State's New Breeding Program Develops Better Dairy Cattle

By John Uhler

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"oldt Bobbie" is becoming an animal of the past on the southwest Louisiana dairy farms, as evidenced by the hand plow and the model T-flax.

Area cattle men are turning, and to the development of a much finer breed of dairy animal with a method that has been termed by LSU agricultural authorities as "probably the best tool we have for improving our dairy animals on a large scale basis.

This improvement in dairy cattle has been brought about by the dairy's artificial breeding program, research on which began in 1923. As a result of this, the first artificial breeding took place in January of this year. Since that time, Southeast Louisiana's cattle men have found the program to be so effective that of the majority of them—small as that may be on a large scale—have turned in this method almost exclusively to developing a finer dairy animal.

Bobbie, for example, has become one of the outstanding sires in the state's artificial breeding program. The Bobbie unit, one of the Louisiana Artificial Breeding Cooperatives, was organized in 1927 with 19 members and a total of 3,320 cows in the circuit.

Today, the unit has over five times as many members, 200, and 7,732 cows in the circuit. Of these, 2,744 were artificially bred last year.

Breeders who artificially mean that the services of top-blooded bulls can be used not as widely distributed. Those selected were maintained at the LSU Dairy Improvement Center, have all been proven and their pedigrees show a marked increase in milk production and butterfat.

Few, if any, practices designed to increase milk production and improve conformation of cattle have shown as much popularity and general acceptance as artificial insemination. LAC authorized E. H. Williams, state that the average better bred production in Louisiana dairy cows is 2,131 pounds.

In cooperation, the an- of better bred production level of offspring of proven sires used in artificial insemination is 493 pounds.

Consequently, the influence of one animal on the inherited capacity of his offspring for milk and better bred production is believed by many to be one of the factors to be of direct concern.

Reproductive efficiency is highly important.

Importantly, dairy farmers have found that the factor is raised considerably. Better bred stock is also desirable, as indicated by the fact that the average milk production of a cow is 2,131 pounds, and that the average butterfat production is 493 pounds.

Through artificial breeding, this higher level of milk production has resulted in a high milk production. In addition, the average butterfat production is also higher, as indicated by the fact that the average butterfat production of a cow is 493 pounds, and that the average butterfat production is also higher.

The Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, under the leadership of its board of directors, directed by Leon J. Leboeuf, A. E. Lemaitre, Louis Per-Prat, Robert Joseph and James Wilson.

As a result of Smith's technical know-how and leadership, Williams, along with the other men in the program, have been given the task of improving the breed. This is done through breeding programs which are designed to improve the dairy's performance and efficiency.

The money is used, among other things, to develop a better strain of bulls and better methods of handling the breeding process.

Cattle men are shown a method which describes each bull available at LSU, and make their choice according to the recommendations of their respective unit.

The semen, in turn, is obtained from the bull at LSU and is immediately diluted and frozen. Dilution of semen is many times required to maintain the quality of the semen, and the freezing process permits the semen to be stored for up to six months. If any sperm are live for longer than three months, they are shipped to the station.

The technician's training and ability to properly impart the semen is important, for fertility of the male is a critical factor. Inbreeding the bull through this process is also important.

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