

STUDENTS' DAIRY PRODUCTS JUDGING CONTEST

W. P. B. LOCKWOOD¹

Amherst, Massachusetts

The students' judging contest for dairy products was carried on under adverse conditions this year. As a matter of fact the committee did not think they were going to have a contest until along about the middle of August. Last year, if you remember, we had \$500 to offer as cash prizes, this was given to us by the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, but they would not give us money for a contest held outside of Massachusetts, and the time was so short that we could not secure money from other sources. Therefore we were unable to offer money prizes this year.

There were three cups offered this year: The J. B. Ford Company offered a cup for the team scoring highest in judging market milk. This was won by the team from the South Dakota State College. The J. G. Cherry Company offered a cup for the team scoring highest in judging butter. This was won by the team from the South Dakota State College. The Hoard's Dairyman offered a cup for the team scoring highest in judging cheese, and this was won by the team from the University of Nebraska.

I wrote to members of the committee relative to changing the methods, etc., for conducting the contest, but received few answers.

Last year we put the work on the total scores of each sample. This year we graded every item and deducted differences from Judges score on the item, totalling the results for the sample, and the totals for all samples determined the placing.

Three teams were in the contest: South Dakota State College, the University of Nebraska and University of Ohio. I am sorry

¹ Superintendent of contest.

that we did not have more teams as I think Mr. Skinner feels we ought to have at least half as many as the stock judging contest. I want to say this, that it cost more money to run our contest than to run the cattle judging contest for what we apparently get out of it.

It would seem that the judging of dairy products deserves pretty nearly as good a place as the judging of cattle, and we can get it; but the attitude is not towards it, and we will have to create this attitude. The question came up whether or not we should spend enough money to conduct the contest as originally planned and pay for the judges. The cattle men have men to act as judges at their contests who do not cause extra expense. If we were to bring judges for the judging of dairy products it would mean one for each product, or three judges in all which means expenses for three men. Although the work warrants this, it does not make the appearance that is made when judging cattle.

If we had had time to build up incentives enough to get teams to come to the contest we would have had a larger number of teams and possibly the present objection to expense would not have been so strong. Judging was the real object of this contest. After all judging was done the judges met the instructors and contestants and went over all samples that had been previously judged. The placing of the samples of each product was examined by the instructors, students, and judges, then the judges criticized them telling why they were placed as they were. The sample that scored highest of each product, was discussed thoroughly in order that both instructors and contestants might carry away the judges' ideas of best quality products. This was very educational as each man gathered information which he took back with him to his work.

It seems to me that this is the thing which must be individually followed by each teacher, in getting these ideas fixed in our commercial courses, and when we find a high grade of butter score it, discuss it, and carry back to our institutions the ideas and standards that we will have to meet in our production.

Next year I hope we will have more cups for prizes, a first,

second, and third cup for teams. I believe manufacturers will put up a manufacturers' scholarship. Possibly a group of manufacturers, or interested men, may be persuaded to contribute a small amount each for its support. I have talked with one or two men regarding this and they felt this might be feasible and that it would be a start forward for us. I thank you.