

Management of a Great Ayrshire Herd

Hector Gordon, Chateauguay Co., Que.

In handling our breeding herd our aim is to have our cows fresh in the fall of the year as much as possible. We find that cows calving just after they are nicely settled in the stable milk through the winter months when milk is scarce in the cities and prices are a half better than in the summer; then when June grass comes along our cows have a second lactation, as it were, and are ready to go dry in August when the flies are bad and grass is beginning to dry up.

We begin breeding our heifers a little earlier. Heifers calving on the grass develop better udders than when they are being heavily fed in the stable. We always plan to have a good after-growth to turn our heifers on in September and October. We keep them milking up to the end of August the next summer, and bring them in again in November, thereby giving them a full eleven months to milk and two months to rest. We do not like to feed a heifer much grain during her first lactation period, but when she is dry we feed heavily to get her in condition for her second period.

Some breeders make the mistake of breeding their heifers too young. We like our heifers to drop their first calves at from 34 to 36 months of age, as they make bigger and very much stronger cows than heifers bred to calve earlier.

The Shorthorn as a Milch Cow

A. W. Smith, Middlesex Co., Ont.

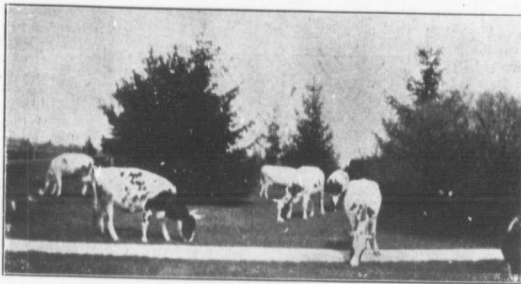
The interest taken by Canadian breeders of Shorthorn cattle during the last five or six years in the improvement of the milking qualities of the breed, has been much greater than for many years previous. There is a good reason why. Demand has grown for a class of cows possessing the good feeding and beefing qualities of the breed and at the same time the ability to give a good and profitable return in milk. The demand for that class of cow is becoming more insistent and Shorthorns must fill the bill.

Many are the references to the grand, big, broad-backed cows our fathers and grandfathers had; cows that filled a 12 quart pail twice a day, and often required a second pail to carry away the milk. At the same time these old cows furnished the feeders with big, easily fleshed and fattened steers to make profit from their coarse grains, roots, fodder and grass.

A LARGE FIELD FOR THE SHORTHORN

The demand for cows of this class comes very largely from the general farmers of the Dominion, probably forming quite a majority of all who raise cattle. With the increasing scarcity of help to conduct a strictly dairy business, the number wanting dual purpose cattle is likely to become much more numerous, a very considerable inquiry now coming from men in sections of the country very largely occupied by cheese factories, and where the strictly dairy breeds have for many years overwhelmingly predominated. These men generally wish to buy bulls from Shorthorn cows of good beef form and that are good milkers. Their desire is to improve the beefing qualities of their herds, that they may make profit from raising the calves, and at the same time largely retain the flow of milk from their cows. And a hopeful sign is that those farmers are more and more recognizing the value of such bulls. Hav-

ing been used to purchasing bulls of the dairy breeds at much lower prices they at first failed to see the increased value of one that will answer the purpose both ways. Unfortunately, much damage has been done to the quality and value of the beef produced on the farms of Canada by the indiscriminate introduction of crosses



It Is Herds such as This that Make a Poor Man Rich

"Pure bred stock may be alright, but then I am just a poor farmer and can't afford it." Wm. Thorn, Norfolk Co., Ont., the owner of the Ayrshire herd here seen, tells a different story. He says that the only man who can afford to keep poor stock is the rich man with an independent income. And he speaks from experience. Of course the man with limited capital cannot immediately establish a pure bred herd. But many herds just as good as the one here illustrated were started in a moderate way with a pure bred sire and a heifer or two. What others have done we can do also.

of the dairy breeds upon the herds of those who raise their calves for beef, while doing a dairy business in a small or larger way with the creamery and cheese factories.

The Shorthorns are as good milkers by nature as any of the strictly dairy breeds, and careful selection would very soon make them as large producers in the dairy as the cows of any breed, as has been proved in the dairy herds in England.

AN IDEAL DUAL PURPOSE COW

But the Shorthorns stand out as more valuable to the general farmer in their suitability for the profitable production of both beef and milk. My own idea of the dual purpose Shorthorn is to retain their splendid beef form in all its excellence, and at the same time have the cows produce all the good milk possible, and I believe it possible and not difficult to have very great development of milking qualities without at all sacrificing the best beef form. It may be easier, (Continued on page 27)

Does Record Making Injure Cows?

Geo. Laidlaw, Elgin Co., Ont.

I have often been asked if the forcing of a cow for a big record is not apt to injure her? I feel certain that there is a danger of injuring the health of a cow by getting a little too anxious while making large records and feeding be-

eyond the danger point. On the other hand there is nothing that will tend to the building up of a dairy cow like feeding for records. Of course the cow must be in the hands of a good, but not over anxious, feeder; by over anxious I mean one who desires to get a little more milk from his cow and knows there is a chance of doing so by feeding more, but may not know just where to draw the line in order to preserve the health of his cow. The old saying that "It is the last straw that breaks the camel's back," holds good here.

We consider that the greatest danger of cow injury comes in the long time records, especially with heifers. We do not believe the short time records to be as injurious as the yearly records.

With the short time records one may make a large record from a cow year after year and still give her a good rest from heavy feeding between records, while with the long time records the cow does not have the rest from heavy feeding.

I do not mean to discount the value of yearly records. I consider them to be the most valuable records we have. But in making the large records it is very necessary for the feeder to thoroughly understand what his cow will stand without overdoing her.

I will illustrate by a grade cow that we raised. She was an extra good heifer, and naturally we were especially interested in her welfare. She never made a poor season and was always well fed. I can remember that some of our neighbors remarked, while she was in her prime, that she would not last long because she would wear herself out. When this cow was in her fourteenth year we put her in a dairy test at London Fair, where she won first place competing with

(Continued on page 22)



Scenes such as This are Becoming More and More Common on British Columbia Farms

The number of pure bred dairy cattle in British Columbia is increasing at a wonderful rate. Many, perhaps the majority of British Columbia dairymen, are farming on very high priced land. If they would show a profit on their investment, they must have cattle of the most profitable kind. Hence the growing popularity of the pure bred dairy cow. The scene here illustrated is on the farm of A. H. Menzie and Son, Pender Island, B. C. This is one of several splendid Jersey herds in that province.