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COW RECORDS PAY

Raleigh, N. C., July 7.—Records kept by cow-testing associations in North Carolina pay large dividends when the results are studied and applied to the owner's herd, states J. A. Arey, dairy extension specialist at State College.

Mr. Arey gives the experience of two herds in one of these associations. One herd contained 21 cows while the other had only 9, yet the difference in profit over feed cost was only \$5.01 in favor of the larger herd. The owner milked, fed, and tended 12 cows the greater part of a year for \$5.01. The next receipts were \$667.59 for the larger herd as compared with \$662.58 for the smaller herd. The owner of the smaller herd had better cows and fed them in proportion to their production.

There is a gradual improvement in all herds where the testing work is being carried on, states Mr. Arey. The production cost shows a decrease with a corresponding increase in actual production. This, he finds, is due to the adoption of better feeding methods and the elimination of the low producing cows.

"There has been an average of 20 cows sold each month from the herds in the five cow-testing associations in the state," says Mr. Arey, "and this elimination will continue until all unprofitable cows have been sold or slaughtered."

"Twenty-five cows in the Wake-Durham Association were found to be unprofitable during the month of May and were either sold or butchered. In the Forsyth-Davie Association seven cows were sold for beef and other associations report numbers ranging from three to seventeen as being sold or slaughtered."

"A standard dairy ration recommended by the dairy extension specialists is being used in all herds and records show that the average production and cost is very close in all associations."

DON'T CRITICIZE; HELP

One of the South's foremost business men sends us an editorial from the Wall Street Journal emphasizing the importance of agriculture in our national welfare and saying: "The agricultural community buys more than any other class in the country. About 40 per cent of the country's purchasing power is in the farming section. When agriculture prospers there is a good buying demand all over the country." As our friend goes on to say in his letter:

"It has always appeared to me that while interests such as papers of this class represent recognize the importance of agriculture, they are always ready to criticize measures that are proposed for the benefit of the farmer. I would not have any quarrel about this, as there are a great many suggestions made which I think are impracticable, if when they criticize they would offer some constructive advice to aid the farmer in solving his problems."

This Southern business man hits the bull's eye. And both Senators and Representatives in Washington have been pursuing the very same policy to which our friend rightly objects. They have declared the Haugen Bill was unsound and impracticable, but they have not come forward with any thoroughgoing and practicable plan for farm relief as a substitute for the Haugen measure.

The American farmer has had his fill of destructive criticism and is sick and tired of both Congressmen and metropolitan editors who are perfectly ready to proclaim the importance of the farmer in our national life but always ready to denounce as impracticable any proposal for agricultural betterment. It is time for farmers to say both to our law-makers and to the American press:

Don't criticize; help.
—The Progressive Farmer.

TIME TO PLANT LATE HAY CROPS

Raleigh, N. C., July 7.—Recent general rains in North Carolina furnish the opportunity of planting late hay crops and farmers who need feed should take advantage of this opportunity.

"These hay crops might be planted after small grain or on land where the spring planted crops have come up to a poor stand," says E. C. Blair, extension agronomist at State College. "Many of our farmers will be hard pressed for hay and forage this year and they should by all means, plant such late crops. In the extreme eastern part of North Carolina, these crops might well follow Irish potatoes."

Mr. Blair points out, however, that the late planted hay crops must grow rapidly to produce good yields. For that reason they should be planted on the fertile land or be well manured or fertilized. Good seed should be used also.

Promptness in planting is the essential thing, states Mr. Blair. For this reason the ease in obtaining good planting seed should be the guide to the kind of crop to plant. If soybeans of the Laredo, Virginia and Herman varieties can be secured these will mature early and produce excellent hay. Cow peas also fit in well. Sorghums and millets are often used and yield well though they are not quite as good as Sudan grass. On good land, Mr. Blair states that there is no better late hay crop than Sudan grass. It will produce heavy yields when sown broadcast at the rate of 30 pounds to the acre. It will give two cuttings if planted by July 10.

Nearly every one has some seed corn and ordinary field corn will produce tremendous yields of forage if sown thickly in rows three feet apart and cultivated two or three times. It should be cut when the blooms fall from the tassels.

