Herd Improvement Associations

Two Herd Improvement Associations with 825 cows under test are now in operation in the County.

The following table shows a comparison of the productions of the average cow in the County with those in Herd Improvement Associations:

Average Production Per Cow in Waupaca County		
	Average Cows	Herd Improvement Cows
	(1933)	(1936-37)
Milk. . . .	5200	8514
Butterfat..	190	308.3

No doubt the owners of the herds in our Herd Improvement Associations are some of our best dairymen. According to the last annual report of the associations there are reasons for these herds being better. Some of these reasons are:

- 59% used purebred sires.
- 81% grow alfalfa.
- 50% have been tested and are known to be free from Bang's disease.
- All feed balanced rations to milking cows.
- Unprofitable cows are sold.
- Farm management is studied through the help of association tester.

The cost of membership in the association is paid by each member. Although the cost of testing is not high, this has been one of the reasons why more of our herds are not in similar associations. It is hoped that as improvement in conditions continue more herds will be included.

Better Bull Program

One of the quickest ways, according to best authorities, to improve a herd is to use a good sire.

There is considerable information available which proves that herds that have been using a bred-for-production sire have a higher herd production than others that do not. For example, in our own County the average cow produces around 190 pounds of butterfat per year; whereas the herds in our Herd Improvement Associations in the County, many of which use sires from high producing cows, average 308 pounds of butterfat per cow.