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WISCONSIN BANKERS' FARM BULLETIN

How One County Is Retiring Its Scrub Bulls

D. S. BULLOCK, Fieldman

Wisconsin Live Stock Breeders' Association

Out of Every Hundred Bulls in One County

37 ARE SCRUBS



37 ARE GRADES



26 ARE PURE BREDS



CAN YOUR COUNTY BEAT THIS RECORD?

A recent census of a noted Wisconsin county showed the surprising and disappointing fact that only 26 per cent of the bulls used on the herds in the county were pure bred.

File this bulletin where you can find it

Distributed by

Wisconsin Bankers' Association

Burton M. Smith,
Chairman Agricultural Committee,
North Lake

George D. Bartlett,
Association Secretary,
Pabst Building, Milwaukee

WILL YOU TRADE

Your grade or scrub bull for a pure bred?

This question was put up squarely to every owner of grade and scrub bulls in Fond du Lac county in the campaign carried on there a few months ago.

Every farmer in the county, using a grade or scrub bull in his herd, was offered in exchange a pure bred Guernsey, Holstein or Jersey bull, from three to nine months of age, without any cost to himself.

LOCAL BREEDERS COOPERATED

Fond du Lac County has three community breeders' associations, one for each of the three leading dairy breeds, Guernsey, Holstein and Jersey.

Every breeder of pure bred dairy cattle of any kind was asked to contribute at least one pure bred bull calf, from three to nine months old, and to take in exchange a grade or scrub of breeding age. The work therefore depends largely upon the local breeders and without their support cannot be carried on.

There was a very generous response by the breeders, some offering all their bull calves for one year for this work. As soon as the campaign was under way several breeders sought out neighbors and acquaintances who were not using pure bred sires and arranged to trade with them.

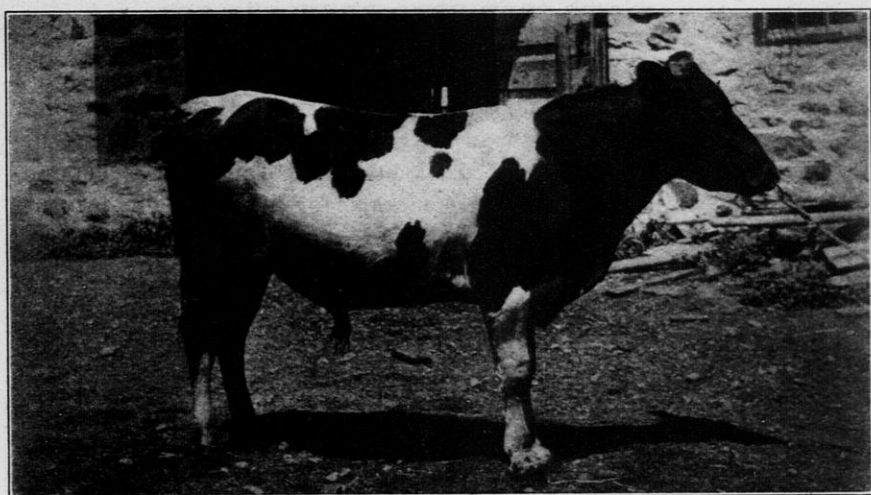
HOW THEY ORGANIZED

First of all a meeting of the local community breeders' associations was called, the general plans were presented and assurance of support by the breeders given.

Then a cattle census of the county was taken through the rural schools. The county superintendent of schools, the rural teachers and the pupils did this very important work.

A committee consisting of the presidents and secretaries of the local community breeders' associations, the county agent and the representatives of the Wisconsin Live Stock Breeders' Association was placed in charge of the work.

The results of the census were gone over carefully and put into shape for presentation to the public. A map of the county was made showing the percentage of pure bred, grade and scrub bulls in each town.



THIS SCRUB HELD BACK A HERD

A bull like this never improves a herd. This is the type that is being replaced. A good pure bred Guernsey took the place of this grade Guernsey. This herd is now headed toward better stock, more milk and larger profits.

MAKING THE OFFER TO TRADE

The teachers and pupils who took the census were able to turn in the names of about 1100 owners of grade and scrub bulls. A letter was sent to every one of these explaining the offer to trade with a request to answer in case they would like to talk over the proposition.

The next step to get the farmers acquainted with the plan was the holding of schoolhouse meetings. Four of these were generally held in each town and on consecutive nights. At these meetings the general situation in the county and town was gone over, the advantages of a pure bred sire discussed and the offer to trade made. The names of all owners of grade and scrubs were obtained. These men were visited later and told where they could go to look at bulls offered for exchange. It was then entirely up to the owner of the grade or scrub bull. If he liked the pure bred better than the bull he had the trade was made.

CONDITIONS OF THE TRADE

It was required that the grade or scrub offered for trade be of breeding age and to have been in service in the owner's herd. If necessary the owner was permitted to keep his grade or scrub until the pure bred he received was old enough for service. The man receiving a pure bred agreed to keep him and use him in his herd for two years.

WHAT THE PURE BRED BREEDERS GOT

The breeder of pure bred got in exchange for his young bull a grade or scrub which he sold for beef. This animal usually brought from 60 to 80 per cent of the value of the pure bred given in the trade. He placed another pure bred of his favorite breed in his own community. He was building up a future market for his bulls and in some instances for heifers. He was helping his own business and his community.

SOME OF THE RESULTS IN THE COUNTY

Numerous exchanges have been made.

Many owners of grades and scrubs have sold them and bought pure bred.

Men in the market for pure bred bulls have been assisted in getting what they wanted.

Several men who have their first pure bred bull are already planning on getting some pure bred females.

During one month 43 pure bred bulls were placed in the county and 38 of these went to men who never before owned a pure bred.

HOW ABOUT YOUR COUNTY?

What are you doing to increase the number of pure bred bulls in your county?

Why not sell that scrub, if you have one, and get a pure bred in his place while beef is high?

If you are a grade herd owner why not sell those grade bull calves for veal or beef. Don't let them be used for breeders.

If you are a breeder why not start something right at home? Write the secretary of your local breeders' association about it. Get in touch with your county agent and help him in his pure bred bull drive. Write the Wisconsin Live Stock Breeders' Association, Madison, for an outline of the state wide pure bred bull campaign.

BOOST BETTER BULLS.