

DAIRYING

Good Dairy Cows Are Badly Needed In The Building Up Of Herd

Well Bred Animals Are Scarce And High—Some Pointers On Stock

By C. C. CUBBERMAN
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Observations from recent trips throughout the state lead to the positive conclusion that we are now faced with a population of a decidedly inferior type of dairy cattle from both standpoints, size and inheritance for economical milk production. This can mean but one thing—a shortage in good cows and dairy products and substantially strong prices for both.

The opportunity was never better in South Carolina for those dairy farmers who have kept their herds on a high plane, who have used the best bulls obtainable, and have grown out their young stock. To those who have not done so, substantial rewards will come from an about-face now to a program of better breeding and feeding.

Need Better Stock

The dairy farmers of South Carolina must turn the tide in favor of better cows. The two generations of cows represented by these heifers just coming into milk and the yearlings and bred heifers are distinctly inferior to those cows which matured previous to and during the first of the depression years.

In order to take advantage of both the increased sale price for good cows and the stronger price for dairy products now before us, we must give attention to—

1. Using bulls with an ancestral record of high production.
2. Growing out of all young cattle now coming on.

Because of the inordinately low prices of dairy products which prevailed during 1923, 1924, and up to the fall of 1925, farmers failed to care for growing heifers as they would have done under normal price conditions. Instead of choosing well selected breeding bulls with strong inheritance for increased production, farmers selected inferior and cheaper bulls. The combination of an underbred and unthrifty half-sired with doubtful inheritance for economical production has given a generation of dairy cattle now coming on that promises a lowered production per cow.

Many dairy farmers began breeding their herds to best-type bulls because of the relatively better prices for best cattle and the continued low prices for dairy cattle and dairy products.

The slaughter of cows reacting to the test for Bang's disease has removed thousands of cows from the country's cow population. At the rate of testing and the proportion meeting is estimated that a half million head or a little more may be eliminated this year by the Bang's disease test. In addition there will probably be in the country as a whole in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million more eliminated through T. B. testing. Since the annual culling of cows usually amounts to about 4.5 million head, these reactors eliminated may not be entirely in addition to the regular culling but will probably be largely so.

Effects of These Conditions

Three effects of these conditions are noteworthy:

1. Well grown, well bred dairy cows are relatively scarce the country over. The demand for good cows is now quite pronounced and prices are rapidly advancing.
2. The normal cycle of dairy cattle numbers is about 15 to 16 years from peak to peak. The number of dairy cattle was on the upswing from 1923 to the summer of 1934 and should have reached the peak in 1935 or 1937. The extreme shortage of feed as a consequence of the drought brought the upswing of dairy cattle numbers to a peak in 1934. The downswing of the cycle will likely continue for some time.
3. Apparently the next few years will be a period of fewer dairy cattle and as those now coming into milk are decidedly inferior as to size, constitutional vigor, and inheritance for economical milk production, the cattle will be as a whole inferior to those of a few years past.

Better Herd Essential

No farmer who has cast his future in some phase of dairy production can afford to do less than use the best bull he can find. He has wasted his labor and investments who feeds unprofitable cows. The whole success of dairy farming rests in the ability of the cow to profitably turn feeds into milk and butterfat. The replacement of a herd through purchase of cows is a doubted method of dairy farm practice. Somebody must breed the better cows.

It has often been said that better cows add to surplusage. In reality the reverse is true.

choice of a variety. A list of recommended varieties will be found in the Manual for Seed Certification published by the N. C. Crop Improvement Association.

As to source of reliable seeds, it is generally conceded that certified seed should always be considered first. Certainly it is the purpose of the members of the N. C. Crop Improvement Association to put on the market the safety supply of seed that is to be purchased anywhere, all of recommended varieties.

Members of this Association have on hand a considerable supply of certified wheat, oats and rye, but from the way this seed is moving it is believed it will all be disposed of long before the season is over. This is very gratifying. But only does it compensate the man who has gone to the trouble and expense of putting out good seed, but it is of real value to the purchaser.

Dairy Products Firm; Production Increased

Prices of dairy products, which have been steady for the past month, probably have passed the seasonal low point for the year, says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reporting currently on the dairy situation.

Production is much larger than a year ago, and stocks of butter and evaporated milk are large. Consumers are spending more money for butter and cheese this year. With better business during the last half of 1933 than in 1932, the increase in consumer expenditures for dairy products probably will continue.

