

# WHY THE SMALL FARMER SHOULD RAISE PUREBREDS

Community Organization Places Small Breeder on Substantially Same Basis Occupied by Large Breeder—Opportunities in Home and Foreign Markets.

Time was—and not so long ago—when the small farmer could not afford to breed purebred animals.

The time has come—just now, perhaps—when the small farmer can hardly afford not to breed purebred animals, and at least he should use purebred sires.

That is particularly true if his line of live stock is cows, and more particularly, if they are dairy cows, according to men in the United States Department of Agriculture who have given their lives to the study of dairy farming.

What has brought about the change? Principally, community organization. The small farmer who has to operate alone and unaided—practically all of them did 10 years ago—has a rocky road if he aspires to purebred stock. Now, the whole situation is changed, or is rapidly changing. The small farmer does not stand alone, and he has all kinds of aids. There, to start with, is the county agent, ready to bring the accumulation of expert knowledge to bear on the problems of the small farmer. There is the county farm bureau, perhaps. There is the cowtesting association. There is the co-operative bull association. There are enough things, if they are used, to pull the community together and make it possible for the smaller scale breeder to enjoy many of the advantages formerly obtained only by the

largest scale breeder.

**A Land of Purebreds.**

"Why not," inquires the dairy experts of the Department of Agriculture, "make the United States a purebred country, put it in the mind of the world as a purebred country?" People do not think of it in that way now. Try it out with yourself. You think of the Island of Jersey, say, as a simple breeding ground for pure Jersey cows, of Scotland as the top notch in Aberdeen-Angus cattle, of Clydesdale horses, even of the Collie dogs. Your picture of England is likely to be one of purebred Herefords or Shorthorns. And you have a sort of feeling of reverence toward them.

Do you think of America, from a live stock standpoint, in that way? Of course not. You think of it as a meat producing country, a range country, a grade cattle country.

Both estimates are, in a manner, correct. But, to the individual farmer on the Island of Jersey or in the white-face country of England or the black-cattle country of Scotland, the matter of having his animal purebred is simply a matter of doing what everybody else is doing. It is easier—or, to say the least, just as easy—to do it as not to do it.

Until just now, that condition never existed in the United States; it does exist now. Communities have organized and are organizing still more closely. Breeding associations are being formed with secretaries who can give help in keeping the records of all animals straight, one of the things with which the small farmer operating alone has greatest difficulty. When a community organizes and starts raising purebred stock of any kind, it brings a market for that kind of stock to the door of every farmer in the community. The man who, operating alone, could not have sold a purebred animal for a dollar more than he could have got for a good grade animal can get the worth of every animal he raises under the community system.

**Big Purebred Market At Home.**

The big market for purebred animals is at home. The same facts that apply to foreign markets ought to apply to beginners in this country. Take the man who has been operating a dairy farm with grade cows. Let him have a purebred that not only looks better than any cow he ever owned before, but also produces better, and he is pretty certain to start substituting purebreds for his grades. If he gets a poor producer, of course, he is likely to make up his mind that "the purebred business is mostly bunk." Community organization tends to see to it that the beginner gets a good producer, which, in turn, tends to make him a steady customer for purebred cows until he has placed his herd on a purebred basis.

Now that he can afford to do it, the small farmer should give himself the pleasure—and the actual benefit—of having dairy animals that he can be enthusiastic over.

"You never saw a man," says one of the Government's dairy experts, "just boiling over with enthusiasm about grade cows. The grade-cow man may think about getting up early in the morning to work with his cows, but the purebred-cow man is perfectly willing to stay up all night to work with them." In all of this discussion the good purebred is understood, and not the scrub purebred, for there are some of that kind.

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#### WISE UP ON T-B.

Hog raisers, say the United States Department of Agriculture, should be well posted as to the nature and prevalence of hog tuberculosis and how to prevent and get rid of it, so that financial losses may be avoided. Farmers' Bulletin 781 is devoted to a discussion of the subject.

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#### ARRANGEMENT OF A GOOD POLTRY PLANT

Roosts are kept entirely separate from the walls a regular path is made for ticks and other vermin; from roost and wall to resting hens.

Instead, 4x4 posts are sunk firmly in the ground in two rows, with slits in them in which a 1x4 will fit. These 1x4's have also grooves 12 inches apart in which 1x1 1/2 roosts fit. In housecleaning a man can walk along quickly, taking up the roosts, then taking up the side boards, putting them out to the air, and cleaning the floors up in no time. Some heavy oil, or grease, dropped in these grooves occasionally prevent vermin of any kind from hiding in them or passing through them. This is an extremely simple and convenient arrangement.

You might not think that such small roosts could not hold up a lot of hens. They do so easily on account of the strain coming on the long side; if they were laid flat two hens on the middle might break them. As it is there is a span six feet between supports and all the Leghorn hens that get on them cannot break them. The roosts project six or eight inches over the sides.

**Nests.** Tightly stretched woven wire is slanted over the nests on the north walls. This prevents the hens from standing on the top boards and leaving their droppings on them, which would cause vermin. At night a 1x4 is slipped in front of these nests, which prevents the hens from roosting in the nests. If they tried to do that, mites, lice and ticks would gather.

**Miscellaneous Pointers.** Given a large flock of Leghorns and they will range over a forty-

acre ranch. Consequently a large flock on free range does not go on a ten-acre farm, unless the neighbors are obliging. When grasshoppers are abundant the hens will not range far; when they are scarce, they will range farther.

A collie dog is a convenience on a ranch where hens range wide. It is the nature of the breed to protect the creatures he is with. A collie dog on the ranch rushes out and under every hawk or buzzard he sees overhead, and it keeps them off. The buzzards do not notice the dog; the hawks either fly off, or try to dive at some other part of the ranch. It takes some time for them to work around to that plan, so if they do not fly off right away, then they give up chicken-killing forever.

A shepherd dog, owned before the collie came, was just as good at the same work.

The time to kill a hen in her last season is when she starts in to want to set during the summer. If broken up, it will be quite a while before she begins to lay again and mostly she will begin to moult first, so put her on the market before that happens, while she is still markable and before a lot of valuable feed is wasted on her.

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