

A Day at the Largest Certified Dairy Plant in the World

By ROBERT T. LYANS

IN a recent issue of Farm and Orchard there was described, by word and picture, the largest pure-bred herd of Guernsey cattle in the world. This story deals with the largest grade and pure-bred herd of that breed and the largest certified dairy in the world. Situated within the corporate limits of Los Angeles, Adohr Stock Farms in San Fernando Valley, boasting a herd of 1650 head of dairy cattle, claims the two last-named distinctions. In the herd are to be found over 1000 cows, of which 850 are in milk. There are 200 head of pure-bred Guernseys at the establishment, the rest being high-grade stock of the same breed except for about 100 head of Holstein-Friesians, one-third of which are pure-bred. The entire output of milk from the herd is marketed as a certified product, which means that it must be a fresh, clean, pure, normal milk of uniform high quality, obtained from healthy cows and produced and distributed under the supervision of a medical milk commission.

Adohr Stock Farms milk is certified by the Milk Commission of the Los Angeles County Medical Association. Since its production was started in 1918, Adohr Farms Certified Milk has made a remarkable record of continuous high scores in milk contests, not only locally but in State and national contests. During that time it has been a consistent winner in the Los Angeles City Health Department contests, while many blue ribbons have been won at the California State Fair, Sacramento; Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland; Pacific Slope Dairy Show, Stockton, and other important shows. Milk from this fine plant has on several occasions won national distinction, notable instances being at contests held by the American Association Medical Commission in San Francisco in 1923, at Atlantic City, N. J., in 1925, and at Dallas, Tex., in April of this year, "Adohr" having taken first prize for certified milk at all three places.

HAS GROWN WITH CITY

Needless to say, the demand for this rich, golden certified Guernsey product has kept pace with the rapid growth of Los Angeles. In order to meet it the owners of the great plant, Mr. and Mrs. Merritt H. Adamson, president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, and Dr. Maynard Rosenberger, vice-

president and manager in charge, have been forced repeatedly to add to the herd until today it is credited with being the largest combined grade and pure-bred Guernsey cattle herd in the world. The recent addition of a select herd of Holsteins was made to supply the demand for those cases of diet requirement where a milk with a low butterfat content is recommended, particularly for infant feeding where Holstein milk is prescribed. Both brands of certified milk are produced at Adohr Stock Farms under identical conditions, but, as distinct products for special purposes.

The task of milking almost 1000 cows twice a day is not a small one, yet the manner in which the twenty-nine strings of Guernseys and three strings of Holsteins are systematically passed through the big dairy milking barns each day impresses one by its simplicity. Eight strings, numbering more than 200 cows, are in the barn at one time. Two shifts are required to handle the entire milking herd, one going on duty at 7 o'clock a. m. and 7 o'clock p. m. while the other operates at 2 o'clock a. m. and 2 o'clock p. m.

As rapidly as the milker in his fresh laundered suit draws a pail of milk he carries it to the pouring room, where it goes into glass-lined tanks and is filtered through gauze, flannel and absorbent cotton. It passes at once over refrigerating coils, where it is cooled down almost to the freezing point. From here the milk goes into the white tiled bottling room, where automatic machines bottle and cap the product before it enters the refrigerating room to be packed in cracked ice and held for delivery. Within ten minutes after milking the milk is cooled, bottled and iced and ready for the big "Adohr" trucks, which carry it to the consumer. Speed, efficiency and sanitation are all strong factors in getting out the plant's high-class product.

ON DEPARTMENTAL BASIS

The operation of this big 600-acre dairy farm with its large bovine population presents many intricate problems for Dr. Rosenberger and his force of 100 men. The growing of crops, the maintenance of the herd, the big breeding and feeding program, the marketing of the milk, all involve important steps and call for a vast amount of

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clerical work. Every animal in the herd is systematically card indexed for lifetime. Records of production and breeding and calving dates are tabulated and carefully indexed as an important detail of the plant's operations. The place is conducted on a departmental basis, with a foreman in charge of each department, one over the farm, one for the herd, one in the milking barn, another in the creamery. There is still another in charge of the horse department of the farm, there being thirty-five head of draft horses on the place, as well as twenty-five head of American Saddle Horses. The horse department is the pride of Mrs. Adamson, who has assembled in it some of the finest bloodlines to be found in Kentucky. At the head of the stud stands Dare Peavine, one of the best sons of Rex Peavine, an animal that stood first as a stallion colt at Louisville in 1924. Another wonderful animal owned by Mrs. Adamson is the two-year-old filly, The Huntress, a daughter of Edna May's King, and a winner of the yearling stake at Louisville in 1925. Bret Harte, a yearling stallion bred at "Adohr," is declared by Walter Crouch, manager of the horse department, to be as good as any horseflesh found in the blue-grass country. This handsome colt is a son of Edna May's King, while his dam, My Own, is by Astral King. Mrs. Adamson has every reason to be proud of her American Saddle Horses.

