

## COMMUNITY BREEDING ASSOCIATIONS

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Of the various lines of agricultural production which might be undertaken in a co-operative way, the improvement of live stock and the building up of a reputation for the production of certain breeds in given districts through the establishment of community breeding associations is one from which much can be expected in Saskatchewan. Cattle raising was once the principal business of the west, and while grain growing is now the chief occupation of the people, there are many evidences that, as the years go by, more and more stock will be kept on the farms of this province. Stock can pasture the greater part of the year, and while some winter stabling may be necessary, our soil and climate are such that an abundance of coarse grain and fodder suited to stock feeding can be grown in all parts of the province. Moreover, the majority of our farmers come from races which for centuries have been noted for their achievements in stock production, so that our people have a natural aptitude for the business. During the past few years there has been a decided revival in the interest shown in stock keeping and it would appear that this is an opportune time to establish community breeding associations in many districts, as it is much easier to start aright at the beginning than to build up an association after a number of different types of animals have been introduced.

Community breeding associations are organisations through which farmers in a given district unite to develop one or more special breeds of live stock in their locality and to establish a reputation for the district as a breeding centre for that particular kind of stock. These associations seek to attain their object by selecting some particular breed suited to their district and then following a systematic breeding plan. Herds are tested, inferior or diseased animals are weeded out, high quality, pure bred sires of the breed selected are purchased (either collectively or individually), and are used only on good females. Speakers are obtained from the agricultural colleges, or other sources, to advise the members in their work; association sales and shows are held, and every means used to improve the stock and bring the district to the attention of the public. The chief advantages gained through the association are:

1. Much greater progress can be made in improving the stock of the community by the organised work of the association, which follows systematically, year after year, a well thought out plan, than is possible when each breeder follows his own changing ideas.
2. The establishment of breeding centres will attract buyers because good stock of a certain breed can there be obtained in large quantities.
3. Increased economy, where the herds are small, through the joint use of sires.
4. The greatest use possible can be made of a good sire, because he can be retained for a long period simply by exchanging from one group to another, thereby avoiding inbreeding.