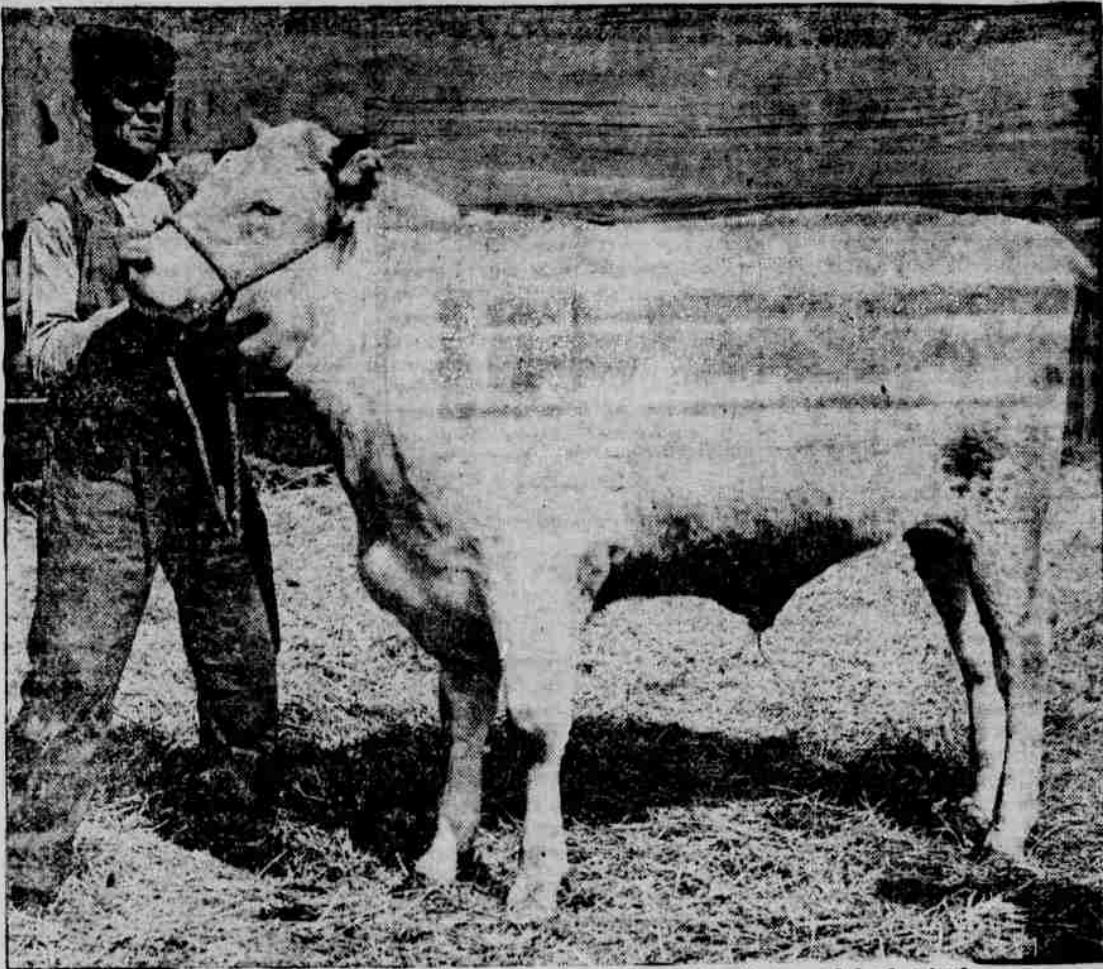


Livestock and Dairy

Facts About Care of Farmers' Feeders and Aids to Greater Milk Production.



First prize yearly steer at Oregon Fat Stock Show. Splendid type of beef animal.

FOR the man who must buy cows it is difficult, even after years of experience and with a thorough knowledge of the good points of a prime milker, to pick the good ones every time without some sort of what you might call "personal acquaintance" with the beast.

We all know that form goes with function in large degree, and unless the owner is willing to sell the cow on a guarantee or you have a chance to see her milked once or twice the only way to judge of her qualities and consequently her value is to look her over critically from the standpoint of the judge who assumes that points of outward appearance indicate the inward characteristics.

Main Points Told.

Here are the main points in a good milker from the point of view of a stranger, who must use his eyes solely: Head small and clean cut; muzzle large; forehead straight or concave; neck long and thin, but not scrawny; ears somewhat small; eyes bright and prominent; shoulders thin; loin broad, but not thickly fleshed, as in beef cattle; thighs thin; hind quarters long, deep and strong; flank high; legs short and wide apart; tail long, slim and loosely jointed; frame markedly wedge shaped from all directions; udder set broadly, high up behind, square and high up on abdomen, not loose, pendulous or fleshy; milk veins large and prominent; chest deep and with well sprung ribs; belly large and deep; udder medium sized, evenly placed and wide apart.

A fleshy udder, fine to touch when empty and retaining the size and form after milking, indicates a tendency to inflammatory troubles. The skin should be clean and thin, free from the ribs and with a fresh color; hair fine, thick and short; temperament active and docile; large feeder.

Good Dairy Cows.

The main points in selecting good dairy cows are the large, well balanced udders, that are not fleshy; the large, roomy bodies, showing in the first case an ample laboratory for the formation of milk and in the latter case a capacity for taking care of large amounts of feed.

Such are not always profitable cows, but they usually are. Cows are seldom profitable that give less than 250 pounds of butter in twelve months.

Age of Cattle.

The calf when born has two pairs of incisors; the other two pairs appear during the first month, says Professor

G. E. Morton of the Colorado experiment station. When a calf is eighteen months old it loses the middle pair of milk incisors and grows a permanent pair. The next pair, one on each side, is replaced at twenty-seven months of age, the third pair at thirty-six months of age, the fourth or outside pair at forty-five months. The time of appearance of these incisors varies within rather narrow limits, so that we are able to tell the age of young cattle fairly accurately. The calf also has a temporary set of molars which are later replaced with permanent ones, but they are not considered in estimating the age of the animal.

Spoiling Calves' Udders.

A common bad result of sucking among calves is spoiling of udders later on from garget and similar troubles, says Dr. A. S. Alexander. Milk fed calves confined to a pen often learn the vicious habit of sucking one another's udders. Where this takes place it almost invariably happens that the udder will in time secrete milk, and such milk sours, clots and leads to garget (inflammation of the udder or mammitis or mastitis). This will be news to many a man who has not been a close observer, but we know it to be a fact.

HORSE BREVITIES.

Never back a mare that is heavy in foal, especially if the load is heavy or the ground muddy. Such a mare can do plenty of work in pulling ahead. If there were fewer whips in the world there would be fewer ugly horses.

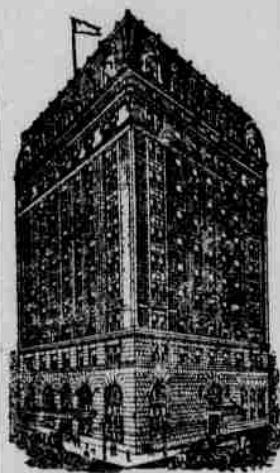
It costs a great deal of money to buy a satisfactory team. In most cases this can be avoided by the farmer raising his own.

Oat straw that is free from mold makes an excellent winter forage for idle horses.

All the growth and thrift that can be encouraged and maintained during the first year of the colt's life insure a stronger and a better horse.

If dusty hay is fed sprinkle with water, and it will save the horse much annoyance, but better not feed it all.

A traveler reports that potatoes in Greenland do not grow larger than an ordinary marble.



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