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Our School Department.

A Dairy Cow.

In last week's issue we suggested that you study twelve points of the dairy cow and make certain observations. In this article we shall describe the dairy cow and make other suggestions that should lead up to some interesting work in your school section.

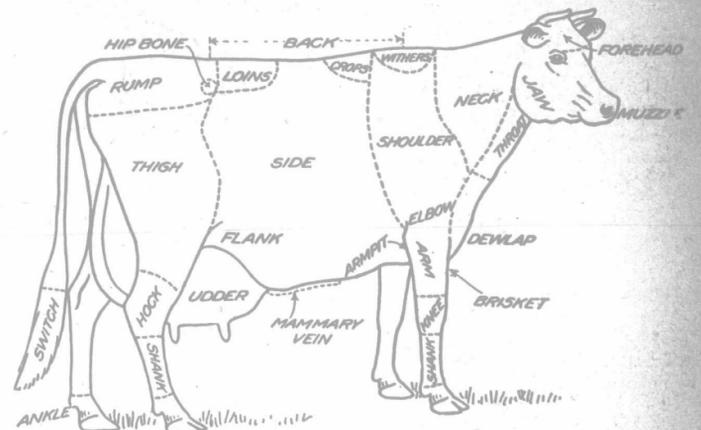
It is unnecessary to mention breed points. A good dairy cow conforms to a certain type, regardless of breed, and there are good Holsteins, Ayrshires, Jerseys and Guernseys—as well as some poor ones.

With the accompanying illustration of a dairy cow before you, note the following points in regard to conformation and see how they correspond with the conclusions you arrived at last week. The head of the dairy cow should be lean, broad of muzzle, and large of nostril. She should have prominent, clear, calm eyes, wide apart, beneath a broad, full forehead. The neck tends to be long and muscular. In males, the neck is strong and heavily muscled, but that of the cow should be long and thin. The shoulders should incline to a good angle well into the back, lying fairly close together at the top, making what are known as sharp withers. This is one place where the dairy cow differs from the beef animal. The withers and back of a Shorthorn, Hereford or Angus should be flat, broad and well covered with flesh. The vital organs of the cow lie just behind the shoulder and a good development here indicates a strong constitution. Therefore, the chest development should be ample. The ribs should be sufficiently long and arched to provide a capacious body. Flat, short ribs go with poor

to find out how many pure-bred dairy cattle there are in it, and the breeds they represent? The section could be divided with side-roads and concessions allotted to certain pupils, or groups of scholars. This work could be extended to include all breeds of live stock and the entire survey would be an asset to the school and the community. Some sections will far outclass others in regard to the numbers of pure-bred live stock reared, and the figures are a pretty good index to the progressiveness of the community.

Prize Speech at Kemptville School Fair.

We are here reproducing the first prize speech delivered at the Kemptville School Fair by Melvin Halpenny. Not only does it suggest other suitable topics for similar occasions, but it makes an interesting lesson for horticulture. The McIntosh is one of our most delicious apples and its history is herein related: "I have chosen for my subject to-day, 'the McIntosh Red Apple.' In the latter part of the 18th century the late Mr. Allan McIntosh moved to Matilda township, in the county of Dundas, Eastern Ontario. That part of the province being but newly settled, he with other new comers erected a small log house in which he and his family lived for some years. In the spring of 1796 Mr. and Mrs. McIntosh went back into a nearby woods to secure a few trees to plant about their home. Among the trees which they secured was a small apple tree. When this tree bore its first fruit the apples were of a beautiful red color, and of a lovely flavor. Mr.



The Important Points of a Dairy Cow.

feeders and bad doers. The ribs of a dairy cow should lie well apart so one can put two or three fingers between them, depending on the size of the hand. The whole middle of a good dairy cow should be large and very roomy, indicating that the cow can consume a great deal of roughage and convert it into milk. The udder is a very important part. This should extend well forward on the belly and well up behind, and should be level on the bottom. Leading forward from the udder there is to be found what is commonly called the milk vein, and which is called the mammary vein in the accompanying illustration. This supplies the udder with blood and at its foremost end it enters the body through what is often called a milk well. When this vein is large and tortuous, or winding, it is taken as an indication of good milking qualities in the cow. The size of the well through which the vein enters the body is another mark of production. The rump of a dairy cow is long and the thighs are long and well-muscled, but not fleshy.

The dairy cow may be said to be wedge-shaped in three particulars. Compare the depth from the top of the hip bone down to the bottom of the udder with the depth from the withers to the bottom of the chest. Thus it will be seen that a dairy cow tapers somewhat towards the front. The cow is also wider behind than in front and thicker through below than on top of the back.

Would it not be interesting to make a survey of the school section in order

McIntosh, realizing what the fruit was like, at once started to cultivate it. Then he took the buds and small sprouts from the tree and grafted them on to other trees. In this manner the number of 'McIntosh Red Apple' trees were soon increased. He afterwards started a nursery, securing small roots from other seedling apple trees grown by other dealers, then grafted his own sprouts on to these roots. Owing to the superior quality of the McIntosh Red apples the demand for these trees soon exceeded the supply. Mr. Harry McIntosh, the great-grandson of the late Allan McIntosh, is the present owner of the McIntosh nursery and has several thousand trees bearing fruit from year to year. In the fruit markets to-day, in Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and other cities, these apples bring from \$1.50 to \$2 per barrel more, wholesale, than any other apples in the market. Some years ago some American nurserymen tried to claim the honor of being the first producers of this famous apple, and published long articles in their papers trying to establish their claim. The people living in Dundas county, to offset this claim, erected a monument by public subscription near the present home of Mr. McIntosh, upon which is a copper plate stating that about 120 rods north of where the monument stands, there still stands the stump of the first McIntosh Red Apple tree, planted by Allan McIntosh in 1796. This stump was only blown down by a storm last summer. Here is a small branch off the original tree which I hold as a souvenir."

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