

CANADA'S TOP PRODUCER

This was the top producer in Canada last year for Dual Purpose Shorthorns, Limewood Daisy K. Gwynne is owned by Sterling Wood, Mt. Herbert, at halter, and his son, Robert Howe in the white shirt behind the cow. The other man is Clarence A. Peacock, Milton, Ont.

tario who named Daisy K. grand champion last year at the Atlantic Winter Fair, Halifax. Her production for 305 days was 13,290 pounds milk, 541 butterfat. The complete lactation produced 14,265 pounds milk, 576 fat.

Proper techniques for good milking

By R.W. DICKESON
Good milking practices are good business practices. They save time, money and cows. The milking operation on some farms is the most inefficient operation on the place—it's a job that is often delegated to the least efficient member of the farm labor staff. What's worse, he frequently uses milking equipment in poor mechanical condition.

HOW MILK IS MADE
The glandular or secretory portion of the udder contains small cell-lined muscular spaces known as alveoli. The milk is produced by the cells inside the alveoli. Tiny muscles around the alveoli squeeze the milk from the udder. When the pressure in the udder reaches a certain point milk secretion is ready to start.

MILK LETDOWN
Milk letdown is brought about by glandular production of the hormone "oxytocin" which causes a contraction of the tiny muscles around the alveoli. The milk then flows by gravity into the udder and teat cisterns. Without this action little of the milk stored in the udder could be obtained.

The stimulation of letdown is brought about by reflex action that is associated with certain regular routine occurrences—such as massage of the udder, removal of a few streams of milk by hand or by turning on the Vacuum Pump. Some easy milking cows start to let their milk down as soon as the vacuum pump starts so it is important that those cows be milked first.

This stimulation is of only a short duration five-seven minutes. If a cow isn't milked during this period varying quantities of milk will be left in the udder.

AVOID OVERMILKING
Far more cows are overmilked than undermilked. Most cows can be milked out in 3½-4 minutes. Yet many operators leave the milkers on two to three times this long. This is one of the many factors related to the occurrence of mastitis in the udder. This is one point where the dependability of the operator means a great deal.

PREPARING THE COW
The following steps have proved to bring about optimum letdown of milk.

(a) Clean and massage the udder for ½ minute. Disposable paper towels are very good for this purpose they should be dipped into an antiseptic solution (110-120 degrees F.). The udder should then be dried.

(b) The first few streams of milk are high in bacteria so it is a good practice to remove three to four streams from each teat. This primes the teat and starts flow of milk. This is the point where the milk can be checked for mastitis. Symptoms are flaky, stringy, bloody or abnormal milk. The cow should be milked last and the milk discarded.

ATTACH MACHINE
The teat cups should be attached within one minute following stimulation or as soon as the teats are full of milk.

MACHINE STRIPPING
When milk flow is reduced to a minimum or ceased (which occurs in most cows in two to 3½ minutes) Machine stripping quickly and remove the teat cups. Prolonged machine or hand stripping induces bad milking habits and it may result in injury to the teat and udder. The machine should not be left on any longer than is absolutely necessary.

DISINFECT TEAT CUPS
Teat cups should be dipped in an antiseptic solution then rinsed in water between the milking of each cow. The cow teats should be dipped in an antiseptic solution after each milking. One man should use no more than two pair-type units. It is very important that you stick to schedule in milking and feeding, quality of feed, and treatment of animals.

Mink sales hit record

Canadian mink breeders had one of their brightest months ever in December.

Some 950,000 Canadian ranch mink pelts—worth close to \$20 million—were offered in a series of very successful auctions held across Canada, reports CDA's Livestock Division. The number set a record for December auctions. Sales accounted for well over one-half of the country's 1965 ranch mink crop estimated at 1.5 million pelts.

There was a strong demand for mink of all colors. European buyers leaned heavily toward white, blue, pearl and other pale shades.

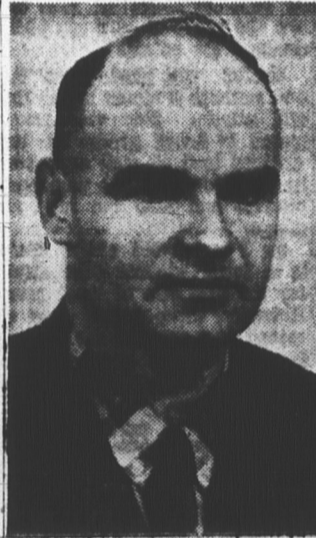
Prices obtained at the sales generally were up markedly from a year ago, the one exception being that for mink in the pastel (brown) shades. Prices increased amounted to fully 25 per cent for sapphire, violet and pearl mink; 15 to 25 per cent for dark mink, and 10 to 20 per cent for white mink and those of gunneal color. Prices for the pastels were largely unchanged, though some sales brought returns that were up by 10 per cent.

ROP beef program vitally important

By DAVID PEACOCK
Director of Livestock, F.E.I. Dept. of Agriculture Record of Performance (ROP) for Beef Cattle is a program which should be of vital interest to all beef cattle breeders. It is a method based on weight of age and rate of gain which are two very important economic factors in beef production. It gives breeders the chance to compare the performance of cattle in reasonably uniform conditions with others in the test group.

breeders and organizations in co-operation with the Provincial Department of Agriculture. These three phrases are:
1. Herd Test: In this plan the basic requirements are:
(a) Group of five calves of the same sex from the same sire and born within a 90-day period.
(b) Calves must receive identical treatment up to weaning and be weaned and managed as a group after weaning. Weaning age is to average 205 days with a range of 160 to 250 days allowed. After weaning the group must be fed similarly as a group for 168 days. Calves may or may not be weighed at birth, but must be weighed at weaning.

There are now three phases of ROP for beef cattle sponsored and directed by the Canada Department of Agriculture and put into practice by local



DAVID PEACOCK

and again at the end of the 168-day feeding period. Weighing must be done under the supervision of a person from the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

Information from the herd test is sent to Ottawa where it is processed by the Canada Department of Agriculture, and the report comes back to the breeder. Information from this test should be of great value in culling a beef cow herd. It should give you a fair test of your cows that can raise calves that do good in your herd both in the pre-and post-weaning period.

2. Testing individual and Sire Progeny Groups of Bulls and 3. Testing of Groups of Steers Sired by same Bull:
These two phases can only be carried out through the facilities of a recognized ROP Cattle Testing Station.

At the present time, breeders in the Maritimes have no facilities for testing of Sire Progeny groups and individual bulls. There has in the past few months been some discussion in the hopes of having a station at some central place in the Maritimes for the use of Maritime Beef Breeders.

The starting place for Beef ROP work is in your own herd on the Herd test. Last year, there were 273 breeders testing 8,906 calves from eight provinces of Canada. P.E.I. Beef Breeders should be making use of this service.

ROP Beef Cattle is a method that could help you to make more profits from your beef cattle herd by helping you to make herd replacement selections based on rate of gain both in the pre-weaning and post-weaning period.

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The town of Summerside situated in a rich agricultural belt of Prince Edward Island is proud to salute our farmers, and express its appreciation for the tremendous contribution made by our Island Farmers, not only to the welfare of this province but also for the benefits of the hungry nations of the world.

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