

Judging Beef Cattle.

I Introduction.

A- Variation in prices paid for beef animals on the Chicago market.

-a- Due to ~~of~~ degree of fatness.

-b- " " breeding. e.g. Two lots of cattle bought at the same time and fed the same length of time on similar feed may bring radically different prices in Chicago, due largely to differences in the thickness and juiciness of cuts of meat.

-B- Consumer determines, largely, the type of beef animal. Hence the producer should study the market end of the meat business, find what the market demands and then develop his breeding operations accordingly.

-a- ~~Cons~~ The consumer prefers-

-1- Steaks cut from the loins.

-2- Roasts taken from the prime ribs.

-3- Cuts of meat that are thick tender and juicy.

-b- The consumer is inclined to look with disfavor on the boiling and stew pieces of meat, hence such cuts are hard to dispose of, and make a radical difference, in prices paid for different parts of the carcass.

II - ~~Bring a black animal before the~~ Body

A Bring a black animal before the class and mark off the whole-sale cuts of meat.

- B- Make a chart dividing the cuts of meat into No-1, No-2, and No-3- grades and giving whole sale prices for each,
 - a- Radical difference in prices between No-1, No-2, and No-3- carcasses,
 - b- Radical difference in price between the loin and rib cuts as compared with the ~~plates~~ rest of the carcass, ~~in the~~ especially in the No-1 grade.
- C- Beef animal should have good breadth of back and loin-
 - a- Breadth of back and spring of rib alone ~~do~~ ^{will} not make the best meat carcass. There must also be thickness of flesh, e.g. A Holstein cow ~~do~~ may and often have a broad back and loin but owing to the lack of natural flesh (red meat) it is impossible to get thick juicy cuts of meat.
 - b- It is impossible to increase the natural tendency to deposit red meat in the animal body to any appreciable extent by feeding. Another words you cannot take a mature animal in good condition and ^{materially} increase the thickness of the natural flesh by feeding. Stated in another way it is impossible to "cross" a common steer on a "corn crib" and let the Chicago market.

Note - This discussion naturally leads up to the question of breeding. If thick juicy cuts of meat cannot be fed on the animal, it naturally follows that the sensible thing to do is to select thick fleshed cows and breed them to a thick fleshed pure bred bull.

-20- Value of good breeding

-2. Return to the first illustration of the differences in prices paid for steers on the Chicago market. Develop by illustrations and questions something like the following:-

Two steers weighing 1400 lbs. each are sold on the Chicago market. One of these steers sells for 5^{cts} per lb. and the other for 6^{cts} per lb. (Ask questions to bring out points) How much more will the No. 1- steer bring than the No. 2-?

Ans. 14⁰⁰

Assuming that these steers dress out 60% ~~edible meat~~ on the hook, (as the No. 1- steer will dress the most, but even numbers are taken here ~~as a~~ for the sake of convenience) How much edible meat will you have?

Ans. 840 lbs.

Assuming again that $\frac{1}{4}$ of the carcass is represented by the loin and ribs how much will you have for each steer?

~~210 lbs. each~~ Ans. 210 lbs. each.

Now going back to the wholesale

~~price~~

price list we find that (these prices were furnished by Swift & Co in Nov. 1909)

no-1 loins sell for $22\frac{1}{2}$ cts. per lb.

" 2 " " " 16 " " "

no 1 ribs " " $17\frac{1}{2}$ " " "

" 2 " " " $13\frac{1}{2}$ " " "

~~What is the difference between no-1 and no-2 loins?~~
What is the difference between no-1 and no-2 loins? Ans $6\frac{1}{2}$ cts per lb.

What is the difference between no-1 & no-2 ribs? Ans 4 cts per lb.

Taking into consideration the fact that the loin cut is ~~considerably~~ heavier than the rib cut, the difference of price in favor of the no-1 steer is about 6 cts. per lb.

What will be the difference in price between the loin and rib cuts of a no-1 and a no-2 steer? Ans. $16' \times 210$ or $\$2.60$, or nearly as much as the difference in price paid for the two animals on the hoof. Substantial differences, also, in other cuts of meat.

-b- Application of the above illustration.

Suppose a man keeps 15 cows. How much more can he afford to pay for a thick fleshed pure-bred bull to cross on ~~the~~ his cows than he can afford to pay for a scrub?

Can he afford to breed to a

-5-

scrub at any price?

(note - A lively discussion can be worked up along this line)

- C- Pure bred vs. the grade sire - Let's begin to like or the likeness of some ancestor. ~~It is well to explain that the value of knowing how to judge livestock~~ (It should be explained that the above law ~~is law~~ of breeding furnishes sufficient ^{practical} reasons for knowing how to judge livestock.)

- D- A purebred animal is better than a grade, other things being equal because - he comes from pure-bred parents and is more potent, while on the other hand the grade comes from mixed ancestry, which lessens potency and greatly increases the chances of reversion.

(~~Now~~ This subject of breeding ~~is~~ ~~interest~~ can be discussed at some length if the class are ready for it.)

- E- Select the ~~deep~~ deep broad, low set, heavy fleshed, early maturing type.

The discussion so far has pointed out the fundamental objects sought in judging beef cattle. Details can be found in ~~any score~~ the score card and hence are not given in this outline.

Summary.

- 1- The breeder of beef cattle should study the demands of the ~~so~~ consumer.
- 2- The consumer prefers thick juicy cuts of meat.
- 3- The difference in retail price on loin and ribs alone in 1400 lbs steers of no-1 and no-2 grade may make a difference in selling price of \$10⁰⁰ or \$12⁰⁰.
- 4- The tendency to ^{develop thick flesh} build muscle, ~~and~~ is for the most part hereditary.
- 5- The practical way to build up a herd of thick fleshed cattle is to breed to thick fleshed bulls.
- 6- Like begets like or the likeness of some ancestor. Therefore the pure bred bull that traces his ancestry through several generations of thick fleshed animals is ~~much~~ preferable to the grade even though the grade is his equal as an individual.
- 7- Select deep, broad, low set, heavy fleshed ^{pure bred, masculine} early maturing sires, showing strong constitution. ~~and~~