

## The Necessary Pure-Bred Bull

**P**oor bulls are losing corn belt dairy farmers millions of dollars. The annual butterfat average is kept low by cows which trace back in one or two generations to mongrel, nondescript sires. Herds are too often headed by bulls in whose breeding and conformation there is no suggestion of dairy type or production. Many of these could render their best service to dairying by going the bologna route to lessen the high cost of living. Failing this, they accomplish the next best result. The low production of their get forcibly impresses the need of better dairy sires.

The profit in any dairy is determined to a large degree by the worth of the herd bull. The Ohio station has lately shown the value of a good sire by comparing two bulls used at Wooster. One increased the average yearly production of his daughters over that of their dams 1299 pounds of milk and 40 pounds of butterfat.

The other decreased the average of his daughters below that of their dams 760 pounds of milk and 45 pounds of butterfat. Figuring the average producing period of a cow as six years the difference in value of these two bulls in the producing life of each heifer sired is about 12,000 pounds milk and 500 pounds butterfat—a difference well worth notice and sufficient to point out the value of superior bulls.

Apply this in the dairy herds of the country. A very little extra care in selecting animals for sires would raise the butterfat average at least 10 pounds per cow. When multiplied by the number of dairy cows in the United States this amounts to 200,000,000 pounds of butterfat worth \$60,000,000—enough to pay for careful consideration of the need of real dairy sires.

### Iowa's Debt to Bulls.

Wisconsin and Iowa rank high as dairy states—and owe much to the use of pure bred bulls. Wisconsin's cattle associations and county sales scatter bulls of the four breeds throughout the state. In one period of 14 weeks last year more than 1200 purebred bulls were sold to Wisconsin farmers and breeders. Iowa heads many of her dairy herds with animals brought in from other states. Last year 5,000,000 more pounds of butter were made in Iowa than in 1912 in spite of the fact that there were 100,000 fewer cows in the state. This increase nets the farmers nearly \$1,750,000 besides the satisfaction of knowing their cows are averaging at least 10 pounds more butterfat than in the year before. W. B. Barney, State Dairy and Food Commissioner, credits this raise in standard for the most part to the high quality of the bulls brought into the state during the past 10 years. A yearly increase of 5,000,000 pounds of butter due largely to the use of better sires encourages the purchase of more.

To figure the influence and importance of the herd bull is difficult and many breeders dodge the trouble of estimation. The old adage "a bull is half the herd" loses its force through repetition. It is true where the blood of sire and dam are of equal power. However, when a pure blood bull is mated to grade or scrub cows, his ability to stamp his characteristics on his offspring is relatively increased.

If added to the advantage of being of purer blood than the cows, a bull is a "strong constitutioned, well-balanced animal that can be safely in-bred to his daughters and granddaughters," he becomes much more than "half the herd." The practice of breeding a bull back to his progeny may be debatable but there is no question of the great effect of the sire. A single cross with an inferior animal may tear down what it has taken years to build up in a herd.

On the other hand, a strong dairy sire may so firmly fix his qualities in his progeny that even when mated with scrub cows he produces a distinct dairy type. The prepotency of a purebred dairy bull was well shown in the Government demonstration herd at the National Dairy Show last Fall. One of the two most profitable cows in the test was a second cross Holstein-Friesian—a cow of such excellent type as to rank high on the breed score card.

### A "Good, Cheap Bull!"

Not long ago a dealer in dairy cattle received an order for "20 good, purebred Jersey heifers—good milky stock with register of merit blood and also a good, cheap bull." A good, cheap bull! A little study would have shown the writer the folly of this. With him a "bull's a bull." Yet this is exactly what is often done—a fine, highly developed bunch of dairy heifers is mated to an animal whose only recommendation as a dairy sire

is the fact that he isn't a helper. A "no-purpose" bull can do more in three years toward classifying a herd as "boarders" in the ranks of unprofitable producers than can be undone by years of careful breeding.

A little investigation of herds and the cause of money-losing cows brings us face to face with the scrub bull proposition. More purebred sires are needed but more important is the intelligent use of those we have. Time spent in selecting a bull to head the herd is profitably invested.

Dairy blood sells high and purebred sires in grade or scrub herds will easily produce \$150 heifers from \$75 to \$100 cows. A leader in dairy breeding has recently said: "There never was a time in the world's history when the market prospect was as encouraging for the raising of cows to sell as now. They must be well bred, not necessarily pure bred but from registered dairy sires." There is no line of dairying of more importance than building up the ordinary herd and no easier means than by the use of better sires.

### Owners Advised as to Care of a Sick Horse

**F**ew horse owners are justified in attempting to treat a horse that is really sick, yet every one ought to be able to do something for an ill animal until professional help arrives.

Improper feeding in the winter produces much indigestive sickness among horses, and an animal with acute indigestion needs veterinary assistance quickly. There is not much use pouring medicine into the stomach, for that organ is already in a deranged condition and will not assimilate the drugs.

The injection of concentrated medicines under the skin is the only rational way of treating such ailments, and the ordinary horseman is not possessed of either the instruments or the necessary skill to do this work. However, he can well adopt measures of relief, such as placing the sick animal in a large stall plentifully supplied with good bedding and an attendant to prevent the patient from injuring himself when the pains are most intense. Many a horse has suffered violently and thrown himself on a hard floor, bursting the stomach which had been distended with gas, and thus destroying whatever chance there might have been for successful treatment.

It always gives some relief in cases of abdominal pain to apply hot water cloths to the lower part of the abdomen. These should be as hot as the animal will stand and usually may be easily applied as the sick animal will almost always lie down and often on his back.

Horses suffer more from pulmonary diseases in the winter than in the summer because so many stables are insufficiently ventilated. This predisposes to lung trouble, and many a simple cough or cold develops into inflammation of the lungs simply because the animal has to stand in a poorly ventilated stable.

The average case of influenza or even cold distemper will clear up without much medical treatment if the patient is only allowed an abundant supply of fresh air. Keep the body warm by blanketing, stimulate the circulation in the extremities by massaging the legs, and keep the bowels relaxed by the use of succulent feed. If the breathing is labored, apply a hot poultice to the throat and chest, and you will have gone a long way towards preventing any complications from setting in and will probably not need any professional advice at all.

If a plentiful supply of fresh air is necessary to maintain a horse in good health, it will readily be seen how essential it is to an animal suffering from any sort of respiratory trouble. The most skillful medical treatment will be useless without it.

### Can It Be?

Down my mind's corridors  
Go murmuring the memories of old wars;  
By day and night they haunt me, anguished cries  
From fields whence only the lark's song should rise,  
Or the blithe reaper's shout amidst the grain.  
And now there comes a grimmer, greater pain  
Voicing its suffering. Oh, God, what gain  
In all this woe of nations? Can it be  
Through the dark valley that mankind shall win  
From lust of power and jealousy and sin  
To heights of peace and perfect amity?  
—Clinton Scollard, in New York Sun.

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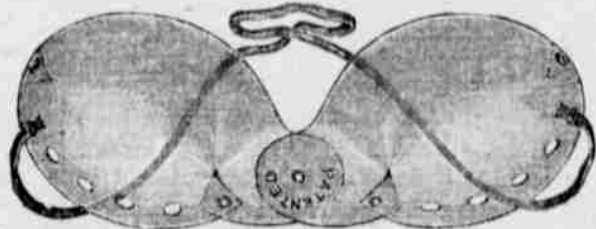
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