

ation grew so large that a division was made necessary. At present, two divisions are in operation with a tester in charge of each and a total of over 800 cows under test.

To give at this time the benefits which the farmers have derived from the work of the testing and the association as a whole is difficult. However, it can be said that the association has had its good influences since its first organization in 1908. Of the 26 farmers in the older division, 25 of the number have silos, and 5 have pure bred herds. Furthermore, practically all of the members in this older division have registered sires to head their herds.

WHY A FARMER SHOULD HAVE HIS COWS TESTED.

BY WALTER DOMBRAK, WAUPUN, WIS.

A good many of the farmers have some cows in their herds that are not paying for themselves. Therefore, if he had them tested he could tell whether or not they are a profit or a loss to him. And another thing, if he has his cows tested, he knows what each cow tests, and can then raise the heifer calves from the cows that are profitable. In this way he can also grade up his herd, because generally if the dam is a good tester, her calf will be a high tester.

Many of the farmers are feeding their cows a great deal more than they really want to feed them. I have had some farmers guess at the weight of the feed fed to one cow, and they would guess 6 or 7 pounds, when it would weigh 10 pounds. In this way if the farmers would have their cows tested, I think they would get a better knowledge of what they were feeding.

By having their cows tested, they get the cow's average test, number pounds of milk she will produce in one year, number pounds of butter fat, value of her butter fat, number pounds of feed fed per day and year, and value of it. By doing this, a farmer can find out what cows he is feeding at a loss, and at a profit and how much. I know of some farmers that will milk later at night and later in the morning on the day the tester is there, so as to get more milk so the average pounds of milk will be more for the month, just in order to have a good showing in the book.

But if a farmer does this, the test is no good whatever, because he don't get the right number pounds of milk of the right test, and if he does this wouldn't know any more about what his cows were doing, than he would if he didn't have the test. I have found that a

great many of the farmers don't take care of their cows and feed them the way they should. I have averaged up two herds of about the same size and same breed, only one had good care and a good balanced ration, and the other poor care and judgment in feeding.

Twenty-three cows in a six months' test:

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| Number pounds of milk | 94,804.00 |
| Number pounds of butter fat | 3,303.51 |
| Value of butter fat..... | \$836.40 |
| Cost of roughage | 209.09 |
| Cost of grain | 101.23 |
| Total cost of feed | 310.32 |
| Net profit | 526.08 |

Feed used; silage, 39 lbs.; clover hay, 5 lbs.; ground oats, 6.5 lbs.

Twenty-five cows:

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| Number pounds of milk | 100,567.00 |
| Number pounds of butter fat | 3,359.38 |
| Value of butter fat | \$852.24 |
| Cost of roughage | 288.51 |
| Cost of grain | 211.03 |
| Total cost of feed | 499.54 |
| Net profit | 352.70 |

Feed Given: Silage, 35 lbs.; clover hay, 4 lbs.; corn stover, 9 lbs.; corn and oats, 4 lbs.; corncob meal, 7 lbs.

Difference in profit \$173.38. The dairy farmer with 23 cows and the better system of breeding made the most profit.

Mr. Dombrak: There are few difficulties that I experience in going among the farmers in doing this testing work. Some of them do not give the right number of pounds of feed given to their cows a day. They think it sounds better to show that their cows are not fed so high, that it shows a better profit at the end of the month. Then again, some of them milk later in the morning and at night, so as to get more milk, making the average pounds of milk more for the month. In some cases their reports have not corresponded with the factory reports, and I have found one of these things is the reason why. We have found in organizing these associations, that if men don't care very much about going in, it is better not to take them in at all, because after they are in they don't take any real interest in the work, and they are the kind that will go around to their neighbors

and say, "By Jinks, it is no good at all. You are throwing away your money."

DISCUSSION.

Mr. Dougan: It should be impressed upon the farmers for whom these young men are testing cows that it is to the interest of the farmers to keep these books, these data, accurately, and that the young men are to do their part accurately and secretly. If the farmer does not report properly and know the importance of doing so, he does not know anything about the principles of a cow testing association. The young men want to impress upon the farmer, "This is your test, these are your cows, you want to get just as accurate a record as you can, and if you vary one way or the other from the facts, at the end of the year your record does not mean anything at all, and you have wasted your money in having it made." I would specially urge upon the testers absolute secrecy, and upon the farmers absolute honesty.

The Chairman: It is all right to have the tester do all he can, but the farmer must do a lot of personal work. He must look out for the health and the feeding of the cows; he must be back of every one of his cows if he is going to get the best results. We have other testers here and we will hear from them.

BLOOMER AND EAGLE POINT COW TESTING ASSOCIATION.

BY S. K. ANDREASSEN, BLOOMER, WIS.

This association is now in its third year of existence. Most of the members that were with the association when it was organized are still members of it.

The methods I use to increase the profits in dairying are as follows:

(1) By keeping only dairy cows and not trying to make a beef cow do the work of a dairy cow.

(2) I try to impress on each herdsman the need of studying his cattle so he can tell me some new thing about his herd every time I get there.

(3) When they get a bull to head their herds get a good one and pay a good price for him rather than to get an inferior one at a low cost.