



Your Living Environment

Vol. III No. 5

May, 1972

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON SHORTHORNS!

Can you imagine what it would be like if you received the following invitation: "Dear Mr... , On behalf of the Chairman and Members of The ... Shorthorn Breeders' Society, I, as Hon. Secretary, have been asked to invite you to address our Annual General Meeting as guest speaker. The meeting will be held, etc., etc., ..."?

Now that you have received and read "your" invitation, pause for a moment and reflect briefly on *WHAT YOU WOULD SAY* — just supposing you had actually received such a request.

The more you know about cattle, or even livestock in general, the more you will realise that you have been faced with quite a question! Of course you could always decline the invitation gracefully and that would be the end of the matter. Recently, the writer did receive just such an invitation, which was *not* turned down. Now, you may ask — *how* was it handled?

That's what we want to show in this issue of *Your Living Environment*. In doing so, we will raise such questions as: Do stockmen tend to lose perspective, in pedigree breeding? How could the *Green Revolution* affect the livestock industry? How can man know that his diet should be centred on animal protein? What has been the role of the Shorthorn breed in providing that protein? And at the same time, we will also include other points that one would *dearly* wish to bring before such a gathering.

KNOWING THE AUDIENCE

It was pointed out that *The Annual General Meeting* must surely be a time to take stock of the past, present and future facing Society Members. But perhaps we should first "take

stock" of our audience — a group of Dairy-farmers, whose cattle interests are sure to be overly concentrated on the dairy strain of Shorthorn cattle. *DAIRY-FARMERS!!* Before mentally dismissing these people as a permanently-rubber-booted peasantry, it might be worth mentioning that the apologies for a non-attendance at this meeting included: a Colonel, a Brigadier, a General and a Knight. (That kind of information makes one realize how limited our perspective can be of various occupations, doesn't it?) It was certainly a surprise to be addressing this kind of person in a group of Dairymen.

Nevertheless, regardless of background, nearly all breeders of pedigree livestock tend to be quite narrow and prejudiced in their attitude towards other breeds. They can be more rigid in their breed "loyalties" than ever car enthusiasts are toward one make of automobile! So now let us begin by drawing them out of this narrow world, which so completely involves them with *cattle*, *Shorthorn* cattle, in fact *Dairy* Shorthorn cattle and perhaps just those within their own local area and a "dying" breed at that!

PERSPECTIVE IS ESSENTIAL

Our students of Agronomy at Ambassador College are told when they enter that class that its purpose is — "*TO HELP THEM THINK CLEARLY, RELATIVE TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT*". This is largely a matter of getting things in perspective.

Cattlemen also need to make sure that they too maintain a right perspective, regarding their own activities, relative to world agriculture. For example — whether one raises *Dairy* or *Beef*

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE, AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT, RESEARCH NEWS

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Shorthorns, is *less* important than the breed of Shorthorns as a whole. The *breed* itself must be seen (even by those responsible for it) as *less* important than the cattle industry. And, taking the over-view, *cattle* are of themselves *less* important than the total supply of animal protein for human nutrition world-wide!

At the same time, many "*experts*" in the world today are firmly convinced that mankind can no longer afford the "*luxury*" of animal protein. Some openly state that soon humanity will no longer *permit* their fellows to indulge in the "*wastful*" production of animal protein! (These facts have been mentioned to you readers in the past, but they were probably quite new to our "*Shorthorn*" audience.)

THE VEGETARIAN CHALLENGE

In an over-populated world, it is easy to make vegetarianism appear to be a *practical necessity*, instead of a peculiar false doctrine. That's what is being done! In this area, Occidental Science and Oriental Mysticism suddenly find themselves on common ground! But, if this combined threat goes unchallenged, *cattlemen* and *all* producers of *animal* protein, may suddenly find their "*ground*" swept from under their feet!

Shorthorns, *Longhorns*, *Middle-horns* and even "*No-horns*" could *ALL* become things of the past, under such circumstances!!

Any who would treat such a warning lightly, would do well to take a quick look over their shoulder. There they will see another branch of Science that is coming up fast and will soon be "breathing down the back of our necks". We refer to the producers of *synthetic* protein. They are right now teaming-up with secondary industry. *Industry* is supplying the capital — and *Science*, the brains. They are gambling for control of the protein market of the world (See Vol.I, No.3)!

GOD — THE EXPERT NUTRITIONIST

These sobering thoughts should give all producers of *animal* protein strong encouragement to bury their many inter- and intra-breed animosities. One would very much like to comfort these farmers by telling them that even though many of their methods are *wrong*, their type of production is *RIGHT*! God obviously does not agree with the human "*experts*", regardless as to whether their brand of vegetarianism is *voluntary* or *compulsory*!

Though not specifically commanding meat-eating, God devotes *TWO* chapters of the Bible to showing which meats are fit for His people to eat (Lev. 11 and Deut. 14). Other references

approving human consumption of animal protein include: Gen.18:1-8, I Chr. 16:3, Mat. 14:17-21 and John 21:12-13.

LIVESTOCK'S GREAT FUTURE

The fact that human nutrition was one of God's main purposes in creating our magnificent range of "*clean*" animals, is totally lost on most of today's global nutritionists. If they have failed to grasp this important principle, should we be surprised that the masses they aim to feed have missed it too? The truth is that the "*Green Revolutionaries*" have based their food production programme *NOT* on *animal* protein, but on *GRAIN*!

Most of man's soil management is bad, but even under reasonable management, this kind of agriculture is one that hits soil fertility hardest, (see Vol. I, No. 10). (And is it not typical of man's relationship with God, that while one part of the population refuses to eat meat at all, the other eats virtually any flesh that comes within reach?)

