

Her Sires Prepotency

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Holstein history to day.

In vitality and constitution, so closely allied with the nervous development of any animal, Inka Sylvia Beets Posch is also outstanding. On Jan. 9th, 1917, he will begin his eleventh year, and he presents a ruggedness of constitution and flashing vitality that indicates unimpaired usefulness as a sire. In the ten years of his life, he has been used extensively on some of the largest herds in Ontario. Much of it has been spent as a syndicate bull, which is possibly the hardest life any sire and yet he now shows great agility and ready response as a sire or feeder in the stall. Significant also is the fact that his dam, Inka Sylvia DeKol, is yet a producing matron at the pail and as a breeder.

A Bull of Great Prepotency.

If prepotency means the ability to transmit those qualities possessed as an individual and as coming to him from his ancestors, Inka Sylvia Beets Posch has prepotency. The long list of his producing daughters is a wonderful example of this. No sire ever stood for service in Canada that has such a record. Besides these, possibly never was a sire in the Dominion that so clearly evidenced in his own conformation and mannerisms the qualities he gives to his offspring.

The four outstanding daughters of Inka Sylvia Beets Posch are: May Echo Sylvia, owned by Mr. A. C. Hardy, Brockville, and whose record is given in full elsewhere in this article; Lawncrest May Echo, owned by the Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa, with a record as a 5-year-old of 635 lbs. milk, and 26.10 lbs. butter in seven days and 105 lbs. milk in one day; Lawncrest May Echo Posch, owned by the Allison Stock Farm, Chesterville, with a seven day record of 33.78 lbs. butter from 70.11 lbs. milk and 195.3 lbs. milk in one day; and Helena Sylvia Posch, owned by A. D. Foster & Son, who made as a 3-year-old, 23.14 lbs. butter from 670.6 lbs. milk, with best day's milk record of 100.4 lbs. Besides these he has five 4-year-old daughters with an average record of 19.85 lbs. butter and 457.8 lbs. of milk in seven days, and a long list of younger daughters, whose records space will not permit of publishing. One of merit and distinction that is especially worthy of note is Burkeye Sylvia Posch, the champion milk and butter cow of New Zealand. She was sold by A. D. Foster & Son to a New Zealand buyer, and made a record of 16.640 lbs. of milk and 505.27 lbs. butter, her test beginning at one year, 350 days, and only nine months after completing her long voyage to that country. Two young sons of Inka are making good as service sires and are reflecting creditably upon their ancestry. One of these, May Echo Sampson, is owned by the Young Street Syndicate, north of Toronto.

The claim of the owners of Inka Sylvia Beets Posch, that he is the greatest of Canadian sires cannot be disputed. His record as a sire is unexcelled and his individual merit has only to be seen to be appreciated. The illustration at the head of this article does not do him justice, but it shows him to be a strong, alert and active bull of his constitution and capacity; the kind that leaves an impress of his merit upon his descendants.

Her Dam's Productivity

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sons, seven R. O. P. daughters and four R. O. P. sons. He was a grand-son of DeKol 2nd, the great foundation cow of the breed. His outstanding daughter was May Echo, with 23,707 lbs. of milk and 1,042 lbs. butter in 7 years and 21.34 lbs. butter and 726.5 lbs. milk in seven days. These records made

her the Canadian champion, a place she held for a considerable length of time. Another good daughter of this bull was Rosa Omega, with 18,603.7 lbs. milk and 523.64 lbs. butter in a year. He has five other daughters with over 20 lbs. butter.

The grand sire of May Echo on her dam's side was Stanley Duke. He was richly bred, but was in service before record work was established in Canada. Hence he has no official backing. Several good daughters, however, were sired by him, and when we remember that he was closely related to such cows as Evergreen March and Carmen Sylvia, we at once recognize his worth to the breed. Rosa May, the dam of May Echo, also left some good daughters. Besides two of her sisters have good R.O.M. records, considering that they were made in the early days of this work. The dam daughter was Rosa May, who has three R. O. M. daughters of outstanding merit.

When we sum up the story told by the records of these animals, it makes plain the fact that May Echo had in her makeup certain good lines that were destined to make her and all her descendants famous. As an individual she impresses one in many ways. She is noted for her large, roomy heart girth, big digestive capacity, strong vitality and great mannery development. These qualities have gone down to her posterity with her name and her daughters and granddaughters resemble her in many ways. So marked is this that the writer, when visiting the Allison Stock Farm, where May Echo is enjoying her last days, was able to pick out some of her descendants by their resemblance to her. One of the strong features of the "old cow," as the boys affectionately call her, is that her udder is to-day in excellent condition, considering her age of 16 years on Dec. 9, 1916. There is no marked "breaking away," or any showing of pendulence.

The Progeny of May Echo.

The progeny of May Echo affords a subject of interesting study, because it gives evidence that prepotency dominates even when used with different sires. When she was three years old, she gave birth to May Echo Pieterie, from the sire Sir Pieterie Josephine Meachibide. This cow at four years gave 11,720.5 lbs. of milk. At four years of age she gave birth to May Echo Verbelte, the dam of May Echo Sylvia. The sire used was Verbelte 4th Count Colony. May Echo Verbelte has a yearly record of 22,347.1 lbs. milk and 29.89 lbs. butter from 704 lbs. of milk in seven days. Mated in her tenth year with Inka Sylvia Beets Posch, the sire of May Echo Sylvia, May Echo gave birth to Lawncrest May Echo, a cow of great promise, whose record is given elsewhere in this article. Her last daughter, Riverdale May Echo Lyons, was from Sir Lyons Socia, and she has a two-year-old record of 495.2 lbs. milk and 22.40 lbs. butter in seven days. This record will no doubt, be this year's heifer for the near future, as this young heifer has not yet reached the age of greatest production.

A characteristic of the entire strain and one brought out forcibly in May Echo Sylvia is that they do not reach the zenith of their production until about the sixth or seventh year, and this is continued in good form until well on to old age. Another noticeable feature, also demonstrated by May Echo Sylvia, is that their best production period is about the fifth or sixth week after freshening, this being about the time when the seven day records are made.

If space would permit, it would be profitable to trace the history of this strain down through the daughters and study their records and characteristics, but the one example of May Echo Sylvia, a daughter of May Echo

Verbelte, gives us an index of their great possibilities. In her is exemplified the great productiveness of the family. By following her ancestral history, we are able to see that her breeder obtained great results by working with nature and adhering to her laws and making them serve his ends. Together they have given to the world an unbeaten record of over 1005 lbs. of milk in seven days.

A Lesson.

If the study of the breeding and productiveness of May Echo Sylvia is to mean anything to us, it must be as an inspiration to so breed, select and develop the animals in our own charge that we can make progress along the road to achievement. One point clearly demonstrated in the bringing together of two strains from which sprang this great cow was that they "mixed." In this way she possesses in her makeup much of the good of two great strains, and it is making itself known in her production. To so choose the animals to be mated, the best in each can be concentrated in the offspring and at the same time eliminate much of the detrimental qualities is the sure mark of an intelligent breeder and one worthy of that high title.—W. G. O

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