

Some Contrasts That Educate

Chas. F. Whitley, In Charge of Records, Ottawa

The days of contrasts are not past; when their teachings are digested, inspiration for higher achievement permeates the dairymen's entire system. Four men in Ontario owning 104 cows had the pleasure of getting an average yield from each one in June of 1,100 pounds of milk. Some of the 104 cows are cited because their records are somewhat conspicuous against a sombre background of less efficient milkers.

The average yield of over 9,600 gallons in Ontario in June last year and June this year was 815 pounds of milk. In one contesting association a group of 90 cows averaged only 622 pounds. Hence, while in the first instance the 104 cows gave the satisfactory total of 57 tons of milk, in the association just referred to, the owners, to obtain a similar weight, would have to milk not 104, but 215 cows! In practically every month of the year similar contrasts may be found.

Could figures convey a more striking lesson? One can only marvel that in this busy age, when men strive at every turn for labor-saving devices, there are dairymen still to be found who, from lack of being well posted, up-to-date men, actually have to do twice as much work as some of their neighbors in the same business to obtain a beneficial income.

THE QUESTION PLAINLY PUT

Are we to remain satisfied with low, only half, yields per cow? Are we to double all our appliances for handling milk, duplicate all our factory system, to work just as hard as a bright neighbor for only half the product? Are we

not rather determined to make the sensible view, and aim to keep the cow that will give the large yield above so many of the miserable and unsatisfactory average cows? Good Dairymen right and left of those who still retain "just cows" (that is the only way they can describe them on the record sheets because they are of no determinate breed, and don't apparently possess any name, age is also unknown, and date of calving is "some time in the spring"); I say these good dairymen after taking up cow testing in earnest for the two or three years are now sunning themselves contentedly in the excellent records of real dairy cows. They are not mechanical dairymen, blindly following cut and dried methods, but men who, through intelligent action taken on constant study of the individual cow's record, have discarded the low spots and retained the court cards only, cows that give 30 or 40 pounds of fat, and 1,300 or 1,400 pounds of milk in their good months, and have not been educated to quit the job of milking as soon as the cheese factory closes in October.

The leading dairy countries in the world have only the highest praise for cow testing, not simply because it helps to increase, often to double the yield of milk, but because, through more careful handling of expensive feed and better cows, it reduces the average cost of feed per cow and increases net profit twice and three times over. This testimony also comes from dairy farmers all over Canada.

Cow testing, the fixing of individual responsibility on each cow in the herd to make a large profit, is, in these strenuous days, an economic necessity.

The idea of carrying water to the harvest field is a good one; I don't mean for ourselves, we will do that anyway, but for the horses that work just as faithfully and much harder than we do.—E. F. Eaton, Colchester Co., N.S.

Discussing the Tuberculin Test

"I like the tuberculin test for what it is. It should not be used to scare people—we should take it for just what it is."

This comment was recently made to an editor of Farm and Dairy by a Canadian Holstein breeder of note, who has all of his cattle tuberculin tested, and has had much experience with the tuberculin test. This breeder continued:

"Some of the cattle will react and these cattle may have infection only in some minor out-of-the-way place where it would never make any difference to the health of the animal, or to other animals. We need to go easy with this tuberculin test business. The people should be educated up to its real value. I fancy our former Veterinary Director General, Dr. Rutherford, was too strict in regard to the Tuberculin test; his information was inclined to scare people.

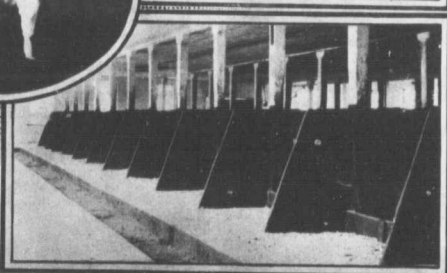
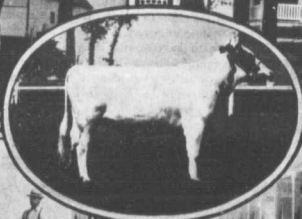
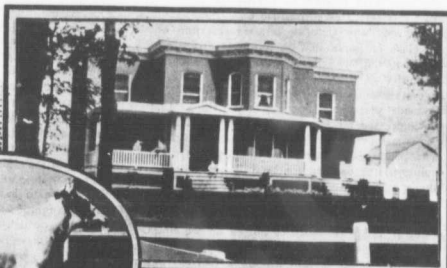
"Recently I was made acquainted with the great danger of infecting young stuff with milk from tuberculous cows. A noted breeder in the States has been using the tuberculin test on all of his Holsteins for some years. His cattle are under State supervision. One of his cows, it later developed, had tuberculosis of the udder, and while his cattle had all been tested twice a year with tuberculin, this cow failed to react and hence was not discovered until later on when on testing the young stuff it was found that a great percentage of it reacted. This tuberculous young stuff had all been infected by the milk from this one cow which failed to react but was later found to be tuberculous and the infection traced back to her.

"Thus we see that the tuberculin test is not infallible. I look upon it, however, as a great help to Holstein breeders and to all breeders of cattle. It is the only thing we have whereby to detect tuberculosis in its early stages.

"We need to use discretion, of course, in its application. And we should not jump into the thing wholesale and slaughter all reactors."



C. F. Whitley



Some Views Snapped by an Editor of Farm and Dairy at Burnside, the Prize Winning Farm of R. R. Ness, Howick, Quebec described on page three of Farm and Dairy this week. In the upper left hand corner the farm barn may be seen and to the right is the home recently completed. The mares shown in the lower left hand corner are pure-bred Clydesdales and noted prize-winners. The illustration to the right will give some idea of the scrupulous cleanliness and neatness that characterize the dairy stables. "Masterpieces" the bull illustrated in the centre, is now at the head of the Burnside herd. He is indeed a masterpiece and hard to fault. It is animals such as this that have made Burnside Ayrshire famous.

—All photos by an editor of Farm and Dairy.