

HONESTY IN OFFICIAL TESTS

Malcolm H. Gardiner, Bellevue, Wis.
In theory the object of advanced registration is ethical, being the improvement of the breed, and through the breed, of the common dairy stock of the country. The ethical object is lost to sight, and the system is commercialized to the limit. It is right and proper that an owner of improved dairy cattle should receive a fitting reward for his efforts toward the improvement of his breed, but just because the rewards are so great, it is necessary that the rules and regulations for the conduct of tests should be as strictly drawn as may be consistent with their enforcement. The one point above all others is to retain the confidence of the dairy public. If that confidence be retained, the certificates of production issued by the several dairy associations will always be worth their face value; but if it be lost such certificates would hardly be worth the paper they were written upon.

If in a flock numbering many hundreds there be but one black sheep, that sheep is the one conspicuous animal in the flock. If 99 breeders walk the straight line of rectitude and the one hundredth breeder seems now and then to wobble, deservedly or undeservedly, the eyes of the public will centre on the one man. If the one alone, even though innocent, suffered, the result would not be so grave, but the truth of the matter is that the 99 suffer for the fault, or alleged fault, of the one, the public getting the idea that they too may be wobbly when no one is watching. To retain the confidence of the public, it is not sufficient that 99 tests in 100 shall be correct beyond dispute; the one hundredth must also be so conducted as to be beyond question. In these days of quick communication the delinquencies, or alleged delinquencies, of any breeder, herdman, or supervisor soon spread over the country. Such rumors, correct or otherwise, engender a public distrust that not only hurts the breeders directly interested but also the breeders of all other pure-bred dairy cattle.

The Holstein-Friesian breed has not as yet suffered to any appreciable extent from adverse criticism, and we must strive in all possible ways against all things that may give rise to such criticism. I may safely say that 99 reports of official tests out of 100 that come to this office are satisfactory; and I want the one hundredth to be equally satisfactory. It is not necessarily the test with the large production that is unsatisfactory; the result may be just moderate. But a report of test that shows moderate results for the first three or four days and then shows an increased production of 30 to 40 per cent for the last few days is, to say the least, decidedly unsatisfactory.

JOLSTEIN SUPREMACY CHALLENGED
(Holstein-Friesian World)

The World last week announced the wonderful record of the Guernsey cow, May Rima, who has just won highest honors by producing 1,609.59 lbs. of butter fat in 36 consecutive days, thus beating the former record holder, Banosine Belle De Kol, by exactly 1.5 lbs. of fat. This record brings us face to face with the fact which a good many of us did not before realize, that in the Guernsey we have a rival worthy of our mettle, and if we do not keep steadily at work for the advancement of our favorites, we are going to be left behind.

Holstein Champions in Semi-Official Yearly Test

Mature	Fat lbs.
Barnes Belle De Kol	1,556.34
4 1/2 years	
Linwood Hope	931.45
4 years	
Daisy Grace De Kol	962.80
3 1/2 years	
Queen Juliana Dirkje	817.38
3 years	
Brian Potje Abhekerk	764.35
2 1/2 years	
Manor Kate	618.73
2 years	
Lady Paul Livardy 3rd	737.36
Guernsey Champions	
May Rima	1,609.59
4 years	
Dairymaid of Pinchurst	910.67
4 years	
Homer Bright F.	694.64
3 1/2 years	
Dolly Dimple	906.69
3 years	
Dairymaid of Pinchurst	860.25
2 years	
Amanda's Pride 2nd	706.46
2 years	
Dolly Dimple	703.86

In the above table the star (*) indicates that the record in question is a world record. It will thus be seen that right now the Guernsey hold world's championships in three of the seven from the fact that a little consolation to the Holstein is that the Holstein hold the other four, but even this will come to something of a shock to a good many of us, who were laboring under the delusion that the Holstein stood without a rival in the yearly production of butter.

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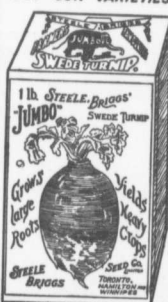
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