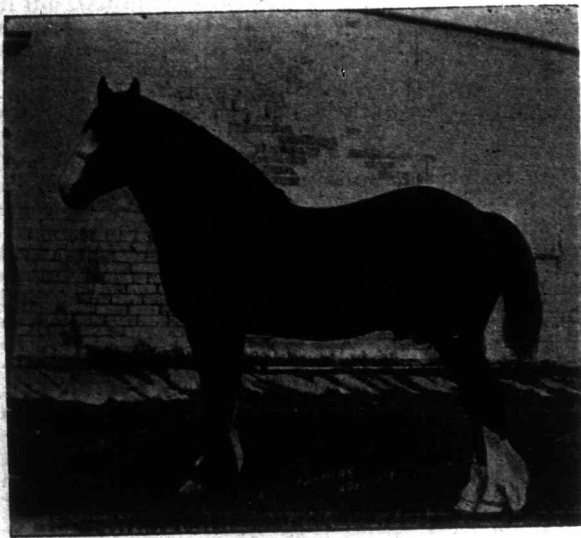


Dairy or Beef---Which?

Mr. J. W. Scott, in the *Mower County* (Minn.) *Transcript*, brings out some very interesting facts and experiments to show the wonderful superiority of the dairy cow over the bullock in the power to produce available human food from a given amount of feed.

No living machine on earth is equal to the cow in this respect. Then follows the effort of the breeder to increase the wonderful power. Mr. Scott says:

It is a fact worthy of mention that the dairy cow excels in the power to eat food and convert it into that which is suitable for man's sustenance. Take, for instance, the Ayrshire cow, Duchess of Smithfield, H. R. No. 4256, weight 1,128 lbs.; has yielded in one year 10,748 lbs. of milk, which is nine times her own weight in food product. Again, Lady Fox, Ayrshire, H. R. No. 9069, weight 900 lbs., yielded in one year 12,290 lbs. of milk, containing 535 lbs. of butter-fat. The milk contained 13.5 per



CLYDESDALE STALLION, PRINCE OF KINELLAR (2475).

Winner of second prize as a 3-year-old at the Canadian Horse Show in 1899, where he was owned and exhibited by John Davidson, Ashburn, Ont. (See Gossip, page 308.)

cent. total solids, making 1,600 lbs. solids for the year, or 4.55 lbs. per day. A steer would have to gain 10.21 lbs. live weight per day to produce 4.55 lbs. bone-free dressed meat; but the 4.55 of milk solids is also water-free, and is about 98 per cent. digestible, while the bone-free meat contains about 56 per cent. water, and is only 75 per cent. digestible; so, upon a basis of bone-free and water-free product, a steer would have to gain 21.41 lbs. live weight to equal the daily food product from this cow.

Further, take our own State Experiment Station reports of the Holstein-Friesian called Bess: a yield of 10,067 lbs. of milk in one year, containing 12.75 per cent. total solids, making an annual yield of water-free milk solids of 1,236 lbs., being an average product of milk solids of 3.3 lbs. per day. A steer would have to gain 8.07 lbs. live weight to produce 3.3 lbs. bone-free and water-free meat.

Again, from the same Station reports, we note the Guernsey cow, Sweet Belar, whose annual yield of milk was 6,364.6 lbs., containing 14.70 per cent. solids, making an annual yield of 935.6 lbs. of milk solids, or an average of 2.56 lbs. per day. A steer would have to gain 5.44 lbs. live weight to produce 2.56 lbs. bone-free and water-free dressed meat.

If these figures are not satisfactory, then let us take another comparison. Prof. Henry, in his work, "Feeds and Feeding," says a beef animal should make 3 lbs. of beef on the same food on which a cow makes 1 lb. of butter. Now I will not refer to any particular cow, for I have certified records of several of different breeds that yielded 74 lbs. of milk in one day, containing 4.8 per cent. of fat, or 3.55 lbs. of butter-fat, equal to 4.25 lbs. of butter. So a beef animal should make 12.75 lbs. or over 18 lbs. live weight per day to equal said production.

