

Why North Carolina Should Have a Live Stock Breeders' Association.

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The benefits of a Livestock Breeders' Association would in many particulars be of untold value to the State of North Carolina. Proof of this statement can be found by turning to the last report of the Bureau of Animal Industry, which shows that practically every State in the Union is represented by a livestock association of some kind. Many of the States maintain several associations for the betterment of the various classes of stock, such as beef, dairy cattle, horses, and hogs. Among these States we might mention Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, and Kansas. While we realize that this State is not yet ready to maintain an association for every class and breed of live stock, yet we do maintain that there is a place for one live, wide-awake association whose aim shall be to promote and protect live stock interests in general. Our National Government is fast beginning to realize the value of protection of some of the larger interests in its work of combating Texas fever, sheep scab, hog cholera, tuberculosis, and in the inspection of slaughter house products, etc. These, however, are problems which affect the country as a whole, each State being left to work out in detail the immediate problems which exist under their conditions.

The Powerful Advantage of Organized Effort.

The above points are only a few among the many which might be cited to illustrate the value of a well organized, and well maintained association, and right here is the point which by all means should be emphasized, for without the proper backbone and co-operation among the members of the organization little can be accomplished. Here is where the value of the organization is manifest. If the whole number of beef producers, pork producers and dairy stock producers rise up and demand certain legislation along certain lines the impression made is sure to cause decided action either for better or for worse. If the action was originally well founded by intelligent stockmen and sufficient numbers, there is no reason why the change should not be for the best.

Contrast the above with a single, energetic individual demanding better railroad rates, better prices for live stock, better bred bulls and more money offered in our State Fair Premium list. His demands would soon be showered with an overwhelming organization as demonstrated in railroads, agricultural societies and trusts to regulate the price of farm products. Right here we have reached our climax. It is because we allow the other side of the house to do the organizing that the above individual demands are defeated. It is the reason why we are to-day lingering along in a hopeless tangle and an irrational system of breeding and management. This illustrates well the proposition which our breeders should consider. Let us place ourselves in a position such that battles will not have to be fought single-handed. Our points can then be won and not until then.

Better Sires Would Revolutionize Our Live Stock Business.

Going back, now let us briefly review the points made in regard to the benefits of a Live Stock and Dairy Breeders Association:

The first point, then, is the introduction of more and better bred beef

and dairy bulls. Glancing again at the last report of the Bureau of Animal Industry, we note that two classifications are made: one including dairy cattle, and one including all "other cattle." It is the last one that we will use to illustrate our point. In 1906 there was in North Carolina something over 300,000 "other cattle," which had a total aggregate value of \$3,000,000, which means an average value of \$10 per head. What is the reason for this condition? The answer is not far seen. It is the wide-spread use of scrub and mongrel sires. What about such States as Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska? The average value per animal is exactly doubled. The reason for this latter condition is simply because these States produce and breed from the best class of bulls that can be found. The breeders as well as the consumers have come to realize the value of such a system of management.

Another case to show the value of a pure bred sire is noticed in the discrimination in regard to grade stallions. The following law operates in Iowa: "Pure bred stallions, before they can be stood as such, must be registered in a Record Association recognized by the National Government, and a certificate of registration filed with the Secretary of Agriculture of the State, who issues another certificate to the owner of such stallion, showing thus an authentic record in regard to his breeding. Grade stallion owners must have hand bills printed of certain size and style of type. These bills must be pasted on the doors of stables where such stallions are stood." Why is this done? Simply to protect the unwary farmer from breeding to a horse which has a mere jumble of "what-not" blood in his veins. If this same law operated in North Carolina in connection with beef cattle, and every scrub bull was replaced with a pure bred bull of some recognized beef breed, the value of our first generation of calves would, when mature, be increased \$1,000,000 or 33 1-3 per cent of the original value of the foundation stock. This introduction of better bred sires is, in my mind, the only thing which will completely revolutionize our live stock business. Its value does not stop with beef cattle alone. The benefits of grading

are equally evident with horses, dairy stock, swine, and sheep.

