

Stock.

Standard Points of Milkers.

HEAD.—Medium length; cheeks small, fine and clean; forehead broad between eyes and slightly dished; muzzle fine but distinctly marked; nostrils large, indicating great breathing power, and hence a vigorous constitution..6

EYES.—Large, bright, prominent and mild, surrounded by a circle of orange-colored skin. The eye is the index to the disposition, and a gentle, giving, motherly cow is almost invariably a good performer.....5

HORNS.—Small or medium; oval preferable to round, but direction unimportant; color yellowish-waxy.....2

EARS.—Medium size and fine, covered with fine hair; look for orange-colored skin inside.....2

NECK.—Fine, slender, rather long, and concave superiorly; attachments to head and shoulders should be neat and strong.....4

CHEST.—Moderately deep, but not wide or full. Line from lower point of brisket to top of shoulder should form the edge of a wedge of which the greatest diameter through the posterior portion of the barrel is the base.....4

BACK.—Peak of shoulder should be elevated and somewhat pointed. Many good milkers have straight backs, and some have tail attachment higher than line of back. The advantage of a slight droop towards tail attachment is that it gives strength to the loin, and this is an important point in the heavy milker, although it may not effect the milking properties. In the accompanying illustration our artist exaggerated the droop..3

CROPS.—Full, so that arms will appear to be well under body; but room for arm play is required. Girth here indicates large organs, as well as a good constitution, which is the mainspring of a heavy milker..10

BARREL.—Large, round, capacious; ribs well sprung out from backbone. Barrel should gradually and gracefully increase in girth back to hook bones, and should wedge both laterally and inferiorly; may also wedge superiorly, as shown in the illustration.....10

LOIN.—Broad and slightly arched. Here great strength is required to support weight, especially when in young. Three factors enter into strength of loin, viz., (1) droop towards tail attachment, (2) arched transversely, and (3) distance between posterior rib and hook bone not too great. Hooks should project prominently, but should not be large or coarse.....6

FLANK.—Should extend well down, covering as much of udder as possible, but should not be thick.....2

PIN BONES.—Fine, prominent, and wide apart.....3

HIPS.—Width between hips required to make plenty room from udder; here the muscle should be developed exteriorly.....3

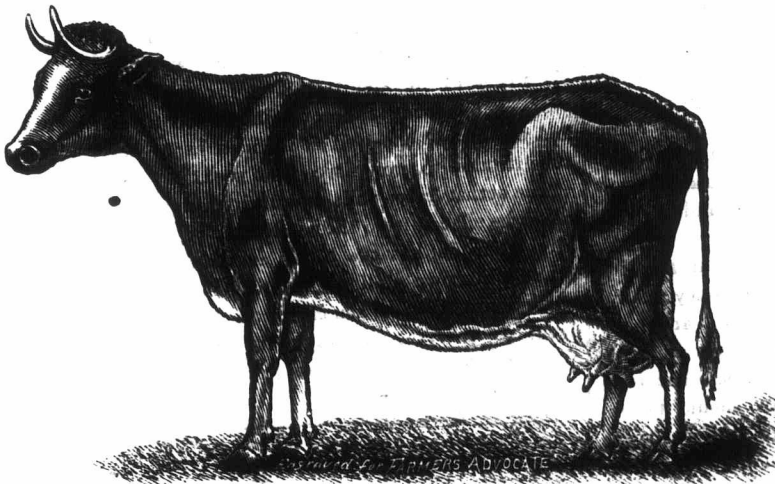
UDDER.—Should be well tucked up behind;

large, but not fleshy; should be braced well forward; teats should point outward in every direction—the fore ones anteriorly and laterally, and the hind ones posteriorly and laterally—and should be of convenient size for milking when the pressure is exerted by all the fingers; skin on udder should be thin and of fine texture, soft, silky and exuding an oily secretion; color, dark orange; hair fine, short and soft; milk veins prominent, winding, knotty-like, with entrance into barrel distinctly marked.....16

ESCUTCHEON.—Distinctly marked, wide, covering a large area of posterior portion of udder, and extending as high up between hips as possible.....3

HIDE.—Medium thickness, fine texture, loose, soft, pliable, mellow, covered with a yellowish dandruff, and with fine, soft, dense, velvety hair.....9

TAIL.—Rather long—two or three inches below hock, slim, tapering into a large, heavy switch; attachment strong, point sharp and covered with dark yellowish skin.....2



FRAME.—Large, but compactly set together; bone of fine texture, but strong; legs short, bones below knees and hocks, flat.....10

Building up a Dairy Herd.

Milkers have standard points as well as beefers, by close observation of which the best milch cow in any herd can be readily picked out. It is true that some cows defy all points, but they are rarities, and if the amateur judge first confines his attention to the standards, he will seldom fail to make a good selection. The average farmer who contemplates building up a good dairy herd will use the native cow as a basis, whether or not he commences operations with a native or a thoroughbred bull. Before considering the points, there are two important items which cannot be evaded, viz., (1) Breeding for milk alone, including quantity and quality of milk, and (2) Breeding also with a tendency to put on flesh during or after the period of dairy usefulness.

If there is any virtue in the beef-milk mode of breeding, it is under a hap-hazard system of dairying and beefing, and the best authorities now agree that in breeding an exclusively dairy herd, the beefing properties must be regarded as antagonistic to the object sought.

Prematurity and longevity do not harmonize in the same animal. The dairyman requires length of use, and if the cow carries an unnecessary weight of fat for a number of years, it is sunk capital which should have been early converted into dairy products, besides a loss of the food required to support this extra weight. The idea that a cow can be bred to have an aptitude to fatten after her usefulness for the dairy is gone, is erroneous; for the longer she is kept in a lean condition, the greater is the tendency to resist the production of fat, and this resisting quality increases in the offspring with each generation. Besides, if fat can then be produced, it is done at a heavy loss. It is true that an old cow cannot produce milk as cheaply as a younger one; but the aim should be to extend the profitable period as long as possible. The practice of milking for a few years and then slaughtering for beef at the age of six or seven is objectionable, for it can never pay to raise a beef-milk cow for the meagre dairy profits of three or four years, and then put on flesh at a profitless expense.

The standard points for judging cows noted for the quantity of their milk are quite distinct from the indications of quality milkers. So long as the existing system of associated cheese making exists, no farmer will be justified in breeding for anything but quantity of milk; but if he wishes to establish a private dairy, where the quality may have some effect in establishing his reputation in the cheese markets, the case is different. In building up a butter herd, breed in such a manner, with regard to quantity and quality, as will produce the greatest quantity, not the greatest percentage, of cream.

In all cases of breeding, however, the main object is to get a cow with a strong digestive apparatus, and able to consume large quantities of food. The food assimilated must produce something; and the aim of the dairyman should be to take the precaution that this something is milk.

All other things being equal, a large cow is more profitable than a small one; but a light cow may be the equivalent of a heavy steer. A cow is a machine in more than one sense; that is, she not only requires food to keep up heat and motion, but every muscle and every bone is built on mechanical principles, and the breeder will never attain the height of success until he so adjusts the parts that each will be proportionate to the work it has to perform.

In building up a herd management is as important as breeding. Good selection with bad management may keep the herd stationary; so may bad selection with good management. Any farmer who makes up his mind to weed out his worst cow every year, and substitute one as good as his best, will be amazed at his progress in a few years; in doing so he should not haggle over a difference of \$15 or \$20 in the price of a good cow.

A cow with all the standard points complete cannot be had; but the aim should be to get as many good points as possible. In judging