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The Best Recommendation.

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DAIRY COWS VITAL ISSUE

O. A. C. EXPERT RECITES EXPERIENCES.

Best Method of Breeding Dairy Herds Explained.

E. B. Fitts, wellknown dairy expert, yesterday gave to the Observer some valuable hints for breeding the dairy herd. Because so few could hear him at his lecture, he was asked to cover his subject for the Observer readers. He said in part:

The great need of the dairy business today is better cows. The production of milk by the average cow is low. So low in fact as to almost preclude the possibility of a profit from her keep.

The ability of a cow to produce milk in paying quantities is an inherent character, or is born in the cow, and so unless we have cows in our herds with the ability to produce milk in good amounts all efforts we may make to succeed as dairymen must result in failure.

Cows vary so much in their ability to produce milk that one may yield twice as much butter fat or milk, from a given amount of feed, as another.

Conditions similar to this exist in many if not most dairy herds.

To effect improvement the inferior cows must be weeded out. Herds are often thus changed from an expense to a source of profit for it is not the number of cows in the herd or the total pounds of milk produced that determines the profits but the margin between income and cost of production. A small herd of good cows is more profitable than a larger herd of inferior ones.

Having secured a herd of cows each one of which is yielding a profit, the next step is to see to it that no calves are born in the herd except those carrying in their veins blood that will enable them to maintain or increase the average milk production of the herd. This can be done only by following good breeding practice which means placing at the head of the herd a sire from high producing ancestors. He should be of one of the dairy breeds; Jersey, Guernsey, Ayrshire or Holstein and should be pure bred and registered. Having decided on a breed one should stick to that breed rather than to cross for the crossing of breeds is a prolific source of scrub cattle.

Great care should be exercised in the selection of the individual to go to the head of the herd. The sire inherits the milk producing ability of the cows that contributed to his inheritance and passes these qualities on to his heifer calves. Selection of the bull, therefore, is of prime importance. Do not buy a bull unless the milk producing ability of his dam and grand dams are known even though he be a splendid individual. Beauty of form is no indication of utility and the breeder's work must be dominated by this one thing.

Careful breeders have increased the production of butter fat in their herd to an average of 400 pounds or more per year.

What one man has done another can do. The possibilities of herd improvement along this line are almost unlimited.

It is possible to double the milk production of the state without increasing the number of cows by a single one and the profits would not only be doubled but increased many times. What is needed is better cows rather than more cows.

A bull having an inheritance that will enable him to improve the milking qualities of a herd is worth more money than most dairymen are willing to invest and so the average production of our cows is increasing very slowly. What each community needs is a dairyman to take the lead and show on his own farm what can be accomplished. Results are not immediate as two years or more must pass before the benefits are secured but if at the end of that time each heifer as she comes into milk, yields more than her mother at the same age one begins to realize its value.

The herd of tomorrow is the result of the work of today and the ability to make a profit of the cows making up our herd a few years hence, is almost entirely dependent upon the good judgment we are using in our breed at the present time.

Something Good.

Those who hate nasty medicine should try Chamberlain's Tablets for constipation. They are pleasant to take and their effect is so agreeable and so natural that you will not realize that it has been produced by a medicine. Obtainable everywhere.

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