If, on the other hand, the *Green Revolution* was properly oriented and based on soil fertility, it could present Shorthorn and *ALL* breeders of "*clean*" animals with their greatest chance ever for expanded production. Can you imagine the animal population it would take to put the nutrition of the rest of the world on *animal* protein parity with modern "*Israel*"? And remember, our nations still contain millions whose diet is protein deficient. (Do you now see the magnitude of the stakes that the "*synthetic*" boys are shooting for?)

VERSATILITY OF SHORTHORNS

There are few things that will bring a quicker and more positive response from a stock-breeder than telling him he has a most versatile breed. This can truthfully be said of Shorthorns. In fact there appears to be no evidence to show that there has ever been a more versatile breed of cattle. They have shown themselves to thrive from the north of Scotland to Argentina and from Texas to Central Australia. Whilst other breeds may make similar claims, only Herefords have ever approached the international popularity of the Shorthorn breed! (It is because of this international popularity and the fact that Ambassador College has Shorthorns, that we are focusing on them. We are *NOT* "plugging" Shorthorns as the only worthwhile breed of cattle!)

In Australia's Northern Territory for example, it has not been unknown to have as many as 29,000 breeding cows (and their "*followers*") on a

single cattle station — and *ALL SHORT-HORNS!!* On average, some 70,000 head of cattle per year are railed out of Alice Springs — mostly *Shorthorns*. To even survive in such areas weeds out all but the hardiest of animals. It is not uncommon for those that do survive to have to walk from 200 to 500 miles to the railhead before even beginning their 1,000 mile journey to The South! One can scarcely imagine conditions more rugged than these, but so far the Shorthorn has stood against allcomers. Almost equally important is the fact that they have also held their own in the tropical north of that same country. Under all of these semi-wild conditions, perhaps the most outstanding quality of the Shorthorn has been the ease with which it can be handled compared with some of the other breeds of cattle.

A HISTORY OF POPULARITY

During the past 120 years the Shorthorn and the Hereford, separately and yet together, established the world's first *Beef Empire*. These two breeds of cattle emigrated to the other temperate zones of the world, right along with their owners, who left 19th century *Ephraim* to found The British Commonwealth and The United States of America. The popularity of these cattle, especially the Shorthorns, extended even to countries like Argentina and Uruguay (because their agriculture became strongly influenced by British settlers, capital and management). The following table shows the *TOTAL* cattle population of these countries as it was in 1967:

Country	Cattle Pop.
Argentina	45,000,000
Australia	18,200,000
Canada	11,500,000
Ireland	5,500,000
New Zealand	7,600,000
South Africa	12,000,000
United Kingdom	12,000,000
United States	108,500,000
Uruguay	8,700,000
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	229,000,000

(*World Cattle*, J.E. Rouse, Vol.II, ppl 1033, 1034.)

When it is remembered that most of these countries contained no quantity of domestic cattle prior to colonisation, we can better appreciate the significance of the British settlers taking their own animals with them! Is it not also interesting that the development of the major breeds of *British* cattle coincided almost exactly with the availability of colonies, from which the Empire and The United States were built? Robert Wallace, writing in 1907, states:

"The Shorthorn is the most widely distributed and numerously represented of all varieties of British cattle, not only in the United Kingdom and her colonies, but also in the United States of America, and in Argentina, where, as in France, it is often called the 'Durham' breed" (*Farm Live Stock of Great Britain*, Robert Wallace, p. 56, 1907).

BEEF AND MILK

Wallace, writing on the origin of the breed, indicates that: "Shorthorns are descended from the old North-East of England breed, variously designed the 'Durham', 'Teeswater', 'Yorkshire', or 'Holderness'". He continues with a footnote (which must rank as one of the earliest references to Shorthorns):

"In 1744 Wm. Ellis wrote:— *I think of all the cows in England none comes up to the Holderness breed for their wide bags, short horns, and large bodies, which render them . . . the most profitable beast for the dairyman, grazier and butcher*" (*Ibid*, p. 57).

The following quote indicates the reputation of the breed 90 years later — 1834:

"Whatsoever differences of opinion may prevail respecting the comparative merits of our several breeds of cattle, it must be admitted that the short-horns — possessing in an eminent degree, a combination of qualities which have generally been considered incompatible, [i.e. *the dual capacity to produce both meat and milk*] . . . it is not surprising that they have become objects of public curiosity; that they have realized for their breeders enormous sums of money; and that, throughout our own island, and in every foreign country where agriculture is attended to, they are in increasing request." (*Cattle; Their Breeds, Management, and Diseases*, W. Youatt, p. 226, 1834.)

The popularity of Shorthorn cattle has in no way been limited to just *beef* production. Though the breed's area of influence was still very localized until 1800, the above author and veterinarian, writing only 34 years later, makes the following reference to London's milk supply:

"At least 12,000 cows are kept in the different dairies in the metropolis and its immediate neighbourhood. These are all short-horns; and since the rapidity with which they can be fattened has been established, few dairymen breed from their cows, but they are fattened and sold as soon as their milk is dried. This will bring 5,000 to 6,000 cows annually into the market" (*Ibid*, p. 255).

The dominance of this breed in the dairy soon encompassed not just London, but England as a whole! And there was no dramatic change in this situation for the next 110 years (1834-1944). Then quite suddenly, after the Second World War,

nearly all the Shorthorns were stampeded right out of England's dairies by the invading Continental Fresians.

The reason for this sudden exit, the subsequent

counter-challenge by the Shorthorn breed and the story of Shorthorns at Ambassador College will be some of the most important points covered in our next issue.