. The prize money for the different classes varies from \$15, which is given when four animals are shown, to as high as \$123, when 26 or more are exhibited. In the first case

three prizes and a reserve ribbon are given. Where the larger number of entries is made, 10 cash prizes and a ribbon are distributed. It will be seen that the value as well as the number of prizes in the class increases, and that there is not such a wide difference between the prizes as in the old system. The object of this provision is to encourage larger classes, for exhibitors will be interested in getting other breeders to show when the value of the prizes depends on the number of entries. Thus, instead of the stronger crowding out the weaker, they mutually assist each other.

With the graded prize list, prize money is distributed amongst the breeds in proportion to the

number of entries. They will receive the same amount of money if their entries are equal. If a particular breed is more popular than others in the district covered by the fair, it is reasonable to conclude that more of them will be shown, and it is only fair to such a breed that it receive greater recognition in the distribution of prize money than a breed that is comparatively unimportant in the district. On the other hand, breeds which make a smaller number of entries are not discriminated against, as they get their correct share of the prize money. The encouragement is offered to them that if the number of entries is increased, the prizes will also be increased. Judges are also required to place a larger proportion of the animals shown, thus carrying the competition for prizes further down the line, giving the exhibitors of the less excellent animals a chance to find their comparative standing. The educational value of the showing contest is therefore greatly augmented.

The manner in which the money is allotted to the different divisions is shown in the lower table. The appropriations are based on previous winnings with due allowance for an estimated increase in entries. Any money that is left over after the prizes have been paid is divided amongst the successful exhibitors on a pro rata basis. An exhibitor is allowed to make only three entries in one class. This gives him an opportunity of making a good exhibit, but prevents him from rendering the system unworkable by making unlimited entries.

The chief objection to the system seems to be that there is some uncertainty amongst the exhibitors regarding the amount they compete for. The importance of this objection is one of the things that will have to be learned by experience. It would be a comparatively easy matter for an exhibitor to total his winnings in each class if the tabulated list of prizes is given in the prize list published by each Fair Association. For instance, if an exhibitor wins third and fourth prizes in a class of 19 or 12, he would receive for the third prize \$11, and for the fourth \$9, or a total of \$20. Most exhibitors keep a careful record of their winnings, and could, with very little trouble, total them all as outlined above.

The matter of graded prize lists is worthy of careful consideration by all Fair Boards, as it should ensure better satisfaction to all parties concerned,



Tabulated List of Prizes

No. of Entries Shown.	Total Prizes										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
\$33 1 to 4	\$12	\$8	\$5	\$5	Pr.						
40 5 or 6	15	12	8	\$5	R.						
56 7 to 9	20	15	10	7	\$4	R.					
68 10 to 12	21	15	11	9	7	\$4	R.				
80 13 to 15	22	17	12	10	8	7	\$4	R.			
92 16 to 19	23	18	13	11	10	8	6	\$3	R.		
106 20 to 25	24	19	14	12	11	9	8	6	\$3	R.	
121 26 or over	25	23	15	13	12	10	9	8	6	\$3	R.

Distribution of Prize Money

Department.	Estimated \$1,000 to be paid in prize.	Amount tabulated list.	Amount distributed.	Amount to be paid as stipulated in each department.	No. of prizes in each class.	Total prizes.
Horses	\$5,000	\$4,250	\$740	\$790	5,018	518
Cattle	5,000	4,250	750	750	5,008	333
Sheep	1,250	600	320	218	806	115
Swine	1,000	780	230	218	996	67
Poultry	1,000	670	190	216	1,088	491
Total	15,000	10,600	3,160	2,180	13,000	35