



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada



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

VOL. XXXV

PETERBORO, ONT., JUNE 29, 1916

No. 25

Clearcut, Expert Advice to Young Breeders*

Prof. Barton, of Macdonald College, Draws Attention to Some of the Signboards on the Road to Success

A YOUNG man starting out in the breeding business without a knowledge gained by previous study and experience is facing a huge problem. This problem is made still greater by the fickle and unstable methods practised by many breeders of the different kinds of live stock. There are very few ideal individuals of any breed, but there are fewer ideal breeders handling that breed.

A man who goes out to buy foundation stock for a dairy herd is forced to deal with the following facts: A selection must be made from the stock on the farms of the breeders of that kind of cattle, and some of these breeders may be unable to furnish him with authentic information regarding the origin and relative history of their animals, except in the case of a few individuals of recent breeding. There is practically nothing written or known by most breeders of the type, constitution, breeding ability, transmitting qualities, defects, or outstanding perfections of any family of the breed. If anxious to obtain a foundation of certain blood lines he will find it hard to get a number of animals containing a working percentage of that blood. Families have been outcrossed with other families so widely that it is hard to procure individuals without some intermingling of blood from foreign strains.

Ideal Characteristics.

A real breeder is a student of his vocation and of his breed. This necessitates his being a broad-minded person. No man, to be truly successful as a breeder, can be so narrow-minded as to only see a place in the world's history for the breed in which he is interested. A knowledge of other things, and especially of things relating to other breeds, will contribute much to his success as a breeder.

It is very necessary that he have as thorough a knowledge of his own breed as is possible, and this knowledge must not be of their good qualities alone. By knowing their defects and weak points, he is better able to intelligently guard against reproducing them. By knowing the strong points of individuals of families, he is able to shape his breeding policy so as to reproduce these strong points. This knowledge is best gained by a careful study of their type and production wherever this data can be procured.

The place where the most careful and systematic study must be given, however, is in his own herd. The ancestry of each individual should be studied, not for production alone, but for constitution and well-balanced type of the kind that is profit producing, and that will stand the strain of years of hard work. A simple and efficient

record of the produce should be kept. He must mate carefully, select wisely, and feed judiciously. His study should be broad and deep, and con-



A Business Man on Farmers

By COL. E. P. HOLLAND.

NO matter what branch of commerce you are engaged in, you must realize that the farmers are the carbo-reuters through which the fuel is supplied that makes the business motor travel.

If the farmer should decide not to furnish the fuel for a period of three months the business motor would go dead. Your factories would be forced to dismiss their employees and every mercantile establishment would close its doors. Every man not a farmer would be searching the highways and byways for remnants of food to supply the human motor and keep it going ever so slowly, until the farmer got busy and supplied the fuel to speed it up to its normal condition.

The agricultural paper is the accelerator; and as all business of whatever nature is dependent upon crop conditions and the farmer's buying capacity, if you would speed up your business car, keep it always abreast of conditions, and do not, for a single moment, get out of touch with this important business accessory.

With proper methods for distributing and marketing our farm products there will never be an over-supply, and even though we should greatly increase our farm acreage and multiply the acreage yield, there can always be found open mouths, empty stomachs and naked backs demanding all that we can produce.

It is as long as he is a breeder, for it is vital to his success.

Ideal Breeding.

It may be possible, as already pointed out, for a young breeder to purchase as much of one strain of female blood as he would like, but the animals purchased should be of good type and of as good breeding as can be secured with the means at his disposal. There is no place for culls

in the pure bred business, and this is even more true in the keeping of grades for commercial purposes. What bull is to be used with these cows is a most important consideration. He has the power to either make or break the herd. Within reason, money should be no object when purchasing a sire. The better the breeding a bull has, the more value he is, but inseparable from his breeding is individuality and type, and the further this can be traced back in his ancestry the more valuable will be. It is hard to judge the results of such an animal upon the foundation cows until their heifers have freshened, but even when calves are small the careful breeder will be able to form a fair idea of what to expect from them. If the calves promise well two things are to be remembered. The bull should not be disposed of until his value in the herd has been established beyond question, and his daughters should be bred to another bull containing the same blood as the family, only distant enough to avoid bad results.

To all breeders I would say, do not change from one family to another. Practise continuity. It has been proven beyond doubt that big producers are bred in channels. Start breeding in a definite channel and make progress in that channel. There will always be enough channels for each breeder to have one. When you have a start with a bull that is giving big results make the most out of him. This can only be done by keeping and using him to the best advantage.

Of the females, there are few breeders who ever have a surplus of the best ones. Breeding is a long distance race, and many big results are not achieved under ten years, so hold your best cows and keep in the family those giving you the largest returns. This means getting rid of the inferior ones and the misfits. These are sure to come, but if you are in sympathy with your own interests, and have the good of your breed at heart, do not distribute them. The auction sale is often made a medium for disposing of these culls, and this is destroying the usefulness of this method of selling. If you sell by public auction, sell animals of good repute that can be advertised and will bear inspection.

The pathway of the breeder is hard and complicated. Problems must be faced that are gigantic, and the results are, sometimes costly and undesirable. The reward of the successful breeder, however, is that his work is remunerative, and that he has the satisfaction of knowing that he is achieving a real success in his chosen vocation.

Farmers spend millions of dollars every year on poisons to kill insects which might otherwise be destroyed by birds without any such costs, if they were here in sufficient numbers.

*Reprinted report of an address delivered at the Archival Breeders' Field Day, Newwich, Ont., on June 15.