



The right dairy sire and how to manage him.

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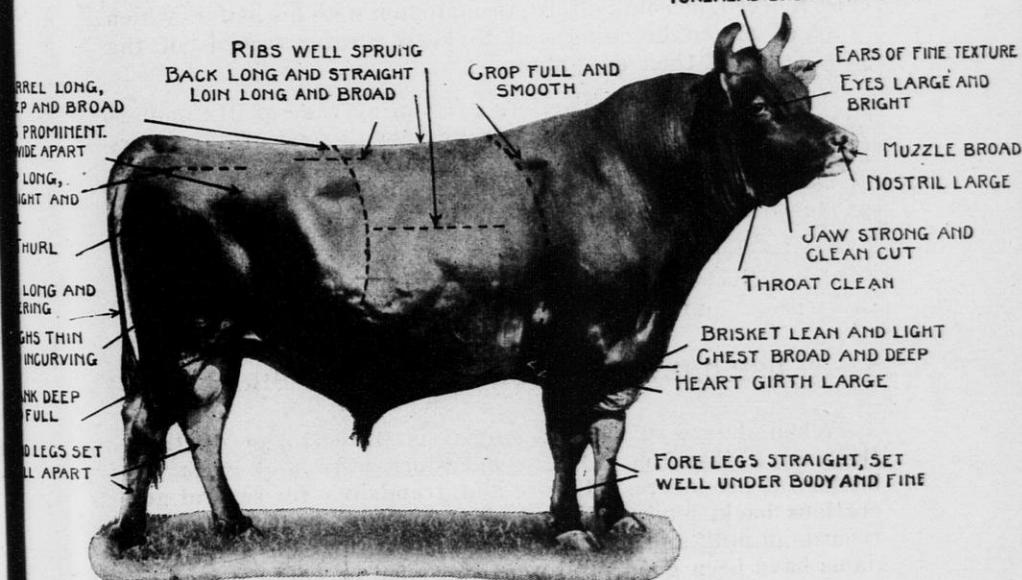
WISCONSIN BANKERS' FARM BULLETIN

The Right Dairy Sire and How To Manage Him

D. S. BULLOCK

Extension Representative in Live Stock---Wisconsin Live Stock Breeders' Association

FOREHEAD BROAD AND DISHED



SHOULD BE A GOOD INDIVIDUAL

He should be fairly typical of his breed, good size for his age, and show capacity and quality

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Wisconsin Bankers' Association

Burton M. Smith,
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The Right Dairy Sire and How To Manage Him

An Investment That Paid

A La Crosse county farmer, in 1889, decided that his herd of just "ordinary" cows was not paying.

He decided to purchase the best pure bred sire, of his chosen breed, he could afford, to mate him with his heifers which were of mixed breeding and to keep careful records of the production of their daughters.

He found that these heifers gave an average of 212 pounds of butter fat their first year in milk. At the end of nine years his herd averaged 263 pounds a cow. In 1913 none of his herd of 25 milk cows gave less than 400 pounds a year and several produced 600 pounds.

Bull calves from his pure bred cows were easily sold for future delivery. The sires he has used have all been of the same breed, pure bred, and bred-for-production.

USE ONLY BRED-FOR-PRODUCTION SIRES

When dairymen say an animal is "bred-for-production" they mean that the animal's ancestors were high milk and butter fat producers. His sire and grandsires, for several generations back, have produced offspring that have made good records in milk and butter fat production; his dam and grand-dams have been good producers and good breeders as well.

The pedigree should show all these points very plainly. It should also show that some of the ancestors of that particular sire were excellent individuals and were winners in national shows. The better the records and the more near relatives with good records the better the pedigree.

BUT PEDIGREE IS NOT EVERYTHING

Many an animal has a fine pedigree but is a very poor individual. The right dairy sire **should be** a good individual as well as **have** a good pedigree. He should be fairly typical of his breed and show capacity, size and quality.

REAL VALUE PROVEN BY DAUGHTERS

The real value of a dairy sire to any herd is told when his daughters freshen. Then we are able to tell whether or not he is improving the herd. If the daughters are better producers than their dams were at the same age we are on the right track. A sire which does not improve the herd and whose daughters are not better than their dams should be sold at once. The sire which does improve a herd should either be kept in the herd or sold to someone who can use him as a breeder. Many good Wisconsin sires have been sold to butchers before their real value became known.



SHOULD PRODUCE GOOD OFFSPRING

The bull's value is determined by the production of his daughters. These five daughters of a pure bred sire each produced more than 400 pounds of butter fat in a year

THE DAIRY SIRE NEEDS GOOD CARE

The dairy sire should be grown well from the day of his birth and not be allowed to become stunted—size is one of the important qualities in a dairy sire. In winter silage or roots should be fed but only in small quantities. A growing bull should not receive more than five pounds of silage a day and when full-grown not more than 10-15 pounds. Too much silage may cause him to become an uncertain breeder. A good ration is—silage 8-15 pounds, hay 10-12 pounds and from 2-4 pounds of a grain mixture consisting of three parts of oats and one of bran.

A GOOD DAIRY SIRE SHOULD BE

1. Of Dairy Breeding.
2. Pure Bred.
3. A Good Individual.
4. Bred-for-Production.
5. Capable of Producing Daughters Better Than Their Dams.

DON'T "JAIL" THE DAIRY SIRE

To be healthy and good tempered a dairy bull must have plenty of exercise. A roomy, well-fenced paddock where he can exercise at will, will pay for itself in good results. A heavy block hung in the center of the paddock that he may play with makes a good exerciser. Have the stall clean, light and well ventilated and have it large enough so that he may have his head free when lying down.

A bull should be handled from the time he is six months old. If handled when he is young he will give less trouble when he is older. Put a ring in his nose when he is a year old and always use a staff in handling him. Never trust a dairy bull. He is a bull and liable to do damage at any time if given a chance. Always let the bull understand that you are his master—but kind as well as firm.

DON'TS FOR THE DAIRY SIRE

- Don't underfeed him when young.
- Don't overfeed him when mature.
- Don't keep him shut up without exercise.
- Don't allow him to run with the cows.
- Don't lead him with a rope or strap.
- Don't trust him at any time.
- Don't allow anyone to tease or plague him.
- Don't feed him more than 15 pounds of silage daily.
- Don't use him too heavily before he is mature.
- Don't forget he is a "Bull."