

## Holstein vs. Ayrshire Comparisons Not Fair

Editor, Farm and Dairy: In Farm and Dairy of May 25th, comparing Holsteins and Ayrshires as profit makers, unless the tests are conducted under similar circumstances, the results of such figures are entirely misleading.

The figures referred to illustrate conclusively how unreliable are such comparisons. Mr. Clemens' figures were taken when he was trying to make his cow qualify for the highest place in the Canadian Holstein official test for 30 days. This position was worth hundreds of dollars to him and if he had fed dollar bills to attain this end it would have been economical considering what he was after. He achieved his aim. We will find, however, that after the first 30 days when Evergreen March was only milking in the yearly Record of Performance as was the Ayrshire, that her feed bill came away down, and the milk she gave would not be very much less either.

Then again the cheapness of feed available in different tests makes a difference probably 95 per cent. of Farm and Dairy readers do not know anything about feeding brewers' grains which were used by Mr. Turner.

For purposes of comparison, the Messrs. Turner might as well have said, "We stole all of our feed so that it cost us nothing to feed our Ayrshire" and work the profits out on this basis. The result of such figuring would show up well from an Ayrshire standpoint but be entirely misleading. Brewer's grains are priced by Mr. Turner at three cents. I am now buying brewers' grain at 2 1/2 cents a bushel of 60 lbs. If Mr. Clemens had fed three cents worth he could have cut out his oil cake, cut out chop and his bran and had a three cent feed bill in place of 33c, and brought his cost down 30c a day and had it at 20.82c against the 23.94c feed cost of the Ayrshire. Of course the production of the Holstein is far ahead. One can readily see how misleading the figures given by the Messrs. Turner are.

If the Ayrshire men want economy tests let them have them but competition must be under the same conditions. The Holstein Society has offered to go into such tests.—E. Came, Laval Co., Que.

## Test Your Coward Cows

C. F. Whitely in Charge of Records

In April the yield of 10 cows near Birmam, Ont., was 383 pounds of butter fat; but from records to hand from the cow testing association near Boleyn, Ont., it is seen that it took 21 cows to produce as much butter fat. In a year or two the man with these poor cows will probably have got his herd up to nearly double their present capacity because he will know for certain which cows are not worth keeping. Dairy farmers in all provinces have done this, some are now getting nearly double the amount of milk and fat as they used to obtain before they determined to gather information as to which poor cows were sheltering themselves, coward fashion, behind either a fair herd average or a heavy yield from one or two extra good cows in the herd; such, for instance as a seven-year-old grade cow near Woodstock, Ont., that gave last month 2161 pounds of milk, testing 3.3 per cent. of fat, thus giving over 73 pounds of butter fat in one month, almost double the good average yield above noted at Birmam.

Are your cows good profit makers? Test them for their cowards! It will pay you to keep records of each one and so find out.

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## The Mare and Her Colt

A mare should be given at least a week's rest after foaling in order to permit the generative tract to regain its original form and the system in general to become adjusted to the new conditions. During this time she should be kept in a comfortable box stall with occasional access to a protected lot for sunshine and exercise. After her first thirst is quenched with small allowances of water at intervals she should have access to fresh water, which may be given by placing a large pail in some protected place in her stall. Her grain diet should be rather scanty for a few days. It should consist principally of clean oats and bran. To give her a full allowance at this time is positively dangerous to both mare and foal, says the Stallion and Jack News. Digestive disorder in either may be easily induced by making a mistake at this time.

The greater number of cases of diarrhoea in foals are induced by too liberal a supply of grain to the mother at an early age. If a colt shows a tendency to such disorder, cut the grain ration of the mother at once, and remove the milk from the udder several times a day by hand so as to limit the supply to the colt.

### PUTTING THE MARE TO WORK

Before putting the mare to work, separate her from the colt for a day or two by placing the mare in an adjoining stall and permit the colt to nurse several times a day. When the mare is put into harness, let her work be of a very light character until she becomes gradually accustomed to service again.

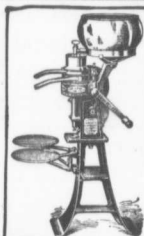
Allow the colt to remain in the stall, but bring the mare to the barn for several days during the middle of the forenoon and afternoon so as to permit the colt to nurse. Gradually the time for nursing can be extended so that three times a day will be sufficient.

