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PLAN TO IMPROVE DAIRY CATTLE BREED

United States Department of Agriculture Advises Bull Associations among Dairymen

A co-operative bull association is a farmers' organization, the chief purpose of which is the joint ownership and use of high-class, pure-bred bulls. The association also may encourage careful selection of cows, obtain better prices for dairy products, introduce better methods of buying and selling cattle, work for improved sanitary conditions, intelligently fight contagious diseases of cattle, and in many other ways assist the dairy business.

The United States Department of Agriculture, thru its Weekly News Letter for November 8, advises the formation of such organizations. When it is remembered that the profit from dairying depends more upon the milking qualities of the cows used than upon any other one thing, the importance of improving the breed of dairy herds is readily seen.

The owners of small herds of grade cows often feel that they can not afford to purchase valuable pure-bred bulls. In consequence they buy scrubs, or breed their cows to a scrub bull or an inferior pure-bred bull on some near-by farm. One year a Holstein bull may be used, the next year a Jersey, and occasionally a bull of no particular breeding. The work of the co-operative bull associations makes it possible for any farmer to own a share in a pure-bred bull of high quality.

A bull association in its simplest form may consist of three farmers who together purchase three good registered bulls of the same breed. Each farmer keeps one of these bulls for two years, at the end of which time the bulls are exchanged to prevent inbreeding. For the same reason a second exchange is made at the end of four years. In this way, by paying the purchase price of only one bull, each member of the association has the use of good pure-bred bulls for six years. A larger membership in the association may either reduce expenses or make possible the purchase of better bulls.

The ideal association is composed of a much larger number of farmers. It jointly owns five bulls, divides its territory into five "breeding blocks," assigns one bull to each block. As many as 50 or 60 cows may belong to the farmers in each block, and the bull is kept on some farm centrally located. The blocks are numbered from 1 to 5, and every two years the bulls are moved forward to the next block. If all the bulls live and are retained until each has made one complete circuit, no new bulls have to be purchased during a period of ten years. As soon as the daughters freshen, evidence of the sire's true value be-

gins to accumulate. This is the only true test of a bull's real value; but it is self-evident that this test can not be applied until the bull approaches the age of four years. In ordinary farm practice bulls are usually disposed of before their true value can be known. The co-operative bull association makes it possible to obtain several years' service from bulls that transmit desired qualities and to eliminate all others.

The original cost of the five bulls and their annual cost of maintenance are usually divided among the members of the association according to the number of cows owned by each. Records on file in the dairy division of the department show that the members of associations now organized are getting the services of these high-class pure-bred bulls at an average cost considerably less than they formerly paid for the services of scrub bulls or registered bulls of doubtful merit. Many farmers in Maryland, Michigan and Minnesota, when questioned regarding the value of co-operative bull associations, estimated that the use of sires belonging to the association increased the value of the offspring in the first generation from 30 to 80 per cent. The average of these estimates was 65 per cent.

The educational work of each association makes the members alert to prevent the introduction and spread of disease of any kind. The well-managed bull association requires that all cattle belonging to its members shall be tested for tuberculosis and takes every known precaution to prevent the introduction of contagious abortion.

It is greatly to the advantage of a co-operative association that it be incorporated under state laws. This facilitates the transaction of business, equitably distributes responsibility, and gives the organization greater prestige in the community.

Cooperative bull associations have been common in Denmark for many years, but the first association of the kind in the United States were organized in 1908 by the Michigan Agricultural College. In this country their growth has not been rapid, but, as a rule, they have been highly successful. If skillfully managed, they may be made a great factor in the upbuilding of profitable dairying in this country.

DR. BAKER VISITS ALLIANCE

Rev. O. S. Baker, superintendent of the Alliance district of the Northwest Nebraska Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, was here Monday and Tuesday of this week, particularly to hold the regular quarterly conference of the local church and the church at Fairview but incidentally to visit with his old parishioners and receive from them the glad hand of fellowship. Dr. Baker preached at the Alliance Methodist church Sunday morning and at the Fairview church in the country Sunday afternoon. Monday night he presided at the quarterly conference.

