

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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A Farm and Home Weekly for the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia.

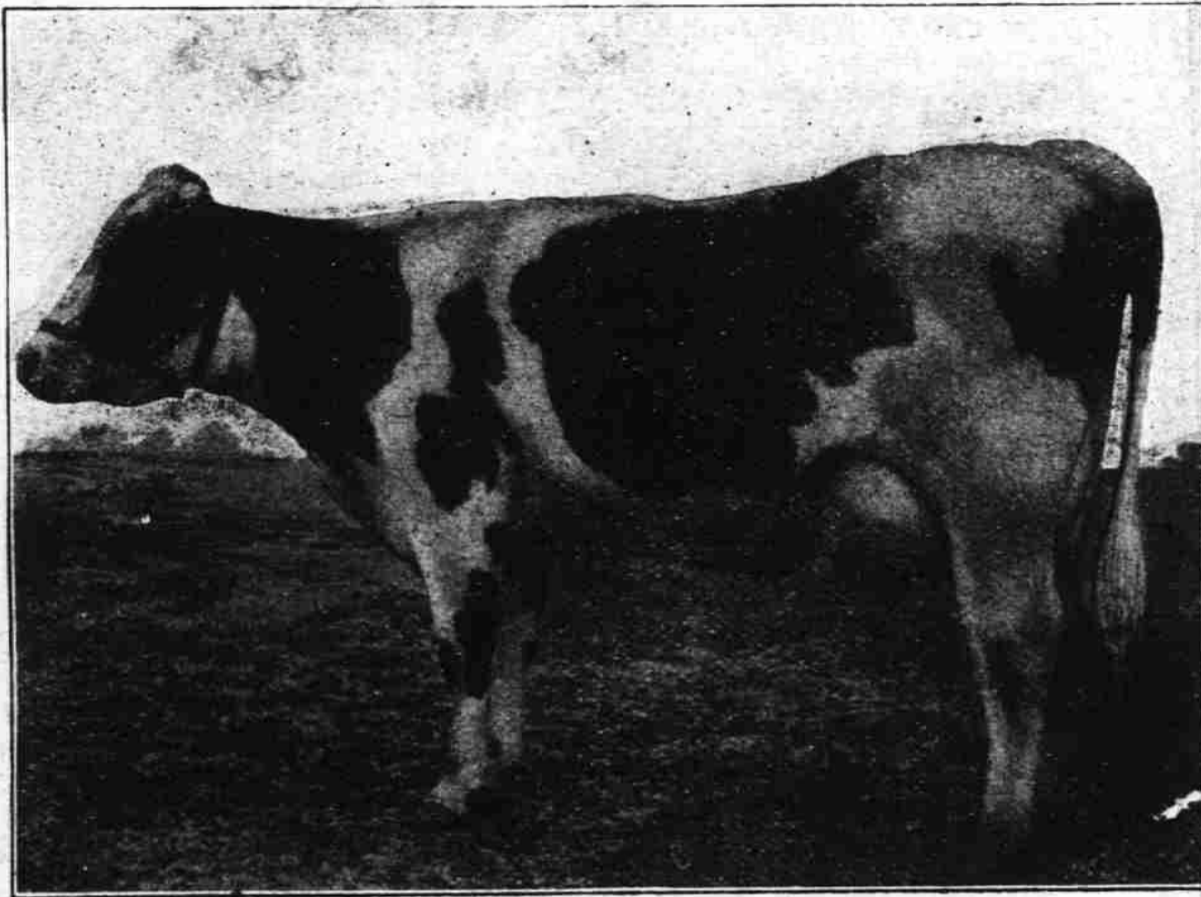
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Which Kind of Cows are You Keeping?

Here are 1,021 cows brought home to the dairyman. [See large picture below.] He may not at first recognize any of them as having strayed from his farm, and he may not be pleased with the herd as a whole, but for all that they are common cattle in Illinois, and he is an exceptional dairyman who cannot claim a number of them as his own. This type of dairy animal cannot be recommended without some reserve, but it must be admitted that it is holding its own, and the owner, remarkably well—holding him back from prosperity. This is not exactly the dual purpose cow, but her purpose is far from that of the owner in keeping her. These cows do not usually stray away from the farm in such numbers as this (more's the pity), and the writer's reason for bringing them home in this way is not so much to restore property as to assist them to deliver an unwilling message, which, however, may be of more value to the dairyman than the cows are themselves.



