

Polled Hereford Cattlemen Optimistic In Meeting Here

SAY PROSPECTS FOR BETTER TIMES WELL FOUNDED NOW

Outlook Based On Economic Conditions, Not Just Hope; Poorest Cattle Marketed In Last Five Years And Best Are Left.

MEMBERS of the Cedar Rapids Polled Hereford Breeders' association in their meeting held here Friday declared the outlook for the purebred beef cattle business to be the best in the last five years.

While there has been continual talk about "rounding the corner" and "climbing to the top of the hill" ever since the deflation of 1920 the optimism of the meeting Friday was based on economic conditions rather than on pure hope. There was a genuine feeling that the better day which cattlemen have been talking of in vain for the last few years is actually near at hand.

The opinion was expressed by one prominent breeder after the meeting that the dull season in the purebred end of the game has reacted for good as the poorer and more common cattle have been sent to market and only the best ones kept over and recorded.

Good Cattle At Hand. This tendency has been severe on the breeders but good for the quality of the cattle this cattlemen asserted. After five years of this breeding process the quality of the purebred beef cattle in western Iowa has been put on a high plane and breeding stock that will compare favorably with that to be found anywhere can be located at home.

Several of the breeders also reiterated the opinion that a good district fair should be established in Cedar Rapids pointing out that Waterloo has its dairy cattle congress and Georgia its swine show.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: A. A. Happle, Cedar Rapids, president; J. C. Arthur, Shellsburg, vice president; J. E. Haehlen, Marion, secretary; Wm. Popelagen and A. A. Krug, Atkins, additional directors.

Other members of the Polled Hereford association are: Brooks brothers, Hopkinton; John Schulte, Norway; Henry Krug, Cedar Rapids; Fredrickson, Newhall; J. H. Taylor, Greenwood; Frank Mulley, Ashton; J. H. Kehler, Palo and Wm. Wilson, Garrison.

GARRISON SHIPS CAR BUTTER. GARRISON March 2. Garrison's creamery shipped its first full carload of butter Friday. The growth of this comparatively new community enterprise is reflected in the increasing numbers of patrons, now standing at 500. The creamery has done well since its organization a few months ago.

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MARION SHIPPERS HOLD ANNUAL MEET

Re-elect Directors And Hear Fitzgerald's Report; Took Remarkably Light Hog Shrinkage.

One hundred and fifty carloads of livestock were shipped co-operatively through the Marion shipping association last year. It. N. Fitzgerald, manager reported at the annual meeting held in the Marion library Saturday afternoon. This volume while not quite as large as last year was considered a worthy showing.

The Marion shippers paid for a remarkably small shrink on their hogs getting only 53 of a pound less on every hundred pounds shipped. According to A. I. Ames representing the Chicago Producers Commission company this will probably be the lowest figure on shrink to be reported by any association in Iowa this year.

This showing is due to excellent railroad connections with terminal markets and to the way the hogs are handled before being shipped. Mr. Ames said Marion hogs are brought in early in the morning before they have a fill are weighed accurately before being loaded and get to Chicago early the next morning ready to take on a good feed.

Of the 150 carloads shipped 116 were of straight hogs. Losses were kept low, there being but one dead hog to every 556 shipped and one shrink to every 350. Cattle and sheep losses were correspondingly light.

The association is in good financial condition having in the neighborhood of \$1190 on hand in its fund association fund and claim fund.

Re-elect Directors. It. N. Martin and H. W. Wiggins were re-elected to the board of directors, the other members holding over.

County Agent W. A. Sheets spoke briefly at the opening of the meeting, explaining his belief in a uniform record system for the county. He said that he believed the Producers Commission company should have a larger share of the business of most of the Linn county associations. He added that he felt a county committee should be formed out of which local managers would be members, with the purpose of exchanging ideas and experiences. He does not favor the abolition of local managers and putting the Linn county shipping business under a county manager, as had been rumored, he said.

Mr. Ames explained how Iowa county has successfully operated her shipping associations and emphasized that the chief reason for the success there has been a uniform system of records used throughout the county.

Mr. Ames explained that this system is now in use in more than 200 associations in the state and predicted that many more would adopt it soon.

He asserted that the Producers company could get just as high prices as any old line firm and had often bettered them. He said their shrink was no higher and that the amount of shrink was determined at the home yards and at the consignors' farms, not in the terminal market. He said the Producers were doing a constantly increasing volume of business and that they were getting that business through efficiency and ability to give satisfaction.

The Marion association received a refund from the Producers of \$85 last year. Manager Fitzgerald reported.

