A Test Period Covering Ten Months Is Advocated for the Dairy Breeds

SHORT TEST FOR COW IS HELD OF DOUBTFUL VALUE

By R. C. Stewart

A subject that is being widely discussed at the present time among breeders of purebred dairy cattle is the length of time official tests should run. The 30-day test and especially the seven-day test is not only being opposed by many breeders, but by authorities from many agricultural colleges as well. At the same time many veterinarians are advocating that the yearly test be eliminated and a shorter one take its place.

The short time test as indicating the real economical worth of a cow is of doubtful value. A cow that is forced into producing a great amount of milk during a short period requires a great deal of high priced feed to put her in condition for this test and must be dried off early to prepare for the next run on test. She is working for only a short time, but eating during the entire year.

TEST HAS ADVANTAGE

One advantage of the short time test is that the cow may be bred shortly after having a calf, thus producing a calf yearly and avoiding the trouble that is common with the practice of holding off breeding, which in many cases makes it hard to get the cow again with calf. Some of the less scrupulous breeders have used the short time test as a means of creating fictitious values for the progeny of their cows, getting the cow very fat before calving and working this flesh off during the short time test by heavy blanketing and various other means.

A concerted effort by men interested in advance-registry work is now being carried on to make this work of the greatest possible value to whatever breed is involved and to dairying as considered from a national standpoint. The short-time test is subject to adverse criticism for its inaccuracy as an real index of economic production.

The 365 day test comes in for its share of criticism on the matter of held off breeding. A cow on yearly test if bred at the normal time would freshen about two months before she had completed the year's work. In addition to the loss of these two months there is the month and a half of rest that every cow should have before calving. This loss of three and a half months will greatly reduce the record it is possible for a cow to make and cause her record to look small as compared to records that have been carried on through the entire 12 months.

365 DAY TEST URGED

No one breed seems willing to take up the 305 day test unless the other breeds also adopt it, since a 10 months' test would look small compared to a year's work. To hasten the adoption of this 305 day test, and to eliminate the short time test, the American Dairy Science association has adopted a resolution, recommending that after October 1, 1920, the association of agricultural colleges and experiment stations be relieved by the breed association from supervision of official dairy tests where the test period is less than 10 months in length.

Popular sentiment will gradually eliminate the scrubs from the herds of the country, but it is through official testing that the scrub will be found out and the high producers become known. To be effective in bettering the herds of the country the records must indicate the true economic value of a cow, not for a few days or a month, but for several months or even over a period of years.

COW'S RECORD WORTH WHILE

A cow's record is of little value in the long run unless she is able to give her qualities to numerous offspring and through her bull calves to all their daughters. If in making her big record her breeding is held off until she is barren she has done very little to help either her breed or the dairy industry in general. She must be able to bring more of her valuable progeny into the world to make her record worth while.

Many breeders are looking forward to the time when all the breed associations will adopt the 10 months' test and the three or less milkings per day. It is believed that this will eliminate many of the troubles the breeder is up against today.

McArthur Is Made One of Officers in Jersey Cattle Club

Congressman C. N. McArthur, representative from Oregon and a well-known Jersey breeder, was unanimously elected a member of the board of directors of the American Jersey Cattle club at the annual meeting held in New York, June 2. Other directors elected to serve three years are: Senator Carter Glass of Lynchburg, Va.; W. A. Griswold of Nashville, Tenn., and C. J. Tucker of Lees Summit, Mo.

M. D. Munn of St. Paul, Minn., was elected president for his fifth consecutive annual term, and Darling of East Burke, Vt., and George T. Chaffee of Rutland, Vt., as vice president and treasurer, respectively. The board of directors held a meeting, at which R. M. Gow of Newark, N. J., was re-elected secretary at a salary of $7200 a year.

The report of the secretary and treasurer showed that the club is in a very prosperous condition. One hundred and thirteen members have been added during the past year. Oregon is coming to the front in membership in the club. Twenty-four applications were received from here and will be balloted on by the members.

