



Haltom Breeder Awarded Constructive Breeder's Ribbon

M. C. Healy, well known and popular Truflagger Township Jersey Breeder, was signally honoured at the annual meeting of the Ontario Jersey Cattle Club. On this occasion he was presented with the Constructive Breeder's Award, the highest award made to its members by the Canadian Jersey Cattle Club. Since the award came into being some years ago, only four such awards had been previously made in Canada. Mr. Healy thus becomes the fifth breeder in Canada to be so honoured.

The basis of the award takes into consideration such features as "Herd Classification", "Record of Performance", "Superior Sires bred or developed", "Health Standards", etc. It will be recalled that at the 1949 Royal Mt. Healy also won the Premier Breeder's Award against the highest honour of the entire Jersey show. These honours indicate the standing which the Lindale herd now holds in the Canadian Jersey world. Heartiest congratulations are extended to Mr. Healy on the honours which his herd has brought to Lindale Farm and to the County of Halton.

Fertilizer Potash Supply Very Low

In recent years the trend in fertilizer has been toward higher analyses mixtures. Fifteen years ago 2-8-4 (with 14 units of plant food) was a popular fertilizer. Now it is discarded in favour of mixtures carrying 2 or more units of plant food. 4-8-10 with 22 plant food units is still very popular and widely used. 5-10-17 carries the same ratio of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash but has 20 per cent more actual plant food in a ton of mixture and will eventually replace 4-8-10. The higher analyses mixtures are made possible by the use of higher analyses ingredients such as 10 per cent superphosphate in place of the old 14 to 16 per cent, and 60 per cent muriate of potash in place of 26 per cent K₂O.

The higher analyses mixtures are more economical since the cost per unit of plant food is less. This lower cost is due to various factors such as labour, handling costs, bags and transportation. However, there is, for the moment, a fly in the ointment. Owing to a strike in the U.S. still unsettled 85 per cent of the seriously limits the ability of fertilizer manufacturers to make up the high analyses mixtures recommended by the Fertilizer Advisory Board.

Oxford County Farmer Rig Boosts Orchard Grass

"My Farm Programme is Based on Better Pasture" was the subject of a address delivered by Alex Muir of Woodstock at the recent Crop Convention in Toronto. Halton farmers who took the Bus Trip sponsored by the Halton Crop Improvement Association last May, will recall the visit paid to the Muir farm just west of Woodstock. It occurs to us that the address in question contains a good deal of common sense and coming from a man who practices what he preaches it is worthy of consideration. Here are some of the highlights from his address:

"We consider ourselves principally interested in dairying. Our young cattle are pastured away from home on property rented annually because we have not been able to purchase such property; this does not lend itself to an improved pasture programme.

We try to pacify our Happy Holsteins during the pasture season with the cheapest feed we know of, namely juicy, luscious pasture in order to obtain the most economical milk production from them. Besides being the cheapest feed we soon realized that better pasture is a labor saver because it is usually available when average pasture is bare and burnt by hot sun. That eliminates the necessity of supplements with more expensive feeds, especially when one is

extra busy harvesting other crops. We hasten to admit we do not always succeed but we try our best and realize we will always have a lot to learn.

We believe we need a soil with super fertility and good drainage, one with a high humus content has a higher water-holding capacity. We also need sufficient moisture, a suitable seed mixture and constant management.

No doubt many wonder what I have in mind when I say a suitable seed mixture. It is futile to dwell on this factor with so much information available for various conditions. Our ideas may not suit many others.

I do want to give credit to the Orchard Grass for the part it plays in our seed mixture. If there is a better pasture plant than I would appreciate knowing about it. I realize that many will not agree with me and still consider Orchard Grass as a weed. I do not advise you to try this great economizer, personally, unless you are prepared to manage him. Give him fertility, moisture and temperature and he will keep you on the jump to keep him under control. He will grow an inch each day and produce juicy, luscious leaves that the cattle will devour, providing he does not get over six to eight inches tall.

