

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

ABERDEEN ANGUS

The Aberdeen Angus cattle have been pre-eminent because of their beef-producing qualities and their popularity with the butchers in Great Britain. They are said to approach most nearly to the ideal type of a beef animal.

Scotland is the home of these black-poled cattle, and the existence of the breed has been traced back to a very early date. There are documents preserved in Aberdeenshire that give particulars of a very ancient custom, whereby the heir to a property in land, before taking possession, was required to pay, as tribute or fee to his overlord, a certain number of black, hornless cattle. Some of these are dated about 1540 A. D.

One of the earliest published descriptions of the many characteristics of the Aberdeen Angus can be found in Dr. Skene's history of Aberdeenshire published in 1806. Among the individual merits of the beef, he mentions its particular trait the marbling of the meat, which is said to render it more palatable and is confined to the Aberdeen Angus and the Galloway.

Among the earliest pioneers of the breed, mention should be made of the following: Hugh Watson of Kellor, Wm. McCombie of Tillyfour, Sir George McPherson Grant, Balfour, Thomas Ferguson and Alexander Bowie. Hugh Watson's herd was established by a wedding gift from his father who allowed him to select a number of Aberdeen Angus females from his excellent herd. To these he added a number of high class individual specimens by purchase. His herd was outstanding at the Highland and Agricultural Show, and at other shows. His animals were the first entered in the Aberdeen Angus Herd Book, with his bull "Old

Jock", the first name in the bull section and "Old Granite", the first listed female. This remarkable cow created a record without parallel, producing during her life of 36 years, 25 calves.

William McCombie was an Aberdeen Angus breeder whose successes were sensational. His steer, "Black Prince of Tillyfour", won the first championship at Smithfield in 1867. This animal was taken to Windsor Castle, by command of Queen Victoria for her inspection. She was so impressed with his quality that she established a herd of Aberdeen Angus at Abergeildie, near her Scottish home on the River Dee.

There came a period when Shorthorn cattle were in very great demand in Great Britain and when the rage for that breed was at its height, so that great numbers of native cattle were being bred to Shorthorn bulls, it was Mr. McCombie's foresight that saved the Aberdeen Angus cattle from extinction, by forming a herd of the best Aberdeen Angus stock and perpetuating it. By this action he earned the title of "The Deliverer."

Sir George McPherson Grant built up an excellent herd at Balfour and his great work has been continued by his family, so that his estate has become "a Mecca" for those interested in the breed.

The Aberdeen Angus and its crosses have carried off many of the highest prizes year after year at the great Shows. They have proved pre-eminent in the carcass section of the shows so that the breed has been termed "The Students of economy." It has been said of them: "They do a bit at every bile and make the most of every mite."

The claim is made for them that they are free from "patches" of some breeds, that they produce a maximum of roast meat and a minimum of the coarser cuts. They are a very hardy breed and have been remarkably free from tuberculosis. They have survived drought and severe cold when other cattle have succumbed.

It is said that Aberdeen Angus cattle require less feed than some other breeds, and that they put fat on level between the hide and the meat.

When training teams of Khaki University students, in judging beef cattle, in connection with the

Workshop Patterns

By Ruth Wynn Spears



BIRDHOUSE CUPOLA PATTERN 407

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The sides of the birdhouse are hinged for easy cleaning. The pattern gives actual-size fitting guides for the rafters and roofing. The weathervane which is on a separate pattern may be cut out of wood or metal. The cupola pattern shows just how to saw angles to fit any roof and to attach securely without any roof alterations. Please order patterns by number: 407 for the cupola and 241 for the weathervane. These patterns are 35c each.

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Develop New Breed Of Bacon Hogs

OTTAWA. Seven years of thorough testing, selection, and a moderate degree of inbreeding, have produced a new breed of bacon hogs at the Canada Department of Agriculture Experimental Station, Lacombe, Alta. It is a white breed with flop ears, which distinguish it from the Yorkshire, Chester White and Berkshire breeds, but not of the Yorkshire.

