

PROFITABLE TO KEEP COW'S RECORD

Value of Cow-Testing Associations Demonstrated.

That the appearance of a dairy cow can not be depended on to indicate her production of milk is illustrated by a demonstration conducted under the auspices of the dairy division of the department with a herd of nine cows at the National Dairy Show held recently at Springfield, Mass.

A year's record of milk and butter fat already had been made for all the cows of the herd. During the show complete records of production and feed consumption were kept and in every case the previous records were duplicated. Some of the cows were of poor dairy type, yet were good producers; others were of good dairy type, yet were poor producers; still others of similar appearance had greatly different records. Of the last-named class were Nos. 8 and 9. Many experienced stockmen selected No. 9 as the better of the two, but the records showed that for the last year No. 8 gave 8,445 pounds of milk and 246 of fat compared with 4,279 pounds of milk and 198 of fat for No. 9. This served as an object lesson to the hundreds of people who daily viewed the demonstration that good dairy type is not always associated with large production and that poor dairy type does not indicate lack of large yield.

"What does it cost to keep records?" was a common question of the dairymen. In cow-testing associations, where the above-quoted records were made, the charge is \$1.50 a month for each cow, and in addition the board of the tester for one day each month. With feed, labor, and live stock so high, it certainly is imperative to eliminate every unnecessary expense like the "boarder" or "robber" cow that fails to pay for even her feed.

In the big room at the dairy show where the cows were stanchioned were several hundred comfortable seats. Here several times each day well-known dairymen from various parts of the country talked to the large audience on dairy problems, illustrating their remarks with the cows of the demonstration herd. Especial emphasis was laid upon the value of records in economical management.

Co-operative bull associations were carefully described and their many advantages explained. That it was possible to have high-class bulls of the finest breeding for the use of a

dairyman with only a few cows seemed to many farmers as too good to be true, especially when the cost was even less than in the case of scrub bulls. In this connection the charts that illustrated the conditions at Roland, Iowa, before and after the organization of a bull association, elicited much interest. At that place, for a yearly investment of \$7.50 each, the members have the use of five \$240 bulls for ten years.

On the walls of the demonstration room were pictures of famous dairy animals, charts showing results of record keeping, etc. Adjoining were skeleton milk or dairy houses, with the sides only partially finished, to show the construction; also a model of a dairy barn and of a silo. In the milk houses was dairy equipment, and a man in charge answered questions on dairying and explained the construction of these and all other kinds of dairy buildings.

At regular periods demonstrations in the sterilization of milk utensils were given with the inexpensive farm sterilizer described in Farmers' Bulletin 748; these demonstrations were well attended.

PORTLAND MARKET

Cattle—Receipts of cattle Monday were lighter than any previous Monday of the year. The light supply received a large demand, there being buyers from all packers and butchers in the northwest here looking for supplies, a number not even getting a look-in. Prices on all grades of beef cattle were a big 25c higher. There were only a few good loads in the run, which were made up principally of common Valley and Coast loads. The market is in fine shape on all grades.

Beef Steers—The beef steer demand was good and there was an active market. There was only one good load, which brought \$7.50, with another lot at \$7.30. The balance of the steers were mostly common grades and sales ranged from \$4.50 to \$6.50. Packers and butchers took about everything offered. Beef steers that were selling at \$7 to \$7.25 a week ago brought \$7.30 to \$7.50, and the other lines gained in proportion.

Cows and Heifers—She stuff scored advances the same as steers. Best cows sold at \$6.35 for one load, with another bunch at \$6.25, which was selling at \$6 a week ago. There

were but a few lots here and they were quickly absorbed. Fair to good cows sold from \$5.50 to \$6, with medium grades around \$5. Common grades sold down to \$3.50.

Bulls and Stags—There were but a few bulls offered in the run Monday, with a good call for heavy hogs. Best bulls sold from \$3.50 to \$4.25.

Hogs—A very liberal supply of hogs greeted the buyers Monday, there being over 6,000 head. Demand was good and an active trade ruled, although prices were lowered a little. The top of \$9.70 was 5 cents lower, while the bulk of sales, \$9.55 to \$9.60, was 5 to 10 cents lower. The run included a good many pigs and half-finished stuff, which found very slow trade. Pigs sold from \$8 to \$8.50, with bulk at \$8.25.

Sheep—There is practically no change in the sheep situation. A famine continues, packers all being exhausted of supplies. Valley lambs were advanced another 25 cents Friday, to \$9.75. The only offerings Monday were 100 head of mixed stuff from the valley. Yearlings sold up to \$8.75, with best ewes at \$7.25.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORTS

In a report of the Oregon conservation commission, just filed with the governor, it is estimated that there are 4,273,000 acres of improved farm lands in Oregon, and that at least 3,000,000 acres in the state can be improved or reclaimed by drainage. This is estimated at one-fourth of the state's total farm lands, or three-fifths of its improved lands on farms.

In the Willamette valley and other valleys of western Oregon, the report says there are 2,000,000 acres that can be drained.

The report suggests that the problem of winter unemployment might be largely solved by removing stumps from logged-off lands.

The Congregational Sunday school gave a White Christmas program at the church Thursday evening. The children brought gifts wrapped in white and placed them at the foot of a white tree. The gifts were packed in baskets and will be distributed in houses where they will bring Christmas cheer and good will. After the gift giving, the children gave an interesting program of songs, recitations and drills.

The largest sponge ever found came from the Mediterranean. It was more than 10 feet in circumference.



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BRIEF ITEMS

The most practicable means of controlling grasshoppers is by the use of poisoned-bran baits or the modified Criddle mixture.

The golden plover of the Pacific ocean migrates from Alaska to the Hawaiian Islands. Its flight takes it 2,000 miles across an islandless sea.

The department, during the last fiscal year, employed 634 people in co-operative work in the eradication and control of citrus canker in the southern states.

It has been found that a few thorough applications of crude petroleum to the interior of poultry houses will destroy completely the common red mite infesting chickens.

The longest continuous flight of any bird is made by the golden plover. From Nova Scotia to the coast of South America, the entire flight of 2,400 miles is accomplished without pause or rest.

A device has been originated by specialists of the department which promises a more satisfactory and practical application of the hot-water treatment for the prevention of loose smut of wheat and barley.

Extensive researches by plant pathologists of the department upon the development of crown galls upon plants show that these galls, which are caused by bacillus, have very many points of resemblance to human cancer.

The population of Seattle July 1, 1915, was 330,834, according to the United States census bureau. Seattle has salubrious and equable climate, the mean temperature varying only 24 degrees throughout the year.

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CRANBERRIES WILL BE BIG INDUSTRY

W. E. Schimpff and C. N. Bennett, of Astoria, cranberry growers, have been in Portland negotiating for the marketing of their output. They now have 100 acres of bog set to cranberries, but this season only a few acres have come into bearing. They have 160 barrels, however, which they are putting on the market.

Development of the cranberry around Astoria, Coos Bay, Ilwaco and the Olympia country will mean, experts say, that when they are all in bearing the Massachusetts cranberry will be forced out of the Pacific coast market entirely.

A new drink made from cranberry juice is now being experimented with. Efforts are being made to perfect it to insure stability of its chemical character before it is put on the market.

Seventy carloads of northwest apples were sent to the bottom of the Atlantic ocean November 30 as the result of the operations of a German submarine, according to advices received in Spokane. The fruit was being shipped to England.

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Read the Mist want ads.
Read the Mist want ads.

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