You may have to be ready to chop him down if he starts to run away and heather is it fun to put the tractor in 4th gear and idle the mower over the pasture, chopping off Joe Orchard Grass. The cows come along devour him or he lays there and covers the ground, holding the moisture and protecting the roots of the mother plant from the burning rays of the hot summer sun.

Orchard is one of our earliest grasses in the spring and under suitable conditions will grow right through to freeze up. We noticed it was even growing during the mild spell in the early part of this unusual January of 1950.

Maybe you feel I have given my pet too much of a build up and I know some of our authorities have no love for Joe Orchard Grass. I want to say he has yielded head and shoulders over anything we have used in a better pasture mixture.

He has one bad habit, in that he is not too compatible, he will squeeze other grasses and clovers out of our fields. This does not worry us very much because we try to keep most of our fields in a regular 4 or 5 year rotation. We are willing to admit that we might take Joe Orchard Grass out of top place in our estimation if one of the other grasses which we are continually trying prove to be superior.

A new grass must do more than produce better pasture. In addition to being an ideal pasture grass, a new grass must be a humus builder for the soil; that is where Joe outshines any other useful grass which we have tried.

You are well aware that much of our Ontario soil is low in humus, that ingredient which makes the soil dark, loose and friable with a

high moisture and fertility holding capacity.)

High humus soil is the most productive type for better pasture or any other crop. Yes, a highly productive soil is the best bank account a farmer can have, one on which there is no income tax.

The more land you can have in better hay and pasture the easier it is to keep your farm at home. Yes, we are sentimental about our farms, they are our homes and our businesses. If we do not keep them producing better and more hay and pasture and prevent erosion and leaching, they will gradually run down the rivers to the sea and leave us desolate!

I feel I should sound a word of warning in case you think Better Pastures are an easy "cure-all" for our economic plight as the prices of many things we sell are going down and costs are constant or rising.

Better Pastures cost money. It costs money to build up soil fertility, grass and clover seeds cost money so do fencing, soil management but the harvesting is ideal. Yes, you have to be prepared for a fairly large investment per acre but from the standpoint of a livestock farmer Better Pasture is one of the best ways to counteract the economic squeeze!

Ladies and Gentlemen, those are a few major reasons why My Farm Programme is based on Better Pasture and it is all summed up in that excellent motto which won the \$100 prize at Canada's first Grassland Day held only three

years ago in Oxford County. The motto is "Grassland is Cashland".

Many of those on the two day bus trip felt the visit to Mr. Muir's farm was just about the highlight of an outstanding trip. They will be interested to know that when we saw Mr. Muir about one month ago, he had a twelve can quota and he was filling it. 350 hens (and he wasn't too happy about the egg price), and quite a number of hogs. He has 150 acres in the home farm in addition to a rented pasture, and he operates it with the help of one man.

A CHANGED CANADA

There have been some vast changes in Canada in the last decade and merchandisers are advised by The Financial Post to take note of them. Total population, The Post reports, is up over 17%. Biggest provincial gainers on a percentage basis is British Columbia, up 40% since prewar.

Next come Quebec and Ontario with a gain of about 20%. In population Quebec had more natural gain but Ontario got a big lift immigration. With the exception of P.E.I. which was down slightly, the other Eastern Maritime provinces gained about 14%. The Prairie Provinces have shown the least change, Saskatchewan population being down a little, Manitoba up 7% and Alberta up 10%.

Radio give-away programs are in a decline.

LOST VIRTUES

Former United States Secretary of State James F. Byrnes recently spoke of his fears in sobering tones. He said:

"The spirit of self-reliance that animated the early settlers and for more than a century inspired our people to exercise their initiative and develop this country, while preserving their independence, is unfortunately departing from the people. Too many people want to lean upon the government, forgetting that government must lean upon the people. Too many people are thinking of security instead of opportunity. They seem to be more afraid of life than of death."

Self-reliance brought the United States to its present place of power. How will Canada achieve her most great destiny with a timid people?

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