

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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WHAT THE SOUTH OFFERS THE GOOD DAIRYMAN

DAIRYING has made Denmark rich in the last twenty years; it has long kept the farmers of Holland and the Channel Islands prosperous and contented; it has redeemed hundreds of "worn-out" farms in the North Atlantic States and made them fertile and profitable; in the Northwest, it has made, in many cases, those sections that were naturally the poorest, the most productive of all; here and there in the South, where it has been carried on in an intelligent and up-to-date manner, it has built up poor soils and brought prosperity to the men engaged in it. What it has done in these instances, it could do—and would do under wise direction—on thousands of farms all over the South.

The South, on the one hand, buys dairy products from Illinois and Wisconsin and Iowa, and on the other hand, ships the cheapest and best concentrated feed for dairy cattle in the world—cottonseed meal—to the dairymen of New York and New England and Europe. And the dairymen of the Northwest and those of New England and Europe get rich and enrich their lands, while here in our own fair Southland the increase in the production of the staple crops per acre fails to keep pace with the increase in the annual fertilizer bills. In short, we are feeding other people's cattle and buying other people's cream and cheese and butter, to their great advantage and our decided loss. Would it not be well to change all this, and to keep both this money and fertility at home?

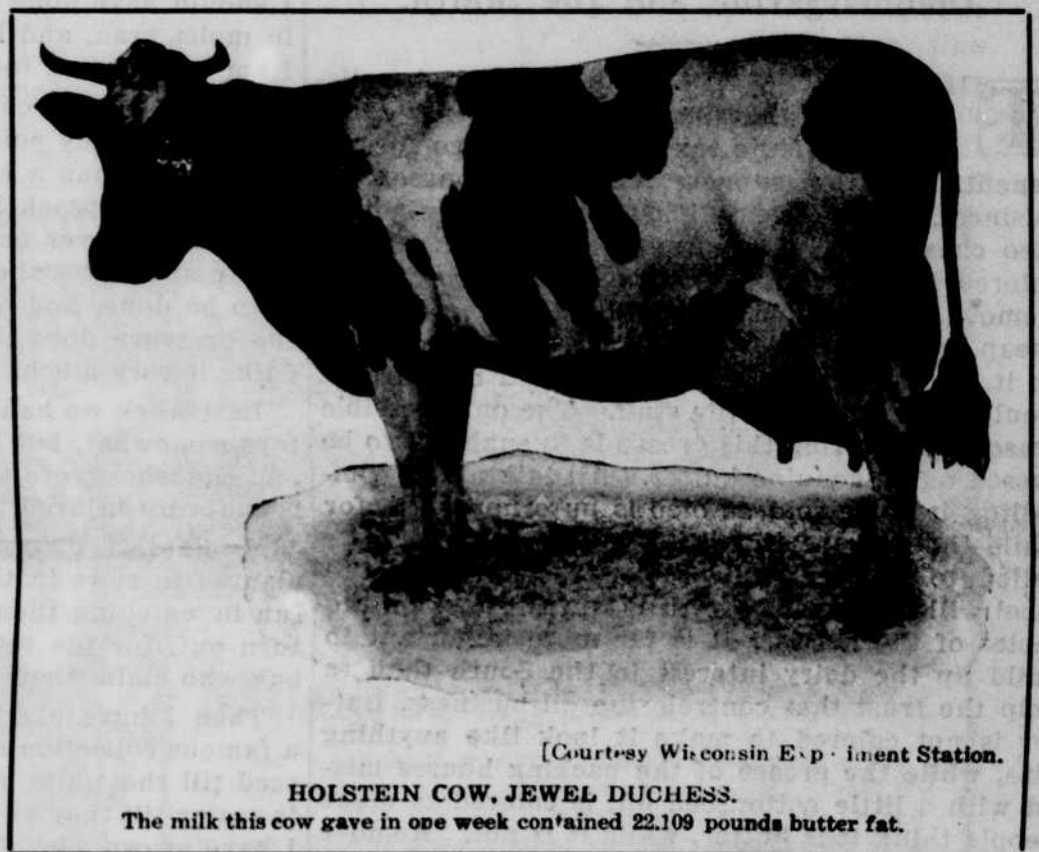
In our Dairy Special last year it was estimated that 50 Southern cities could consume the product of 200,000 cows better than the average of those we now have. The demand for dairy products is all the time increasing faster than is the supply.

What, then, are the reasons that Southern farmers are making such little effort to supply this demand? There are just three reasons that really count. These are: (1) Lack of feed, (2) poor cows, and (3) lack of men trained for the work.