Oregon has more cows on official test than any other state excepting Ohio. The president and secretary gave enthusiastic accounts of their recent visit to the Pacific Coast at the time of the Oregon Jersey Jubilee.

Water Expense Record

How much you will be able to pay for irrigation water is a question that can only be determined by keeping farm records and accounts. The farm management department of the Agricultural college advises the use of the farm record book which may be obtained from your county agent or bank.

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"GREEN" DUCKS PROFITABLE

A pen of Peking ducks about seven weeks old in the fattening stage. Ducks from 8 to 12 weeks old find a ready market and command good prices.

LINN BREEDERS ON SHORTHORN JAUNT

Albany, June 5.—Thirty-five automobiles with 160 Linn county Shorthorn enthusiasts visited local herds in the Shorthorn shortrun here Tuesday.

Growing interest in purebred cattle was apparent in the success of the shortrun. Large crowds of farmers who could not join the caravan attended a stock judging demonstration by Professor O. M. Nelson of O. A. C. at the C. H. Davidson farm, Shedd, where other attractions were the calves of the Shedd Boys' and Girls' Calf club, which recently won a prize offered by the American Jersey Cattle club, and the herds of Mr. Davidson and T. J. Dannen.

OTHER HERDS INSPECTED

Other herds inspected were those of C. C. Bryant, Albany; C. C. Cole, Albany; R. C. Burkhart, Lebanon; McCormick Bros., Lebanon; O. K. Blatchford, Tangent; John Grell, Tangent; W. C. Obermeyer, Tangent; J. B. Cornett, Shedd; H. G. Springer, Shedd, and Felzer Bros., Tangent.

A. E. Lawson, representative of the American Shorthorn Breeders' association, expressed surprise at the enthusiasm that marked the shortrun and the number of excellent herds visited. He said Linn county's right to a place in Shorthorn fame had not been pressed enough.

PICNIC DINNER ENJOYED

A picnic dinner was enjoyed at noon at the home of John Grell, where Mrs. Grell and Mrs. W. C. Obermeyer, whose farm home adjoins, were hostesses.

C. C. Bryant acted as "marshal" of the day. Talks were made by Lawson, A. C. Schmitt, president of the Linn County Fair association and president of the Albany First National bank, and Frank Gilstrap, manager of the Albany Chamber of Commerce, who advocated strengthening of links between the city and farms.

POULTRY NOTES

Eggs that have been in the incubator or under setting hens and test out infertile should be made use of—is the advice of the poultry department of the Oregon Agricultural college. The infertile eggs should be boiled and mixed with bread crumbs or bran and meal.

If plenty of milk is available, keep it before the chicks at all times. No water need be given them and they will drink enough of the milk to satisfy thirst as well as make a satisfactory growth, report the college poultry authorities.

If a broody hen is to be transferred to a new nest, she should be moved at night, so she will become accustomed to and will not abandon the new location.

Guinea hens usually begin to lay in April or May, and will lay 20 to 30 eggs before becoming broody. If not allowed to sit they will continue to lay throughout the summer, producing from 40 to 60 or more eggs.

Where conditions make it feasible and cheap, small flocks of poultry should be kept to a greater extent than at present by families in villages and towns, and especially in the suburbs of large cities. The need for this extension of poultry raising is particularly great in sections where the consumption of poultry products exceeds the production, with the result that prices are high.

Whole corn in the best feed for sitting hens. Do not use soft feed, as it may cause diarrhoea. Water, grit and dust baths should always be provided.

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FORCE GREEN DUCK FOR RAPID GROWTH

Young ducks forced for rapid growth and marketing at from eight to 12 weeks of age are called green ducks. They weigh from five to six pounds and are the principal source of income on commercial duck farms. The owner of a small flock of ducks will also find it profitable to crowd the growth of at least part of the ducklings that he raises and market them at two months of age.