Now, in contrast with these few illustrations, let us refer to a few Experiment Station reports as to the daily gain in steers:

| 1ST. ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. | |
|---|-------|
| Average weight of steers fed on roots and barley. | 1,061 |
| Daily gain. | 2.14 |
| 2ND. SAME STATION. | |
| Average weight of steers fed on roots and corn. | 1,106 |
| Daily gain. | 2.31 |
| 3RD. KANSAS EXPERIMENT STATION. | |
| Average weight of steers fed on balanced ration. | 1,083 |
| Daily gain. | 2.4 |
| 4TH. SAME STATION. | |
| Average weight of steers fed on corn and stover. | 1,211 |
| Daily gain. | 1.7 |
| 5TH. TEXAS EXPERIMENT STATION. | |
| Average weight of steers fed on corn and cotton seed. | 576 |
| Daily gain. | 1.9 |

Further, we may see what may be accomplished by early maturity, by taking the results obtained by Mr. W. A. Harris, of Linwood, Kansas. Mr. Harris fed pure-bred and grade Shorthorn calves, coming in December, January and February, until the following December, at which time they averaged 11 months old. These calves received

most of their dam's milk until 6 or 7 months old. He calculates that they consumed:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 20 bushels ear corn, worth. | \$ 5.00 |
| 1,000 lbs. bran, worth. | 6.00 |
| 300 lbs. oil meal, worth. | 3.00 |

Total cost of grain.....\$ 14.00

Add to this what pasture they could eat and hay at \$4, also the milk from the dam, during the 6 to 7 months. These calves weighed from 910 to 920 lbs. each at 11 months, and sold for from \$3.80 to \$5 per cwt. When the short time for the capital invested is considered, it would seem a satisfactory return.

No Room for Poor Cows.

There is just one good use for poor dairy cows—their hides make elegant blacksmiths' aprons. The country has a surfeit of them, many of which are in good homes and ought to have their "pictures turned toward the wall." Poor cows are not altogether a question of breed, but like plugged coins are likely to turn up in any denomination. Then, like bad money again, they are either "passed" on to the next fellow or kept at home because they appear to represent something. They are counterfeits, nuisances, gold-bricks—anything that represents a swindle. They have no claim to sympathy—nor feed.

Cut out the poor kind and pay more attention to good cows, good feed and correct methods. The cow you want is one that will return good, honest products in paying quantities without the aid of artificials. She is the cow there is always room for—a money-maker. She may not be just the "type" you want, but if she pays her board and "lays by" a little, she has "type" enough to justify her stall allowance and daily ration. Look out for the good cow and corral every one you can. If she makes gilt-edge dairy goods in paying quantities you can afford the room for her, no matter what breed. Even if she don't happen to be of the breed you like best, and you are after money in the dairy, the good cow will do to keep—until she fails you. But there is no room in the dairy for poor cows—whether they are poor in quantity or quality.—*Jersey Bulletin*.

U. S. Live Stock Outlook.

And why, pray, should not the stockmen of the United States be for the new order of things? Less than ten years ago your range horses were selling at from \$5 to \$25 on the market. To-day they bring from \$20 to \$50, while your high-class saddle and coach horses are selling at their highest figure, even to \$1,000 each. Less than ten years ago your cattle down here in Texas were sold at \$8 for a cow, with calf thrown in; while to-day the cow is worth from \$15 up, and the calf at least \$10 more.

Less than a decade has passed since wool went "wool gathering" at 8 cents per pound on the range, while next year's crop is now being contracted by the big buyers at 20 cents on the ranch; while your sheep, which wandered aimlessly over the cactus plains and sage brush flats, could find no buyer at \$1.50 and \$2, whereas now anything with wool on its back is being searched for with great diligence at from \$2.50 to \$4 each.

Yes, and not to overlook the American hog: Years ago he squealed for takers at \$2.75 per cwt., while now \$4.75 and \$5 is paid without the squeal being thrown in at all.

Is it any wonder, my friends, when you look the facts squarely in the face, that the live stock industry of the United States is to be found harnessed to the chariot of progress?—*John G. Springer, President of the National Live Stock Association, at the Ft. Worth meeting.*

How to Feed Pigs.

Owing to the fact that both horses and pigs have only single compartments in their stomachs, and that these organs are of very small size in comparison with the immense four-chambered stomachs possessed by cattle and sheep, the motto of the pig breeder, as well as of the horse owner, should be to "feed often and feed in small quantities." Horses should be fed at least three times a day, and pigs just as often.

One of the reasons why pigs kept by our small farmers thrive so well and keep in such excellent condition, from the time they are bought as weanlings till they are sold as baconers, is because they are continually running about the cottages and picking up bits and scraps of food at almost all hours of the day. Such treatment is much more conducive to their good health and satisfactory progress than that under which they are given large feeds at a time, but given these feeds only at long intervals. And as with pigs, so with horses.

Many fatal cases of colic and other ailments among horses are directly due to giving the animals large feeds of corn after long fasts. Owing to the great hunger from which animals are suffering, they are tempted to overload their stomachs with the food given them, and the inevitable result is that the digestive organs become over-burdened and unable to perform their proper functions.—*Farmers' Gazette*.

Buying Breeding Stock.

