

Will Dual Cow Solve Question?

There is a shortage in beef in America. That fact no one can deny. That shortage, is, of course, caused by a lack of supply. That lack of supply is caused in part by the occupancy of the range pastures by dry land farmers who are now growing grain. It is caused in part by the rapid increase in the population, but it is caused more by the erroneous teaching of those who claimed that there is no legitimate place for the dual cow on the American farm.

Those who advocated this heresy are legion, and this advocacy has been most persistent for the past quarter of a century. This advocacy has borne fruit that is most regretful. It has discouraged the farmer from growing the true dual cow, the only cow that can aid in materially increasing the supply of beef in the future. The loss to the country that has come from this line of advocacy, how can it be measured?

The price of meat is now about as dear in America as in Britain. How is it to be prevented from growing higher? Where is the additional meat to come from? It cannot come in any marked degree from straight dairy cattle, since the breeders of these in the grade usually kill their surplus calves at birth or sell them as veals. It cannot come from the straight beef cattle, as it will not pay to grow them thus, as will be shown below.

Where Will We Get Beef?

Where, then, is the increase in beef production to come from? It cannot come in quantities that will appreciably affect the market from Argentina or Australia, as Great Britain and other European countries are competitors for this meat, and the competition will materially divert the trade in such meat.

It is up to those who have all along claimed that there is no place for the dual cow on the farm to show where the people of this country are going to get their future supply of meat. What is their answer to this question? Their advocacy has been all along cutting off this supply. Have they anything to say bearing on the sources of the supply of beef in the future?

Beyond all question they have helped to create this shortage. Have they a single word to utter that will throw light upon the question as to how this shortage is to be met? If they have, now is the time to speak. If they do not have, let them forever keep silence.

Need for Dual Cow.

The beef supply cannot be materially increased from the straight beef cow. It could be increased if there were still unoccupied ranges, but there are not. It could be increased from this source if there were still areas of land unoccupied as extensive farming land, but these are all, or nearly all, occupied.

The demand could be met in part, if two or more calves could be produced to rear on one cow, but the supply of these is limited. The truth is that the growing of beef from straight beef animals has never paid large dividends to the growers on the arable farm, nor can they make these now.

That beef cannot be grown from the straight beef cow today on the arable farm as cheaply as it can be grown from the dual cow can be readily shown. A beef cow suckles her calf. That calf at one year old weighs, say 800 pounds. On the basis of present prices, that calf will bring in the stockyards 8 cents a pound, or \$64. Deduct say \$4 freight, the net return is \$60.

Comparisons.

Now the estimate is very reasonable that places the cost of food for the cow at \$30. The only profit, therefore, is from the remaining \$30, less the food eaten by the calf other than that supplied by the cow. This will still leave a margin of profit, but it will not be a large one, and it will be still further narrowed if the interest on the investment is considered. On margins of profit so narrow, farmers generally are not going to engage in growing beef from the source named.

With the good dual purpose cow it is far different. Her milk product, including the skim milk over and above what her calf takes, will be worth about \$100, based on the present prices of dairy products.

Her calf raised on skim milk and adjuncts will be worth not less than \$40 in the stockyards after the freight has been deducted. The return, therefore, from the dual cow is \$140, and from the straight beef, \$60. The only essential difference

is in the cost of the handling of the milk. The difference in the return is \$80. There can be no question but that the dual cow will bring far greater profit than the other.

HOG NOTES.

Frozen alfalfa may kill a hog as well as a cow or horse. It is usually indigestible.

A hog cannot sleep comfortably in a draft of wind, he will catch cold very easily.

When coarse straw is used for bedding, the little pigs often get tangled up in it and are unable to get back to the sow. They become chilled and frequently do not recover. The way to solve the problem is to cut the straw and provide a finer bed.

Before farrowing the sows need good, nutritious bone developing foods. At farrowing time they need something that will stimulate milk production.

Hog tight fences have always been considerable of a problem. The woven wire fence solves the problem both in economy and ease of construction.

One way to profit by the boom in the hog business is to be more careful of the breeding stock and sell less of it for market purposes.

Fully developed breeding stock brings the strongest offspring.

The character of the feed determines the character of the meat.

At present prices hogs offer a mighty good market for corn.

The hog appreciates a clean, dry bed. Change the litter frequently.

Do not sell half fattened hogs.

Stinting the brood sow often results in stunting the pigs.

"Pigs is pigs" at present prices.

Hogs that are of uniform size and weight will fatten best.

Many a farmer wishes now that he had not sold his stock hogs off so close.

Field peas have been made to take the place of corn in the cornless sections.

Hog prices will go out of sight again this winter and the wise dairy farmer will provide himself with a bunch of shoats and make 10 to 11 cent pork out of cheap skim milk.

If the sow is given filthy feed the effect is quickly seen in the pigs.

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MODEL DAIRY FARM 181 acres, near Cody, Wyo.; 175 acres in cultivation under irrigation in alfalfa; under hog-tight fence, and cross fenced. No rock or gravel. Beautiful modern home with electric light and heating plant. Cow barn, 36x150, for 62 cows; concrete alleys. Calf barn, 26x125; stanchion stalls for 28 head, box stalls for eight head; large horse barn. All barns have electric lights and running water. Power also in large barn. 15 hoghouses, chicken-house, dairy-house with running water, all having electric light, concrete root cellar; modern tenant-house for men; also one for women. Each containing bedrooms, living-rooms and bathroom. Fine garage. Beautiful 59-acre lake stocked with bass and lake trout. Fine climate; sunshine 325 days in year. No such thing as sleighing. Also creamery turning out 15,000 lbs. monthly and three 120-ton silos. Price is \$50,000; no encumbrance. Will exchange for a dairy farm close in in Eastern Washington or Oregon. This is one of the finest places in the West. Full particulars will be given on request.

John E. Howard, Chamber of Commerce, Portland, Oregon