HOME AND FARM MAGAZINE SECTION

Holstein-A Dual Purpose Cow

BY HAROLD MCALISTER, Chino, Calif.

T HERE is a wide and ever in-creasing demand among the farmers in America for a good profitable dual purpose breed of cat-tle. The price of feed has become so high that the farmer can no longer afford to keep a cow that gives but enough milk to raise its calf for beef purposes, for in that case the calf has to show a profit, not only above the cost of its own keep but above the cost of its dam's keep also. If, on the other hand, instead of being a heavy expense, a cow can pro-ing a heavy expense, a cow can pro-duce enough milk to properly raise its calf and to show a substantial profit for butterfat besides, it will be seen that the profits from beef production can be very greatly in-creased creased.

Practical experience and demonstrations by many different State Ex-periment Stations have proven two First, that on the arable farm facts: the dual purpose cow is more profits able than the specialized beef type; and, second, that the Holstein is the most profitable dual purpose cow.

The first fact is proven by the tests conducted by the Michigan Experi-ment Station, in which it was shown ment Station, in which it was shown that the dual purpose steer averaged \$41.27 more not profit per head than the beef type of steer. In Bulletin No. 261 it is stated that the dual purpose or "skim milk fed lot of baby beeves showed as good a condition of fiesh and quality as the suckled lots and were nearly equal in weight," and that "baby beef production by the skim milk method is much cheaper and gives better results than by suck and gives better results than by suck-

Dual Purpose Steer,

The Iowa Experiment Station states ing conditions of a combination of dairying and beef making. Not only do steers from cows bred with this combination in view yield as much profit as those from the range, but returns from the cows, when used for dairy margarest the comdairy purposes, make the comfor bination much more remunerative.

As it has been proven by actual tests that it costs \$32.32 a year to keep a beef cow solely to have a calf while a Holtster calf, while a Holstein cow will earn \$73.33 net profit in the snine length of time, a beef steer has to start out in life with a handicap of over \$105 against him, which the Holstein steer has to its credit at birth.

According to the results of the conditions, as have the beef breeds. tests reported in the Michigan Experiment Station Bulletin No. 257, therefore, the fact is clearly proven that the dual purpose breed is a most that the dual purpose breed is a most that the dual purpose breed is a most that the theory that any of the leading beef breeds. Nebraska Tests.

numerous prizes won by Holsteins at the different fat shows. At the New York State Fairs of 1889 and 1890, a Holstein cow won first prize as the best fat cow of any age or breed. Her live weight was 1790 pounds, and her percentage of dressed weight when thoroughly cooled was 66.8 per cent or 1196 pounds, a percent-age very seldom equaled by individ-uals of the beef breeds. In 1896, against very strong compe-tition from the leading beef breeds, a Holstein cow weighing almost 2000 pounds won first prize as the best

pounds won first prize as the best beef cow of any breed at the Min-nesota State Fair.

Summarizing the results of these and other tests the result conclusive-ly proves that, contrary to the general bellef, large and profitable beef and milk production are correlated to an astenishing degree. In the Holthe milk producing qualities, the more perfect the work of assimila-tion and digestion, the larger and the more economical the gain of body more economical the gain of body weight when dry, the stronger the constitution, and the more regular the breeding, all of which qualities also tend to make beef production more profitable. A Holstein steer inherits from its dam a capacity for assimilating a quantity of feed that would make the average beef steer sweat merely to look at. According to the Wisconsin Dairy Competition. over three times as much as an aver-age beef steer will gain in body weight in the same length of time.

Holstein Limitations. While a Holstein steer is without doubt the most economical producer The Iowa Experiment Station states in Bulletin No. 48, after extended experiments, that "a system whereby dalrying and meat making may be combined is most promising in its profits. It is not only possible to combine these qualities to a profitable degree, but also to perpetuate them, if the herd is bred especially for them. The feeding of range steers, at present prices, does not permit of securing much profit, in comparison with the returns that may be se-cured from the pfoducts of a herd bred for the special purpose of meet-ing conditions of a combination of and also to lose some of his former smoothness, so that these steers are not relatively as profitable when sold as two or three-year-olds as when fattened up to sell as baby beef.

Holstein beef possesses the desired pale red color and is very well marbled, although it does not gen-erally have so much fat as is ex-hibited by a beef steer. According to such authorities as Professor I. P. Roberts and others who have P. Roberts and others who have tested the qualities of both meats, Holstein beef has a superior flavor to that of the Shorthorn. One of the most important if not the chief factor in cattle raising is

against him, which the Holstein steer has to its credit at birth. In the past the dual purpose quea-tion has been discussed from the standpoint of whether the Shorthorn or other beef breeds are profitable for milk production, with a result, generally, to the discredit of the dual purpose type, and, on the other hand, the fact has been apparently over-looked that the Holstein is a most profitable breed for beef. According to the results of the tests reported in the Michigan Ex-



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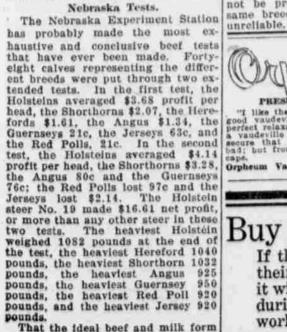
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