

PUREBREDS VS. SCRUBS

O. K. Post, '31

Pure Bred Animal Has Greater Earning Power; Outstanding Points To Consider In Selecting Animals Of Good Breeding

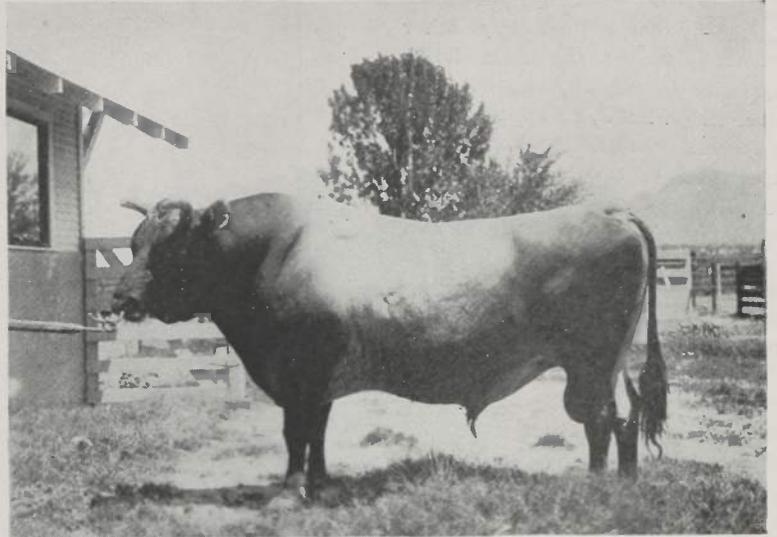
IT IS probably an old and accepted fact that purebred animals have a higher and more economical value than the lower classes of animals known as scrubs. It is very doubtful, however, whether or not these people know why this is a fact.

Probably it will be well here to define the two terms Purebred and Scrub. Purebreds are those animals that are able to be or are recorded in official record books. Scrubs are those animals that have no record and bear no evidence of good breeding. Its ancestors were a miscellaneous lot of all shapes, sizes, colors, and sorts. Hence scrub animals are usually of indeterminate type and little value. The one we know little or nothing about as far as ancestors are concerned and the other we know very much about comparatively; i. e. we know at least four or five generations back.

The purebred animal has one very outstanding feature in its favor which is his use to build up herds of low grade animals or even scrubs. If you have a herd of scrub cows and wish to build up a very good herd from it, it can be accomplished by the selection of an animal true to type and breed, having the general characteristics lacking in the herd of scrub cows. Of course you may be able to choose a sire that is not a purebred animal but which has the desired characteristics. It is possible that you will be able to build up your herd from that bull; nevertheless there is something about that bull, his history and record, that you know very little about. In most cases the bull or sire that is known to have good ancestors and progeny should be chosen in every case.

The purebred animal has a greater earning power. This animal can put on flesh and fat in a shorter length of time and in more valuable places. The average superior earning power of the purebred over the scrub is 36.8 per cent.

The purebred animals have a greater utility value than do the scrubs. They have better conformation and finer quality, enabling them



A Purebred Bull

to grow heavier and put on a smoother finish in less time. This in turn brings about a greater sale value, because what is wanted on the markets are animals of more evenly distributed flesh over loin and ribs and finer quality along with a smooth and evenly distributed layer of fat. Another feature more easily obtained, and greatly to be desired in purebred animals is uniformity in size, age, and condition or degree of finish. This is a factor toward the selling and grading of animals in the stock yards and has a direct bearing on sale price. It is very hard to find a carload of uniform scrub animals on one particular ranch or farm.

Purebred animals, due to their more quiet nature and much more easily handled and put on more gain for food consumed than do scrubs of a nervous disposition.

The following table as presented by D. S. Burch gives us the points and percents in which purebred animals surpass common stock:

	Per cent
Better conformity and quality	14.6
Better selling price of animals	12.8
Increased production	12.1
Stock more saleable	11.9
More product for feed	9.2
Owner's interest and pride resulting in better care and greater gain	9.2
Uniformity (factor in making sales)	8.9
Early maturity	7.8
Easy fattening and finishing	5.7

Better prices for products	3.0
Increased vigor	2.7
Docility and ease of handling	2.1
	100.0

This table together with other statements plainly show that purebred animals are far better to keep and handle, and yield more profits than scrubs.

Cost Small for Windbreak Trees

The cost of establishing a windbreak of a few rows of trees around the farm buildings is insignificant compared to the benefits later derived from wind protection, added scenic beauty and consequent increased capital value of the farm. Trees suitable for such plantings may be obtained reasonably from the forestry department of the State College of Washington.

Apply Phosphate Fertilizer Early

Phosphate may be mixed with manure in the pile or added to the manure as it is hauled out to the land. Best results are obtained from superphosphate when it is applied to the land during the winter or very early in the spring, as this type of fertilizer requires plenty of moisture to give full benefit to the plants during the first season.

A new broom lasts much longer when soaked in strong, hot, salt water before using. This stiffens the straw.