For two weeks before killing the ducklings to be marketed should be fattened on a ration made of three parts, by weight, of corn meal, two parts of low grade flour or middlings, one part of bran, one half part of beef scrap, with 3 per cent grit and 10 per cent green food. Feed this mash three times daily, or use a mash of three parts corn meal, one part low grade wheat flour, one part bran, 5 per cent beef scrap and 3 per cent oyster shell, with the green feed and grit added.

The green feed is sometimes left out of the ration during the last seven days of fattening, as it tends to color the meat and may produce a slightly flabby rather than a firm flesh; however, it is easier to keep the ducklings in good feeding condition on a mash containing green feed. Boiled fish may replace the beef scrap, but should only be fed up to within two weeks before they are killed, as it may give a fishy taste to their flesh.

Green ducks are marketed at from eight to 12 weeks of age, according to their condition and weight. Two or 3 per cent of oyster shell is recommended in most fattening rations, but bone ash, ground or cracked bone, or bone meal would appear to be better mineral feeds to add to these mixtures. If milk is available at profitable feeding prices, the rations recommended for crate-fattened chickens would give good results in fattening ducklings, producing a well-bleached milk-fed green duck.

Shorthorn Shoutfest To Be Held in Linn County on June First

Albany, Or., May 29.—Shorthorns will gain the limelight in Linn county June 1, when the Shorthorn Shoutfest is scheduled to inspect herds on an automobile tour. The itinerary of ranches follows:

Assemble at C. C. Bryant farm, west of Albany, at 9 o'clock in the morning; C. C. Cole ranch; McCormick Bros., north of Lebanon; O. K. Blatchford, Galser station; W. C. Obermeyer and Joseph Grell, east of Tangent, where a dinner picnic will be served; J. B. Cornett, near Shedd; C. H. Davidson; Ausman farm, south of Tangent, and Flezer Bros., south of Tangent.

Truck Is Marketing Aid

The value of the motor truck as an aid in marketing farm products is now well established. In bringing this about improved roads have been an essential factor.

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POULTRYMEN WILL MEET NEXT WEEK

Pacific Poultry Producers, Incorporated, will hold its first series of organization meetings, commencing next week. The territory in the immediate vicinity of Portland and as far north as Winlock is to be covered.

The Pacific Poultry Producers' association has obtained the help of other large farmers' organizations. Some of the leaders in the cooperative movement in the Pacific Northwest will speak in behalf of the new association. Alma D. Katz, president of the Dairymen's league, which has over 2000 members and is one of the most successful organizations in the state, will be one of the speakers. Another will be C. I. Lewis, chief of organization of the Oregon Growers' Cooperative association, which it is expected will handle in the neighborhood of $10,000,000 worth of Oregon fruit this year. Arthur Goldsmith, associate of Aaron Sapiro, attorney for some 20 of the most important cooperative associations on the Pacific coast, will also speak in behalf of organization and present the legal phase of organization. J. F. Langner of The Oregon Journal, who is well known as an authority on cooperative organization, will also speak at some of the meetings; U. L. Upson, manager of the Poultry Producers' association; Russell Butler, one of the state's largest poultry producers; J. R. McRae, F. A. Schroeder and others will also attend these meetings, which will be held for the purpose of securing new and additional memberships.

Upson, who was formerly poultry husbandman of the United States department of agriculture, states:

"I hope every poultryman in the vicinity in which these meetings are to be held will make it a point to attend, as the problem to be discussed vitally affects the status of the entire egg industry in the Portland territory."

Meetings will be held as follows: Vancouver, June 9, 1:30 p. m.; Winlock, June 9, 8 p. m.; Forest Grove, June 10, 1:30 p. m.; Gresham, June 10, 8 p. m.; Oregon City, June 11, 2 p. m.; Portland, June 11, 8 p. m.; Corvallis, June 12, 2 p. m.; Salem, June 12, 8 p. m.; Junction City, June 15, 2 p. m.; Cottage Grove, June 15, 8 p. m.

