INTRODUCTION

This volume is the first attempt ever made in Wisconsin to bring together and publish C. T. A. record information on dairy sires. It is done that it may become permanent and available to all dairy farmers of the state interested in building more profitable herds.

The record information has been gathered by the cow testers of the state, assembled and filed by the Farm Accounts and Dairy Records Office of the College of Agriculture, and this volume has been financed largely by a special appropriation of the Legislative Emergency Board to the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association.

Cow testing work was started in Wisconsin in 1906 by the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association and ever since has been its major activity. As many as 78,370 individual cows have had their production and income history recorded in a single year. This work has been invaluable to the herd owner in making possible the accurate elimination of culls and in assembling a herd of high producing profit earning cows. Better feeding, improved management practices and doing a better farming job in general have also been direct results of this cow testing work.

Breeding Now Important

Due to the comparatively short producing life of a dairy cow, the matter of raising replacements that would maintain high production becomes of great importance. This necessitates the use of not only good cows, but good sires. A good sire so far as production is concerned is not one of certain color, size, shape, or form. A good sire is one that transmits a uniformly high level of milk and fat production to his daughters.

Definite proof of the transmitting ability of a sire is determined by the records of his daughters as compared with their dams. Here, then, is a double duty to be served by the same record used chiefly heretofore to determine only the worth of the cow. Increased interest in proving the transmitting ability of sires has kept dairymen testing their entire herds year in and year out and a few sires have been kept in service until proved outstanding by their daughters' records. The selection of bull calves from these outstanding proved sires offers a superior basis for selection. It is therefore highly important that proved sire information be made permanently available to all dairymen.

C. T. A. Records Assembled

This volume brings together all record information sent in by cow testers to the Farm Accounts and Dairy Records Office up to April 1, 1934 on sires having two or more tested daughters. All records available on both dams and daughters are included in the averages presented. Complete information may not be presented on every sire due to the recent establishment of the filing system from which this information is taken, but as this work progresses and testers send in more complete returns, volumes to follow will carry a more complete history. Advanced registry records are not included in this publication.

Information on a sire is not considered of great importance until five unselected daughter-dam comparisons are available. Less than this number are presented, because some record information is worth a great deal more than nothing, and we hope that it will encourage the keeping of these sires alive and active until the more worthwhile information is made available through continued record keeping.

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Information on many old as well as dead sires is included that their progeny may be considered in herd building and proved by record keeping to be carrying on the inheritance shown in their pedigree.

In the first column opposite the bull’s name, his date of birth and his sire’s and dam’s name and registration number are to be found; also the number of daughters, their total records, and the average of actual pounds milk produced.

Column 2 gives the fat percentage recorded.

Column 3 records the average actual pounds butterfat.

Column 4, the average of all butterfat records calculated to maturity.

Mature Equivalent Factors

The mature equivalent factors used are as follows:

1.3 for 2 year old records
1.2 for 3 year old records
1.1 for 4 year old records
1.05 for 5 year old records
1.05 for 11 year old records and over

A 300 lb. fat 2 Yr. old record is calculated thus: 300 x 1.3 = 390 lbs. butterfat.
A 300 lb. fat 3 Yr. old record is calculated thus: 300 x 1.2 = 360 lbs. butterfat.

The Mount Hope Index is calculated for all sires having five or more daughter-dam comparisons. This estimate of the transmitting ability of the sire is determined by placing the production of the daughters at a level half way between the two parents. If the daughters’ mature equivalent butterfat average is more than the dams the difference is added to the daughters to calculate the sire’s Mount Hope Index. If the daughters’ mature equivalent butterfat average is less than their dams the difference is subtracted from the daughters to calculate the sire’s Mount Hope Index.

Record Limitations

In studying records to evaluate the breeding worth of a dairy animal the following considerations are important. Any record is after all but an estimate of the ability of a cow. This record may register 60% of the inherent ability of a cow or it may register 90%, depending upon environmental conditions such as calving just right, number of milkings per day, kind and amount of feeds given, disease, accident and many other factors. In searching out a sire know something about how the records were made rather than place all faith on the actual figures available.

Another matter that will be given greater consideration in the future is what will the cow produce in 1,000 days. Because of common usage we have accepted the measurement of a cow’s ability in 365 days. Too many things such as calving regularly and normally each year, longevity of production, etc., etc., are left out of the 365-day period. Irregularities will show up much more pronounced in 1,000 day or lifetime production record history. The more records a cow may have, and the more records available on the daughters of a sire, the more accurate our conclusions on breeding value will be worth.

Breeding Program

It is the earnest hope of the Wisconsin Dairymen’s Association that this publication will have some small influence in interesting Wisconsin dairymen in more extensive
record keeping and record using. A constructive breeding program is utterly dependent on these two things. We suggest:

1. The year in and year out testing of every cow in the herd and the elimination of those that are proved unfit.
2. The keeping of all sires alive by bull exchanges, bull associations, etc., until they are proved at an early age by unselected daughter-dam comparisons.
3. The extensive use of the sire proved good by mating the outstanding brood cows from many herds to him and the early proving of sires dropped to this service.
4. The elimination of the sire proved poor and the immediate record check made on sires in service by him.

More Information Available

Many breeders will want more detailed information on bulls listed in this volume. The names of daughters of a sire, their individual records and other such information may be had by writing the Wisconsin Dairymen’s Association, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, or the Farm Accounts and Dairy Records Office, Madison, Wisconsin.

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