

## AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

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## PRINCIPLES OF ANIMAL BREEDING

When starting a farm and choosing a particular breed of any kind of animal, one should choose a breed that is known in the area for good health, vitality and productiveness. Then look for animals in that breed which have been fed on high quality pasture and raised in a fertile, natural environment.

Having selected from these animals the desirable types, one may then start the farm programme with the sure knowledge that few animal problems should be encountered, that is, if all the natural laws are followed.

## Cross-Breeding

BREEDING and FEEDING are the two basic factors in stock management, but both of these are being perverted today as never before. When we look around us we see everything being crossed with everything! Everywhere and particularly in the "advanced" countries, we see man crossing varieties and even kinds that should never be gendered in this way.

Cross-breeding has become a general practice today because farmers are seeking to reap short term benefits in the form of "hybrid vigour". This benefit is sometimes real but often imagined! One thing you can know for sure -- hybrid vigour is purely a measure of the degree of inbreeding in one's animals. When it represents a worthwhile economic advantage it also indicates that the animals are inbred.

Of course it can be argued that the "pure breeds" are not pure. This is true. They have always had and always will have a capacity for variation. Variety is fine if it is properly controlled! But imagine if you can the utter chaos and economic loss when there are no longer any "pure" breeds from which to breed our first crosses!

Now -- when all aspects of animal breeding are looked at, it is clear that the high producer, dual-purpose animal is the best to obtain, if available. This approach need not be just a matter of accepting "the worst of both", in the case of cattle -- inferior rates of production both in MEAT and MILK!

There are, for example, certain Brown Swiss cows in Switzerland of the best beef type that at the same time produce up to seven tons of milk in a single lactation! They are indeed true DUAL-PURPOSE animals -- excellent in both meat and milk production! These cattle must be seen to be believed, but if Brown Swiss can produce such results, then so can other breeds -- given right management. Unfortunately most cattlemen have chosen to "specialize", obtaining their results by selecting one characteristic at the expense of many others.

The alternative is to select the balanced animal, avoiding inbreeding and concentrate much more on providing the choicest environment.

Right husbandry will not produce an economic penalty for the breeder of pure breeds, unless other laws are being broken!

God sets down in Leviticus 19:19 the basic principle for all breeding. We are not to allow our "cattle" (this is a general term for livestock) to gender with those of a diverse kind. Cows, for example, gender only with other bovine varieties. It therefore becomes obvious that the principle being referred to here is not one of crossing different kinds, but rather that of cross-breeding varieties, for example a Jersey and a Hereford.

The modern trend for beef production today in Britain is one that aims at producing the nation's beef supply by cross-breeding "beef" bulls onto Britain's "dairy" herds! One can drive for miles and miles in this country and never see a herd of the recognised beef breeds!! Superficially at least, this system appears to have a great deal of economic merit. However, that's about as far as it goes, because (as has already been pointed out) no matter how man looks at it, our Creator CONDEMNS THIS PRACTICE.

#### Short-sighted Management

In the pursuit of that last half gallon of milk, men have stooped to every expediency to get, get, get -- killing bull calves, starving heifers, steaming up milkers, feeding high concentrates, indiscriminately using antibiotics and Artificial Insemination, etc., etc..

Similarly many "dodges" have been employed to get that extra pound of carcass weight. Foster-mothering of sale-ring bulls has been a common practice for years (even though they may be out of dams that are incapable of rearing a calf). Many of these young bulls are literally forced along on an abnormally high milk diet even up to the age of 15 months. This often requires the services of two or three dairy foster-mothers! These bulls are impressive in the sale-ring, but the moment of truth for the unwary purchaser invariably comes when the first progeny hit the ground!

Many examples could be cited of herds balanced on the tightrope of inbreeding. A small percentage of "dwarfs" was often a tolerable price to pay in the genetic gamble to obtain a prize-winner.

Literally hundreds of cattlemen continue to feed rations so high in grain concentrates that liver breakdown is a normal and acceptable carcass loss in the rate-of-gain race.

Reckless mass medication of animals is the lame tool used in staving off the premature breakdown of internal organs. This is done with an ever-expanding range of pharmaceutical products. (One traveller in these merchandise expressed himself admirably in the midst of Britain's last foot-and-mouth epidemic when he commented right in the heart of the distressed area: "It's a terrible thing this foot-and-mouth outbreak -- you know -- suddenly 150,000 animals no longer need medication"!!! THEY WERE DEAD!)

