

Red Polled Have Made Good

SINCE it seems to be rather generally known that we have given considerable attention to the breeding of hornless, ruby, kind of stock, the subject of Red Polled cattle has been suggested to me, and while it is not a subject of my own choosing, my interest in the breed prompts me to consider with you the origin and present merits of these beautiful red cattle. We cannot here go into the early history of the breed other than to state that it sprang from the Norfolk and Suffolk polled cattle of England, and dates back with some degree of certainty to the eighth and ninth centuries.

History reveals the fact that in 1809, John Reeve attempted to hybridize the Norfolk and Suffolk polled cattle to retain the deep milking qualities of the Suffolk and improve fleshing qualities by an introduction of Norfolk blood. "East Anglia, the name applied to the Norfolk and Suffolk area, is almost an island. Its cattle thus were, down to the early years of the 18th century, less likely to be a mixture of breeds than in most other parts of the kingdom. There was also strong opposition to a mixture of bloods, and cattle descended from these early herds were called 'Home-breds'."

In a general treatise on cattle, written in 1805, by John Lawrence, a farmer who lived near Bury St. Edmund's, he speaks thus of the Norfolk Home-breds: "No cattle are said to make better proof or to bear a higher character with the Smithfield salesmen, than Norfolk Home-breds. They are found to graze earlier and quicker than either the Scots or Welsh. Mr. Marshall, a Yorkshireman of special agricultural training for his day, writes as follows in 1787, concerning the native cattle of Norfolk. "They are a small, hardy, thriving race, fattening as freely and finishing as highly at three years old as cattle in general do at four or five."

The best early description of Suffolk Polled cattle is doubtless found in General View of the Agriculture of Suffolk (1792). "This is the description of some considerable dairymen. Udder large, loose, and creased when empty; milk-veins remarkably large, and rising in knotted puffs to the eye." The best milkers were either red, brindle or yellowish cream colored, sometimes called "dun." The Suffolk cattle were larger than the Norfolk stock, more loosely made and much rougher. Both had the reputation of being good milkers but the Suffolk cattle were far superior in this respect as they were used exclusively for dairy purposes, and, according to Young, many yielded eight imperial gallons of milk, or 80 pounds per day, while on good pasture, and whole herds average five gallons each 24 hours. Young further remarks: "I cannot recommend any cross for the Suffolk breed with a view to improvement in the dairy." They had the reputation of being the heaviest milkers in England for their size, but they were not as large as the modern improved Red Polled cattle.

From all accounts and the information that we can glean in going over the early history of these cattle, the Suffolk strain did not need improvement

A Dual-Purpose breed---Originating From a Cross of the Suffolk and Norfolk Polled Cattle.

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in dairy production. In establishing the Red Polled breed, improvement was evidently sought in the quality of the milk, size of carcass, deep fleshing as well as early maturing qualities, and to this end, John Reeves attempted to hybridize the two strains noted previously. After those two breeds were hybridized the next step was careful selection to carry out what we now know as Mendel's law which gives a certain percentage of animals having the desired qualities and a certain percentage that revert to each of the former types. There are those who do not believe there is such a thing as a dual-purpose breed, but Red Polled stock having been hybridized and selected for dual qualities now carry these characters more firmly fixed than in any other breed.

The fact that the Red Pol breeders were the first to keep authentic yearly records is abundant proof that they have had dual character in mind since establishing the breed. As early as 1885 whole herd records have been kept, and up to date some 2,150 yearly records have been published in England and America. Up to the death of the late Henry F. Euren, the writer was in constant correspondence with him, the founder of the English Red Poll herd book, who probably was the best informed Red Polled man in England. I furnished him with the information concerning Red Polls in America, while he in turn supplied me with data which he has set down as early history of the Red Polled breed.

In this breed as in all others there are a few animals to which we can trace most of the desirable stock, and it is noteworthy that many of the high producers carry the blood of "Troston," No. 423, through his two daughters, No. 1939, "Wild Rose of Kilbourn" and No. 1523 "Floss II." "Wild Rose of Kilbourn" was a great cow in her day, winning first prize at the English Royal for milk production, and is reported as making nine pounds of butter per week all the year round. Her sister, "Floss II," milked up to 70 pounds per day, and is said to have been capable of making 100 pounds with good care and feed. In the Jean Du Luth herd, 50 of whose official records average 468 pounds of fat, every high record cow, with the exception of one, carries the blood of these two foundation cows. The world's champion, "Jean Du Luth Beauty," who made 20,280 pounds of milk, 891 pounds of fat, or 1,114 pounds of commercial butter is line bred to this "Wild Rose" blood. Among the early sires who carry this blood we find "Able Riskey," No. 4722, who sired one 9,000-pound-of-milk cow and one 7,000-pound cow;

