



A Dividend Paying Improvement on a Western Canada Farm

Hard farming has been dinned into the ears of the Western farmer so long that the idea is beginning to sink in hence a new demand for dairy cattle in the West. Many Westerners forewent this demand and got in on the ground floor. Particularly around Red Deer, in Alberta, are pure-bred Ayrshire herds such as the one here seen, to be found in numbers. This interest in dairy cattle bodes well for the future of a permanent western agriculture.

A Cow that Paid

"Can I afford to invest in pure bred dairy stock?" a visitor to the Guelph Winter Fair asked J. L. Stansell, of Elgin Co., Ont.

For answer Mr. Stansell got out pencil and paper and figured out just what he had made out of a three-year-old heifer he had at the fair. Here are his figures:

60 lbs. butter at 30c a lb., \$135.
One bull calf, \$150.
Prize money, \$130.
Skim milk and manure, \$30.
Total, \$455.
Less keep, \$50.
Profits, \$385.

In addition, this heifer of Mr. Stansell's calved twice within a year, and her second calf, a heifer, Mr. Stansell would not sell for less than \$150.

To Improve the Breed

How may I improve my herd? This is the earnest question of every true breeder of dairy cattle. During the course of his address at the last meeting of the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association, Mr. Wm. Stewart, one of the oldest breeders of dairy cattle in Canada made some suggestions for improvement by breeding. In part he said:

"One feature noticeable in most of the large record cows of the Ayrshire breed, is that they are animals of good type and vigorous constitution. I would warn breeders to exercise great care in their ambition to make big records. There is a danger of not only injuring the animal herself, but also her progeny, as by overfeeding and forcing too great a strain may be upon the cow, and her organs of reproduction may be weakened.

"I wish most strongly to emphasize the value of type. This is where the Ayrshire breed excels and what breeders of other breeds are striving to establish. In the selection of our production in our Ayrshire herds and in our breeding operations, we must not overlook type, which, coupled with production, makes the cow valuable. Let us maintain type, get a little more constitution and production in our Ayrshire herds and we will take second place to none.

"This can only be done by paying close attention to our breeding operation. We need to exercise care in selecting sires, rearing the calves well, allowing the heifer to mature well before breeding, and thus get size and constitution. Observing these important details and with a

good family of record cows behind, there will be no difficulty about making large records if the cows or heifers are given a fair chance."

Where the Money Slips Away

A cow that will produce 5,020 lbs of milk and 305.8 lbs. of fat in the year and make an annual net profit of \$28.14, is worthy of a place in a good herd. A cow that produces only 2,290 lbs of milk and 80.3 lbs of fat, netting her owner a loss of \$3.16 a year is not worthy of a place in any herd.

Both of these cows with the records we have given are found in the same herd in Peterboro Co., Ont. The one is a profitable animal, the second is a losing proposition. And yet the breeder had no way of detecting where his money was going until he took up cow-testing.

Other cows in the herd returned net profits as follows: \$22.44, \$26.34, \$17.94, \$8.69 and \$2.29.

Think of it! Waiting on a cow for 365 days and getting only \$2.29 for your trouble. Is it any wonder that Mr. C. F. Whitley is firm in his belief that cow-testing is the most important and most needed work in connection with dairying in Canada?

A Question of In-breeding

In 1911 a common grade cow of unknown breeding gave a well-marked heifer calf from a registered Holstein bull. In 1913 this heifer gave a heifer calf from a registered Holstein bull of no relation to the first bull used. Would it be wise for me to breed this last heifer back to the first bull used, as I wish to get as close to his breeding as possible? What percentage of Holstein blood has this last calf?—C. J. Nimmo Dist. Ont.

The advisability of breeding back to a previous sire depends largely on the individual. If he is a good one, without pronounced defects, it is the advisable course. In no way can a man grade up a herd more quickly than by line breeding of this sort. The characteristics of the breed are fixed more quickly and more firmly than can be done by using a succession of unrelated sires. With stock inbreeding has its dangers, but these are greatly minimised in the case of grades. Some very successful dairymen with grade herds make a regular practice of breeding daughters to their sires.

This heifer calf has 75 per cent of Holstein blood. Her calf in turn will have 87.5 per cent pure blood.

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