

FARM NEWS

PURE BRED VERSUS GRADE DAIRY CATTLE

(Experimental Farms Note)

The old question "would you advise me to start into the pure bred dairy cattle business", is being asked as frequently these times as ever before and is receiving just as many negative replies as formerly. There are so many factors which enter into the problem that one has to study the question from every angle. Good pure bred cattle of either sex are selling for such good prices now that men who have proven themselves successful with grade stock, cannot afford to continue without pure breeds. We all know of certain grade herds making more money for the owners than some pure bred herds in the same locality, but every community has examples of men in the pure bred business who never should have invested money in live stock.

The most economical and the most satisfactory way for the average farmer to start into pure bred is to purchase good females to start with. Care should be taken to see that they are good. They should be healthy, of the proper type, and either proven producers or with proven ancestors. It is better to have only one good cow than several medium quality animals. A comparatively small outlay is necessary when starting in this manner.

It is remarkable how quickly a herd can be built up from a few foundation cows. The dairy herd on the Agassiz Experimental Farm was started by the purchase in December 1911 of twenty-eight grade cows and the following year three pure bred cows. Then in the fall of 1915 two pure bred heifer calves and the next year a pair of two year old heifers also pure bred were purchased. Today there are forty two pure bred females in the herd including the above and their descendants. As the pure bred herd increased in size we have gradually decreased the number of grades until at present only twenty-one are on hand.

A yearly comparison has been made during the last three years of the five most profitable pure bred

cows and the five most profitable grade cows. In each instance the pure bred have been the more successful from a commercial standpoint. On the average the pure bred produced 4,476 pounds more milk and 153 pounds more fat per cow per annum, and yielded an average profit over feed cost of \$27.64 more per cow than the grades.

After a pure bred herd reaches a suitable size the most money is made by selling the surplus stock and are in the herd at the present time. Putting the very topmost value on the fifteen grade heifers they are worth \$1875.00 while the dozen pure bred heifers are worth just about twice that amount yet they cost no more to raise than the pure bred male calves born in the herd during the same period were sold for \$100 each up while the grade bulls were sold for veal.

Not only is it more profitable to produce pure bred cattle than grades, under suitable conditions, but the pleasure and interest are much greater.

DO NOT NEGLECT THE BEES

(Experimental Farms Note)

The present high price of sugar reminds us that Canada produces natural sugars that are still more valuable than the products of the refineries. Fortunate are those who not only possess bees at this time, but understand them and have supplied their needs.

The early spring months are the most critical period of the year in the life of the bee colony. At the same time, the pressure of spring work of cultivating, seeding, etc., on every fine day on the farm too often leaves the bees forgotten.

There are several reasons why the bees are more liable to be neglected than other things on the farm. Hidden away in their hives they do not require daily feeding like other animals. Such attention as they need is in the nature of a

surgical operation, and the opening of the hive is not always anticipated with pleasure on account of the risk of receiving stings. Yet, on many farms, the bees have been found to pay better than anything else, considering the small amount of capital and labour expended.

The principal danger to avoid at this time of year is starvation. If each colony went into the winter strong, with a good fertile queen and a plentiful supply of stores in the combs, the first examination of the hive had better be deferred until the weather is warm and nectar is being gathered. But if the stores are running short, a cake of bees candy or a comb of honey laid over the combs if the bees are still in the cellar, or if spring is opening, a superficial examination of the hives on the first favourable day, combs of honey from heavy hives being then given to those that are light, may save the loss of colonies and increase the value of the honey crop by many dollars.

A bulletin on the care of bees may be obtained on application to the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

PROPER METHODS OF STRETCHING FURS

Every trapper needs definite and adequate information on the proper way to stretch furs. Slipshod methods often cost the trapper a great deal of money, while a careful following of the approved directions always means an increase in the value of his furs.

Perhaps the first thing you should know about stretching is which furs should be stretched fur side out and which pelt side out. The following guide is correct:

Stretch these furs fur side out: Coyote, Wolf, Fox, Marten, Fisher, Lynx, Lynx Cat and Wolverine.

Stretch these furs pelt side out: Muskrat, Mink, Skunk, Oppossum, Civet, Otter, Ringtail Cat, House Cat and White Weasel.

