

THE BREEDER SPEAKING

"At Elginvue We Breed Cattle, Not Papers"



MUELLER

I HAVE been asked by the sale manager to give a brief outline on the breeding of the "Elgins," so I will try to do so in as few words as possible.

At a very early age in life one of the most interesting subjects to me was the breeding and production of livestock of quality. My decision to start propagating the Elgins came about when I was greatly inspired by seeing the show herds exhibited by Mr. Fred Esterly. Upon studying the breeding of his great cattle, I learned that practically the entire herd consisted of descendants of the great breeding bull, Melbourne Advancer AR, bred by Mr. F. A. Sloan.

These cattle seemed to possess all the major qualities to be desired in dual purpose animals. Besides, they were larger than average Red Polls with much more body capacity. Melbourne Advancer's greatest son, Elgin Advancer AR, was siring cattle with these same good qualities.

To start our program, Gold Rock Advancer AR was purchased and used on his half-sisters sired by Elgin. From these matings came such great cows as Red Maid Advancer AR and Opal Advancer AR who had all of their dams' good type characteristics, plus even greater production records. Carrying on these matings for a number of years resulted in a gratifyingly good foundation of Elgins being laid.

After we had made a lot of progress intensifying the Elgin blood, the opportunity arose to purchase Nora's Charmer AR. While he was largely an outcross on our herd, we decided to make the purchase in view of the fact that he was a great grandson of Melbourne Advancer, so not a "cold" outcross. I felt that a slight infusion of the Charmer line of breeding into the Elgin line would be beneficial. This thinking was later justified when the Elgins produced show herds that won the coveted Best Ten Head trophy two consecutive years at international shows, the only herd to have accomplished this.

After selling Nora's Charmer for service in another herd, one of his sons, Elginvue Rocket, out of our famous old Rose Lee cow, one of our original Elgin

daughters, was successfully used. Rocket's daughters are outstanding producers.

I have always felt that a herd bull must not only be out of an outstanding cow but out of a cow family that has been outstanding for many generations back. Since using Rocket, several other sons of Charmer have been used and now a grandson and a great grandson are in service here. One of these is Elginvue Renown to whom we refer as "The Young Wonder Bull of the Elgins" because of the fact that his female get appear to be living replicas of the most famous members of the Red Maid cow family that produced him.

About a year ago we obtained the service of Gold Coin Advancer AR, most famous son of Elgin and, as far as we know, the only living son of Elgin. I thought the time had come when we could inject some more Elgin blood with further improvement possibly resulting. The first calves from our Gold Coin matings look very good indeed. The bull that appears right to us for mating to Gold Coin's daughters is Elginvue Monarch 2nd. That's why we are selling only a half-interest in him.

The ability of the Elgin line of breeding to stand up under this constant intensification through inbreeding and linebreeding is evidenced in the fact that a greater proportion of outstanding calves are being produced each year as time goes on. This is the explanation of why we can sell so many of our best cattle in this sale and still continue our breeding program at a normal and progressive pace.

The linebred Elgins have the ability to produce unusually good results when used in making outcross matings. A living example is Lill Advancer AR, she being sired by a son of Elgin and out of an outcross Novak-bred cow. Our high producing Princess cow was the result of a similar mating.

Cattle of both sexes from other well established lines of good breeding have been added to the herd from time to time and in every instance have worked well. Because of this I feel that there isn't any truth in the statement that certain lines of breeding do not nick with others.

We have selected from each calf crop only good cattle for sale to customers and for herd replacements. No line of breeding yet developed in any breed produces all good cattle. Until someone gets a line that is all good, selection must be one of the breeders' most important working tools. Here at Elginvue we breed cattle, not papers. The papers are important because they are the records that jog our memories of the cattle farther back. If a breeder keeps culls, he is just breeding papers and it won't work. It is possible to mate inferior cattle of good pedigree for a few generations, ending up with good appearing pedigrees on paper but some very common cattle. Every animal does not need to be a show animal, but at the same time you can't compromise on the main, practical qualities.

I advise Red Poll breeders not to be afraid of linebred cattle, provided the majority of individuals that have come from the line are good. On the average they will do a better job for you, because they are more nearly genetically pure. If selection has been practiced well enough back through the line, more of the

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