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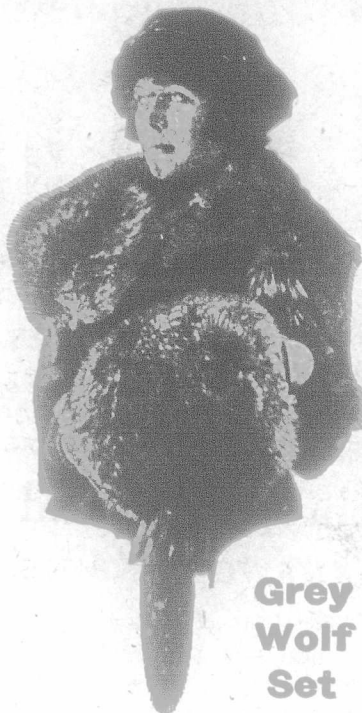
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Our School Department.

Judging Dairy Calves.

(Continued from last issue.)

Now, in regard to the general conformation of a dairy cow or calf, we would say, in brief, that this type of animal is usually wedge-shaped, and this particular conformation can be noticed when viewing the animal from three points of observation. The dairy cow is rather thin and narrow on top, and broadens out toward her underline. Viewed from the side, the dairy cow is deeper in the hind quarters than in front, and also viewed from in front the cow is somewhat thicker behind. Select a typical dairy cow and view her from these three directions, namely, from on top, from the side, and from the front. What is true of the cow is more or less true of the calf, and one must select the calf that he thinks will develop into the right kind of a cow.

Taking the dairy calf more in detail, and beginning with the head, one would expect to find it lean and rather long, as compared with the beef animal. However, the forehead should be wide, the eye full and bright, and the muzzle large. Unlike the beef animal, the neck should be slim and join an equally thin and bare shoulder, with the withers sharp, yet open. The body of the animal should be deep and thick through at the bottom, but the dairy calf should not be broad and thickly fleshed on top, such as we would look for in a beef calf. The heart girth is also an indication of vigor, and therefore the calf should not be lacking in constitution. The hips should be sharp and wide apart, and the hip bones rather prominent, although not as prominent in the dairy calf as in the mature animal, of course. The thigh ought to be in-curving and thin, instead of full and thick as in the beef animal. One must also look for some promise of udder development and milk veins, and the teats should be evenly placed. Select calves with soft, fine skin, silky hair, and bone of fine texture. Quality is quite as desirable in dairy calves as in other classes of live stock.

Dairy-bred calves of all breeds should have a long quarter, that is, long from hook to pin bones. This is a promise in heifers that they will eventually possess a large well-attached udder. Cows with short quarters seldom have the best udders.

Male and female dairy calves can be judged much according to the same standard, up to one year of age, when the sex characteristics have developed to some extent.

It is permissible for dairy calves to carry some flesh and display this characteristic a little more than aged cows. Dairy heifers will sometimes milk down to correct form when lactation commences, and one must look to the conformation, quality, and appearance to guide him when judging good calves.

SCALE OF POINTS FOR DAIRY CATTLE— Cow.

General Appearance:

- Form, inclined to be wedge shaped. 6
- Quality, hair fine, soft; skin, mellow loose, medium thickness; secretion yellow; bone clean, fine. 6
- Temperament, nervous, indicated by lean appearance when in milk 5

Head and Neck:

- Muzzle, clean cut; mouth large; nostrils large. 1
- Eyes, large, bright, full, mild. 1
- Face, lean, long, quiet expression. 1
- Forehead, broad. 1
- Ears, medium size, yellow inside, fine texture. 1
- Horns, fine texture, waxy. 1
- Neck, fine, medium length, throat clean, light dewlap. 1

Fore Quarters:

- Withers, lean, thin. 1
- Shoulders, light, oblique. 2
- Legs, straight, short; shank fine. 2

Body:

- Chest, deep, low, girth large with full fore flank. 10
- Barrel, ribs broad, long, wide apart; large stomach. 10
- Back, lean, straight, open jointed. 2
- Loin, broad. 2
- Navel, large. 2

Hind Quarters:

- Hips, far apart, level. 2
- Rump, long, wide. 2
- Pin Bones or Thurls, high wide apart. 1
- Tail, long, slim; fine hair in switch. 1
- Thighs, thin, long. 4
- Escutcheon, spreading over thighs, extending high and wide; large thigh ovals. 2
- Udder, long, attached high and full behind, extending far in front and full, flexible, quarters even and free from fleshiness. 20
- Teats, large evenly placed. 5
- Mammary veins, large, long, tortuous, branched with double extension; large and numerous milk wells. 5
- Legs, straight; shank fine. 2
- Total. 100

Storage of Fruits.

BY DR. D. W. HAMILTON, IN "NATURE STUDY LESSONS."

The food of a squirrel consists of nuts, acorns, wheat, and other fruits and seeds. Because he can't find much food in winter, even if he were about, he makes a habit of laying up a winter store of provisions, and toward the end of autumn, when acorns and nuts are in prime, he becomes very busy in gathering these little treasures, which he hides in all sorts of nooks, crevices, and holes near the tree in which he lodges. The red squirrel must have a very good memory, for he always remembers the spots where he deposits his food; and even when the snow is thick upon the earth he goes straight to the store-house, scratches away the snow, and obtains his hidden treasures. During the last few weeks in autumn the squirrel pays daily visits to the nut trees and examines their fruits carefully. He detects every worm-eaten or bad fruit and selects only the soundest, which he takes to his hidden storehouse. Feeding abundantly on the rich products of a fruitful autumn, the squirrel becomes very fat before the commencement of the winter, and he then looks better than at any other time of the year, with his new fur, and bushy tail. Just as the squirrel has made preparation for his needs should he wake up in the winter, so the coming bareness of the fields in autumn tells us that we must lay away food for a winter supply. Before men learned to sow grains and wait for the harvest they used to store up nuts just as the squirrels do. In digging into the heaps near to where these men and women of long-ago lived, we find no grains, but great stores of hazelnuts and acorns, some still sticking to the sides of vessels in which they had been roasted for food. The striped squirrel or chipmunk lays away a large store of nuts in a hole in the ground and lives in his underground home all winter, where he is safe and warm and has plenty to eat. When the warm days of spring come he crawls out to take a look at the beautiful world. In summer and autumn a bear eats a great many berries and other fruits and becomes very fat. When the cold weather comes he goes to sleep in a hollow tree and lives on his fat during winter, coming out in spring, thin and hungry. A beaver lays away a great many twigs and pieces of bark and eats the bark during winter. We see, therefore, that many animals have learned to store away food for winter. Red squirrels always make their homes in trees. In summer they build as near the top of the tree as possible, but in winter they choose a hollow tree. Here, after eating a lot of nuts and becoming very fat and sleepy, they curl themselves up for a long winter's sleep. Sometimes they wake up on warm days and are seen running over the snow; but they have been careful to lay up a store of food near their winter home, not all in one place, but in several holes in their own or neighboring trees, and this is uncovered and eaten.

"And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought, in abundance, the first fruits of corn, wine and oil and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly."

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