

CO-OPERATIVE BREEDING OF LIVE STOCK.

By "co-operative" breeding of live stock we do not mean breeding live stock on the farm or on a number of farms in co-operation, as the term is usually understood. What we do mean is breeding the same class of live stock—whether horses, cattle or sheep—in a particular section, be it a township or county. For example, there are one or two locations in Wisconsin where the farmers are giving their attention to the breeding of dairy cattle. They agreed some years ago to breed Holsteins, and nothing but Holsteins. By forming an association for the purchase of bulls for the different farms, they were enabled to buy better animals and for less money. In the course of two or three years they could determine the real value of the bull in producing heavy milkers. They were thus able to eliminate the poorer, and by exchanging with each other, retain the best. The trouble in buying dairy bulls is that no one knows certainly what is the value of the bull until the first heifers come in, which would be about three years from the time of purchase. Many a fine dairy sire has gone into bologna, much to the regret of the owner afterwards, because he did not discover until too late that he had parted with an animal of very superior value.

It is not, however, only in the purchase of bulls that gain is made by co-operative breeding. When farmers grow the same kind of live stock and purchase sires co-operatively, they pay much more attention both to the breeding and the feeding than they have done before; and the result is that in a few years the neighborhood gets a reputation for producing stock of superior value. Farmers in their section of the country who want superior stock of that breed, go there to purchase; and the result is an added value of five to ten dollars a head to every cow or heifer that is sold.

The same principle may be applied to the breeding of dual-purpose cattle. The dual-purpose animal, notwithstanding all the reproach that has been cast upon her, is coming to her own; but she must be not merely a heavy milker, but a producer of calves which, when fattened for the market, will bring very near the top price. We do not claim for her that she will excel both in beef and in milk, for that is impossible. Our claim is the outside of the districts which produce milk for the market, the dual-purpose cow is more valuable than either the special-purpose beef breeds.

The co-operative creameries could add greatly to their profits, if the managers would make an effort to introduce co-operative purchasing of sires in their territory. A little effort on the part of the managers would induce the farmers to use the same breed, whether milking Short-horn or Red Poll, or, in some of the northern districts, the Ayrshire. The experience in England shows that it is entirely possible (in fact, has been done for a hundred years) to develop a milking strain of Shorthorns, which will reach an average of which their owners need not be ashamed in any crowd of special-purpose breeders; and at the same time furnish the bulk of the roast beef of old England. The fact is, that around nine-tenths of the milk and butter sold in English markets comes from this dual-purpose breed of cattle.

The same method may be used in breeding horses. The Corn Belt can produce draft horses cheaper than any other part of the United States, unless possibly it may be some parts of Minnesota. Buyers will resort to the Corn Belt for draft horses as long as grass grows and water runs,

or as long as they can get horses of the quality lower than in other parts of the world.

Now as to the different breeds of draft horses, there is very little choice. They have all developed on rich soils, well supplied with lime, potash and phosphorous. Trace back the history of any breed of draft horses to its beginning, or as far as you can, and you will find that it originates not on the mountain sides, not on the deserts, nor in the semi-arid regions, but on agricultural lands. Farmers can well afford to waive their preference, whether it be for Percheron, or English Draft, or French Draft, Clydesdale, or Suffolk Punch. The differences between these breeds are mere minor matters. Any of them are good enough, and it will pay any locality better to grow any one of them than for each farmer to follow out his individual taste. By agreeing upon some one breed and co-operative purchasing, a great deal better sires can be secured than if each farmer purchases either alone or with two or three of his own particular choice.

There is a peculiar advantage in the co-operative breeding of draft horses. Eastern buyers come into the Corn Belt every year to buy horses. If they want a car-load of a particular type, they may have to visit two or three different counties, and go to considerable expense in assembling the car-load. Whereas, if co-operative breeding were practiced, the buyer could find in some neighborhood the full car-load, and he could well afford to pay from five to ten dollars more per head than to spend his time and money in traveling around, picking them up in three or four different counties. We sometimes have buyers come to us and say: Tell us where to go to get a car-load of Clydes, or Percherons, or Belgians, or some other draft breed. At present we cannot tell them.

Our readers have all noticed that the breeders of roadsters usually manage to get together. Some enterprising person has brought a particularly valuable horse into the neighborhood, and the neighbors, finding it profitable, use the same strain. Hence buyers know where to go to get what they want. They will also notice that Short-horn breeders usually get together and make some point a Short-horn center. It is time for breeders of live stock to study how, by a little co-operation, they may increase not only their zeal and enthusiasm, but also their profits, by the sale of surplus stock.—Wallaces' Farmer.

The days of the scrub chicken are passing away and the time is coming when we will see on the majority of farms as well bred poultry as we find in other lines of stock. It may in some cases mean a campaign of education; but the farmer who is progressive will have his flock uniform color and standard in order that his flock may produce the best results as a money making proposition.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

Death of Capt. D. O. Bryan.

On Sept. 12, 1912, our beloved and faithful Secretary-Treasurer of Hunt's Springs Local Union, Jonesboro, Lee County, North Carolina, departed this life in his seventy-eighth year. Brother Bryan was a useful influential man. A Christian gentleman, kind and obliging neighbor, loyal member of the Farmers' Union, he will be greatly missed in our Lodge and community; therefore, be it—

Resolved 1. That in the death of Brother Bryan the entire brotherhood of this Lodge extend their heartfelt sympathy to his bereft family.

2. That in the sad hour of their trial and loss, we commend them to the great Father of love and mercy, who doeth all things well. Memory of our departed brother and sympathy for his bereft family, are expressions manifested in our Lodge.

3. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family, a copy each to Sanford Express, Lee County News, Carolina Union Farmer, and copy to be spread upon our minutes.

T. W. HILL,  
G. W. AVENT,  
J. R. RIVES,

Sanford, N. C., November 2, 1912.

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