Organize to Fight Grasshoppers

Klamath Falls, June 5.—Grasshoppers have appeared in swarms in various parts of the county and farmers have organized in mass meetings to devise effective means of eradicating them. In some localities they have already caused great damage to crops. They appear in great swarms and clear everything in their path. Arsenic mixed with bran is used to poison the pests.

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MANAGES OREGON DAIRY ASSOCIATION

Albert S. Hall, manager of the Oregon Dairymen's Cooperative league, which has the largest membership of any farmers' cooperative marketing association in the state.

COOPERATIVE PLAN MAY BE EXTENDED

The possibility of the extension of the plan of cooperative marketing adopted by the Pacific Poultry Producers' association to other sections of the United States will be announced at the convention of the American Poultry Producers' association, which will be held in Kansas City, Mo., August 10 to 13.

The plan of the Oregon Poultry Producers' association as recently reorganized is predicated upon that if the famous Poultry Producers of Central California.

Among the speakers at the meeting will be J. H. Barber, manager of the Poultry Producers of Central California, a cooperative marketing organization, and Professor James A. Dryden of Oregon Agricultural college.

Barber will speak on the value of cooperative marketing. It is expected that at this meeting plans will be worked out for the formation of similar organizations throughout the United States.

Some method of creating a national advertising fund to advertise the food value of poultry and eggs, and to encourage the consumption of poultry and eggs, and to show their relative qualities compared with other food products, will be proposed. Some recommended that the poultrymen be taxed 2 cents per hen on each farm.

MAY CHANGE STANDARDS

One session will be devoted to an open forum on proposed changes in the next standard of perfection. This session will probably be in charge of the judges' section and this will be an open meeting where every breeder shall have his say as to the improvements that can be made in his variety of poultry.

Ten or 15 of the most prominent breeders of standard bred poultry in America will discuss proposed changes in the standard of perfection as it affects the different varieties of poultry.

Methods for Testing Eggs Are Suggested

When supplying a fancy trade with eggs, or on receiving eggs from outside sources, it is often desirable to determine their freshness. The method generally used by commission merchants for this purpose is known as "candling" and consists in holding the egg between the eye and a light so as to note the contents. This should be done in a darkened room, using one of the egg testers on the market or simple home made tester.

Another method employed by some who have not a great number to test is to put the eggs in a basin of water. If good they will lie on their sides; if bad they will stand on the small ends. The older the egg the more upright it stands, and if very old it will be suspended in the water or even float on the surface.

Barred Rock Lay Well

A pen of Barred Rocks entered from New York has laid 667 eggs during the ninth national egg laying contest at Cottage Grove, Mo. A pen of White Leghorns from Missouri won the cup for April by laying 135 eggs during the month. The high individual was a Barred Rock which laid 30 eggs during the month and has laid 160 eggs during the contest.

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NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION MEETINGS OF
Pacific Co-operative Poultry Producers
The plan of the new organization will be fully explained at meetings to be held at the following points:
Vancouver, June 9, 1:30 P. M.
Winlock, June 9, 8 P. M.
Forest Grove, June 10, 1:30 P. M.
Gresham, June 10, 8 P. M.
Oregon City, June 11, 2 P. M.
Portland, June 11, 8 P. M.
Corvallis, June 12, 2 P. M.
Salem, June 12, 8 P. M.
Junction City, June 15, 2 P. M.
Cottage Grove, June 15, 8 P. M.
Speakers Will Include:
ALMA D. KATZ, President of the Oregon Dairymen's League, one of Oregon's most successful farmers' co-operative marketing associations.
PROFESSOR C. I. LEWIS, former chief of the division of Horticulture of the Oregon Agricultural College and now chief of organization of the Oregon Fruit Growers' Association, the largest farmers' co-operative marketing association in the Pacific Northwest.
ARTHUR A. GOLDSMITH of the law firm of Aaron Sapiro, San Francisco, and other well known and successful leaders in highly successful farmers' co-operative marketing movements.
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