There are many other unwise practices in common use to gain every last ounce of return out of animals. Indiscriminate cross-breeding, hormone implantation and extensive use of Artificial Insemination are but three. The latter involves sexual perversion of animals and disregards the long term prospect of genetic chaos. As usual there is no shortage of "experts" to assure everyone that we must not entertain silly fears and any price is little enough to pay for "progress" which must come anyway.

#### Feeding

Any man who plans to feed his animals correctly must produce or buy food that has been raised by right plant breeding and plant feeding methods. Plants are no different to animals in this regard. As we have already seen, farmers indiscriminately cross animals for "hybrid vigour" so too plant breeders indiscriminately cross and hybridize for new varieties.

Today the average plant breeder is breaking the same law as the animal breeder by the methods he is using to produce new strains and varieties. Remember Leviticus 19:19 goes on from the matter of livestock to plants and states "...thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed..."

Unfortunately there is but one criterion by which all animal and plant breeding are measured in this "modern" age. It is QUANTITY! If plants and animals measure up in this way, they are classed as economically successful, regardless of what faults and short-comings they may possess. To these wrong methods of plant production we must add the harmful consequences of supplying synthetic soil fertility through the medium of chemical fertilizers. Many of the effects of this practice have been covered for you in the article "The Truth about Chemical Farming".

The end result of all these practices adds up to animal malnutrition through diseased and under-nourished plants -- hence the reliance on huge quantities of "food concentrates". These are merely man's attempt to make up for some of the deficiencies he has himself created.

Adding supplements is simply playing around with the symptoms, but out of this grew the entire BARLEY-BEEF industry of Britain and the FEED-LOT system of America.

Men started out supplementing poor quality cattle feed with grain and have now come to the point where grain sometimes forms the whole ration! This practice is so widespread in Britain and so detrimental that up to 60% of cattle livers are condemned at the slaughter house as unfit for human consumption. Rowett Institute, (one of the nation's leading animal research centres) has top men and much equipment tied up in a longterm effort to lick this symptom of the farmer's basic problem!

Later on the search for substitute protein extended abroad and for some time it has been common practice to feed cattle imported and local bi-products of the fishing industry. How do we expect herbivorous animals to perform on ground-up old fish heads and whale meat? Their systems are already breaking down with the high grain ration.

Groundnut cake is another substitute concentrate that has been widely used in this country. It is at least of vegetable origin, but what a commentary on our farming methods that we have to depend on one of the most nutritionally deficient areas in the world -- the tropics -- for protein!

Devaluation and inflation are now cutting these lifelines to the British farmer, so he is now turning to synthetic proteins like urea from the chemical industry. The petroleum industry is also hard at work to cash in on this field. However the latest effort beats anything the mind of man has been able to come up with yet!!! It may sicken your stomach, but you might as well have the facts-- man is now feeding cattle their own manure and that of poultry as two forms of protein supplement!

#### Soil -- Key to Success

Never before have animal raisers in Britain been so desperate to find economically suitable sources of protein! This is a problem of the farmers' own making. They took their first step in the wrong direction with cattle feed when they started to feed large quantities of "CONCENTRATES". Where there was a definite shortage of protein and minerals they should have set about correcting the fertility of the soil.

Thousands of farmers are deceiving themselves that they are getting away with these practices. Stockmen could avoid a whole lot of trouble if they would keep reminding themselves of one simple truth: Ruminants have been specifically designed to eat GRASS! If for any reason we fail to get results, our first step should be to set about producing pastures that will get results. They come via a balanced diet. Supplements, on the other hand, are for emergency seasonal conditions and should constitute small amounts of high quality grain -- (not "junk" that has been produced by artificially feeding poverty-stricken soil).

If man made half as much effort to "give" as he does to "get" in the livestock industry, he would be blessed enormously. He should begin at the foundation. This involves right care of his soil. That would automatically provide a nutritious diet for his animals. Protein supplements, disease suppressors and organ rejection in the slaughter house would be unnecessary. Animals would go on producing longer and food quality would be greatly improved.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

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