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Co-Operative Cow Testing Associations, Bull Associations

Michigan State University Extension Service

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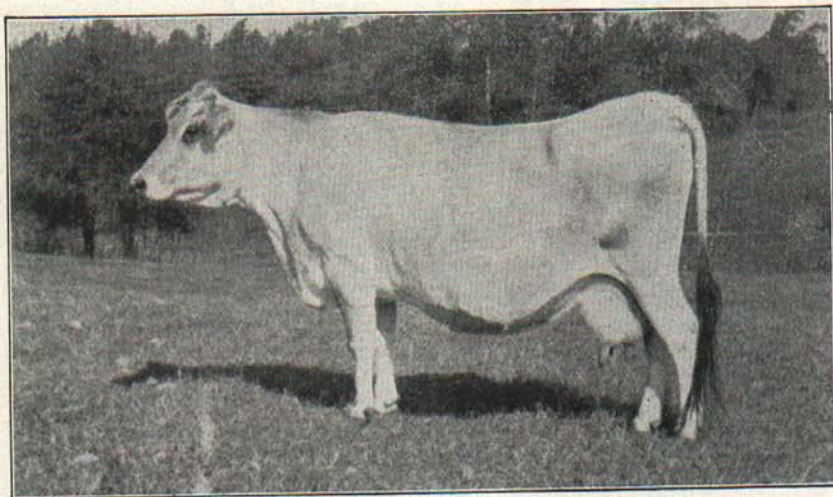
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Co-operative---

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## COW TESTING ASSOCIATIONS BULL ASSOCIATIONS



HERO'S BOW

Produced 13,214 pounds milk and 592.5 pounds butter fat in Cow Testing Association at ten years of age, after having been previously considered a "boarder." Proper feeding in the Cow Testing Association made the difference.

Michigan Agricultural College

R. J. Baldwin, Director, East Lansing

Extension Division

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Michigan Agricultural College and U. S. Department of Agriculture co-operating.

# COW TESTING ASSOCIATION

## What It Is:—

1. A simple co-operative arrangement between 25 or 26 dairymen to determine the production efficiency of each cow in the herd.
2. It provides a means of determining whether a cow is worth keeping as a producer and a breeder.

## How It Operates:—

1. Twenty-five or 26 farmers organize and hire a trained tester for a year.
2. The tester spends one day each month with each farmer.
3. While present he determines the value of feed eaten and the value of product of each cow in the herd for one day and one month.
4. From these figures the profit or loss of each cow for the month and year is calculated.
5. He advises regarding the amount of feed each cow should receive and the most economical mixture to use to get the best returns.

## What It Costs:—

1. The charges for Cow Testing Association work should be considered as an investment rather than a cost.
2. Each member invests a small amount monthly, depending on the size of his herd, to cover the operating expenses of the association.
3. The usual charge for herds of different sizes is as follows:

Size of Herd	Mo. Payment	Size of Herd	Mo. Payment
1- 6 cows	\$3.00	19-22 cows	\$4.25
7- 9 cows	3.25	23-26 cows	4.50
10-12 cows	3.50	27-30 cows	4.75
13-15 cows	3.75	31-35 cows	6.25
16-18 cows	4.00	36-40 cows	6.75

4. A membership fee is optional with the association. Often from two to three dollars is paid at the time of starting new association. This fee is used to purchase the testing outfit and equipment. It is paid only once during the existence of an association.
5. This investment returns big interest, as a result of more economical feeding, more economical production, and better breeding.

## What It Accomplishes:—

1. The Cow Testing Association eliminates unprofitable cows.
2. Makes more profitable feeding possible through:
  - (a) Feeding each cow according to her production.
  - (b) Feeding balanced ration at all times.
3. Makes constructive breeding possible by keeping only high producing cows in the herd from which to raise calves.
4. Proves value of the herd sire by showing what his daughters are doing as producers.
5. Adds to the sale value of every cow that finishes a year's work.
6. Takes the gamble out of dairy production.
7. Permits registration of worthy cows in the Michigan Record of Performance.

## How To Get It:—

1. Talk it over with your neighbors.
2. Get your County Agricultural Agent to explain it.
3. Write to the M. A. C. Dairy Extension Office, East Lansing, Michigan.

## History:—

1. First association organized in Denmark in 1895.
2. First association organized in U. S. in 1905, in Newaygo County, Michigan.
3. One hundred associations in Michigan on September 15, 1924.
4. There were 2,611 herds and 30,124 cows in association work on September 15, 1924.
5. Association cows average 100 pounds more butter fat per cow per year than the average Michigan cow.