Dr. Baker preached here for the first time Sunday since giving up the Alliance charge to become a district superintendent and was the first sermon he had preached here in thirteen months. The first year following his departure from Alliance, Dr. Baker was superintendent of the Long Pine district of the Northwest Nebraska Conference, which is the east district of this conference. He is now serving his first year as superintendent of the Alliance district.

ENLARGED HOMESTEADS

During October 2,188,600 Acres Were Designated under Enlarged Homestead Act

Secretary of the Interior Lane announces that during October more than 2,188,600 acres were designated under the enlarged-homestead act through which an entryman may acquire a homestead of 320 acres of public land. If the settler has already filed on 160 acres under the old homestead law, he may also, under this act, acquire an additional 160 acres. The lands made available during the month for these larger homesteads have all been classified by the Geological Survey as non-irrigable, but some of them have already been patented or entered or at least filed on. The Interior Department, in handling applications or petitions for the opening up of specific tracts of land under the enlarged-homestead act, gives the petitioner the first right to file on the land. To determine what particular section, township, or range in any land district is open to entry necessitates an examination of the records at the local land office.

In California, more than 880,000 acres, distributed in eleven counties in the central part of the state, were designated, of which a fair percentage is free from any claim. The areas designated in certain counties are as follows: Fresno county, 158,000 acres, Madera county, 126,000 acres, Tulare county, 92,000 acres, San Luis Obispo county, 89,000 acres, Monterey county, 72,000 acres and San Benito county, 60,000 acres.

In Colorado, more than 130,000 acres, located in twelve counties, were designated. The greater part of this area is, however, included in existing entries, but it is believed that a portion included in the following counties is available for new settlers: Otero county, 18,500 acres, Las Animas county, 14,000 acres and Pueblo county, 12,800 acres.

In Montana, more than 168,000 acres were designated in twenty-two counties throughout the state, only a very small proportion, however, being free from any claim.

In New Mexico, more than 766,500 acres were designated in fifteen counties of the state, much of which is open to entry for new settlers. The areas are in part included in the following counties: Valencia county,

197,000 acres, Socorro county, 148,000 acres, McKinley county, 96,600 acres, Grant county, 92,000 acres, San Juan county, 75,000 acres, Santa Fe county, 33,500 acres, and Sandoval county, 23,000 acres.

In South Dakota, not quite 78,000 acres were designated in eleven counties of the western part of the state. Practically all of the land designated is, however, already filed on.

In Utah, more than 37,000 acres were designated in thirteen counties throughout the state, of which approximately 6,400 acres were designated under section 6 of the act (which does not require residence on the land). As only a limited area is allowed to be designated under this provision, specific requests only were considered so that none of this area is now open to entry. The remainder of the land was classified under the general provisions of the act which require residence on the land, and the bulk of this area is also now entered.

In Wyoming, practically 128,000 acres were designated in eleven counties throughout the state. More than three-fourths of the lands classified are now entered or patented. General classifications were made, however, in the following counties, parts of which are vacant land and subject to entry: Uinta county, 26,000 acres, Fremont county, 24,000 acres, Sweetwater county, 23,000 acres, Natrona county, 9,000 acres, and Hot Springs county, 6,000 acres.

ENDORSE GOV'T LAND BANK

Farmers' Organizations of Box Butte Lending Aid to Establishment of Bank in Nebraska

The Box Butte county farmers' organizations are lending their support to the establishment of one of the government's federal land banks in Nebraska. Farmers Educational and Co-operative Union No. 934, of which Alex T. Lee is president, and W. F. Patterson, Jr., secretary; and the Box Butte County Farmers' Association, of which L. J. Schill is president, and F. A. Trabert, acting secretary, have endorsed and forwarded the following resolution to the commercial club of Omaha:

Resolution
WHEREAS, There are to be established twelve Federal Farm Loan Banks in the United States, the purpose of which is to provide cheap money for farmers, and

WHEREAS, In our opinion Nebraska is entitled to one of these banks because of its agricultural resources and the possibilities of development along this line;

THEREFORE, Be it resolved that we petition the Federal Farm Loan Board to locate one of these banks in Nebraska and in the city of Omaha because from point of location and railroad facilities Omaha best serves the great middle west agricultural region."



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