POOR TOBACCO OUTLOOK

The tobacco situation practically all over North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, and more especially in the Old Belt in Virginia and North Carolina, appears to be almost uniformly bad. Prospects are for both a short crop and poor quality. While the short crop might have a tendency to boost prices, this tendency is likely to be offset by the poor quality of the bulk of the crop. Plants which start stunted seldom make good tobacco.

Meanwhile, the open warehouses of Eastern North Carolina have already issued an edict that they will not accept scrap tobacco this year. With a short crop of low grade, farmers will probably need more than ever their co-operative association to protect them in order to insure a living income from this year's tobacco crop. The campaign for a new sign-up in the Old Belt of Virginia and North Carolina will begin next month and ought to have the support of everybody interested in the farmer.—The Progressive Farmer.

ENJOY LIFE

But along with all our plans for the improvements of home and grounds, let's take some time off this summer to really enjoy life. I like to keep house and potter around and do all sorts of household jobs, but it's no use turning a pleasure into a penance and exist for the house instead of making the house exist for us. "Time for every pleasant thing" is going to be my motto from now on. We all have to take time to die, no matter how duties press, so we might as well take time to live while there is time for us to take!—Mrs. Lindsay Patterson, in the Progressive Farmer.

About 500 club boys and girls will attend the annual short course for club members to be held at State College during the week of July 5th.

UPGRADE SWINE HERDS WITH BETTER SIRE

Raleigh, N. C., July 7.—Swine can be more easily improved by the use of a good, pure-bred sire than most any other class of livestock. Recent results secured in swine investigations at the Blackland Experimental farm prove this to be true.

"The foundation herd of swine at this farm was selected from a carload of grade and scrub gilts purchased from southern Georgia," says Prof. Earl H. Hostetler, in charge of swine investigations for State College. "These animals farrowed their first pigs during the fall of 1922 but due to certain difficulties no definite feeding trials were begun until the fall litters of 1923 were available. These pigs while on test made an average daily gain per pig of 1.83 pounds and those farrowed succeeding year increased this gain to 2.14 pounds, while the original Georgia pigs made only 1.06 pounds average daily gain under the same system of feeding and management."

Prof. Hostetler states that a pure-bred boar was used in the herd and that this method of breeding is known as up-grading. It is just as effective when a pure-bred dam is crossed with a grade or scrub sire but the results are slower and more expensive. When the pure-bred sire is used, his influence is shown in all litters farrowed.

The rapidity of improvement is quite marked also, states Prof. Hostetler. At the time the second generation is farrowed, the pigs will contain 75 percent of pure-blood and will be practically equal to pure-breds when only economy of gains and value of pork from the market standpoint are considered. The results are less striking when continued through several generations.

The greatest danger from this plan of upgrading is the temptation to use some of the better individuals for service boars after one or two generations have been

bred. These may look good, but they will not be able to transmit the desirable characters to their offspring.

KEEP COW RECORDS TO DETERMINE PROFITS

Raleigh, N. C., July 6.—The progressive dairyman keeps records on his cows to get information needed for selecting his best animals and for giving them the proper feed and care.

"Testing cows to determine the milk and fat production is not done simply to work the animals to the limit," says Prof. Fred M. Haig, of the animal husbandry department at State College. "Its purpose is to find out the best selection of feeds to use and to give the most skillful handling. All of our cows in the State College herd are tested and accurate records of feed consumed are kept. These records are made under normal conditions as we believe the true measure of the dairy cow is her ability to produce milk year after year, through eight or ten lactation periods, and to give birth to as many strong calves as she milks years. A study of our best producers will bear out this idea."

State Sans Pogis is one of the good producers in the Jersey herd at State College, Prof. Haig states. She was started on test on November 21, 1925. To date, she has completed 192 days of the test and in this half year has produced 6,996 pounds of milk containing 462 pounds of butterfat. The total cost of all feed consumed during the same period was \$95. She has produced 814 gallons of milk which has been sold wholesale for 40 cents per gallon bringing in \$325.60. This leaves a profit above feed cost of \$230.60 or approximately \$38 per month.

Prof. Haig states that it is from such cows as this that dairymen in North Carolina must develop their herds. It can easily be done, he states, if records are kept and the information used in selecting the cows to be used for breeding stock.