Farm prices of butterfat are reported low in relation to feed grains, cattle and hogs, and retail prices of butter low in relation to other fats. Milk production per cow on August 1 was about 15 pounds, or about 11 per cent more than a year ago. This sharp increase in production per cow is said to have more than offset a decrease in numbers of milk cows.

The condition of pastures in dairy states on August 1 was 89.8 per cent of normal, compared with 45.8 per cent a year ago.

Other features of the dairy situation are the improvement in feed crops, a June high record in production of principal manufactured dairy products, and a narrowing of the margin between foreign and domestic prices of butter. On August 15, the price of 72-score butter at New York was only 4.2 cents more than the price of New Zealand butter in London. Imports have decreased and probably will be relatively small the remainder of the year.

Better cows detract from surplusage. As a general statement we can say that one-third of the cows on the farm lose money, one-third break even, and one-third make a profit. If the farmer disposed of the unprofitable cows and those that break even, the remainder would yield a profit and the total amount of marketable dairy products would be much less. Smaller numbers of cows of superior productive ability will yield more profit and will adjust production to demand.

There is one method of producing a more productive cow and that is through breeding and the thorough development of that animal.

Ask yourself these questions regarding the bull you are now using:

1. Are his half-sisters by the same sire known to be superior animals for production?
2. Is his dam known by her official record of production to be a superior animal for milk production?
3. Are his dam's half-sisters, by the same sire, known to be superior for production of milk?
4. Both of all, has the bull you are now using already proven himself by the superior production of his own daughters?
5. Finally, do all the facts known about the animal you are now using, either through his proven ancestral record or his own breeding record, indicate that that animal will improve the productive qualities of your own herd?

If the sire you are now using will not stand such a test, get one that will without delay. Let us make sure that the next generation of dairy cattle in South Carolina will be improved in inheritance for profitable production.

Growing Young Stock

Observation of the young cattle over the state indicates an unusually heavy infestation of internal parasites. If the two-year-old and younger cattle on your farm are unthrifty, characterized by a dry rough and apparently dead coat of hair, and particularly if swelling is noticed under the jaws and throat, you may suspect with fair certainty that there is more or less of an infestation of internal parasites—commonly called stomach worms. Consult your local veterinarian for a prescription with which to drench all such cattle. If they are so infested with these parasites, no amount of feed or pasture will bring them out.

This heavy infestation is due partly to the general unthriftness of all young stock this year because of laxity in feeding the proper kinds and amounts of feed. An unthrifty animal will succumb more readily to the ravages of these parasites.

We have 1,500 to 1,800 acres planted to lespedeza, most of which looks very promising at this time. Practically in all cases good stands were obtained. The Kovan variety is predominant this year. Other varieties in these plantings include, Koba, Tennessee W, and a few small plots of Serecia.—G. H. Griffin, Coonae, S. C.

Butter Imports Drop About 2,500,000 Lbs. In Last Two Months

No New Zealand Butter Has Come In Since April—Import Duty 14c

Foreign butter has practically stopped coming into the United States, since the margin between prices at New York and London has fallen much below the import tariff, reports the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its current statement on world dairy prospects.

No New Zealand butter has come in since April, and imports of European butter have declined markedly, being only 177,238 pounds in July, compared with 1,437,000 pounds in June, and 2,665,000 pounds in May. Imports of butter from all foreign sources during the first six months of 1935, for consumption, totaled 21,500,000 pounds.

During the period, January to April, 1935, the margin between prices at New York and London exceeded the import duty. Imports in unusually large volume began in January. In February, the price of 82-score butter at New York was 35.8 cents a pound compared with 18.8 cents for finest New Zealand butter at London. Since then, the New York price has dropped to less than 24 cents. The London price is a little under 20 cents. Import duty is 14 cents.

Butter Market Works Into Strong Position

The butter market has worked into a most favorable position than most of the dairy industry expected a few weeks ago. Prices have been gradually moving upward and the market seems fairly stable at the present range of prices.

Large operators and holders of storage butter have been gradually building up the market, indicating that they have considerable confidence in the prospects for butter during the fall months.

Production has been curtailed to some extent by hot, dry weather in the Middle West and the make of butter has been moderate recently. Storage holdings have not increased so rapidly as anticipated which is always a good sign.

Apparently the government is out of the market for surplus butter for the present as prices are sufficiently high so that there is no necessity of "pegging" the market. There is a feeling in the trade, however, that should butter values weaken, the government will take on some more lots for relief purposes and incidentally to bolster the market.

J. F. McGraw of Moreville, Irwell County, N. C., had 3 1/2 miles of broadcast tobacco built on his farm this summer by the county soil erosion unit.

