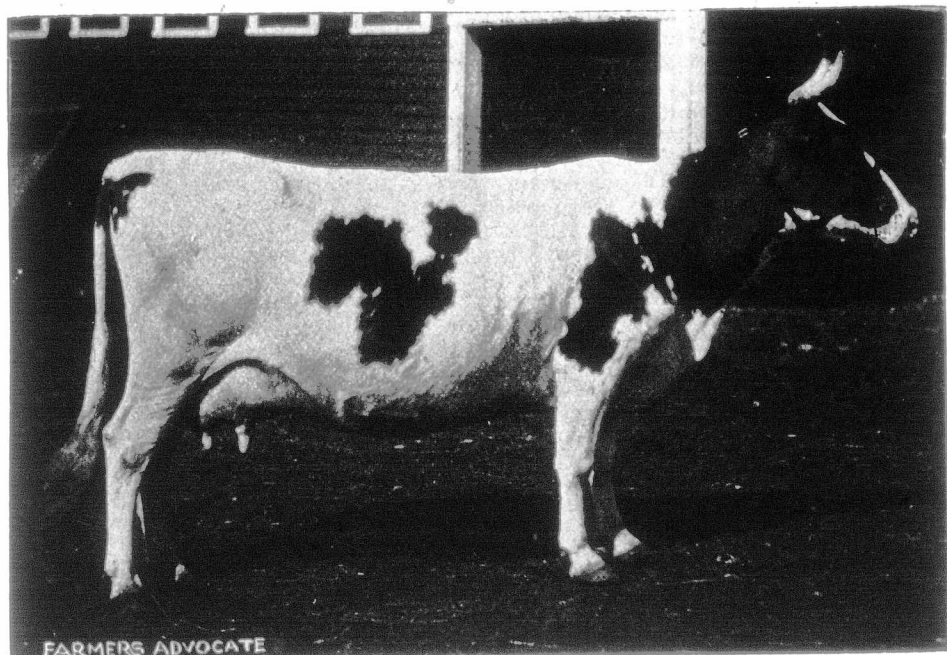


Importance of the Dairy Interest.

TRIBUTE TO DAIRY INTEREST.

In an address before the U. S. National Creamery Buttermakers' Association, Mr. Jules Lombard said:

"There is an impression abroad that the dairy interests of the country are of comparatively little consequence, and that such vocation is trivial and unimportant. Its products are considered and treated as mere incidents of living, and regarded as mere condiments of the table. The fact is, that its product is of more value than any other branch of agriculture. It sells for more money by fifty million dollars per year than all the grain we raise. If anyone should feel inclined to dispute the asser-



MYRNIÉ —2065—

Ayrshire cow, winner of first prize and sweepstakes, the last four years in succession, at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition at Halifax. Property of C. A. Archibald, Truro, N. S. The Ayrshire cow illustrated above is typical of the breed, and of true dairy form. She is nine years old, and was bred by David Morton & Sons, Hamilton, Ont. (who are now out of the business), from imported sire and dam; her sire being Royal Chief—75—, and her dam Sprightly II.—2001—. She is full sister in blood to the noted prizewinning cow, Jean Armour, owned by Wm. Stewart & Son, Menie. Myrnie is in thin condition, as she always is when milking, and had been eight months in milk when photographed, consequently the picture does not show her udder, which is her strongest feature, to advantage. She puts up a magnificent show of udder when fresh, her teats being properly placed and of good size, and her owner states that she gave 48 pounds of milk in a day, on the show-ground last fall, with inferior pressed hay and a good ration of other feed. She has given 50 pounds daily without forcing, and has tested 6 per cent. butter-fat.

tion made regarding the comparative value of the dairy and grain products, he has but to consult the statistics, to which I have not at present the time to refer in detail. But let him reflect that at average prices one pound of butter is worth thirty-five pounds of corn, and that the dairy crop is harvested twice every day, or seven hundred and thirty times a year, as against a single harvesting for the cereals. Multiplication does the rest. A gallon of milk is a small thing, a pound of butter a smaller thing, but neither is so small as the grain of sand which, in combination, forms the bed upon which the mighty ocean rests."

Testing Dairy Herds.

Mr. J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist of the Central Experimental Farm, some time ago sent out a letter of enquiry to a number of dairy farmers, seeking information as to their methods of feeding, rations used in summer and winter, breeds, and the use made of whey and skim milk. Enquiry was also made as to whether the farmers would be willing to carry on a dairy herd test in 1901 in conjunction with dairymen in other sections of Canada and the dairy herd at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa. The only expense, apart from the labor, would be a spring balance or scale to weigh the milk daily. Mr. Grisdale undertakes to furnish the necessary blanks each month for keeping the records. The replies received encouraged him to give the matter greater publicity, so that any desiring to join in such a co-operative record or test may do so. Any of our readers desirous of taking part may obtain the necessary particulars by addressing the Agriculturist, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, to whom letters so addressed are carried free.