"Benzo," No. 4763, one 9,000-pound cow; "Buffalo Bill," No. 5349, one 10,990-pound cow; "Blondie," No. 982, one 8,000- and one 9,000-pound cows; "Comely Roger," No. 3856, who sired four, 8,000-pound cows and two others that averaged over 7,000 pounds for eight consecutive years; "Confidence," who sired one cow who averaged 9,000 pounds for eight consecutive years; "Riskey Rouge," No. 6578, who sired one cow that averaged 8,000 pounds for seven years and another cow who averaged 9,000 pounds for seven years; "Solomon VI," sired one cow who averaged 7,000 pounds for three years; "Sweet Lad" sired two cows with 8,000 pound record and three cows with a 7,000 pound record; "Suffolk Tomy," No. 1085, sired one cow with an average of 8,000 pounds for four years; "Wild Frank," No. 961, has one 8,000-pound cow; "Why Not," No. 1101, has one 9,000-pound cow; "Wild Ruler," No. 779, one 8,000-pound cow; "Wild Roger," No. 605, one 10,000-pound cow and one 8,000-pound cow; her son "Solomon," No. 940, sired "Sappho" with a record of 9,716 pounds of milk in 354 days. We have found 77 records published in England from descendants of "Wild Rose" blood that averaged 8,642 pounds of milk. A careful study of the pedigree of the world's champion Red Polled cow shows that she traced 96 times to the "Duke of Norfolk," 32 times to the "Tenant Farmer," 13 times to "Red Jacket" and 13 times to "Herroff Newcastle." This blood seems to have formed a very favorable nick for "Wild Rose" breeding.

The bull, "Paul," No. 20994, weight 2150, who has been several times first at the Chicago International Livestock Show, and who was shown with success through Western Canada last season, has nine "Wild Rose" crosses. The secret of success in building dual character in the Red Pol breed seems to have been in hybridizing two strains of Pol cattle and then line breeding and selecting animals having desirable characters both for milk and deep fleshing qualities.

If we may be permitted to refer to the work done in the Jean Du Luth herd during the past seven years, we might say the average production of all the cows in milk or those who have been on test for a year's time is higher than the highest record when this work was taken up in earnest by the writer.

We have also increased the average weight per animal 250 pounds.

In this herd all the world's Red Pol records are held excepting one, and every combination from seven days to seven years. Most of the champions are daughters of the leading A. R. sire of the breed, "Proctor Knott," No. 12092,

who in turn is a son of "Imported Corporal," No. 4313, bred by Garrett Taylor, Whittingham herd, Norwich, England. The world's champion long distance Red Poll cow, "Pear," is a half-sister to "Proctor Knott," both being by "Imported Corporal." Some of the world's records for the breed are as follows:—

World's Champion Long Distance Red Polled Cow, No. 24888 (2793-C)

"Pear," A. R.

1910.—9183 pounds of milk and 445.6 pounds of butter fat.

1911.—7616 pounds of milk and 238.6 pounds of butter fat.

1912.—9544.6 pounds of milk and 419.89 pounds of butter fat.

1913.—13160.6 pounds of milk and 683.66 pounds of butter fat.

1914-15.—9177 pounds of milk and 407.17 pounds of butter fat.

1915-16.—8183.1 pounds of milk and 372.2 pounds of butter fat.

1916-17.—10684.3 pounds of milk and 507.46 pounds of butter fat.

Total for seven consecutive yearly official tests: 67,548.90 pounds of milk and 3094.51 pounds of butter fat; official score 96.

World's Champion Red Poll Cow for Two Consecutive Yearly Official Tests, No. 28991 (2843-Canadian)

"Jean Du Luth Pear"

1914.—12536 pounds of milk and 546 pounds of butter fat.

1915.—16598.4 pounds of milk and 707.24 pounds butter fat.

Total for two consecutive years: 1254.24 pounds butter fat.

Three Cows Living and In Milk in 1918

The following three cows owned and developed in one herd are still living and in milk in 1918:—

31725 "Jean Du Luth Beauty" (2836-Canadian), 29280.6 pounds of milk and 891.5 pounds fat.