[Courtesy of Sec'y F. L. Houghton, Brattleboro, Vt.]

THE WORLD'S FINEST COW: COLANTHA 4TH'S JOHANNA.

A Holstein-Friesian owned by W. J. Gillet, of Rosendale, Wis., that recently gave 5,326.7 pounds of milk and 260.5 pounds of butter in 60 days, beating the world's butter record by forty pounds and representing the highest known development of the dairy cow.

of butter fat during the year, and the highest 139 cows produced an average of 301 pounds of butter fat. One Good Cow Worth 41 of the Other Kind.

The Elgin price of butter the past five years averages 23 cents per pound, and this is the usual price the dairyman gets for the butter fat in his milk, it costing the overrun to make the butter. At 23 cents per pound for butter fat the poor cows make an average return of \$30.77. At the low estimate of \$30 per year for feed, this would leave 77 cents profit per cow for the whole year's work and investment. But the best 139 cows made an average income of \$69.32. Allowing these better cows \$38 per year for feed (\$8 better than the poor producers), the clear profit is \$31.32 per cow. These calculations allow the skim milk, calf, and manure to pay for the labor and interest on the investment.

The profit from the whole 139 poor cows is only \$107, but the clear money from the best 139 cows amounts to more than \$4,000. Every one of these good cows averages as much clear money as forty-one cows of the poorer kind. Herds of these two kinds would have to be kept in the following comparative numbers to produce exactly the same profit for the owner: One good cow equals forty and two-thirds poor cows; fifteen good cows equal 612 poor cows; twenty-five good cows equal 1,021 poor cows.

Big Figures too Weak to Tell the Full Story.

These figures sound big, but in their abstract form they are too weak to tell the full story. The accompanying pictures show the exact relative sizes of the two herds that would make the same amount of profit for the owner. The one contains twenty-five cows and the other 1,021 cows. They are all present to represent their value. In four and a half days each one of them earns one cent profit. It is only necessary to have enough of these earners to make a large amount of money! Thirty of them would produce the value of one acre of corn—if the ground isn't too rich and the price don't exceed 50 cents per bushel.

Twenty-five cows of the better kind would return the dairyman a clear profit of \$783 per year. They could be kept on an eighty-acre farm; they would require only a barn 32x45 feet and a 100-ton silo, and the cows themselves at \$70 per head would cost only \$1,750—a very good little business.

Mile and a Half of Cows and the Investment Required.

But a dairyman could make just as much money (and no more) from the 1,021 cows of the other kind. However, the investment would be somewhat different, and here are some of the details for the benefit of anyone

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What Has the Cow to Do With the Profit?

Dairying properly conducted is one of the most profitable lines of farm-

25 COWS OF THE GOOD KIND—PROFIT \$783.

Twenty-five cows, each producing 301 pounds butter fat per year, return a profit of \$783. This is the average production of 139 cows comprising the best fourth of 554 cows in 36 Illinois dairy herds.

The large picture shows exactly how many cows of the poor kind (1,021) it takes to return identically the same profit (\$783) as the above 25 good cows.

ing, but the actual relation of the cow and the herd to the clear money that the owner gets out of the business is as a rule neither known or suspected by the men depending on this occupation for a living. Very few dairymen even set down the payments received for milk and the items of money paid out for the whole herd, to say nothing of the individual cow's record or estimating the cost of the feed. But this station has been investigating the matter for several years, and the actual facts are so surprising that it taxes all manner of presentation to show their bearing on the dairyman's profit.

Included in the dairy investigations of this station are the individual records for a full year of 554 cows in thirty-six Illinois herds. To make a large and fair comparison, take the lowest fourth and the highest fourth of all these cows. This is 278 head, of half of the entire number. The lowest 139 cows (one-fourth of all) yielded an average of 133½ pounds

1,021 COWS OF THE POOR KIND—PROFIT \$783.

