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THE POSSIBILITIES OF DOUBLING THE AVERAGE YIELD OF MILK PRODUCTION

A Heart-to-Heart Talk with Cow Owners on How the Danes have Doubled the Average Production of Their Cows—The Lessons Applied to Home Conditions

DENMARK can teach us much in regard to dairying. Her farmers are far in advance of Canadians in the matter of cow management. They have in a period of 23 years doubled the yield of the average Danish cow. How have they done it? Simply by systematic effort in selecting and breeding those cows only of high production.

There are many things in which Denmark excels. Her co-operative organizations are the wonder and the admiration of other countries. Indeed her methods are being adopted and put into practice by thinking agriculturists everywhere. The phenomenal success of this little kingdom in regard to her pork production was such as made range and despatch, at considerable expense a Commission to study her methods in regard to this great industry. The dairy industry is of greater importance. Since in the last analysis the success of the dairy industry rests upon the milk production of the average dairy cow, some comment by a man who knows, upon how the Danes have doubled the production of their dairy cows is of especial interest. Some extracts from an address, upon this subject given at the recent National Dairy Show, held at Milwaukee, by Mr. Helmer Rabild, Assistant Dairyman, Dairy Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture, follow:

Is it possible for us to double the average production of our cows? I believe you will agree with me that it can be done. I feel that I am entitled to this opinion because I have been through dairying in Denmark and that is what they have done there. I want to get back in the history of Denmark just a few years to illustrate to you what can be done when people go to the work systematically.

In 1848-49-50 Denmark went through a very sad war. It lasted three years and while it is true they were victorious, it cost a lot of blood and a lot of money. In 1864 another war occurred and Denmark lost that war. She lost besides, a lot of the best men in the country. This war cost a great deal of money and it left the country with a big national debt. Land in Denmark is worth from \$500 to \$1,000 an acre. Taxes went up from one to five dollars an acre a year.

AGRICULTURE HER ONE RESOURCE
Denmark has no other resources than agriculture; there are no forests, no mines of any kind, no shipping to amount to anything in those days, so the only resource was agriculture. This great national debt had to be paid by taxation of the agriculturists. Denmark had previously been en-

gaged in the beef industry; the farmers had grown corn, fed it to the beef cattle and shipped their cattle to England at a fair profit; but there came a day when the English dairyman thought he must raise his own beef and keep the money in his own country, so Parliament passed laws restricting the importation of Denmark beef. They passed laws guaranteeing beef for two to three weeks to two months, so that stopped the profit in the beef business. The Danish farmer stood without a resource. Now, it is necessary to have money to live, so a great many of the Danish farmers went bankrupt and a number came to this country to try and make new homes for their families, but when it looked the darkest help was the nearest.

I always thought it was the Danish government



A Cow that looks to be a Heavy Milk Producer
Dixie de Annandale (8 yrs. old) owned by Ed. Purtselle, Prince Edward Co., Ont., as illustrated, possesses the indications of "a milker." Note her quality and the exceptional development of her milk veins.

that was responsible for helping the Danish farmers, and it was only when I went to Denmark two years ago that I learned my mistake. It was the farmer who saved himself, and it can be truly said that the Danish farmer saved the Danish nation. In those days, interest on money in Denmark was three and a half per cent. more than in London, in 1875 to 1877. They paid something like ten and a half per cent. on loans. No wonder the farmers could not pay expenses. In different communities throughout Denmark the farmers sized up the situation and said to themselves, "We will have to go into dairying. If the Englishman will not take our beef he will take our butter. We have a good reputation for our butter in England." But they had a large number of beef cows; they had been raising beef for years. Now then, what would they do? Some of them tried

to go out and buy dairy cows. They imported some dairy cattle from northern countries but the conditions and environment in Denmark were different than they were in those countries and the cows died out. They finally saw they could not rely on imported cattle for their dairying stock, they simply had to change their beef breed into a dairy breed, change the beef cows into dairy cows.

In those days, 23 years ago, the average production of butter per cow in Denmark was 119 lbs. a year. Now it is 224 lbs. Have they not changed the beef cows to dairy cows? They have doubled their production in the course of 23 years. Not only did they double the production of their cows, but, as I told you before, Denmark was then almost bankrupt, while to-day it is the second nation in the world in wealth, and dairying has done that. But they have not gone at it in a haphazard way, they do not do dairying as it is done here. They go at it systematically and we all realize that we have to go at our business systematically to get the most out of it.

NET PROFIT THAT COUNTS

There are three things we have to know about the dairy business. First, how much milk do our cows give, not in a day or a month, but in a year, because we have to feed them a year; second, we have to know how much butterfat there is in that milk, not in a day or a month, but in a year, because we have to feed them a year; and then last but not least, we have to know how much feed those cows eat, how much it will cost to keep them a year. I believe if there is one point where American dairymen have made a mistake, it is in that one fact that they do not keep an account of the cost of feed. We hear a great deal about the enormous yield a certain cow will make in a year, enormous yields of butter and enormous yields of milk. I am not casting any reflections on those records, but it is very seldom we hear what it costs to produce those yields. I want to tell you the American farmer is in the business to make his living, to make some money. If the net profit does not count, what in the world is he in the business for? I believe we want a breed of cows that will give us a large amount of net profit, not necessarily an enormous yield, but an economical yield.

MUST HAVE CAPACITY

Let me tell you where we may drift if we do not think of this. I was over in Maine two months ago where the farmers have what we call a "Maine Jersey." I wanted to know something about the Maine Jersey, so I asked the butter-maker at the creamery to show me a Maine Jersey, and I found that she looks more like a race horse than a dairy cow. The Maine Jersey has been kept on concentrated feed for a number of years, until she has lost her capacity. The farmers down there will feed as high as four to six