

ling difference was discernable. In one herd the best cow yielded 450 lbs. fat during the full period of lactation, while the best cow in another herd gave only 141 lbs. With butter fat at 25 cents a lb., the one cow is credited with \$112.70, and the other with only \$35.25. This is a difference of \$77.45 between these two cows. Assuming that the cost of feed is the same in both cases, and is \$30, we find that 13 cows in the one case would equal 188 of the other.

### The Dual Purpose Cow

Wm. A. Wallace, Carleton Co.  
Many men say that there is no such thing as a dual purpose cow. They claim that if a cow gives milk enough to pay her way with \$25 or \$30 profit, she is no use as a beef producer and therefore is not dual purpose.

Such cows as the above-mentioned, if properly bred and cared for, can be classed as dual purpose. I have them in my own herd. I have bred and raised them myself. I have watched with intense how they have paid us as milk producers and then how nicely they have put on flesh, which would make them fairly profitable as beef producing animals, if we did not desire to milk them any longer. If we want to make beef animals out of their young, we can with fine profit, for they must be bred and fed for that purpose. They can not be obtained in all breeds of cattle. They must have a cross with some of the beef-producing sires, such as the Shorthorn, for instance.

I have a cow whose dam was nearly purebred Holstein-Friesian, and crossed to a Shorthorn sire, giving me what I call a dual purpose cow. This cow is large, smooth, broad backed, even quartered, and an excellent milker. When put dry, she is very easily fleshed. I find also that grade Shorthorn cows make fine all-round cows, if properly raised. By properly raised, I mean that the cows must be well cared for, from calfhood; kept in good flesh, not over fat, but always kept growing and bred to come in when about 30 months old, kept milking about 10 months each year, and well fed all the time with milk producing feed. Their stomachs are then in a good healthy condition, and if they are allowed to grow, they will be found to be worth something as flesh producers.

If the ordinary farmer is going to have this kind of cow, he must make up his mind to stop breeding from the scrub bull, as the scrub cattle are the last cattle that should be on any farm.  
The Ayrshire cow and the Shorthorn sire makes an excellent cross for producing dual purpose cattle. They give very hardy animals, and perhaps healthier ones than the Holstein and Shorthorn cross, but as a rule they are a little more nervous than the latter cross.  
I have not tried the Ayrshires and Holsteins, therefore do not know what they would produce. As the farmers of Ontario are situated, I think that they desire cows that will give fair returns as milkers. They can then raise some young stock for beef. Ontario will always need beef, no matter how much cheese is manufactured. As help of the right kind is hard to obtain, we must handle our farms to the best advantage by producing the most beef for the home market.

I strongly advocate using a pure bred Shorthorn sire of the right type every time and do not expect every heifer calf to be a dual purpose animal. Some of them will not be heavy milkers. The butcher will take these off your hands when young, and give you a paying price for them. Keep and breed from such heifers as prove themselves to be good milkers. We will then soon have cows that will be a credit to Ontario farmers, and we will make twice the money out of our stock.

Ontario Department of Agriculture

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