

Shipping Co-ops Organized

In the early years of the twentieth century Wisconsin livestock producers were dependent upon local buyers who, traveling from farm to farm, furnished them with a market for their livestock. As the prices received by the farmers were usually unsatisfactory, the Wisconsin Society of Equity took an active part in helping the producers organize cooperative livestock shipping associations.

Durand Cooperative Livestock Shipping Association.—The Durand Cooperative Livestock Shipping Association at Arkansaw in Pepin County, is the oldest livestock shipping association in Wisconsin, having started to handle livestock for its members in 1905.

This association endeavors to provide a frequent, regular, and reliable outlet to market at the lowest possible cost, and to give active support to the cooperative selling agency at the terminal market.

With the advent of the use of the motortruck to transport livestock, this association, like many in northwest Wisconsin, introduced a truck pick-up service to the local rail loading station, later changing to a complete motortruck service direct from farm to market. Sales of livestock by the association in 1939 aggregated \$63,500. Almost all were made through the Central Cooperative Association at South St. Paul, of which the Durand association is a shareholder.

The co-op carries its own sinking fund to provide for insurance against crippling, injury, or death of livestock in transit.

Equity Cooperative Livestock Ship-

ping Association.—A group of farmers in 1909 organized at Marshfield in Wood County the Equity Cooperative Livestock Shipping Association. It was the first co-op of this type to be formed in central Wisconsin. Shipments are made from Marshfield to the Equity terminal market agency at Milwaukee. Livestock sales in 1939 for 300 patrons aggregated \$70,000.

Sauk Livestock Association, Cooperative, and Farmers Stock Co.—The local shipping associations in the State with the largest volumes of business are the Sauk Livestock Association, Cooperative, at Sauk City, and the Farmers Stock Co. at New Glarus in Green County. Both are located in south-central Wisconsin.

Organized on a membership contract basis in 1926, the Sauk co-op in 1940 had 350 members, and sales of livestock for the fiscal year ended January 31, 1940, amounted to more than \$570,000. Shipments are made both from Sauk City and Spring Green.

The Farmers Stock Co. was organized in 1913 as a capital stock cooperative. In 1939 it sold the hogs, calves, cattle, and sheep of 600 patrons for over \$540,000.

Breeders Sell Cooperatively

Some breeders' clubs and associations have been formed to sell surplus cattle cooperatively.

Barron County Dairy Breeders Cooperative Sales Association.—Five breeders' associations in Barron County organized the Barron County Dairy Breeders Cooperative Sales Association in 1937 for the purpose of inaugurating a consolidated and cooperative service