

LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT

Since dairying forms the major part of livestock income in Bayfield County, it is of primary importance that advancement be made along this line as rapidly as possible. Three one-day breeding schools were held at the Experiment Station for Bayfield County dairy farmers. These meetings were conducted by dairy specialists from the College of Agriculture and the Wisconsin Dairyman's Association, who discussed the following subjects, "Reproduction in Dairy Cattle", "Fundamentals of Dairy Cattle Breeding", "Selecting Breeding Stock", "Successful Breeding Systems", "Essentials in a Constructive Breeding Program", and "Cooperative Bull Associations and Artificial Breeding". These subjects provided fundamental information which will be of use to Bayfield County dairymen in their livestock program. Another dairymen's school will be held this fall as the next step in our Dairy Program. "Herd Management", "The Next Generation of Dairy Cattle", and "Feeding Dairy Cattle" will be the subjects discussed. It is felt that these subjects will assist Bayfield County dairymen in maintaining an economic dairy herd.

The need for cooperative bull rings or the cooperative ownership of bulls is especially apparent in communities where the average herd is rather small. Many farmers, having a herd of ten cows or less, are maintaining a bull for the individual herd, resulting in a high overhead expense for this service. By establishing a bull ring or a cooperative partnership in one bull, service could be given to several dairy herds at a fraction of the present cost. Results obtained in other communities under this plan have been very satisfactory, and this program will be pushed in the future.



Bulls from 500 lb. butterfat ancestry
to be used in farmers' herds.

Following the drought years and the period of low prices for dairy products, the number of high producing sires in the county decreased. However, with the return of normal feed and an upturn in dairy prices, interest has again become active in securing good quality sires. This office has been of assistance in securing several sires from high producing herds to be used in the county, and six young sires were recently loaned for use on several farms in the county.

As a result of several cases of sleeping sickness of horses in the county in 1938, a vaccination program was carried on this year. Farmers were organized into groups to obtain a group price, and three hundred-fifty head of horses were given two vaccinations as a disease preventative. As far as known, there were no cases of sleeping sickness in the county this year. This program should be continued for another two years in order to obviate a recurrence of the disease. The bot treatment was conducted in a similar way. A total of one hundred seventy-five horses were treated. Due to the fact that the bot program has been carried on for the past three or four years, undoubtedly the number treated each year will decrease.

Farm flocks of poultry are on the increase in the county. Since 1933, the net income from poultry has compared vary favorably with that from dairying, which has encouraged many farmers to increase the size of their poultry flocks. Special emphasis has been placed on the rearing of chicks and poultry sanitation, as well as the construction of poultry houses. Personal assistance has been given in feeding, culling and sanitation.

The maintenance of a small flock of sheep as a means of diversified livestock income is being encouraged on many farms. In many instances, there is a surplus of good roughage and pasture which can be utilized by sheep and add to the farm income. Help has been given in the selection of breeding stock, rations, and prevention of infestation. In this connection, three dipping and drenching demonstrations were held, at which a total of three hundred seventy-five head were dipped for ticks and drenched for stomach worms. Healthy flocks produce a good quality wool and make rapid gains in weight, both of which mean an added income for the owner. With this start on a health program, it may be possible to interest a sufficient number of sheep owners so as to maintain a portable tank which will reduce the cost of this operation.

LAND CLEARING

Since the first land clearing tractor was purchased in 1938, the demand became so great for this cheap method of clearing land, that in the spring of 1939, the Agricultural Committee purchased a second tractor for this purpose. Starting in June and up to October 15, 1,037 acres have been cleared on one hundred-eighty farms in the county. On dead stump land the cost has averaged between \$3.00 and \$4.00 per acre. In addition to stumping, in many instances, pot-holes have been filled, drainage ditches dug and field roads made.

Since the average farm in the county has only twenty-two acres under cultivation, which is too small for economic security, the committee feels that at the present time, land clearing is the most important project under our agricultural development.