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# FARM AND DAIRY

&

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### COMMUNITY BREEDING - HOW IT WOULD BE OF ADVANTAGE TO CANADIAN FARMER

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**Cooperation Between Neighbors can Overcome the Difficulty of Getting High Class Sires for Use in Grading Up Our Dairy Herds. Community Breeding is Proving a Success in Other Countries. Why Not in Canada?**

**T**HE topic of cooperative breeding associations has been occasionally referred to in our agricultural press in recent years, but so far very little has been accomplished in the way of organization for the improvement of dairy cattle. To a limited extent our farmers' clubs have taken up the matter, and in a few cases something tangible has been done with sheep and horses; but the vast majority of our dairymen are still without any idea of the value of cooperative effort for definite improvement of their live stock. The



advantages of cooperative breeding are so many and so well defined that this plan should appeal to every dairy farmer.

Community breeding presupposes that every farmer in the district is ambitious and broad-minded enough to desire for his own section of the country a marked and rapid improvement in its live stock. What is difficult of individual achievement is easily accomplished by a small measure of cooperation. It is assumed when we talk of introducing community breeding that the dairyman believes in pure bred sires, for no improvement in the herd can be expected from the "scrub." Possibly, however, the price of the pure bred he would like is prohibitive. Here, immediately, the simple plan of community breeding steps in to help.

#### COOPERATION FOR QUALITY

Next in importance in starting community breeding, to the necessary education up to an understanding of the advantages to be gained by the use of pure bred sires is that useful virtue, far too little practised in our Dominion, cooperation, which may be applied to the purchase of an excellent male; not a cheap pure bred, be it noted. Never should the low price of an inferior specimen, pure bred or grade, tempt us; the great need is improvement in herd quality so that each individual female may be a profitable milker. The immature, poor bull cannot effect any such improvement; the man who builds for immediate profit and future herd ex-

cellence looks for the good sire even if the cost is high. Let no spider of delusive cheapness weave its web across any corner of our mental vision of this topic.

The inferior or low grade blood can be overcome quickly by fixed purpose in breeding, by the choice pure bred sires of the breed that meets the requirements of the locality. The half-blood can only give half of himself to his offspring, producing only a quarter blood, so that still poorer grades ensue; but with the select pure bred male and the fairly good grade cow there results a half-blood and 50 per cent improvement in the first generation. In the second generation there will be three-quarters blood and 75 per cent improvement, while in the fourth generation there will be not merely a half-blood, but a

of alien blood have been discerned even after 10 and 20 years. There is too much at stake in the modern high-class business of dairying to risk the cheap grade sire, there is no knowing what poorer qualities he will introduce that will take time and expense to eradicate, besides cutting down immediate profits. To use him is to breed down. He is first and last far too expensive a proposition for any real dairyman.

The extra value resulting from the use of the good pure bred dairy sire has been figured out so often that it should not be necessary to dwell on the point. Suffice it to say that if the sire is responsible for only an additional 40 lbs. of butter fat or 1,000 lbs. of milk a cow, the net increase from a herd of 20 cows will be easily \$200.00 a year.

#### PAY FOR BULL FIRST YEAR

Thus if three or four herds are concerned the price of a first class sire is far more than repaid the first year. The scrub bull, or the dual purpose bull, will not help the individual in any community to such an extra income. Our aim should be at least 300 lbs. of butter a cow annually. Why do so many of our dairymen remain content with 200 or only 180 lbs.?

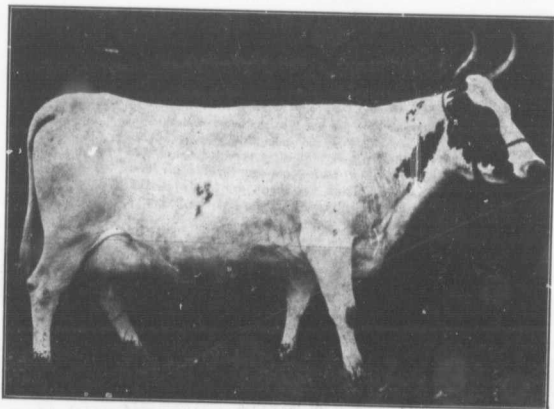
One great advantage to the whole district arising from community breeding is the fact that buyers are attracted. No one buyer wants to travel scores of miles to hunt out or pick up just a few casual good specimens of stock; but as the district gets known for its own breed, there the buyers will flock, knowing they can obtain choice animals in good quantities. This fact is well known in the older countries. No importer here would dream of scouring Hereford for Ayrshires; neither for Guernseys would he go to Durham or Devon.

#### PRICE PER HEAD WILL INCREASE

Then, too, the price obtained by the community will necessarily be better as the cattle are of higher grade. We may rest assured that as community breeding is practised, that district will get excellent advertising. Practically any county can make a name for itself, can secure a world-wide reputation as a centre for the best type of cattle, just as quickly as this community breeding is taken up in earnest.

Cooperation in this matter should appeal to every dairyman. We all need the help of our fellowmen. It is difficult, tedious and expensive for an individual to build up a name and reputation as a breeder. The organization of several men carries more weight and more power to ac-

(Concluded on page 17)



The New Dairy Queen of the Ayrshire World

Eileen, the Ayrshire cow here illustrated, owned by G. D. Mode, Yankleek Hill, Ont., has established a new record in butter production for the Scotch milk breed. In the past year she has produced 13,778 lbs. of milk and 635 lbs. of butter fat, equal to 747 lbs. of butter. Notice the great heart girth denoting constitution, and the broad muzzle and well developed middle, denoting feeding capacity. These two points are inseparable from the great dairy producer.

fifteen-sixteenths blood, with an improvement of 93 per cent, or such high grades that, for practical purposes, the females are almost as good as registered stock.

#### A GREAT DANGER FROM SCRUB SIRES

One good reason why the scrub sire should be rigidly avoided is because of the remarkable working out of the principle of atavism, whereby the traits and functions, often very undesirable, that marked some remote ancestor of the poor sire, will frequently crop out in the bull's offspring. In poultry and swine some curious characteristics