

The Dairy.

THE DAIRY COW

*Selection.—Milk yield.—Chief points.—Care and management.
Food.—Breeding.*

What breed to select for dairy purposes is very difficult to decide, but it should be some one of the special dairy purpose breeds. A dairy man wants a cow that will give him milk or butter as may be desired. This does not necessitate fancy bred stock. No disparagement is meant to pedigreed cows as milk producers, but we wish to point out that a farmer can buy a good useful dairy cow without having to purchase pure bred stock. Choose a cow that will use her food so as to make milk rather than flesh. A record of the milk given by cows should be kept and those which fall below the standard in quantity and quality of milk or the length of their milking period, should be got rid of.

A farmer going in for milk producing should not keep a cow that has a beef tendency, she will only prove unprofitable to him. You cannot get milk and beef at the same time from one animal.

A good dairy cow should give milk for 10 months in the year and during that time ought to produce not less than 6,000 lbs of good milk. Some breeds of dairy cows give richer milk than others and those giving a large quantity give poorer quality than those giving less.

In the Jerseys for example we get very rich milk but not so much in quantity; whereas, in the Holstein breed we get a large quantity but smaller percentage of butter fat.

Cows should be selected if possible where it is known their dam or sire come from a good milking strain.

The chief breeds of dairy cattle are : Shorthorns (dairy strain) Ayrshires, Jerseys, Guernseys, and Holsteins.

In the choice of a good milch cow the following points should be born in mind.

A fine bright eye, quiet and docile looking; lean flesh and not signs of making flesh instead of milk; a fine big udder, well set and with teats that are a good size and milk easily.

Plenty of width between the forelegs, to denote good lungs, and healthy chest proportions.

A fine, thin tail and a straight prominent backbone. A large milk vein.

Cows should be well fed and cared for at all times. In the winter and cold weather they should be kept comfortably housed and in the summer, when out at pasture should have some shelter from the hot sun and the flies. Cows are sensitive creatures, and it pays to treat them gently and kindly.

In the stable they must be kept clean and should be fed, watered and milked as regularly as clock-work every day.

In milking, the milker should work as fast as possible and milk the cow quite clean. If this is not done the richest part of the milk is left, and this kind of milking will cause the cow to shrink in her milk. Always milk with dry hands. Milking with wet hands is not a cleanly habit and brings dirt into the pail. Cows should be milked, as far as possible, by the same person every night and morning and at the same time each day.

In the feeding of dairy cows it should be remembered that milk is rich in albuminoids and therefore cows require a nitrogenous diet. If a cow has to rely on a large quantity of poor herbage or other watery food the milk will necessarily become poorer