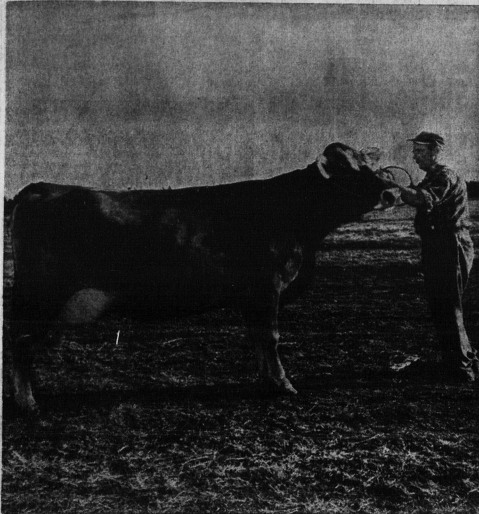


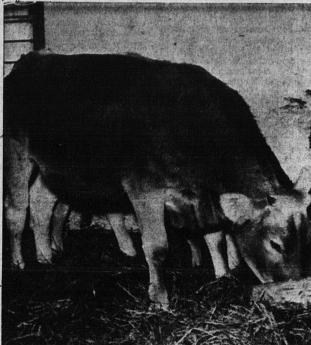
Province has revival of Brown Swiss cattle



BEST MILK OUTPUT AT BLACK RIVER FARMS IS 19,350 POUNDS



FIRST HEIFERS ARE COMING



HERD TO BE INCREASED TO 50



BIG STURDY BROWN SWISS COWS RUN TO AS HIGH AS 1,700 POUNDS

Milk output high over long period

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Farm - Provincial Editor

The Brown Swiss herd of pedigree cattle on the Black River Farm at Covehead is one of the most interesting in the province, as it comprises foundation stock chosen from some of the best herds in North America, and it brings back to Prince Edward Island a breed that has been virtually unknown in recent years although there were some good animals of that breed here in the past.

Managed by Ronald Dolloff, the herd has been built largely on foundation stock from the Lee's Hill Farm in Vernon, New Jersey, and some top individuals selected for Black River by the skill and knowhow in this herd which has been building and improving the best obtainable blood lines for the past 79 years.

Big, rangy cattle the Brown Swiss are hardy and long-lived. The American Brown Swiss cattle breeders association claims the world's all-breed, all-time butter-fat record of production for Lady's Gypsy girl F that produced 220,674 pounds milk, 12,012 fat in the 5,362 days between her first calving at two years, six months and her death shortly after her 20th birthday. No other cow of any breed has ever produced so much butter fat on official test, the association claims.

HIGH PRODUCTION
A consistently high rate of production over a long period is one of the characteristics the association claims for these quiet, docile cattle, another quality which was bred into them in Switzerland where the breed was originated.

The American Brown Swiss association reveals that all of the 86-day records of production on 3X (three-times-a-day) milking made by Brown Swiss cows 12 years of age or over average 18,094 milk, 717.1 pounds butterfat.

Letha Irene Pride was 11 years-old when she began her lactation that produced 24,810 pounds milk, 1,733.15 fat for an average test of 4.56 per cent fat in 265 days on 3X milking that topped all breeds in butter fat on record of performance testing, when it was made in 1959, according to an American Brown Swiss cattle breeders publication. The ownership of the animal is not revealed.

A Lee's Hill cow with 24,540.9 pounds milk, 1,779 butterfat in 365 days was the top milk producer of the breed at least up to 1961, and her dam produced 24,699 milk, 1,475 butterfat at 16 years of age.

Another Lee's Hill Farm cow produced at 14 years, nine months 20,260 pounds milk, 1,354 fat in 265 days on 2X milking.

No comparable records are available in Canada yet though an active breed executive is working at the national level and Mr. Dolloff suggests it is Brown Swiss will have a show at the Royal Winter Fair in two years' time, a project that national secretary Ralph Libby of Hamilton, Ontario, is promoting vigorously.

O'LEARY GIRL
Black River Farm was established here by Rathburn Willard, a retired manufacturer of Schraute, Rhode Island, who has an unusual warm feeling for the island and its people and "wished to do something for its basic industry of agriculture."