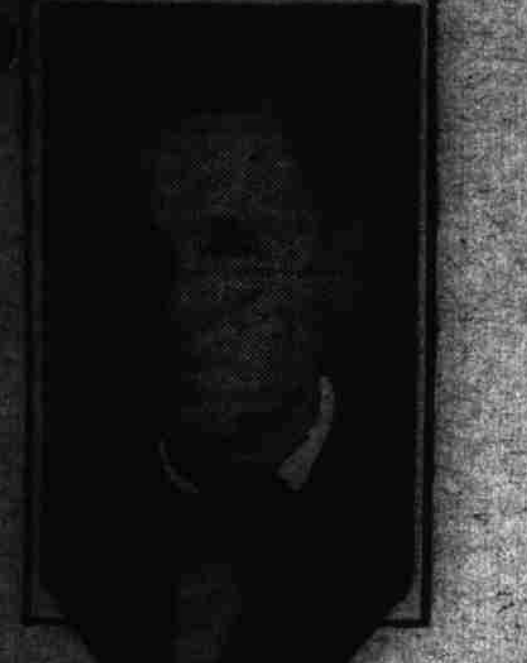
Seed Crop Production Increase Over Fifty Per Cent

Seed Certification Program Making Splendid Headway In North Carolina

By G. K. MIDDLETON
 Improvement Specialist N. C. Extension Service

Estimated production of 148,000 bushels of certified seed in 1935, as against 97,000 in 1934, and 61,000 in 1933, puts the State Seed Certification Program completely out of the depression. The estimate of 148,000 bushels of seed is based on a 50 per cent increase in the inspection work completed to date and the applications for fall inspection already filed.

Only has the volume of certified seed increased during the past two years, but the production of this seed has been much wider than previously. For instance, in 1934, certified seed of one or more crops were produced in 85



Gordon K. Middleton

counties, which was a gain of seven counties from 1933, and the largest total number of counties represented since the beginning of work in 1928.

During the period 1931-33 very little money was spent by farmers or the State for improved seed, or for any other commodity where it could be avoided. This curtailment was necessary on most farms but resulted in the lowering of the quality of seed being planted on many of them. An increase in the price of farm crops has, however, encouraged farmers to raise their seed stocks and to make other necessary preparation to produce the best quality products possible.

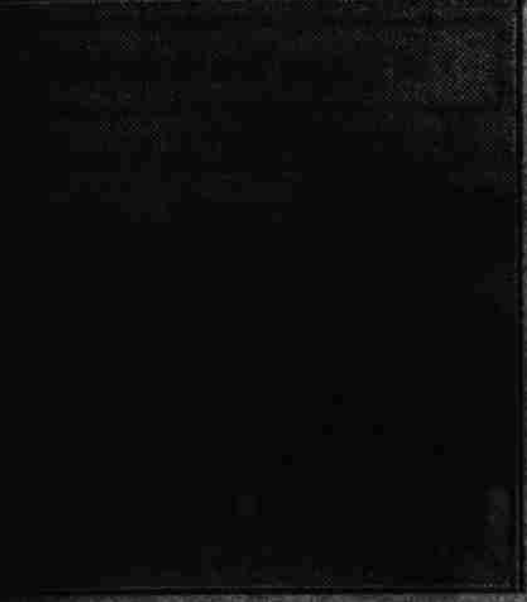
The only has improved prices of farm crops caused farmers to buy improved seed, but the entire agricultural adjustment program has stimulated interest in the use of good seed, when production is limited, the natural tendency is to strive to improve the quality of the crop produced.

Under present conditions quality is all important in determining the value of our crops. There are a number of factors which may affect the value of a crop, one of which is always the kind of seed planted.

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The results from a large number of variety tests and demonstrations, conducted throughout the country, were summarized by crops by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1934, and showed increased crop values of 20 to 25 per cent when the best improved seed was used as compared with average farm run seed.


Such an increase in crop value which may be expected from the purchase and use of im-



proved seed depends of course on the breeding and quality of the seed already being used on a farm. Where a farmer does not have pure seed of recommended varieties it will certainly pay to secure them. The increase in the value of the first crop is usually several times the expenditure made for such seed. It is usually not necessary, and possibly not often wise for a farmer to purchase seed for his entire crop. It is cheaper, and usually safer, to purchase only a moderate amount of seed and then produce his own supply of seed the following year. There are cases, however, where a farmer is justified in purchasing his entire supply of seed rather than have to wait one year to produce his own

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