28991 "Jean Du Luth Pear" (2843-Canadian) 16598.4 pounds of milk and 707.2 pounds fat.

24888 "Pear" (2793-Canadian), 13160.6 pounds of milk and 683.6 pounds fat.

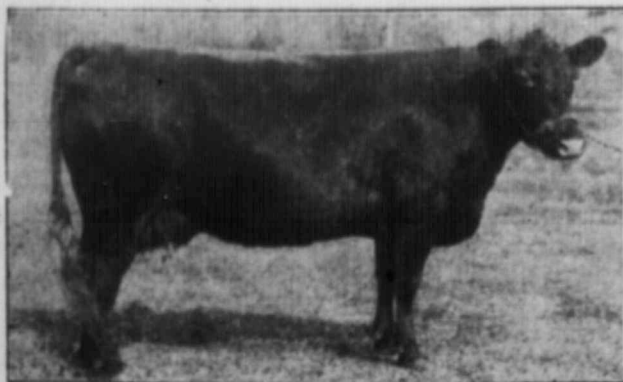
As an illustration of how the owners of the farm intend carrying on the breeding so that the good qualities will not be lost, an in-bred son of "Proctor Knott" fills his place, and it is of interest to know that he carries one hundred per cent. the same blood as "Jean Du Luth Beauty." On the daughters of "Old Proctor Knott" and those of his in-bred son "Proctor Knott IV," "Pilot Lee," a son of "Old Pear," has been bred and developed for use. The next step in line-breeding is the development of "J. D. Paul," a son of "J. D. Pear," who holds the world's record for two consecutive yearly official tests. This cow is the daughter of the world's champion long distance cow "Pear."

The success in Red Pol breeding depends on carrying two characters instead of one as is usually the case in the special purpose breeds, and to insure proper mating it is just as necessary to consider type as it is to consider production at the pail.

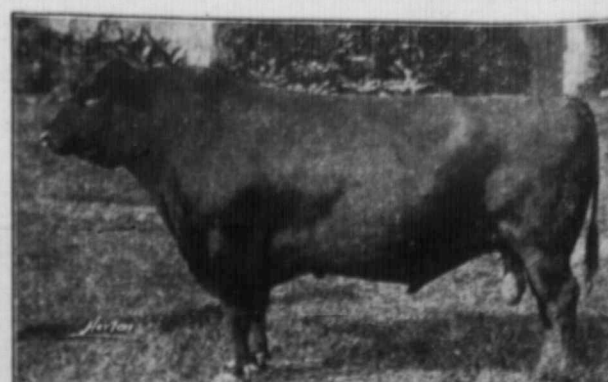
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"Jean Du Luth Beauty," weight 1,750 pounds in milking form. A splendid type of a dual-purpose cow.



"Jean Du Luth Purity." As a three-year-old "Purity" has just completed a record of better than 500 pounds of butterfat.



Red Polled Bull, "Paul." Gold Medal First Prize Winner at Edmonton Fair, 1917, and three times First at Chicago International. Weight 2,150 pounds.

The Automobile Brings the Dis

Wo

"SAY, Jessie, the broken down. Ca town for repairs stay with the time ready by the time. And this was bake-day. day in the week. But al work of the farm would delayed if she said she w ga. Fortunately she had bread in the pans and it hour before it was ready f "Why yes, Jack, I can the bread is preparing f The baby is so cross to- ride in the open air will d And the woman of the domed her coat and hat was ready to be off. This is a common inci- homes these days. Any- country one may see w their cars. It is an astor- lence to stand on the m say of our small wester note the number of wom into town on farm busin- ago I sat on the verand our small town hotels an observation. It was the came in. The train reti- day to the city. In- hours eight cars came int by women. They unload and egg crates at the s were a number of emptie farm and these were put be taken home. Two blacksmith shop for r called at the local garag and gasoline put in the e women to all appearance into town for mail and s There were at least cars among the eight. from the Ford touring passenger Studebaker. Overlands and two McI parently the common m sented no special diffi woman driver. A num had self-starters. In that were not self-start seemed to have no diffi- the women had small ch dren in the car with the Two were middle-aged. fact, one of the wom was past middle-age. E- dence would lead one believe that age was handicap in driving a e

Useful for Many Reasons

All these casual observations led one to this: that here was a field of investigation among farm women themselves. A number of women written to and their replies leave no doubt that women are good chauffeurs. They were specially requested to their experience with breakdowns, and to tell what value to farm operations their man-