Work on the new breed started as a result of recommendations by a committee appointed by the Canada Department of Agriculture in 1946, to study the swine breeding situation in Canada and the work of the Department in relation to swine breeding problems.

After investigating the work then in progress in Canada and visiting several leading swine research stations in the United States, the Committee recommended extension of research and the improvement of the Canadian Yorkshire, and urged development of a white breed, bred with no Yorkshire blood in its foundation, suitable for crossbreeding with the Yorkshire. The latter approach was suggested as an effort towards utilizing hybrid vigor which has been demonstrated in many crosses between breeds differing in genetic background.

In 1947 the Lacombe Station which is in the centre of an important hog producing area where crossbreeding is a common practice, obtained ten high-quality Berkshire gilts from breeders in Ontario. These were bred to two Landrace - Chester White boars, one from the U. S. D. A. research centre at Beltsville, Maryland, the other from Washington State College, Pullman.

Offspring of these crosses were backcrossed in 1949 and 1950 to three other Landrace - Chester White boars, one from the U. S. D. A. research centre at Beltsville, Maryland, the other from Washington State College, Pullman.

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Timely Notes On Fur Farming

Gruskin and Feldman, Inc., with branches in some ten cities in the United States and Canada, have been featuring Norwegian Blue Fox for some time. Here is their latest ad - A photo of a lady wearing a two-smart scarf with "She is the smartest woman in town" in beautiful Norwegian Blue Fur. The fur levelled is irresistible, created by Reynard of Montreal and New York.

Barney Wollman and Bros., Inc., manufacturing furriers of New York, and one of the oldest names in the trade, are very much disturbed by the new names chosen by the EMBA to designate certain types of mink. The reason EMBA made the change was that they could not legally trade mark them, the law having established the fact that these names were common property of all ranchers for the types of mink designated.

At the same time the remaining pigs in each litter were raised as breeding stock and selections made from them on the basis of the growth and type of the individual, the litter size and weaning weight of the litter from which they came, and the carcass quality, rate of growth, and feed efficiency of their four litter mate test pigs. Because the numbers involved were large, only individuals from litters of above average performance were retained as breeding stock.

Special attention was given the number of teats, with 14 the minimum for selection. In 1954, the average contribution of the foundation breeds was estimated at 55 per cent Landrace, 23 per cent Berkshire, and 22 per cent Chester White. Inbreeding has been held to a minimum, the present level being at approximately 12 per cent.

Throughout the development of the breed it has been compared under identical conditions with a high quality strain of inbred Yorkshires developed at Lacombe. In 1953 the comparative testing of the Yorkshires and the crossbreeds of the two breeds was extended to the Experimental Station at York, Sask., which maintains a Yorkshire herd somewhat different than the one at Lacombe. In 1954 the test was extended further by establishing a unit of the new breed at the Experimental Farm at Indian Head, Sask., for a further comparison of the new breed with another sample of Yorkshires.

From an analysis of the tests made at all three Stations, the present evaluation of the breed is summarized by J. C. Stohar and Dr. H. T. Freden of the Animal Husbandry Division at the Lacombe Station, who have done most of the work on the new breed as follows:

It appears that the litter size of the new breed, as measured by number of pigs born alive per litter, is about the same as for the Yorkshire.

The average birth weight of pigs of the new breed is about one-half pound greater than for Yorkshires.

Average weaning weight of pigs of the new breed is some five pounds greater than for Yorkshires.

In rate of maturity the new breed has a decided advantage. Average carcass score is very similar for the two breeds with a

slight advantage for the Yorkshire.

The crossbreeds of the two breeds appear to be equal or superior to either breed in all important economic traits.

Pigs of the new breed have good temperaments, and the sows are good mothers.

