

Difference in Cost in rearing a Full-Blooded Dairy Cow compared with that of a Common Cow.

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Mr. President and Friends of the Convention:

The subject assigned to me is, "The difference in the cost of raising a full blood dairy cow against a common cow". It seems to me this subject is closely connected with which is the most profitable a pure bred dairy cow or a common cow. I may perhaps talk on the one as much as the other. When it comes to the cost of merely raising a full blood dairy cow and a common cow you can make the cost in each case be very much the same or very different just as you choose. When raised there will be seen to be quite a difference in the amount and quality of milk and butter produced by the cow that has had ancestors for generations back of her noted for milk and butter against the amount and quality of that produced by the cow which cannot be traced to any kind of breed.

Many farmers and dairymen have made a great mistake in the past years in buying many of their cows. Cows which we buy seldom prove what we would like to have them. I notice the last 4 or 5 years that more of the farmers are beginning to raise the heifer calves from their best cows, showing that it will pay them to raise their cows.

Another mistake a good many farmers and dairymen make is in the selection of the sires for their herds. I know

many who look more on color than anything else. We should see to it that the sires we wish to use in our herds are from cows that are large producers of milk and butter. To do this we must get full bloods of some dairy breed. All dairy breeds are good. Each breeder knows the particularly strong qualities of his own breed and will naturally sing the praises of that breed.

I dont want to be understood that a young man starting out must buy all pure bred cattle for to do that would be too expensive. Buy the best common in graded cows you can for your money. Decide what dairy breed you like best, then buy the very best sire possible for your herd. Being careful in selections of sires and raising the heifer calves from the best cows you will have a herd of cows which in time can be made to pay almost as well as full bloods.

If you have a good sire dont be in a hurry to change, for if his offspring proves good keep him as long as possible. I have known sires to be kept in a herd for 8 years. This all can be done by careful selection and breeding. A full blood dairy cow that drops a good calf I value from \$25.00 to \$50.00 and the milk she gives after I have fed the calf 5 to 6 weeks is worth from \$35.00 to \$50.00 while the common cow that has no breeding her calf at 4 weeks old is worth \$6.00 to \$8.00 and the milk from \$20.00 to \$30.00.

We can see at our public sales what good breeding does. Cows that show good breeding sell from \$15.00 to \$20.00 more than the ones that show no breeding. Seeing the cost of raising the full blooded cow and the common cow can be made alike and the difference in the profits obtained from the former is that much more than from the latter that we farmers and dairymen cannot afford to raise the common cattle. We must invest a little more in purchasing a good sire, must spend a little more time in feeding when young with good hay and a little grain.

The cost in raising, I repeat, is so little different that on our high priced land we cannot afford to spend our time

with stock that is only producing half of what it could do if we would only do some careful breeding.

There is another point I think is well worth considering. You breed in a certain line and keep in that line you will have something that is an ornament to your farm and at the same time bringing you a handsome profit. There is nothing I like to see so well on a farm as a lot of cows of one kind in breeding and when every farmer or dairyman could just as well as not breed in one line and type it does seem we should not hesitate long in getting rid of our scrubs or common stock.