Stretch these furs nearly square as possible: Raccoon, Bear, Badger and Wild Cat. Beaver should be stretched round.

Steel stretchers best. Many trappers use board stretchers of the home-made variety, and

these, if shaped carefully, are sure to give a moderate degree of satisfaction. Many times, too, it is impossible to get any but wood stretchers, and hence necessity often dictates their use.

But steel stretchers have easily proved themselves the most desirable of all. These stretchers are so constructed as to allow the air to circulate through the skin. Not only does this hasten the proper drying of the fur, but it also prevents molding and mildewing settling in, which often happens when skins are stretched tightly over boards.

Steel stretchers are adjustable and can be fitted accurately to the different sizes of skins. Sharp notches on the side of the stretcher hold the pelt securely in place and assure its drying in perfect shape. Every trapper should have a good supply of these improved steel stretchers; they are light and strong and may be easily carried.

Steel stretchers do away with the danger of over-stretching or under-stretching. If a pelt is stretched too much the quality of the fur is damaged and its value consequently lessened. If the fur is not stretched enough before it is thoroughly dry, a good part of its value is lost, too, for very little stretching can be done after it is dry.

Stretching "Open" Furs.

When skins have been taken off open, as is done in the case of Raccoon, Bear, Badger and Wild Cat, the proper way to stretch them is by lacing them to a square frame. The edge of the hide is tightly sewed to the frame and the skin drawn tightly on all sides. Beaver hoop is the best thing for this purpose. The skin should be fastened to the hoop at four equally distant points and then the slack parts taken up by sewing the skin to the hoop with a large sacking needle.

If, in stretching the eased furs, you have good stretchers and put the proper side out you will be sure of satisfaction. It takes no longer to follow the correct directions; in fact, the proper methods add speed to your efforts. And they make your trapping profits bigger.

PREFERS AGED RAMS FOR BREEDING.

I always keep the ram separate from the ewes for at least two months before mating time, as I think it is better for both ewes and ram. I usually turn the ram in with the ewes about November 1st, as I do not think early lambs are profitable to the ordinary sheep man.

I always leave the ram with the ewes till about March, as I have found that some of the ewes are later coming around, and if there is any missed there is a chance of their being in lamb. I always use the best ram I can get as the best is not any too good. Always a pure-bred, according to the breed I have. I do not believe in cross breeding, as that will not get a man anywhere if he continues on that course. I have in my mind one man in our neighbourhood who started out with a fine flock of high grade Shropshires, and I advised him to get the best ram of that breed he could find. He thought they were a little too small, so he got an Oxford ram and mated him. Now he has about the poorest flock I know of.

I usually turn the flock on the pasture away by themselves, so that they will not be near any other sheep. The best way, in my mind, is to feed a few oats, as it keeps up the vigor of both ewe and ram. I never use anything, but a yearling or aged ram. I prefer the aged ram, as I can see the get before I use him and see what kind of a breeder he is.

JAS. H. WHEATON,
In Canadian Countryman
INDUSTRY OVERTONE

The development of the coconut oil industry in the Philippines has been very rapid due to war conditions. The exports of oil in 1918 amounted to 135,000 tons, as compared with 45,000 tons in 1917 and 16,000 tons in 1916. There is a scarcity of shipping to take copra to Hull, England, and Marseilles, France, which are the great centers for oil crushing. Yes it is found more profitable to ship the less bulky oil to the United States. A number of new oil mills have been constructed in the Philippines in order to fill the demand for oil, but it is a serious question whether the present crushing capacity of the Philippine mills is not in excess of the normal supply of copra.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

The idea that bread making is a long and difficult operation is a mistake, as bread may now be included in the list of quickly prepared foods, for with

ROYAL YEAST CAKES

light, sweet bread can be baked and ready for use within four hours from the time the sponge is set. Full detailed instructions are contained in Royal Yeast Bake Book which will be sent free upon request.

E. W. Gillett Company Limited, Toronto, Canada

KEEP MORE SHEEP

(From Fibre and Fabric)
Depending upon foreign countries for half our wool stocks is no credit to wool growers in the United States. More wool and better wool should be their slogan. Side issues will not produce more wool, nor will they make prices any higher. Quantity of quality is the pressing need and 500,000,000 pounds should be the limit set. There is room for all the wool we can raise and plenty of shoddy as well.