The first hindrance is so easily overcome that we are almost ashamed to acknowledge that it is a hindrance. We grow the world's supply of cottonseed meal; we can grow a greater variety of leguminous feeds, and more of them per acre, than can any of the leading dairy States; we can produce corn silage at less cost than can any other section. With these feeds and good pastures, which we can have if we will, we can feed dairy cattle at less cost than can any Northwestern or Northeastern farmer.

As to better cows, there is just one way to get them. That is, to get good sires, to test the cows for dairy work, to get rid of the poor ones and save calves only from those that pay their way. Doing this, we can soon have as good dairy herds as are to be found anywhere. We have a few of them now; but all too few.

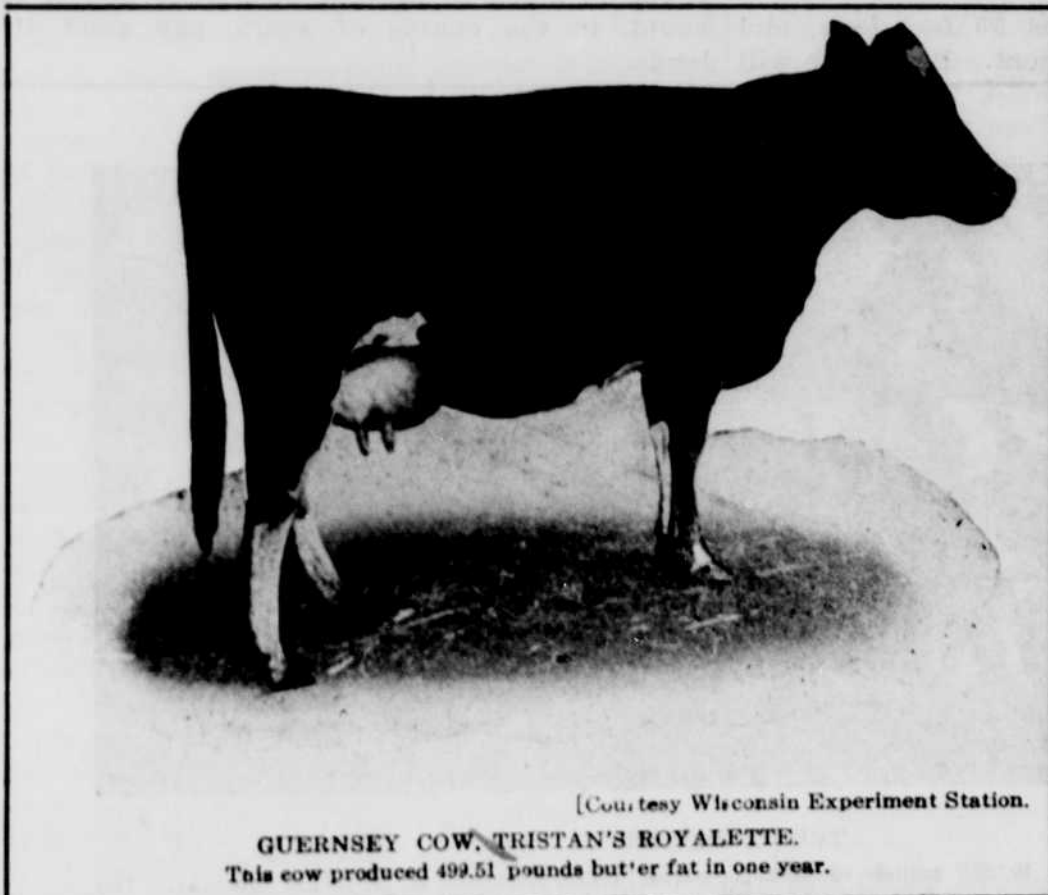
The third problem is also one that can be solved. There is no mystery in the dairy business. The man who has a liking for the work, and who is willing to devote to it the earnest thought and persistent effort which are the price of success in any occupation, can soon be a good dairyman. And the good dairyman in the South is in practically every instance a man who is making money and becoming a leader in the upbuilding of his community.



[Courtesy Wisconsin Experiment Station.]

HOLSTEIN COW, JEWEL DUCHESS.

The milk this cow gave in one week contained 22.109 pounds butter fat.



[Courtesy Wisconsin Experiment Station.]

GUERNSEY COW, TRISTAN'S ROYALETTE.

This cow produced 499.51 pounds butter fat in one year.

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