We favor keeping colts in the stall rather than permit them to follow the mare, for, everything considered, it works to their advantage. A colt is much more subject to accident while following the mare and is harmed by becoming fatigued in its attempt to keep up the pace of the mother. Besides they do no little damage in tramping down growing crops. When kept in the stall they soon become contented, especially if with mates, and soon learn to nibble oats and bran, which may be kept within reach. It makes the weaning process an easy one when colts are so kept and they do not receive a check in their growth at this period. One should be careful not to have the mare hot when she is taken to the barn to nurse and it is well when this cannot be avoided to strip a part of the milk so that three times a day will not get too much.

### MILK BREAKING

A colt should be broken to halter early, and when taken upon the road should be tied alongside of its mother. This precaution will save many an accident by preventing young colts from being run through wire fences by worthless dogs are so injured in numerous ways. Especially should care be exercised if the colt is to be taken through town where traffic serves to confuse and produce all sorts of vexatious results.

In the course of a week or 10 days it is well to permit the colt access to a lot where it may have opportunity for exercise and bask in the sunshine. Do not forget that the latter is one of the best and cheapest tonics we have for growing animals and is very necessary for their thrift. These principles are the basis of the well developed, sound and healthy animal that in later years renders satisfactory service or gives back financially a good reward for the time and labor spent.



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## Holsteins or Ayrshires?

(Concluded From Page 11)

The cost of Buttercup's feed for the month was as follows:

138 lbs. bran at 1c. per lb.....	\$1.38
177 lbs. oat chop at 11-10c. per lb.....	1.95
60 lbs. barley at 11-10c. per lb.....	.66
60 lbs. gluten meal at 1 1/2c. per lb.....	.90
60 lbs. oilcake at 2c. per lb.....	1.20
360 lbs. roots at 8c. per bus.....	.48
765 lbs. ensilage at \$3 per ton.....	1.15
	\$7.72

In addition, she was fed clover hay, which some days she scarcely touched. Valuing her butter fat at 30c. a lb.—\$21.59, or a profit for the month of \$13.87, or \$2.37 greater than Evergreen March. I am forwarding her photograph with this letter to show that even those inclined to do so can hardly fault her tests either.

Mr. Bollert boasts that the high prices being paid for Holsteins are being paid by practical dairymen and not by "the wealthy city man." How poorly informed Mr. Bollert must be about the high-priced animals of his own favorite breed. Who bought Brown Bros' two cows Sarah Jewell Hengerveld and Sarah Jewell Hengerveld 3rd? Who bought May Echo recently for \$1,475 and who bid her up to \$1,450? Who bought May Echo Silva recently, paying a record price in Canada for a senior yearling heifer? Many more animals might be mentioned for both Canada and the United States which would completely disprove Mr. Bollert's statement.

Mr. Bollert states, "about the year '89 it was almost an insult to offer a man a Holstein as a present." The same was about equally true of Ayrshires or Jerseys. If, however, he will go still further back, when there were but few cheese factories and people were making butter at

home, he will easily find why Holsteins were so unpopular. People knew better than to try and obtain a churning of butter from milk testing about three per cent. butter fat and even lower, and of course they did not want Holsteins. In this connection, also, I venture to predict that within 15 years, when the Babcock test is generally adopted, as it soon will be, Holsteins will be as unpopular as they were at the period mentioned by Mr. Bollert. Men who are now investing in Holsteins because of the misleading large records we hear so much about, will then regret their lack of wisdom in not taking into consideration such other points in selecting their breed as the percentage of butter fat in the milk produced, the cost of producing that milk, and the net profit yielded by each cow.

### GOOD INDIVIDUALS IN BOTH

In concluding this letter I would like to endorse heartily Mr. Bollert's admission that there are good cows in both breeds. Those Holstein breeders who have made large records with their cows deserve every credit for what they have accomplished for dairymen in general by showing the possibilities of good dairy cows. I am not quarrelling with Holsteins as a breed or trying to reflect on them unjustly. They and Ayrshires are the two greatest breeds we have. My only aim is to show that many of the much talked of records of Holsteins are made under abnormal conditions, which, if Holstein breeders themselves could only see it, they would realize are bound in time to injure their favorite breed.

I have, of course, also endeavored to prove what I firmly believe, that the conditions are equal and the cost of feed is taken into consideration the Ayrshire cow, on the whole, is the most profitable dairy cow there is.—W. J. Carlyle, Dundas Co., Ont.