



FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for amongst the cultivators of the land. — Lord Chatham

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Relationship of Type to Production in Dairy Cows

The Points on the Modern Score Card are all Commonly Found Amongst Economical Producers

THE evolution of the dairy cow from the small, shaggy, coarse animal of centuries ago, to the large animal of the present with her capacity for enormous production, has not been the result of chance, but represents the careful work of cattle breeders for many centuries in domesticating, in better feeding and in selection for more size, type and quality. The great demand for increased production in the dairy herds has caused this evolution.

The Change in Show Ring Standards.

There is a common impression amongst farmers that there are two types of cattle in all breeds, namely, show type and production type, and that these types are radically different. Unfortunately, in the history of many of the modern dairy breeds such, in the past, was true. For example, the Ayrshire cattle were so carefully selected and bred for beautiful lines, long, level udders, and other fancy points that these desirable characteristics were carried to extremes, at the expense of other and more essential characteristics. One fault of the show Ayrshire developed through this course of selection was an udder so extremely shallow that it lacked capacity and was almost invariably accompanied by short teats. Another fault was the beef tendencies due to the general compactness and smoothness desired in the show ring. However, in recent years, for this as well as for other breeds, show-ring standards have rapidly changed. Although the gracefulness and the beauty of the breed have not been forgotten, more openness and more dairy characteristics have been introduced. The lessons from the history of the Ayrshire have been well learned by breeders of all modern breeds of dairy cattle, and each year we see more uniformity, quality and smoothness, together with accompanying style and character introduced into all rings of dairy cattle, while at the same time both breeders and judges guard against beefiness, short teats and similar faults.

It is my impression that under the intelligent judge the producing type in its best form is now our best show type. It is true that there are a few large, rough, plain cows with great production records, but these are the exception and not the rule. A careful study of the highest and most economical producers of milk and butterfat in all modern dairy breeds proves this conclusively. Beauty of form may go with the type of the highest producers, hence animals combining beauty and greatest production are the most valuable and in greatest demand. Beauty of form—in other words, show type—combines a graceful conformation of the type representing most economical production with greatest quality. It is impossible to review a scale of points, but a brief consideration of the essentials from a viewpoint of both type and production is herewith given.

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There is a distinct correlation between the various parts of the dairy cow, an example of which is seen in the cow with a large muzzle being usually a good feeder. An efficient judge works on this principle of correlation in carefully analyzing each animal, and must not be a faddist or lay too much stress on any single character. Considering briefly the most essential points in the dairy cow, one naturally starts with the udder development. Amongst the highest producers of any of

the dairy breeds a large percentage of cows have large udders as to capacity, but at the same time udders which are strongly attached to the body, lacking meatiness and of great flexibility and quality. Size of udder always goes with great production, but the pendulous, meaty or ill balanced udder is never found on the cow which is capable of making the greatest and most economical production of milk and fat. The quarters and udder must be even and the teats of good size and well placed. It is quite essential that the udder should have more depth than has for many years been specified by the Ayrshire enthusiasts in order that there may be greater capacity for milk and the accompanying larger teats. The milk veins must be long, tortuous and contain numerous and large milk wells. These are common standards of the show-ring, and are almost invariably found amongst the best producing cows. Again, there is a distinct relationship between the straightness, width and length of the hindquarters of the cow and the length, width and levelings of the udder. Almost always drooping quarters are accompanied by udders which are badly tilted forward. The capacity of the cow for feed is as essential as her capacity of udder for the manufacturing of this feed into milk, considering the enormous amount of work which a cow must perform in order to manufacture ten tons or more of feed a year into the finished product. The cow with a long, well sprung, open formation of rib almost invariably is the cow which is the most economical consumer and producer of feed and, if the udder development is proportionate, is the cow which is most persistent in her milk flow. Again, the capacity of the forequarters of the cow must be such that the heart and lungs may have ample development for the production of sufficient blood to perform the normal functions of digestion of foods and manufacture of milk. These three great essentials of the dairy cow, namely, capacity of udder, capacity for feed, and constitution, naturally evolve the wedge-shaped type of cow, which is quite unlike beef type. The general straightness of top line, the depth increasing from front to rear, the width at the shoulder points increasing to greater width of barrel, all tend to produce the three wedges commonly sought for by the judges of dairy cattle, and these wedges are found in all the cows which rank amongst our world's greatest producers.

Space prevents going into details as to quality of the cow, which must be of the same efficiency, as conformation in order that she may be the most economical machine. However, all points which are commonly found on the modern score card have been found commonly amongst our most economical producing dairy cows. Because a cow

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WE approach the season of Christmas rejoicing, when greetings of affection and friendship are in order, let us bear in mind that it is not the words of greeting, but the spirit in which they are uttered that has significance. Let us not forget that there are other days in the year besides Christmas for an encouraging word, a friendly greeting and a sympathetic handicap. If Christmas is better than any other day in the year, it is because the feeling of fellowship belongs to it. Why not soften the asperities of life, extend the helping hand, and give the word of comfort and good cheer on every fitting occasion? How much happier the world would be if all sought to have the Christmas spirit abide with us always! The Christmas season with its holy memories, filled with the spirit of good cheer, appears to old and young alike. We cannot forget it if we would, and we would not if we could. It fills our minds and hearts with sweet and generous thoughts, and tends to make us better friends and better citizens. If it were blotted out, that which is best in the year would be lost to us. This is the season when our chief happiness consists in giving happiness to others.