PLAGUE TAKES 47 BIRDS. URBANA, Ill. March 2.—The European fowl plague which was found in a small flock of chickens at Joliet last week has run true to form killing forty-seven birds in the last two days. The place has been rigidly quarantined and the state veterinarian is in charge.

TALKS TO MARION STOCK SHIPPERS



A. K. Ames, Tracer, representing the Chicago Producers Commission company, explained to members of the Marion Livestock Shipping association Saturday reasons why a standard and uniform record system would be a help to all Linn county associations. He said the trend all over Iowa is toward the adoption of such a system. It was first tried successfully in Iowa county.

CALL OFF SALES IN CEDAR, ROADS ROUGH

TIPTON, March 2.—Practically all sales, and other public activities have been postponed indefinitely by Cedar county farmers until such a time as road conditions will permit travel with automobiles.

During the warm weather of several days ago practically all frost was brought out of the ground and roads became practically impassable. The freezing weather occurring while the roads were in such a condition has made them equally hard to get over now.

The Service of Economical Management

EXPECTS YEAR OF RECORD HOG PRICES

Crop Reporting Bureau Says Full Shortage Of Pork And Beef Not To Be Felt Until Next Fall.

DES MOINES, March 2.—(By Associated Press.)—Present supply and demand conditions are sufficient to assure a year of hog prices higher than in any recent period except that of war-time inflation, says a bulletin issued by the Iowa Co-operative crop reporting bureau. "If the recent high price of corn stimulates some increase in acreage," the bulletin said, "even with a yield per acre as low as that of 1924, the total production would be somewhat greater in 1925. The amount of livestock has been so greatly decreased since a year ago that even an average yield of corn would prove more than enough for all ordinary feeding demands. Should there be a large yield of corn with the reduced demand considerably lower prices would result."

Fall Pigs Should Profit. "The chances are in favor of fall pigs proving profitable enough to justify some expansion in sows bred for fall farrowing above the number of last year. Fall farrowing may be materially increased by breeding gilts for early fall farrowing that might otherwise be sent to market. The full force of the shortage of hogs will probably not be felt in the markets until the early part of the run of 1925-26 or later, depending on the size of the 1925 corn crop."

"Prices for beef cattle in 1925 should average somewhat higher than for 1924. The industry is gradually working into a more favorable position due to the reduction of beef to competing commodities especially pork, and improved industrial conditions, and in no small measure to the cattlemen's own sacrifices. Market receipts will probably be somewhat smaller than in 1924. All conditions indicate that the long-time outlook for the industry is even more favorable."

"In a word, the sun of hope for the cattlemen seems to be in sight but it is still on the horizon and will probably not reach the zenith until several years hence."

FRENCH IMPORT BEEF. French buyers have recently landed 150 beef animals from Buenos Aires Argentina, for killing. It was the first shipment of its kind in twenty-five years but proved successful.

"So far as the use of capital is concerned"—says a Financial Expert in the Chicago Tribune of February 11, 1925—"a cheapening of the product manufactured can be expected only under economies of operation."

The real problem of industry today is not "who owns the capital invested?" but "how is the capital operated?"

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The basis of this service is economy. It is a wise economy, too, which from long and seasoned experience dictates when to spend and when not to spend. Thrift rules and waste is not tolerated.

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BIRDS ARE BEST FRIENDS OF FARMER; EAT WEED SEEDS, BUGS

Special To The Gazette. AMES, March 2.—One family of birds, the tree sparrows, which live on a vegetarian diet of seeds, consumes in Iowa each year 875 tons of weed seed.

These birds, according to Dr. J. E. Guthrie, professor of zoology at Iowa State college, are the best allies the Iowa farmer has in the keeping down of weeds. Each of these little birds collects every day about one-quarter of an ounce of seeds, most of them the fruit of the green and yellow foxtail, smartweed and other noxious plants. Other members of the sparrow tribe, among them the goldfinch, redpoll and the slate colored junco, are only slightly less valuable to the farmer.

"Birds serve the farmers of Iowa in three ways," says Dr. Guthrie. "They help in the control of weeds, of insects and of rodents. The many birds that winter here live mostly on weed seeds."

Eat Many Insects. Not all birds are vegetarians, however. Some families prefer a meat diet. Dr. Guthrie thinks this fact may be one of Iowa's safeguards against a possible invasion of the European corn borer. "Last summer," he says, "in one section of southwestern Iowa, corn was attacked by a stalk borer. This wasn't the European borer but its habits were similar. The woodpeckers of the vicinity got news of the attack. "Perhaps the worst," particularly interested in helping the farmers save their corn, but they were interested in getting the borer and it amounted to the same thing. Their remedial measures were rather severe, since they involved riddling the corn stalks, but they got the borer and prevented a spread of the attack," Dr. Guthrie says.