Greater Interest in Exhibits and Premiums.

The second question, in regard to our State Fair, is one which deserves the attention of every intelligent stockman in this State. An agricultural fair should be an educational institution. It should be representative of the best which is produced in the State, and to place the live stock section of our Fair on a creditable basis, it will take co-operation with men who know and who can represent the various live stock conditions in this State. The present classification is now entirely inadequate as regards method of cataloguing, and premiums at stake. The breed associations, representing the leading classes of stock, are more than willing to offer liberal premiums for the breed which they present, provided the Fair Association offers a substantial sum to supplement it. It is gratifying to know, however, that considerable interest has already been shown by the agricultural society in making substantial increases in premiums for cattle and hogs. This change in classification and increase in premiums, if approved, will take effect this coming year, and it should be watched with interest by all those having stock suitable for show purposes. Stock breeders in general should join in congratulating the society on manifesting this interest, and response should be made in a liberal showing of stock.

Better Shipping Rates Could be Secured.

The question of prohibitive live stock shipping rates, is one that is being fought in almost every State. Rates in some cases have advanced to such an extent, that profits from beef cattle are reduced to a minimum. When we realize the fact that the margin of profit with this class of cattle is exceptionally narrow, we will fully realize the value of reduced rates, and especially so in this State. This is a question where co-operation would be of untold value.

Better Stock Will Find Better Markets.

Another point that is quite commonly raised is in regard to suitable markets for our better grades of cattle when once they have been produced. This is one serious drawback we realize, but there is one thing sure, the general run of cattle which go on our markets to-day, are not of the quality to justify buyers in

paying any advance in price. The point to be made here is that a better quality of stock must first be produced, and just as soon as our breeders manifest their honest intentions of furnishing better cattle and hogs, the markets will co-operate and furnish a better price. The process cannot by any logical system of reasoning be reversed. I can myself cite one prominent breeder of the State who has educated the local market of his town to differentiate the value between 3 1/2 and 5 1/2 cent beef. Here is one man who has made a bonanza for himself, but unfortunately we cannot all have access to that one market. What we need is to cause more such mutual relations as the above to be established.

Obtaining the Advantages of Community Breeding.

It is interesting to note also, that in a number of States a plan of community breeding is being inaugurated. This system is purely and simply a plan to distribute more and better bred sires over the country for the purpose of improving live stock in general. Such an organization can be perfected only by some definite concern which is itself interested in the result. In Michigan, for example, a plan is on foot to develop a certain breed of stock in a community. Three breeders will each have forty cows, a total of 120 where these breeders co-operate. Each man selects a bull of the same breed and type. It is then possible for each breeder to use his sire for two years, and at the end of this period exchange with the neighbor breeder. This exchange is of course to prevent inbreeding, one of the grave questions which every breeder must face. By making this mutual exchange the same results are accomplished as though a new bull was purchased outright. The cost of grading is thus reduced to a minimum, and the problem of inbreeding immediately solved. At the end of the fourth year the third exchange is made, thus having six crops of high grade calves, and the advantage of grading up a herd for the cost of one pure bred bull. Such a system as this when carried out in detail is to be highly commended.