New Dairy Superintendent for Assiniboia.

The West is losing a most efficient officer in Dairy Superintendent J. W. Mitchell, for the past two years in charge of the work under Prof. Robertson in Assiniboia and Saskatchewan. Mr. Mitchell, however, leaves under pressure of a promotion, and the dairy interests of Nova Scotia will henceforth have the benefit of Mr. Mitchell's knowledge and experience in dairy matters. During his time of office substantial progress has characterized the work of the department in Assiniboia, the actual increase in the quantity of output being 33 per cent. last year over the preceding season. His successor is W. A. Wilson, a graduate of the Kingston Dairy School, who has had considerable experience in the West, having been in charge of the Moosomin creamery for the past three years. During the past season he has been butler in-structing at the Kingston Dairy School.

POULTRY.

Advantages of the Brooder.

The brooder is becoming more and more of a necessity to every progressive, up-to-date poultry-raiser. The use of a brooder does not necessarily imply the use of an incubator, although a brooder will prove a greater success by hatching with an incubator. But a good brooder costs less than a good incubator, and with hens to hatch the chickens and a good brooder in which to raise them, the added profit made possible by the use of the latter will soon enable the purchase of the incubator. I know by experience that a good brooder, if rightly managed, will raise 30 per cent. more chickens than if the brooding is done by hens. There are many good makes of brooders on the market, at different prices, and as a rule the higher-priced brooders, made by reliable firms, give the best results. The regulation of the heat should be as accurate as in an incubator, so that even in cold weather the chickens may be kept in a uniform summer temperature. If the brooder is heated with a lamp, the cost of oil must also be taken into consideration. The 30 per cent. we claim in favor of the brooder will more than pay for the cost of the brooder and oil, to say nothing of the time saved by releasing the hen from the care of her brood, and thus allowing her to join the army of egg-producers at an early date. There is also advantage gained in feeding when the chicks are in the brooder, for we only have chickens to feed on chick food, and not the hens to feed also. And we all know that chick food is more costly than food for adult fowls. With a brooder and run, we are enabled to feed the chickens just the proper food for quick and vigorous growth. This food is far too costly for the general flock, and which is sure to be stolen from the chickens when running at large with a hen. Every one who raises poultry knows what it means when a sudden storm makes it necessary to get the chickens under shelter. This necessitates a determined hustle when the chickens are in a large number of broods with hens. And if the hens have wandered out into the fields, and, like mules, refuse to be driven in the right direction, our efforts are useless. When the chickens are raised in a brooder, at the slightest alarm they will seek its shelter and protection. They regard the brooder as a place of refuge, and when once they are shut in the brooder, they are dry and warm.

They can be raised to the best advantage when put in flocks of about fifty. It is much easier to feed this number in one flock than in six or seven flocks, and have to hunt all over the farm to find them. When placed in brooders, the chickens soon become sturdy, independent, and used to looking out for themselves. The brooder never drags its charges through the long, wet grass, into dangerous places. It does not carry around an abundant supply of lice and mites, to share liberally with the chickens. It is quiet and docile, and always ready to receive the chicks with a warm greeting, while often the mother hen trails her young out into the wet grass and loses the whole brood in a single day, and at other times she leaves them when quite young. With the brooder it is not only possible to take care of very early-hatched chicks, when there is no sign of spring in the air, but also far beyond the season they can be raised successfully by the hen. The late-hatched pullets will lay well the next fall, when the earlier-hatched pullets are moulting. The cockerels will make good breeders for the second winter, while the culls are desirable for the table or market. The brooder answers the question of raising late-hatched chickens in the most satisfactory manner. Several small brooders are more serviceable than one or two large ones, as flocks of not more than fifty thrive better than larger numbers. All chicks in a flock should be of the same age. By setting five or six hens at a time, the resulting chickens make a fair flock for a single brooder. By using common sense in management, and keeping in mind a few of these facts, a really progressive man or woman who tries this method of raising chicks will find it to be a success. P. F. D.

Raising Geese for Profit.

BY WM. T. FERGUSON.