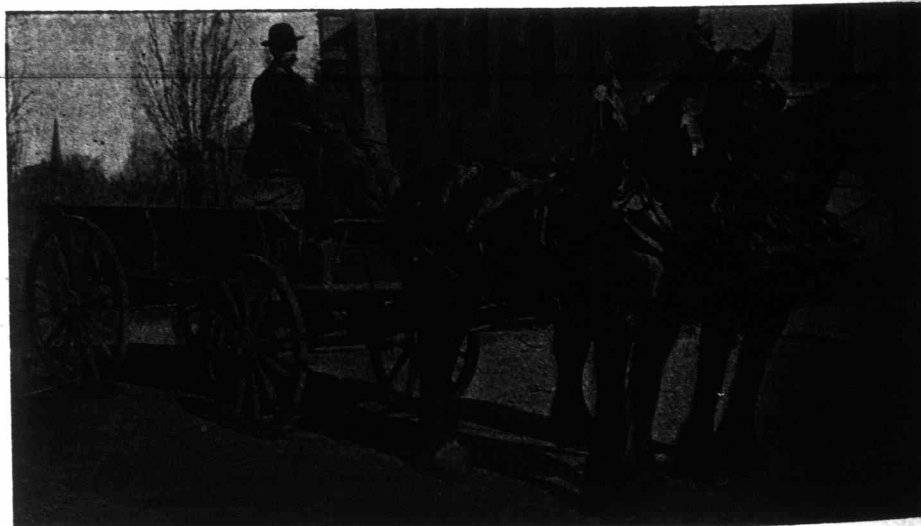
THE CHEAPEST NOT ALWAYS THE BEST.

There seems to be such a general misunderstanding in regard to the values of pure-bred live stock, says a writer in *The Farmer and Stockbreeder*, that I would like a few lines in regard to the matter. I shall speak chiefly of pure-bred cattle, but the statements are generally applicable to all classes of pure-bred stock.

A fair sample of a great many letters received by persons in the pure-bred cattle business is something like this: "Please send me the very lowest price which you will take for one bull and three heifers, all one year old." Now that is a very difficult inquiry to answer. This inquiry means to the breeder, "What will you take for the four poorest and meanest yearlings you have in your herd?" but he very well knows that is not what the prospective buyer wants to know. The inquirer has plainly shown that he is not posted in the pure-blood stock business, and the seller must begin a course of education. It may seem strange, but it is nevertheless true, that all pure-bred animals of the same breed and same age are not of the same value. They seem to think that when they have written to different breeders and obtained prices for animals of the same age, then they have nothing to do but pick the cheapest and go into business. They then wait for a success that never comes. There is no one thing that is doing the live stock interest so much harm as the man who is breeding cheap pure-bred stock. The farmers of this country must learn that the name "pure blood" does not always imply good stock. They must learn that there is such a thing as a pure-blood scrub, and that he is worse than the old-fashioned scrub.

Pedigree.—We have passed the day when a pedigree means anything, unless it be backed up by individual merit and an ancestry of like merit. A pedigree is of very little value, except that it shows the animal to be descended from illustrious ancestors—illustrious because of the superior individual merit of each one. It adds very little value to an animal to know that one of his ancestors six or seven generations back was a great prizewinner if none of that ancestor's descendants have proved to be prizewinners. When you find a pedigree all the names on which were illustrious individuals, and the animal himself is also a superior individual, then the word pedigree means something, and you need not fear paying a good round price for him. It is that sort of a pedigree that makes breeders pay a good many dollars for the animal to which it belongs. It is just such a cause as this that makes such a great difference in the prices of pure-bred animals of the same age.

The inexperienced buyer desiring to make his first purchase really derives very little information from the answers to his inquiries for prices which



SHIRE MARES, VIOLET AND MAUD.

Violet, 3 years old, won 2nd in class for Shire mares any age. The pair won 2nd in class for draft pair, any breed, shown in harness.

OWNED AND EXHIBITED AT CANADIAN HORSE SHOW BY JOHN GARDHOUSE, HIGHFIELD, ONT.

he gets from different breeders. He is simply surprised to find out that one breeder asks him from \$75 to \$100 for a yearling heifer, while another one asks him from \$125 to \$150 for a heifer of the same age. The breeder who asks him the lower price probably does the most bragging.

My advice to the buyer would be to go to see both the breeders, spending time enough at each place to learn something, and find out why one asks twice as much money as the other. The chances are ten to one that the breeder asking the higher prices has the animals that are nearest worth what he asks for them. The buyer must judge as to that, but he is generally safe in the hands of a breeder of national reputation.

A very good place to get an education in prices is