# BULL ASSOCIATION

## What It Is:—

1. An arrangement whereby a number of poor bulls in a community are replaced by one good purebred bull.
2. It is a systematic, businesslike method of bringing about better breeding and, hence, more economical production.

## How It Operates:—

1. Two or more farmers, conveniently located with reference to each other, agree on the breed to be used.
2. They make satisfactory arrangements between themselves as to the price to be paid for the bull and who shall select him.
3. Arrangements are made for the keeping of the bull at some farm as centrally located as possible.
4. Each man contributes to the original cost and the upkeep of the bull in proportion to the number of cows in his herd.
5. Where two groups of farmers in different communities each purchase a bull on the above plan, the bulls can be exchanged between the groups at the end of two years to avoid inbreeding. This will insure four years of breeding for each group with an investment in only one bull for each group.
6. If three groups adopt this plan, six years of breeding can be had with an investment in only one bull for each group.

## What It Accomplishes:—

1. It eliminates the scrub bull—the greatest single source of loss to the dairymen of Michigan.
2. It insures rapid improvement through the use of outstanding sires at a very small service fee per cow.
3. Better breeding insures larger average production per cow.
4. Larger production per cow means more dollars to the dairyman.
5. Good sires of the same breed insure community development of one breed. This always gives an added value to the livestock of a community.
6. Through operating in a number of herds, the influence of good bulls is more widespread.
7. The small breeder is given the same opportunity as the large breeder.

## What It Costs:—

1. The cost per member is illustrated in the following way:
  - (a) Three neighbors, Jones, Smith, and Murphy, decide to pay \$150.00 for a bull, and Smith agrees to keep and feed the bull for two years at \$50.00 per year. Jones has 25 cows, Smith 20, and Murphy only 5. Based on the number of cows each man owns the tabulated expense for two years' service would look like this:

Owner	No. Cows	Share of Purchase Price	Share of Upkeep for Two Years	Total per Member
Jones.....	25	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$125.00
Smith.....	20	60.00	40.00	100.00
Murphy.....	5	15.00	10.00	25.00
Total.....	50	\$150.00	\$100.00	\$250.00

2. This would mean that over a two year period 100 cows were bred at a total cost of \$250.00 or an average cost per year per cow of \$2.50.
3. If any one of the above men had maintained this bull without the co-operation of the other two, the service cost per cow per year would have been as follows:

Jones.....	\$5.00
Smith.....	6.25
Murphy.....	25.00

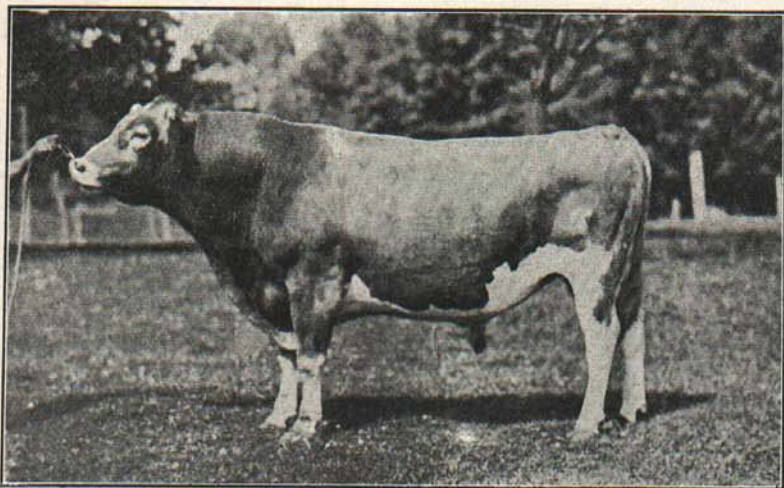
4. Another group of five neighbors in a nearby community co-operated in the same way with similar results.
5. At the end of the two year period the two groups exchanged bulls and were saved another investment of \$150.00 each for a new bull.
6. This arrangement made it possible for each one of these eight men to get four years bull service at an average price of \$1.75 per cow per year.

#### How To Get It:—

1. Talk it over with your neighbors.
2. Get your County Agricultural Agent to explain it.
3. Write to the M. A. C. Dairy Extension Office, East Lansing, Michigan.

#### History:—

1. First co-operative Bull Association in the United States was organized in Michigan in 1908.
2. Eighteen associations in operation in Michigan on September 15, 1924.



GOLDEN BERKSHIRE, No. 32039

Still in active service at ten years of age, in the Leer Guernsey Breeders' Association. The Bull Association makes it possible to retain this kind of sire as a breeder.