



MISS WITH WINNING WAYS

Miss Paula Coady, Hazelbrook, who owns the Coadydale herd of Jersey cattle is shown here with some of the trophies including a junior championship at Charlottetown, while brother Maurice looks proudly on. Maurice is feeding a registered Holstein heifer calf at present which shows that brothers can be different.

Island swine breeder urges classification

Classification cannot come too soon for the benefit of Prince Edward Island swine breeders. In the opinion of some of the top men in the business, this opinion was expressed strongly at the annual meeting of the Prince Edward Island Swine Breeders Association here several months ago. It was expressed to the Guardian again a few days ago by Stirling Willis, the Kingston man who this year became the first Islander ever to become president of the Canadian Swine Breeders Association.

The swine breeder who thinks this way points out that the advanced registry scoring is not good enough, in that it tells nothing of the conformation of the animal.

Registered cattle, for example, are classified as Excellent which is 90 percent or over on conformation, 85 to 89 which is Good Plus, 80 to 84 which is Very Good, 75 to 79 Good and below that fair, and so on.

The extended pedigree shows the classification of the animals sire, dam, the grand dams and sires, etc. The thought is that this should be extended to swine. That's being done now in Ontario, for example, Mr. Willis explained. In fact he bought a young boar recently at the sale in London, Ontario which was the dispersal sale of Earl Savitz of Alvinston, Ontario and all of the 297 animals in it were classified in this manner, or at least the classification of the breeding stock was in the pedigree of those too young to be classified themselves.

SCORE SHEET

A classification score sheet for Yorkshire boars, for example, provides (1) 20 points for head, neck and breed character; (2) 40 points for Body Conformation; (3) 20 points for feet and legs and another 20 points for (4) general appearance.

Under (1) two points each are allowed for the snout - it should be medium in length and broad at the nostrils; the face should be broad and thick; the poll - it should be broad and prominent; the eye - it should be bright and protuberant and the ear which should medium sizes and erect.

Still under (1) three points are allowed for the jaw, which should be trim, firm, well covered but free from flabbiness; and for the neck which should be medium in length and well clean cut.

Under body conformation eight points are available for the shoulder which should be "smooth, compact, blending evenly with neck and fore ribs." five points are allowed for the ribs, for the back, for the side, the heart and flank girth; six for the hind quarters and six for the ham, which comprises the 40 points.

In the heart girth, for example, the requirements are "broad on floor of chest, deep at fore and rear flanks, causing underline to appear straight and trim."

The hind quarters must be "relatively long and broad, sloping gradually to the tail head. The ham should be "large, trim, full, well rounded behind, gradually tapering to the back."

Under (3) feet and legs, five points are allowed for legs, three for the feet and four each for the pasterns, bone and for movement of the animal. The bone, for example, should be "hard, flinty and smooth; free from extreme coarseness or fineness." The movement should be free and graceful, with attractive carriage.

Under general appearance three points are allowed for each of the following: testicles, hair, skin, fleshing, development and balance which should be "smooth and symmetrical."

BIG ASSISTANCE

The feeling is that this sort of thing would be of outstanding assistance to people who wanted to purchase an animal, it would give them a really good look at the background of the animal from the standpoint of conformation. It would help the breeder as well, for his animals would be more readily sold, if they were of proper type and background for conformation.

Russ Templeton of Burford, Ontario does the swine classifying in Ontario, and Mr. Willis suggests the same man could be induced to come to this province to classify, if that policy was laid down. The swinebreeders association has funds, he explains, to help.

The young boar Mr. Willis bought at the Savitz sale, for example, is sired by a boar grading 91 in conformation which makes him "excellent" and his dam is at the top of the "very good" with a score of 89 points.

They've been working on classification in Ontario for the past two years, and several other provinces are considering it, the Kingston swine breeder reports.

Time said ripe for expansion

The time has come when tobacco production should be expanded in this province, it is suggested by David Peacock, provincial department of agriculture who has been working with the tobacco growers on behalf of the department since production of the leaf got underway several years ago. Last year's crop has been by far the most profitable to date with an average price of a little better than 35 cents per pound for an average production close to 1,000 pounds per acre, Mr. Peacock told this paper.

Some of the production was far below that, which means that the better growers had considerably heavier production.

The suggestion is that the average production should be stepped up to probably 1,300 pounds per acre, which means that more successful producers would be producing 1,500 pounds per acre or more, it was suggested.

Tobacco acreage was down slightly last year with approximately 400 acres grown. There had been 450 acres the previous year. The fact that two of three growers were unable to harvest crops last year contributed to the acreage decrease.

It's necessary to expand both acreage and production if we are to continue to attract tobacco buyers to the province, it was suggested. The quantity has to be worthwhile and the quality good to attract these men, it is explained.

There is no possibility of any big increase for the growers haven't got the green house capacity to finish the young plants, but an acreage of possibly 450 acres is regarded as probable.

Larger growers in the province are producing from 35 acres or more and several have been very successful on an operation of this size.

Douglas Roloson who has been growing tobacco at Ocean View for the past few years, has purchased the farm at Greenfield the provincial government had been using as an experimental tobacco farm while the industry was getting established.

New growers are now encouraged by the government to start on a large scale. The recommended size is seven acres which one kilo will handle when it comes time to cure the crop; though several men have started much larger.

The industry is still so new in this province that there are still problems to be solved, it has been explained.

Varieties with more hardiness and less susceptibility to late spring or early fall frosts are two things mentioned by many growers.

A study of varieties is being made for other reasons.

The Experimental Farm here has been doing the experimental work for the past several years; under the direction of Research Officer Keith LeLacheur who notes that experiments were also carried on last year in New Brunswick.

The season of 1964 was surprisingly good for growth maturity and overall yields were the best thus far.

Reporting on the overall experimental effort conducted by the Experimental arm, Mr. LeLacheur said:

The experiment with calcium and the calcium content of cured leaf was carried on in 1964, probably for the final year. Results on the effect of calcium to tobacco growth were very evident in 1964. Rates went as high as 7500 lbs. of lime per acre in 1500 pound increments. Heavy lime applications retarded maturity and the best rate was found to be 3000 pounds at an original pH of 4.9 - 5.0. The calcium content of the matured and cured leaf has been determined, but no correlations have been made as yet between calcium contents and processing quality.

SOURCES OF NITROGEN

Nitrate nitrogen was applied to tobacco in New Brunswick at two locations. Rates were 0 nitrate nitrogen, 50 per cent nitrate and 100 per cent nitrate nitrogen. On the basis of one year's results, tobacco showed no significant yield differences from the varying treatments.

TRACE ELEMENTS

Zinc, copper, boron and molybdenum were applied to tobacco at three locations in P.E.I. and two locations in New Brunswick. There were no striking differences in field growth or maturity dates at any of the locations. Trace element content of the cured leaf have not been analyzed as yet.

Cultural Practices - Starter solutions and drills versus flat planting were tested at two locations in P.E.I. Of the four starters tested, 10-52-17 had the greatest effect. Under good growing conditions in 1964, this effect had largely disappeared by harvest time, but it is felt results could be outstanding in diverse seasons.

Drills had no obvious effect on yields or maturity with or without starter solutions.

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