"Trees also need protection from insects and again it is the wood pecker and other birds that provide it. Grubs that are imbedded in trees are handled to a large extent by the downy woodpecker, while others that get much of their living from such sources as the tufted titmouse, nuthatch, and brown creeper. In the spring the warblers, on their way north from their winter resorts in the south, pick up the crumbs from the winter birds' grub-feast."

Sparrow Entirely Bad. Hawks and snakes are the farmer's best friends when it comes to getting rid of rodents, says Dr. Guthrie. The villainy of the hawk as a poultry stealer is greatly exaggerated, he thinks. The sparrow hawk, hen hawk and screech owl are valuable, he says, as rodent exterminators.

For one bird Dr. Guthrie hasn't a single good word. It is the English sparrow. "It is the worst bird we have," he says. "Not only does it consume large quantities of valuable grain, but it is a carrier of hog cholera germs, of chicken mites and other parasites."

SALES OF THE WEEK HIT HIGH AVERAGE

Weiler's Spotted Polands Average \$48; Closing Out Auctions Also Bring Good Prices.

Special To The Gazette. RYAN, March 2.—Dyers from Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska bought the offering of Spotted Poland China sows sold by Weiler and sons here Friday at an average of \$48 a head.

The offering included some of the Weiler's foundation sows, bred to a number of good boars including Wau Street, a promising young son of Wildfire, once world's champion boar.

Bidding was brisk on practically every animal driven into the ring.

900 AT SALE. Special To The Gazette. TRAER, March 2.—Milk cows sold as high as \$80 a head, spring calves averaged \$34.60, hogs sold up to \$9.25 a hundredweight, and all the chickens were sold to one buyer at \$1.49 each at the closing out sale of Jasper Mason, Crystal township, Tama county. Machinery also sold high. The Mason family fed nearly 900 persons at noon. The sale prices exceeded expectations. Mr. Mason and family quit the farm this week, locating in Toledo.

ELBERON FARMER SELLS. Special To The Gazette. ELBERON, March 2.—Cows hit a top price of \$102 at Joseph Williamson's recent sale near Elberon. A draft team of horses sold for \$310 and another team brought \$267.50. Mr. Williamson, after living at the edge of Elberon all his life, is moving to a farm east of Toledo, purchased several months ago of Jay Balfour.

OWNS TESTED POORLY. MUSCATINE, March 2.—Ons exhibited at the South Prairie farm institute and recently tested showed a germination percentage of only fifty-eight per cent.

WINTER WHEAT BROUGHT STOAKES \$51 AN ACRE. Special To The Gazette. TRAER, March 2.—Although but little wheat is grown in Tama county the few farmers who had winter wheat last year found it to be one of the most profitable crops of the year. Theodore Stoakes, northeast of Traer, had nearly forty acres in wheat which yielded about thirty-one bushels to the acre. He sold it at \$1.68, a bushel, the crop thus making over \$51 an acre.

CENTER JUNCTION GIRL WINS IN STORY CONTEST. Special To The Gazette. CENTER JUNCTION, March 2.—Elizabeth Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Young, was awarded first prize in the Pioneer story contest, sponsored by Wallace's Farmer, and has received a check for \$37.50. Miss Young is a junior in the local high school.

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Smartest Early Spring Fashions March Harper's Bazar NOW ON SALE!

THE fabric makes the mode and therefore this Harper's Bazar shows some of the most charming fabrics for spring, both American and French, also the costumes which use the fabrics most effectively. The increasing importance of sports clothes is noted and illustrated with extremely chic Parisian creations. There are full-page photographs by Baron de Meyer, including those of Madame Agnes, famous modiste, wearing new spring hats of her own design. A delightful number for every woman interested in new spring fashions—and what woman is not interested?

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WHEELER'S SPOTTED POLANDS
Average \$48; Closing Out Auctions Also Bring Good Prices.

MRS. SMITH ENTERTAINS PLEASANT VALLEY CLUB

CENTRAL CITY, March 2.—The Pleasant Valley Progressive club met recently with Mrs. Lloyd Smith. Second year nutrition work was studied with a lesson on infant feeding. The meeting opened with a Valentine verse for roll call. After the nutrition lesson was studied the hostess served dainty refreshments. Nine members were present.

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