



FARM AND DAIRY



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas.

& RURAL HOME

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

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Shall the Beginner Start With Pure Breds?

Capital is Required to Make a Success With Them—By "Oxford"

THE young man making a start in stock raising is often faced with the problem, "Shall I begin with pure bred, or with grades?" As a general rule, even though he may be handicapped financially, there is an appeal to him in raising pure bred stock. He sees in them a chance for double profits, both the profit which comes from the meat or milk value of the animal, and the profit which comes from the extra selling price of pure bred stock for breeding purposes. In many cases he reasons that the same equipment and the same labor will do for one as the other, and that his only outlay in order to reap these extra profits is that which he must first expend in getting the foundation stock.

This is the first fallacy in his reasoning. Pure bred stock require more attention than grade stock. If the pure bred are valuable (and low grade pure bred are a mighty poor investment) their care becomes exceedingly important. The high producers have been bred under artificial conditions and seem to be more susceptible to diseases than the ordinary scrub which roams the fields in summer and the farmyard in winter. If anything happens a valuable animal, the loss with a given investment is much greater in proportion to the total than would be the case should a scrub animal or even a good grade animal die. This loss is especially discouraging to a young man who is trying to get into the business and whose capital has been so limited that he has only been able to purchase a few high grade animals. Unless he can give his animals special attention, the financial risks are great.

Not only must the farmer who keeps pure bred stock be able to make them produce, but he must also have the qualifications of a breeder. Of course his chances for large profits as well as large losses are increased, but with this small capital he cannot afford to be a gambler. If animals are valuable a good number should be kept to keep down overhead costs. For instance, the feed, labor, barn room, interest and depreciation on a \$500 bull will usually amount to about \$200 a year. If he is used to head a herd of 10 cows, there will be \$20 to charge up against each cow. If 40 cows, however, are included in the herd, his services will cost but \$5 each. Thus it is only with large numbers of pure bred that one can afford the high quality male breeders or the advertising necessary to make business profitable. But with a given capital more grades could be kept and so pay for his services.

Pure Bred Cattle Demand Care.

The manager of a pure bred herd must not only be an expert in breeding for breed conformation, but he must be able to get utility into his herd. Pure bred require more expensive feeds and

more expensive management if they are to return maximum results. Not only is it more necessary that the young stock be kept in perfect condition for growth if they are to be sold for good prices as breeders, but in their production of milk, for instance, a larger flow must be given—before they begin to pay profits than would be the case with grades, for while the depreciation and interest on a \$100 cow is about \$16, that on a \$300 cow is reckoned at \$57. It has been found from experiments with a large number of cows that about 10 per cent. has to be charged for depreciation on good grades and a slightly higher percentage as the value of the animal increases.

Another popular fallacy among beginners in live stock breeding and one which is fostered by many writers, is that in buying foundation stock, if the capital is limited, it is better to buy cheap pure bred than good grades. The reason given is that grading up work may be done with the pure

breeds as easily as with the grades. When finally high producers have been attained, these animals will have their pedigrees, while grades, no matter how good producers they were, would never be eligible for registration.

The worst feature of this is that in expending a given amount of money for an animal, you will usually get a much poorer type of pure bred than may be obtained in a grade. For instance, good grade milkers may be obtained for \$125 or \$150, while the pure bred that would be obtained for the same price would usually be little more than a scrub and a poor type to act as the foundation for a herd. It has been the experience of many breeders who have tried out this practice that if a poor class of pure bred are used as foundation stock, it takes many, many years of careful breeding to get any results worth while in the breeding world. The poor blood is continually cropping out in succeeding generations. The advice of one breeder who followed this practice is this: "Buy good grades to carry on with, and then purchase one good pure bred and build up your herd from her progeny."

Of course if one has the capital necessary to go into pure bred breeding, all well and good. There are two sources of incomes to be derived from breeding pure bred dairy cattle, the income from milk and that from the offspring which may be sold for breeding purposes. It must be remembered that the real value of pure bred is that they are on the average better producers than grades. The value of the pedigree is to show that they are from a strain of animal whose production is good. If they do not produce more than grades, their value to anyone is not high. But while a good pure bred herd will cost more originally and will be more expensive to maintain, they are usually (in the hands of a successful breeder) much more profitable than are grades. While I do not wish to discourage pure bred breeding, even among beginners, I would like to leave with them this message: If short of capital, don't go after pure bred "at all costs."



The Most Wonderful Plants

ALFAFA, clover, beans, peas and the rest of this family are the most wonderful plants. They produce the most nutritious food, and at the same time add more nitrogen, the most important plant food, to the soil than they remove. These plants come nearer to giving something for nothing than any other plants. There is nothing mysterious about these plants. They have formed a partnership with some bacteria that live on their roots. These bacteria in return for being given a home (nodules) on the plant roots and for food from the plant take nitrogen from the air and leave it in the soil for the plant's use. There is eleven million dollars' worth of this nitrogen over each acre, so the bacteria have an almost endless supply to draw on. The way to tap this great wealth is to grow these plants that have these wonderful bacteria on their roots. These plants do not do well without the bacteria. When alfalfa, clover, peas, beans or any of the other of these legume plants are sown on a piece of land for the first time it is usually necessary to sow the bacteria as well as the plant seed. In these days, when plant food is so important, the greatest possible use should be made of the legumes, the greatest food producers for man and beast.

Cover the Out-Door Silo

Now is the Time for Building

THE autumn days are well suited to getting the farm buildings in shape for winter. And the man who has built a silo should now give some attention to its covering, if he has not already roofed it. If a silo be built inside a barn, there is usually no need for roofing it. In south-western Ontario a number of silo owners claim to get satisfactory results from outdoor

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