Additional co-operative tests are in progress with commercial breeders by supplying them with boars to which half of their sows are bred, while their remaining sows are bred to their own boars. Results from these tests are not yet available.

At the Hudson's Bay Company's sale in London last week Standard

the Dominion Fur Auction Sales Co. Ltd., of Winnipeg offered yesterday a total of 250,000 muskrat, 3,000 beaver, 4,000 wild and ranch mink, 50 otter and 90 fisher and miscellaneous other furs.

A despatch from London states that production by the mink ranching industry of Scandinavia passed the one million mark for the first time during the recently concluded 1954-55 season. Danish production is put at 350,000 by the manager of the Danish Fur Sales, Norwegian output was put at 250,000 by the Norwegian Director.

Both estimated that Swedish production was about the same as in Denmark - 350,000. Together with Finland this would place the production at slightly over a million, they say.

Mr. Gjodens says that since the war Denmark has increased its output about 10 per cent annually. He expects this to continue into the 1955-1956 season when he looks for an output of slightly under 400,000. Currently, production

of the year on the basis of quality for quality comparison of muskrat. Males sold mostly in the \$30 to \$38 bracket with 45 per cent of the collection in this price range. Females were clustered mainly above the \$21 mark with 91 per cent of the offering in this range.

The EMBA mink sales at New York Auction Co. ended in what was officially termed a blaze of glory. The Jasmine and Argenta collections were 100 per cent sold with prices 10 per cent above April levels. Top price for Jasmine was \$81 for males, females, Jasmine top was \$31.50. Larry Moore's Argenta Stewart's sold for -males \$39.50, females for \$21; Argenta Stewart's sold up to \$31, females \$27.50; Argenta Breath of Springs males produced by Larry Moore sold for \$57; females produced by various shippers brought \$24.50. The top male in the bundle of Lutetia catalogue brought \$42.

Both Scandinavian auction officials stated the current season's crop is practically sold. Mr. Thome looks for an increase of 10 to 15 per cent for the 1955-1956 Norwegian crop - to between 275,000 and 285,000. The current standard output is half standard and half mutation. He says next season it will be two-thirds mutation to one-third standard. "Although we Norwegians are not the largest ranch mink producers in Scandinavia, I believe we will have the largest crop of mutations," he continued. "Our colors seem to fit very well into the fashion picture. The last Paris collections contained quite a bit of Norwegian blue fox."

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Pilots Prepare Spraying Job

MONTREAL (CP)—An advance group of 10 inspection pilots, all from the U.S. and each flying his own plane, left Cartierville airport here Tuesday to begin preparations for a 2,000,000-acre forest spraying project in the Gaspé peninsula of Quebec and in northern New Brunswick.

Eighty aircraft from various points in the U.S. and Canada will participate in the operation. The spraying fleet, which is said to be the largest ever assembled for such a project, will operate from six bush landing strips in New Brunswick and four in Quebec.

Two million acres of budworm-infested woodlands will be treated with DDT. They are equally divided between the two provinces.

The DDT treatment protects the balsam fir and spruce against destructive insects.

In New Brunswick, the job is carried out by Forest Protection Limited, on behalf of the provincial and federal governments as well as a group of pulp and paper companies.

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BIRDHOUSE CUPOLA PATTERN 407

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Harp Of Spring

Now fields are white in profound rest. They dream of spring and trembling growth. While crystal snowbells softly chime. The earth in solitude and silence waits.

And meadows are paved with foot-print rime. And sculptured swiftly with the snow they thaw. The wandering footsteps unite in remote thoughts. About fertile soil ascent to life.

When hearts are unveiled of winter sleep. And kindred as the rosebuds on a bough. Then revealed is the league of living law. And love vibrates the blossom harp of spring.

—Gunnar Zoega.

TRADING CENTRE

London was described as "a busy emporium for trade and traders" by Tacitus who died in AD 120.

BUDDHIST LAND

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