He has been coming here for 40 years and it all began when a former O'Leary girl endeared herself to his family by the unusual care, skill and devo-

tion she showed in nursing Mr. Willard's invalid mother.

He purchased foundation cows here from the MacRae's for an Ayrshire herd and he and another man established in Rhode Island, but his partner eventually bought him out.

He started at the Covehead location with Guernseys, but sold most of them to Harold Palmer and Son, Kingsport, when he decided on the Brown Swiss cattle. He bought only the best foundation stock and that's why he went to the Lee's Hill farm where records indicated success over a period of many years.

BIG, STURDY COWS
"Now with the first heifers coming into production this year he wants "to make the money spent here useful to the people on Prince Edward Island."

Mr. Dolloff says the big, sturdy cows run to 1,700 pounds and average 1,460 to 1,500, though he has seen three-year-old heifer hit 1,600 pounds.

Calves run from 80 to 125 pounds at birth and steers of 1,000 pounds have been finished at one year, the farm manager reports.

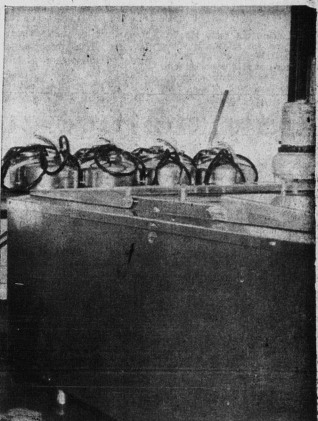
There are many high class cows in the Black River Farm herd, and there are several outstanding individuals of proven worth.

Wahalla Sara Lady was bought for \$2,100 at the Concord Farm sale in the Catskill Mountain area of New York. The twice "Excellent" cow produced 23,422 pounds milk, 1,002 butterfat as a five-year-old cow before she came to this province.

Lee's Hill Sabrina Pair F produced 17,000 pounds milk, 814 fat as a two-year-old heifer in the United States and has produced 22,217 pounds milk, 1,715 fat in two lactations here for unusually high breed class averages of 166 milk, 136 fat in the second year, which gives her more than 52,000 pounds milk, 2,259 fat in her first three lactations.

Sabrina is working now on a lactation. Mr. Dolloff hopes will hit 20,000 pounds of milk. She was producing 30 pounds a day a few weeks ago.

Hidden View Autumn Azalea produced 18,338 pounds of milk as a three-year-old and 19,082 the next year. Her fat product-



22 COWS ARE NOW ON TEST

ion was 1,680 in the two lactations and she had BCAs of 174 and 185 in the latter.

SALE TOPPER
Lee's Hill Radiata, a fifth-generation "Excellent" cow, was a sale topper at the Kentucky National show and sale last October, and has an unusually fine pedigree.

Radiata's sire, Meslow M. Roamer, is the sire of one of the bulls in the Waterloo district artificial breeding unit in Ontario.

Best milk production to date at the Black River farm is 19,350 pounds, and there are four cows with more than 16,000 milk.

But the proudest spot in the herd's short history is the fact they topped Canada, over all breeds, in butter fat production in the season 1961-62 with an average of 556 pounds fat. They topped P.E.I. over all breeds in both milk and fat production for the same year.

The farm's 22 cows on test—average age was four years—hit 20,000 pounds of milk, 556 fat for BCAs of 130 milk, 156 fat. The information was published in "Canadian Record of Performance for Pure Bred Dairy Cattle."

The young sire at the farm, Atatche's dam and grand dam on his sire's side had life time records of 10,000 pounds fat, and the highest records of his sire's three nearest dams averaged 21,262 pounds milk, 1,287 fat in 265 days. The highest records of the two nearest dams on his dam's side averaged 25,570 pounds milk, 1,187 fat in 265 days.

PRODUCE THIS YEAR
The first heifers bred and developed on Black River Farm will be coming into production this year, and the farm manager is looking forward with interest to their performances, as it is the heifers bred on the farm on which the future of the enterprise depends.

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