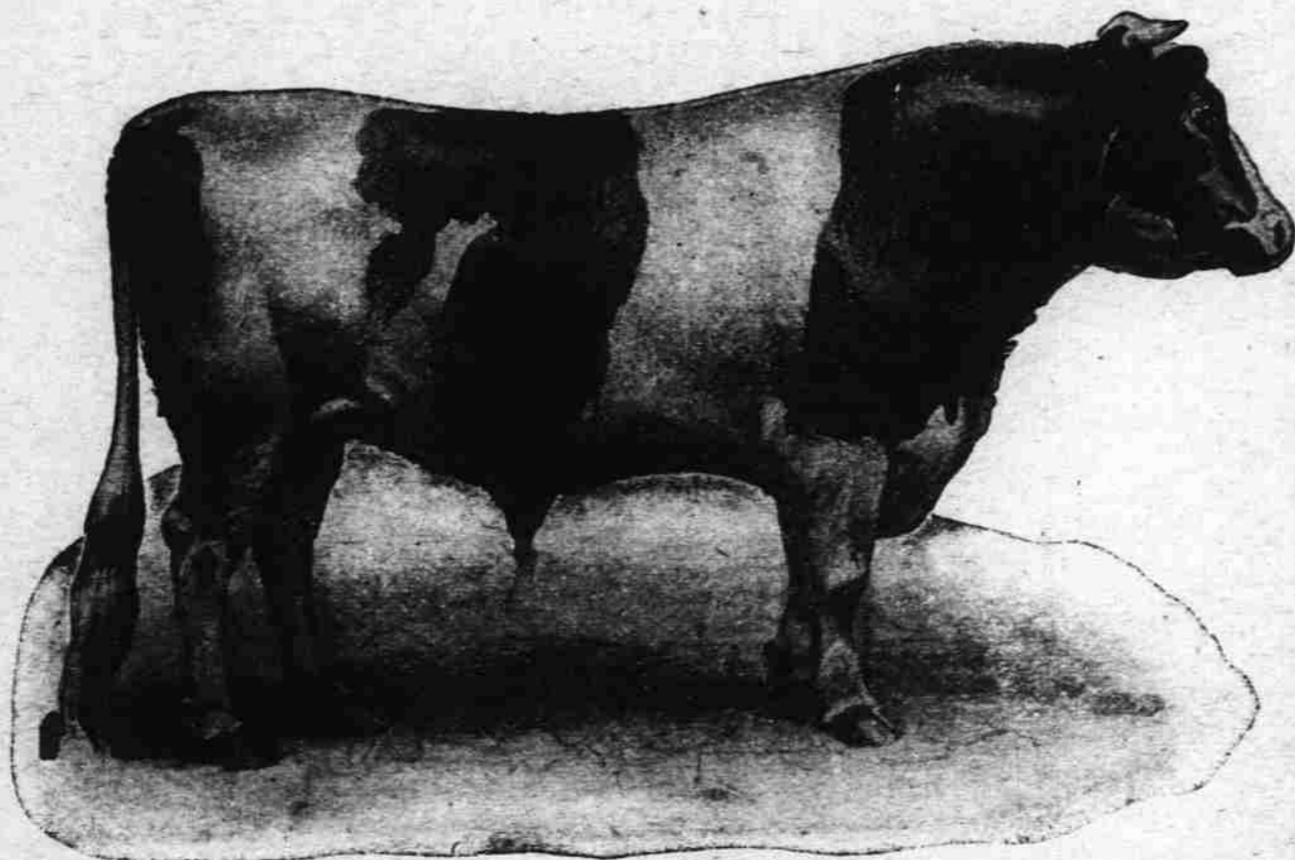
The last point in regard to the discussion of breeding and management of live stock in general would be of untold consequence. It is a common thing, and not at all an unwise thing, to see frequent questions relating to live stock answered through our agricultural papers. But how much more desirable it would be if those men could meet each other in person and exchange ideas. How much more lasting would the impression made and the results be.

Discuss These Matters Now.

It is for the betterment of these above things and many others that this article is written, and it is to be earnestly hoped that all parties interested will put their shoulders to the wheel and help push the original idea along—the formation of a live stock breeders' association.

Why not have a few opinions expressed through *The Progressive Farmer*? When during the year can an organization be best perfected? When should it meet and what should it stand for? Doubtless many of you have even more important things to consider than the ones mentioned above. If so, what are some of them, and how do you consider the above proposition—the formation of a stock breeders' Association?

There is one fashion that is always popular—using dairy products. The man who supplies them will not have to go begging for a buyer.



COLANTHA JOHANNA LAD, NO. 32481.

The bull shown herewith is the son of the world's champion butter and milk cow, Colantha 4th's Johanna, whose official record for 365 days is 27,432.5 lbs. milk, containing 998.26 lbs. butter fat, equivalent to butter 80 per cent fat 1247.82 lbs. Average per day 75.15 lbs. milk, containing 2.73 lbs. butter fat.