How to Get Milk and Money Makers

By

A. C. Oosterhuis

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

THIS IS THE JURY THAT TRIES THE DAIRY COW.
There is but one way to tell and that is by keeping a record of their milk and butterfat production. This can be most easily done by joining a cow testing association.

File this bulletin where you can find it

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Every cow which is kept upon a Wisconsin farm should be a profit producer. She should repay her owner for every pound of feed, every hour of labor and also interest on his investment. Practically every herd has its star boarder, the cow that does not pay for her feed. Keeping such cows is a bad business proposition. Know your cows individually by the use of the scales and the Babcock test. Cows should be checked up to see that they are paying market prices or better for the feed they consume. With a record of the milk and butterfat production of each cow and the approximate price paid for the feeds, the selection of stock for the future herd is less difficult and advancement is more certain. With good foundation stock, intelligent care, breeding and feeding, success in dairying will be insured.

The Wisconsin farmer should grow his herd; of necessity some cows will have to be bought for a foundation. In buying, get the best producers available, and remember that the poorest are most conspicuous on the market. After the herd is established, weed out by means of the Babcock test and milk scales the unprofitable producers and only keep those which are paying for their feed and care. Mate these cows with a properly selected sire and raise well the heifer calves which you get from them. A very ordinary herd can soon be cheaply developed into high producers by following this method.

The sire is half, some say three-fourths of the herd. He must be pure-bred, and registered, and represent well the dairy breed which you prefer. His heifers should produce more milk and perhaps higher testing milk than their dams. Selecting just a registered bull will not do this. Find out the sire's qualifications by knowing the test and production records of his dam and grand-dams. These records should be better than those of your best cows if you are to increase the production of your herd. Be sure, too, that the constitution and breeding vitality of his dam was such as you wish established in your herd.

Size and constitution can be obtained together with quality and

Look for large nostrils.

To be healthy any animal must have the capacity for taking in large quantities of fresh air which is used in purifying the blood.
dairy temperament. Look for a masculine but well defined head, a strong
crest and fairly sharp shoulders. He should have great depth and breadth
of chest, a strong straight top line supporting a deep and long barrel.
The only entirely satisfactory system, however, of judging a sire is
by his offspring. Many sires have been sent to the block which should
have been kept.

Judge a Sire by
His Offspring
The true value of
a sire can not be
determined until
he is four or five years old, or until
his offspring begins to produce.
When the sire is found to be filling
the qualifications of breeding, type,
and best of all, producing improved
offspring, he should be continued in
service as long as possible. (In-
breeding oftentimes can be avoided
by exchanging service of sires with a
neighbor.) By keeping year after
year calves from a proven sire, a
herd is soon established carrying at
least 50 per cent of his blood and
having uniformity not only in high
production but also in type.

A liberal supply of good feed is

Well Summcred is Half Wintered
Well Wintered is Half Summered
this amount would be a total loss
concerned. It can generally be said
that with a real good dairy cow the
more she can consume over and
above her maintenance ration the
more profitable she will be. To
make the most palatable ration it
should have considerable variety and
bulk and contain much succulent
feed. Corn silage has become almost
indispensable in supplying succelence,
thus making a silo pay for itself in
one season. Roots and soiling crops
may be seasonable substitutes but
are more expensive. Grow alfalfa
and clover hays for the dairy herd.
Feed these in such amounts as the
cows will clean up well.

For the concentrates or grain
rations try one of the following com-
binations in

Try One of These comparison
On Your Herd with your present
practice
and feed from 1/4 to 1/4 as many pounds
of grain per day as the cow produces
pounds of milk.

THE BETTER HALF OF THE HERD.

It is not best to use a sire unless you
know that his dams, grand-dams, and,
if possible, great-granddams were good
milk and butter fat producers. To know
that he is properly registered is not
enough. There are many registered
sires which are no better than scrubs.
also absolutely necessary to success-
ful dairying. Approximately the
first 50 per cent of what a cow
should be fed is used in keeping up
her body activities. To feed only
of feed so far as production is con-

HOW MUCH IS SKIM MILK WORTH?

One hundred pounds of skim milk, a
by-product of the dairy, has a feeding
value equal to one-half of a bushel of
corn. Many a manufacturer has greatly
increased his profits by making econo-
mic use of the by-products and even the
waste of his business. Why shouldn’t
we?
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2 If dried distillers' grains are not available, gluten feed, dried brewers' grains or malt sprouts can be substituted for them. Give preference for them as substituted in the order named. Barley, hominy and rye may be substituted for corn meal. Cost of feeds are based on prices quoted January, 1914.

Cows which give milk rich in butterfat should receive the larger amount of grain. Often the difference between a good and a poor cow is the difference between a good and a poorly fed one. A hard working dairy cow should have from six to eight weeks of rest. During this time her ration should not be cut down for she should be given an opportunity to get into good physical condition for her next lactation period.

A higher and cheaper production of milk is made possible with proper equipment. A separate stable or building where attention can be given entirely to the production of milk should be provided. Large expensive barns are not a necessity but barns conveniently arranged, sanitary, well

A Good Herd Needs a Good Barn

ventilated, and well lighted are a paying investment. Healthy surroundings, free easy stanchions, good sunlight and air enables the cows to pay high prices for their feeds and good wages for the labor employed to care for them.

The Wisconsin farmer can also increase his milk returns by taking pains to produce a cleaner product. The public is calling for and is willing to pay for a product of superior quality. Better milk means an increase in its consumption and in the consumption of all products in the manufacture of which milk is employed. Increased consumption and a clean product means a rise in the price paid to the producer.

Simply following a few fundamental rules overlooked by most dairymen would increase the cleanliness of milk 100 per cent. Clean udders and careful milkers are two of the most essential factors in clean milk production.