

The brown swiss in Wisconsin. Bulletin no. 10

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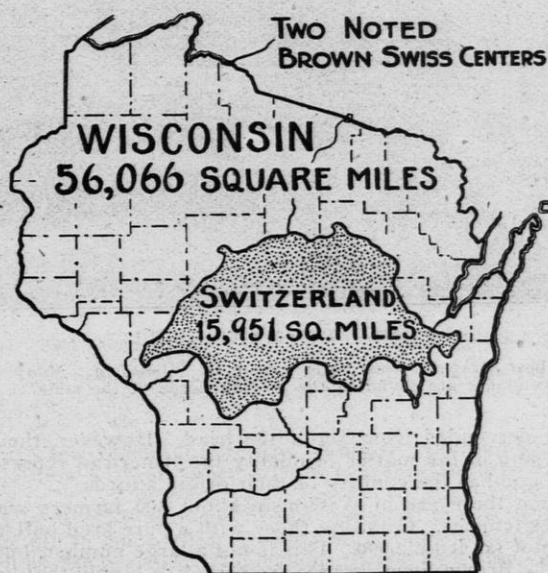
A Little Journal of Agricultural
Information for the Farmer

BANKER-
FARMER
EXCHANGE

BULLETIN No. 10

MAY, 1921

The Brown Swiss in Wisconsin



THE BROWN SWISS CATTLE HELPED TO MAKE SWITZERLAND FAMOUS.
THEY WILL DO THE SAME FOR WISCONSIN.

Compliments of

BANKER-FARMERS EXCHANGE

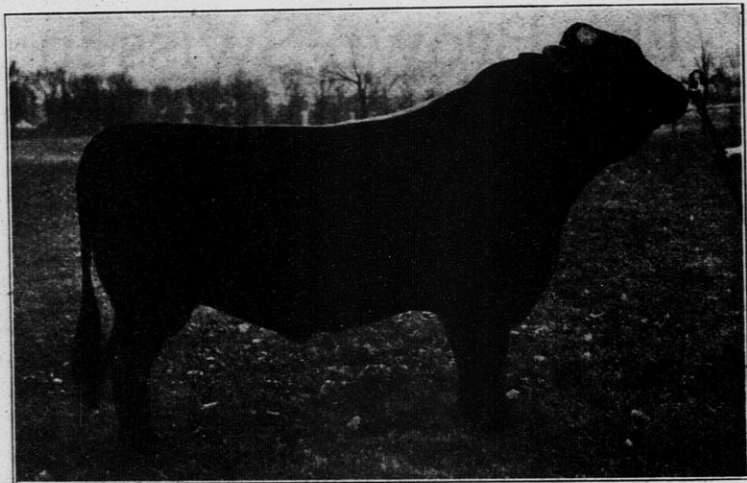
1822 Chadbourne Avenue,
MADISON, WIS.

The Brown Swiss in Wisconsin

By B. H. HIBBARD, Secretary
Wisconsin Brown Swiss Breeders' Association

No cow was ever more definitely fitted for a given state in the Union than the Brown Swiss cow for Wisconsin. The home of the Brown Swiss for centuries has been the northeastern part of Switzerland, one of the ruggedest parts of that little country. There the Brown Swiss were kept in the valleys in the winter and in the high mountain pastures in the summer. Under this rigorous treatment they developed the strongest constitutions of any dairy breed ever known.

In 1869 an importation to Massachusetts was made, and about twenty years later T. H. Inman of Beloit brought the first Brown Swiss into Wisconsin. Importations from Switzerland were never great so far as numbers are concerned and the Brown



CARL, 3577. BROWN SWISS BULL.

One of the best Brown Swiss bulls raised in Wisconsin. Many of his descendants are found in the leading herds of the state.

Swiss of America are descended from about 150 head. However, the selections were made with great care, and in the matter of quality the American representatives of the breed are no doubt as good as the country of their origin affords.

At the present time there are in Wisconsin about 500 farmers with one or more pure bred Brown Swiss females. Counting those with a pure bred bull, and grade cows, the number would be not far from 2,000. This is not a large number, but the interesting thing about it is that the Brown Swiss grades are prized so highly that, in the first place, it is hard to find many for sale, and if they are sold it is nearly always at a higher price than equally high grades of other breeds would bring. There is a demand for young grade heifer calves at fair prices.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE BROWN SWISS

In addition to what has been said above the leading traits of the breed are as follows:

In size they are as large as any dairy breed, the cows weighing from 1200 to 1500 pounds; the bulls from 1700 to 2500 pounds. They are so compact as to appear smaller than they really are. In color they are much like the Jersey though the dark ones are not so nearly black, the light ones not so yellow, and white spots, except on the flank, are not at all frequent, and not allowed in registration. A good description of them with respect to dairy quality was given some years ago by the United States Bureau of Animal Industry:

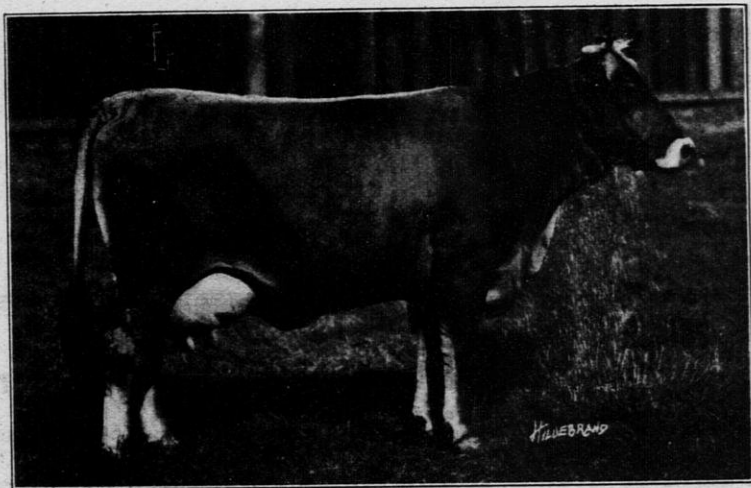
"The Brown Swiss when examined are found to be small-boned for their size and to possess a fine silky coat and rich elastic skin with other attractive dairy points.

The eyes are full and mild but bright, usually black. The horns are rather small, white, waxy, curving forward and inward with black tips. The ears are large, round and lined with long, silky hair, light in color. The barrel of the body is large and well rounded; the udder and teats are large, well formed and white, with milk veins prominent."

A later bulletin mentions the fact that the cows are good grazers, especially on rough land. In disposition there is no better cow in the world. They are gentle, free from nervousness, and respond to gentle treatment like pets. The calves are noted wherever known for their size and ability to grow with astonishing rapidity. As veals they rank at the top.

MILK PRODUCTION

The real test of the dairy cow is her ability to give milk of a high quality, and to show a good margin of return over cost. In this respect the Brown Swiss cow has ranked high, usually at the top, wherever she has been given a chance. At the Univer-



BETTY OF LAKE VIEW, 8479. BROWN SWISS COW.

12,850 pounds of milk, 514 pounds of fat as a two year old.
Twice Champion at the National Dairy Show.

sity of Wisconsin a few years ago, the cow "Murney" returned \$114 in product over cost of feed in competition with all other breeds, no representative of which returned \$100 above cost.

Last year a herd of Wisconsin Brown Swiss in a cow testing association stood second in production in competition with 24 herds, and in return over cost of feed led the winning herd by \$36 per cow. The leading Brown Swiss individual of this herd, under farm conditions, milking twice a day, yielded 13775 pounds of milk, and 570 pounds of fat. Very few cows of any breed out-do this. Another Brown Swiss herd came out first in a cow testing association of thirty five herds of all breeds.

The official tests, to the present time, show a production of 11156 pounds of milk and 444.75 pounds of butterfat on an average. It takes dairy cows to do this. While the showing of the Brown Swiss is good it should be remembered that thus far they are a farmers' cow. From the standpoint of economical production, and especially on account of the high general average of production, there are few that have to be discarded because of poor performance. The selection of centuries counts.

THE PRICES OF BROWN SWISS

Mention has been made of the good prices for which Brown Swiss grades sell. This is much to the credit of the breed and the advantage of the owners. On the other hand it is also to the advantage of the owners of pure breeds that they do not sell at prices beyond the reach of the ordinary farmer who wants a pure bred herd. The fact that they have not yet become a plaything of men with limitless money means that the values

have not been over capitalized. Good cows can be bought for \$400 or \$500; heifer calves for \$150 to \$200 and young bulls for \$150 to \$250. A few animals have sold for over a thousand dollars but it is unusual; even so the herd average at sales is very creditable. Thus it does not take a fortune to get started, and fortunately after getting started, it will be found that the demand is good, and sales not hard to make.

BROWN SWISS MILK POPULAR

Some years ago it was found that the milk bringing the highest price, of any in Berlin was from Brown Swiss herds. It has been demanded wherever well known in this country. One of the main reasons for its popularity is the fact of the small size of the fat globules. It is frequently recommended for young children, and for this use it has no superior.

WISCONSIN HAS THE MOST BROWN SWISS

There are more Brown Swiss in Wisconsin than in any other state. Moreover, the lead which Wisconsin has is increasing. Wherever and whenever the Brown Swiss are given a chance to demonstrate their ability to produce milk, and to do it with economy, they make friends.

BROWN SWISS HEADQUARTERS

National Brown Swiss Breeders' Association, Ira Inman, Secretary, Beloit, Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Brown Swiss Breeders' Association, B. H. Hibbard, Secretary, Madison, Wisconsin.

Of Special Interest to Brown Swiss Breeders

BROWN SWISS FOR SALE: Through the Banker-Farmer Exchange.

We have 49 head of Brown Swiss, grades and purebreds, listed for sale. We are in position to locate others.

BROWN SWISS WANTED: The Banker-Farmer Exchange is receiving inquiries for both grade and purebred Brown Swiss cows, heifers, and heifer calves, some for car load lots. Breeders having stock for sale are invited to list them.

OTHER BREEDERS will be interested to know that we are issuing from time to time special bulletins and sale lists of other leading breeds of livestock in the State. The Banker-Farmer Exchange is equipped to handle lists of grade or purebred livestock for sale of any breed. See listing blanks at local bank.

PROSPECTIVE BUYERS of any breed can secure lists of what is offered for sale by recording their wants at the local bank.

Interested parties should
get in touch with

Banker-Farmer Exchange

D. H. Otis, Director.



1822 Chadbourne Ave.



Madison, Wis.