

AIRY CATTLE IMPROVEMENT

Our three active cow testing associations have been providing accurate information to eighty herd-owners in the county. Keeping an active record of butterfat production of each cow is the only way of determining profitable cows to keep in the herd. It is in the strength of these known productions that we have been able to provide farmers from time to time as to the type of herd sire to buy so that his herd might be improved above his present production. During the past few years we have been gradually lowering the quality of our herds in the county in general. We have at every opportunity tried to bring this to the attention of our farmers and to encourage them as individuals and as groups to take the necessary steps to re-establish some of the fine herds we once had.

Because of the delay of our State Legislature to make the necessary appropriations for Bangs' Eradication work, we have not been fit to push the Bang's Eradication in St. Croix County this past year. We have - at the present time - no assurance as to when our county can be area tested providing 75 % of the herd owners in the county so desire. We hope that sufficient funds will be made available in the very near future so that St. Croix County, as well as other counties that desire the test, may do so. At the present time, there are about a dozen counties in the state that have already been Bang's tested and are enjoying the benefits that go with an area test.

As a result of a lot of hard work put in by one of our testers, Adolph Hornig, two cooperative Bull Rings have been formed this past year. One is a ring consisting of four farmers who own Jersey herds - Jenson Bros., River Falls; Bill Jenson, River Falls; Walter Karnes, Spring Valley; and Wm. Heebink, Baldwin. They have organized a cooperative bull ring and have purchased four young bulls to be used in these four herds. Each farmer will use a bull for one year and then the bull will be switched to another herd and rotated once each year. The four Guernsey breeders - Bernard Masaw, Hudson; Emmet Jensen, River Falls; Newton Pearson, River Falls; and Ralph Katner, Hudson have organized and have already purchased two of their bulls. As a result of this type of herd sire service - combined with a sound testing program - these farmers will be able to find out which of the herd sires are satisfactory and can use them in building the fine herds that they wish.

Because there has been a considerable kick-back from the results farmers are getting from using bulls loaned to farmers by some truckers and others, the Baldwin Bull Association was formed. This Association has been sponsored by the Farmers Cooperative Produce Association of Baldwin, the Baldwin Cooperative Creamery, the First National Bank of Baldwin, and the Security State Bank of Baldwin. They have pooled money for buying young bulls from cows of known production. This Bull Association is well under way and the bulls have proved a boon to those farmers who have already taken advantage of it.

Last April when I was in Washington D.C. in the interest of the present Dairy Bill HR 6500, it came to my attention more forcibly than ever before that even though we do have federal programs whose aim is to increase the farmers income we still have much that can be done with the dairying industry starting with the individual farmer. I believe that there is still much room for the promotion of a quality dairy program and the standardization and grading of dairy products. When this has been properly taken care of it seems to me that we are in a position, as dairy farmers, to promote a sound dairy advertising program. We have permitted our competitors to come in and take much of our trade away from us. We cannot blame our competitors for this, as the dairy industry alone is the fault. We can, I believe, recognize the type of work that the competitor has been doing and profit from those experiences. As I have said many times at meetings here in the county, it is now time that the dairy industry, as a whole, should be on a sound advertising program using every known means of advertising possible -- including newspapers, billboards, monthly magazines, radio, posters, commercial exhibits, and so on. We cannot gain by condemning our competitors. We can, however, tell the consuming public that there is only one butter, that there is only one cheese, and there is only one milk. These are products of the dairy industry that have and need no substitutes. A substitute to me means something that can take the place of something else. In the diet and in the home there is no substitute for dairy products.

CROP IMPROVEMENT

As the crops grown in the County are cheaper by far than market feeds, we have on every hand encouraged the use of selected high quality seed and have recommended well prepared seed beds. It has been estimated that 50% of the corn raised in St. Croix county this past year was from Hybrid seed. Farmers are reporting on the average, a 20% increase in corn yields through the use of Hybrid seed. This means that we can get more seed per acre than from our open pollinated corn. By cutting down the corn acreage we can increase our permanent Hybrids and permanent pastures to the extent that we can raise much more seed than we previously had and even our hay and pasture crops can be improved by the use of commercial fertilizer and lime. In other words, by the use of properly prepared seed beds and the use of the right crops we can increase our income by decreasing our cash expenditures.

HOME ECONOMICS WORK

Mrs. Jake Zeeveld of Hammond, Mrs. Oscar Hanson of Woodville, and Mrs. Gust Gillis from Glenwood City, were the three Center Chairman of Homemakers groups this past season. These three women have been responsible for much of this work. Miss Wealthy Hale, Extension Specialist in Home Management, met with the leaders from each of the 26 clubs in the county from time to time and brought to them important material which could be taken back to their various clubs for use by the 389 homemakers in the county taking this work.