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Farm Dairying



II.—The Dairy Breed of Cows.

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PERSONAL preference and local conditions usually govern the choice of the breed of the dairy herd. There seem to be special breeds for special needs.

Channel Island Cattle.

If the land is near a city and expensive and a high class trade is catered to then Jerseys would prove a wise choice. They are said to be the most economical producers of milk fat and justified this statement at the Buffalo and St. Louis expositions. They give a moderate supply of rich, high colored milk, which, owing to the large size of its fat globules, creams readily. The Jersey is known as "the butter maker's cow" and is a native of the island of Jersey. She is inclined to be small, average weight about 800 pounds, very gentle and makes an ideal family cow.

The Guernsey is similar to the Jersey, but slightly larger and more vigorous and makes yellower butter than any other breed. The Jersey and Guernsey are known as the Channel island cattle.

Holstein.

If the farm affords abundance of succulent pasture and a heavy flow of milk is desired the Holstein should be



THE HOLSTEIN IS SOMETIMES CALLED "THE MILKMAN'S COW."

the choice. This breed has been developed on the rich dike lands of Holland, which may account for its being the largest of the dairy cattle. A mature cow will weigh from 1,200 to 1,400 pounds. It is asserted that she can make a gallon of milk at less cost than any other cow, and she is sometimes called "the milkman's cow." The milk is often low in fat content, although breeders are improving the breed in this respect.

The Holstein needs plenty of feed, and owing to her weight she should not have to range very far to secure it. The breed has grown much in favor of late years and has made many wonderful records.

The Holstein is black and white, sometimes almost entirely either the one or the other color, but more usually definite patches of both. Very rarely they revert to red, which is one of the ancestral colors. The pedigree of calves coming red may be pure, but the calves cannot be registered.

Ayrshire.

Under conditions where the land is rough and stony and pasture rather poor no breed will give as good returns as the Ayrshire. In her native home, Scotland, she inherited a sturdy constitution and an independence which enables her to hunt for a living, but she likewise responds well to good treatment.

The Ayrshire gives a medium flow of milk of average richness, especially adapted for cheesemaking on account of its small fat globules, which retard the creaming process—a fact which has designated her as "the cheesemaker's cow."

She is medium in size, weighing about 1,000 pounds, and is usually red and white or brown and white, the white predominating. She is a stylish, alert cow, the backward sweep of the horns giving her a distinguished appearance.

Milking Strain of Shorthorn.

Where dairying is not specialized, but a few cows are kept to supply the household with milk and butter and to add to the fertility of the soil, the milking strain of Shorthorns finds its place. There are great possibilities in this fine type of cattle, with their placid disposition and general good health.

They are growing in favor with dairymen. The male calves can be reared for beef, and if anything happens to the cows they can be easily made ready for the butcher.

The Shorthorn is of English origin, is above the average in size and weight and gives a medium flow of standard quality milk. She may be white, red or roan or a combination of any of these colors.

Other Dairy Breeds.

Other dairy breeds not so well known are French Canadian, natives of Quebec, Canada—a small, sturdy type well adapted to stand the cold of winter and hunt a living in the rough pastures in summer. These cows resemble the Jerseys, but are usually solid black in color. For their size they give a good flow of milk that is above the average in quality, equal, in fact, to that of the Jerseys.

The Dutch Belted of Holland are medium in size and fair in milking qualities. They are black, with a broad white band around their bodies.

The Kerry, the Irishman's cow, is a little animal (some not weighing over 500 pounds), famous for its hardy character and good milking qualities. Black, but occasionally red.

We have heard a great deal about the dual purpose cow—one suited both for the production of milk and of beef. The following are adapted for the two requirements: The Shorthorn, the Red Polled, the Devon, and the Brown Swiss.

If dairying is the object it is best to keep to the dairy breeds. The male calves, if properly fed, make good veal. The cows have already earned their way, and a profit from the carcass at the end of a useful life should not be expected.

When once the breed is decided on keep to it. Nothing gives such a motley herd of unsatisfactory cows as a constant changing of the breed.

Importance of the Sire.

The sire should always be pure bred, of good milking stock. Too much importance cannot be placed on the influence of the sire in establishing a good dairy herd. The cows need not be pure, but should be good grades.

The breed is of importance, but the individual cow is what really counts. It is not only the herd which must be considered, but each cow in the herd. Every dairymen should have a certain minimum yearly milk standard, and if after a second trial the cow does not come up to it she should be discarded. Better a vacant stall than an unprofitable cow filling it. Be sure it is the cow's fault and not yours before you part with her. Many a good cow is humiliated because she cannot do her best on the slim allowance of food and water and the indifferent care she gets.

Name for the Farm.

A well kept lawn with shade trees and flowers gives much pleasure and comfort to those living on the farm and delights the eye of the passerby. A nice lawn is a paying investment not only from the aesthetic side, but from the market value side as well.

Every farm should have a suitable or distinguishing name, as "Meadowdale," "Poplar Lodge," "Flintona Farm," "Adamic Dairy." The name should be put at the main entrance to the farm. A good way to advertise the farm's specialties is to mention them on the same placard.

Pure Air in the Stable.

When the air in a stable is good a person can go in and out from it and not have his clothes saturated with stable odor. Much of the "cowy" flavored milk is directly due to milking in a badly ventilated stable. The air filled with offensive odors is carried into the milk pail, and the damage is done. Whether your stable is old or new, contrive some way of getting the foul air out and pure air in. Direct draft on the cows must be avoided. The muslin ventilation system is not keen enough unless there is great window space. The muslin gets damp, dust settles on it, and often in a short time very little air can pass through it. In cold weather the muslin becomes covered with frost and snow, and instead of having a stable with an even temperature and pure atmosphere it is rather likely to be one subject to sudden changes of temperature and ill ventilated.

Paint Farm Buildings.

If I were a Carnegie I would establish paint factories and furnish, free to all farmers, paint for their barns. Nothing adds so much to the appearance and general thrift of a home—standing as having all the buildings painted. Besides, the paint greatly preserves the wood. Just a few hints on painting. Do not paint in very cold or very hot weather. The lumber should be free from moisture. Work the paint well into the grain of the wood. Have the paint for the first coat rather thin and let it become thoroughly dry before applying the second. Two coats are usually sufficient. If oil paint cannot be afforded a durable whitewash is a good substitute. It makes old buildings look "most as good as new."

Splendid Whitewash For All Indoor Purposes.

To half a bushel of unstaked lime add sufficient boiling water to slake it and cover it to keep in the steam. Mix together one peck of salt, previously dissolved in warm water; two pounds of blue dissolved in three quarts of water, six ounces of bichromate of potash and half a pound of whiting. Add these to the lime, stir well, strain and apply hot either with a brush or a spray pump. Add water to thin the mixture so as not to clog the nozzle. A bushel of lime makes thirty gallons of whitewash. Light coats frequently applied are better than heavy ones. While still wet a light coat may seem to have faded in its object, but when dry it becomes beautifully white.

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