SEED SELECTION AND FIELD CROP COMPETITION

(By Hon. W. M. Lea,
Commissioner of Agriculture.)

To insure a full crop we must have fertile, well cultivated soil, and good seed sown at the proper time. Much will then depend on the growing season we may have during maturity, over this we have no control, but by securing strong, vigorous seed and by sowing on a wisely cultivated and fertilized soil we may influence to a great extent the yield of the crop. The easiest of these conditions to control is the quality of our seed.

There is no excuse for our sowing any but the best quality of grain in this province, as we annually export large quantities of this character. It has been proven by experiment beyond question that large, plump seed produces from six to ten bushels more to the acre than small, lighter seed out of the same sample, and that seed selected from a heavy crop produces a greater yield than that taken from a light crop of grain.

The modern separating and grading machine, if properly operated will grade out all light and small oats, and when any farmer has a quantity of good grain on hand it will pay him handsomely to grade very strictly and carefully. The grain culled from his seed lot will have practically the same feeding value, and his yield may be improved 10 per cent or over without any additional cost clear of the small amount of labour involved. No time should be lost by any who may not already have good seed on hand for the coming season to secure their supply. It is the greatest folly to sow any light, run out grain just because it will cost ten to twenty-five cents more a bushel to purchase high class seed. This is in deed an instance in which wise ex-

penditure is true economy. "As you sow, so shall we reap" has been proven often enough without a further experiment being necessary. Dear as good seed may seem at the end, it is by far the cheapest the end. Keep your mind on the harvest.

Regarding field crop competition it is anticipated that changes will be introduced in the regulations, one of which may be "the awards of the field judges include a statement as to the origin and merit of the stock seed from which the crop was produced." It is eligible for such competition providing the change is made, would be necessary to sow registered seed, which has been inspected and put up in sealed sacks, which is attached a special certificate which bears the name of the variety, the number of the certificate issued for seed, the name number of the grower and the signature of the inspector.

It is a noticeable fact that the principal winners in this competition to date have been the growers using the highest quality of seed and though the change may not be made this year it will pay to so nothing but the highest quality of obtainable.

GIGANTIC

STOCK REDUCING SALE

10 p.c. TO 30 p.c. OFF

NOTICE!

Owing to the death of one of our partners, we are obliged to put on what is undoubtedly the biggest cut-and-slash price sale ever known in the history of the Charlottetown boot and shoe trade.

We are forced to turn our large stock of boots, shoes and rubbers into cash, and to do so quickly.

WE NEED THE MONEY
YOU NEED THE BOOTS

Even if you do not need the boots, etc., for immediate wear, you cannot afford to miss the opportunity of profiting by this sale.

REMEMBER

The price of boots is not declining, but is steadily advancing.

LUMBERMAN'S RUBBERS

300 PAIRS
5 eyelet first grade red-sole, regular price 4.10
Sale price \$2.75
By mail extra 10c.

It will pay you to get two pair and set them aside for next year.

LATEST SPRING STYLES IN HIGH CLASS BOOTS

10 p. c. TO 20 p. c. OFF

300 Pairs Ladies' High Grade Shoes.

Small sizes \$2.15

MEN'S HEAVY WORKING BOOTS

10 p. c. TO 20 p. c. OFF

Boots Shoes

Gaiters Slippers

Pumps Hose

At Reduced Prices

THINK

THE EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE WORM

THE CREAM IS AT THE TOP, AND IS POURED OFF FIRST

'TIS AN ILL WIND THAT BLOWS NOBODY GOOD

COME EARLY AND AVOID THE RUSH, AND SECURE THE BEST CHOICE.

DON'T BE THE ONE TO SAY: "I'M SORRY I MISSED IT."

PUT IN A BIG STOCK AND LAUGH AT THE HIGH COST OF LIVING FOR SOME TIME TO COME. AS FAR AS BOOTS ARE CONCERNED

WE NEED THE MONEY

BIG REDUCTIONS ALL OVER THE STORE

REMEMBER

WE NEED THE MONEY

YOU NEED THE BOOTS

MORRIS-SMITH-BEER

'Tis Not Necessary to Say FOR VALUE