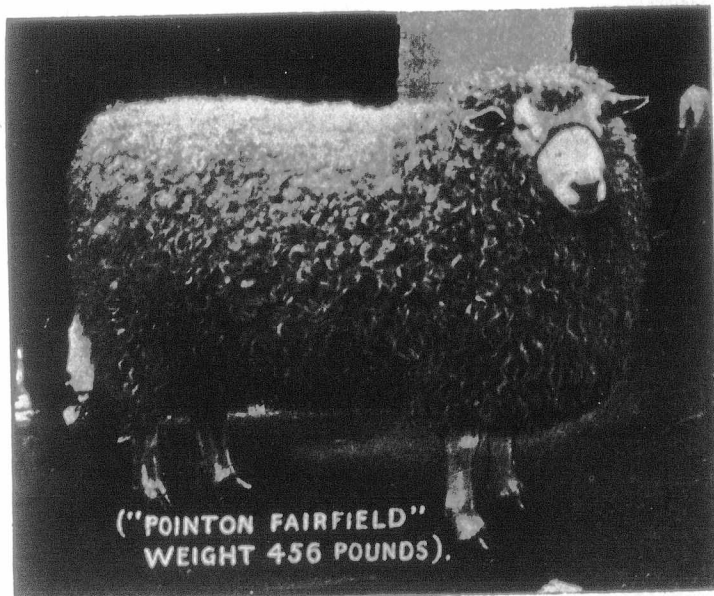
So much has been written about the poultry business in all its phases, that at times I think enough has been advanced. We read about the keeping of hens for eggs or for raising broilers, the best breeds, the housing, tending, feeding, diseases, etc., and in the end, after all their writing and financing, buying wheat at 75 cents a bushel, meat at 8 cents a pound, and bone and crushers, and even turning winter into summer in biddy's quarters, all to make her yield a profit to her owner of \$1.00 per hen, or about 300 per cent. profit. Very good indeed, but can we not do better with the queen of all poultry, "Old Mother Goose?" I have raised geese with profit as far back as I can remember; so did my parents before me, and I hope a few hints on the subject may dispel the idea that geese are only a nuisance, thus setting many a man who had not my early training on the right track.

Breed.—If you are only a beginner, or if you have some poor, non-paying, run-out variety, take my advice and get a pair of good Emden geese. I prefer the Emden for pure-bred geese because they are very prolific, the pure-white feathers sell for 10 cents a pound extra, and they are so much larger. But I get my best results from the large Emden geese mated with a gander of one of the smaller, more active breeds.

Preparation.—As you have your geese, you want some shelter for them during the storms in winter and a suitable place for them to make their nests. Any farm-yard shed will do if you scatter a little straw for them to sit on. In summer a small pasture is necessary. If you are convenient to a pond so much the better, but it is not necessary, and many consider a pond injurious because it is the home of many enemies and has a tendency to make the geese wild.

Feeding and Laying.—A goose has a small appetite for the size of the bird. We used in the old days to feed them corn all winter. Then when we began to feed more pigs, and silos were built, corn was not so plentiful and oats and buckwheat became the principal food. Then one winter even coarse grain was scarce and dear, but we had an abundance of Shantany (short red) carrots, and the geese were fed exclusively on them, and I must say we never had geese do better or start laying so early. A goose can be easily wintered on one dollar's worth of oats and carrots. Geese too fat lay very few eggs. Feed liberally in laying season and supply with plenty of water. Fresh water is necessary to secure fertile eggs. Geese are monogamous and are sure to pair off if allowed; but this is unnecessary, as each gander should have two geese—never three or more. If but a limited number is kept, each trio should be kept separate for at least a month before laying. With large flocks it is necessary to keep a larger proportion of male birds.

Care of Eggs.—Great care must be taken with the eggs. Geese commence laying about the first of March, and, as the weather is cold, the eggs must be



TWO-YEAR-OLD LINCOLN RAM.

Winner of first prize at the Royal Show, England, 1900; first at Toronto Industrial Exhibition; first and championship at the International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago.

IMPORTED AND OWNED BY J. H. & E. PATRICK, ILBERTON, ONT.

gathered before they are chilled. Then place the eggs in a wooden box lined with flannel and keep in the kitchen at an even temperature. Turn your eggs daily to prevent the top side drying up, or sprinkle sparingly with tepid water. Try to follow the natural methods of the goose: She covers her eggs to warm them, she turns them every time she lays, and she comes to them with feathers wet.

Setting.—A goose will generally lay about fifteen eggs: so it is advisable to set the first five eggs under a hen, in a warm place, and sprinkle often. Set on the ground on a mound of earth to keep the eggs moist and still have them dry. Provide plenty of straw. Set ten eggs under an ordinary goose, less under a smaller one. Many make the mistake