Adohr Stock Farms, on the Ventura Highway twenty miles from First and Broadway, has come to be recognized as one of the finest farms in Southern California. The fact that there are ten miles of fence in the cattle corrals alone conveys some idea of the gigantic size of the place. The dairy plant occupies about seventy-five acres, while the farm proper aside from some pasture land, is given over to the growing of corn and alfalfa. From a crop of 150 acres of corn the management expects this year to harvest 3000 tons of ensilage, which will go into the six big silos. There are 300 acres of alfalfa, which supply seven to eight cuttings a year. In spite of these big crops much feed is purchased each year to supply the herd. The feed bill charged to the herd, including both the feed raised and that purchased, amounts to \$18,000 per month, the owners say. On top of this there is a pay roll of \$11,000 per month, which, together with the cost of feeding the herd, "stands" the proprietors of this big establishment approximately \$1000 per day. Naturally, with such heavy expenses, the owners could not afford to carry a herd of unprofitable producers.

"SECRETS" OF SUCCESS

Good breeding, good feeding and constant weeding have been found to be an unbeatable triumvirate in the development of the Adohr Stock Farms herd. It has been amply demonstrated on this farm, as well as at other successful livestock establishments, that well-fed animals which carry good bloodlines are the most profitable kind to raise and develop. Having been listed in the membership of the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau Cow Testing Association since the farm was established as a certified plant eight years ago, the owners have also convinced themselves of the value of cow-testing work. They can attest that in spite of good breeding and feeding, some inferior individuals will appear that do not measure up to the high standards set and which only testing can discover. These animals are promptly culled out to make room for better ones.

A recent statement from Dr. Rosenberger shows that in the ten-month period from September, 1925, to July, 1926, an average of 809 cows produced approximately six million pounds of milk. This great quantity of milk, carrying 4.75 per cent butter fat, shows a production of 232,373 pounds of fat, an average of 349 pounds of fat in ten months per cow, or at the rate of 418 pounds for a year. Such heavy production is the direct result of "breeding, feeding and weeding," the manager says.

The big establishment boasts fifty pure-bred bulls, of which twenty-four are in service, and the value of these herd sires of heavy producing ancestry is perhaps the biggest factor entering into the successful operation of the plant.

An average of 7939 pounds of milk and 372 pounds of butter fat per cow for 100 mature aged cows picked as they run in the herd, is shown by the herd records. The daughters of these same 100 cows, sired by pure-bred bulls, and many of them milking as first calf helpers, produced in a year an average of 8134 pounds of milk and 405 pounds of butter fat each, thereby showing the value of real breeding bulls.

One of the best proven sires in the herd is Inspiration of Edgemoor, seven-year-old son of Royal Rose King of Edgemoor, he by Itchen May King, twice grand champion at the National Dairy Show. Royal Rose King is out of the great cow, Belladia, with a record of 934.05 pounds of fat in a year. The dam of Inspiration is Imp. Downington Goldie 5th, a many times first prize winner throughout the United States. Some of the daughters of Inspiration of Edgemoor in the "Adohr" herd have produced almost 100 pounds of butterfat in a single month.

Another fine bull in the herd is a combina-

tion-bred Valentino-King of the May, Langwater Climax, a four-year-old son of Langwater Horatius, he by Langwater Warrior, a great son of Imp. King of the May. The dam of Langwater Climax is Imp. Rosie II of Vintlera, an Island of Guernsey cow with excellent breeding and production showing close-up in her pedigree. Langwater Climax was purchased last year from Langwater Farms, North Easton, Mass. From this same breeding establishment the management of Adohr Stock Farms recently selected another good Guernsey bull. This animal, Langwater Surrogate, is a yearling son of Langwater Steadfast, he by Langwater Royal Master by Imp. King of the May. The dam of Langwater Surrogate is Imp. County Flower, a show cow with a yearly record of over 700 pounds of butter fat to her credit. Banner Rose's Wrangler, a three-year-old son of Wrangler of Overbrook Farms, and out of Jobetty's Banner Rose, with 702.22 pounds of fat in a year, is another excellent addition to the long list of sires in use at the plant. The last named bull was first prize winner at the Eastern States Exposition, Springfield, Mass. in 1924, and third prize senior yearling the same year at the National Dairy Show. He was purchased from Emmadine Farms, Hopewell Junction, N. Y.

"THE BLACK AND WHITES"

The selected herd of Holstein-Friesian cattle at Adohr is being developed along the same lines as the fine herd of Guernseys, increased records of production being obtained by worthy sires of the breed. At the head of the Holstein division stands Duke Ormsby Mercedes Korndyke, five-year-old son of the famous Sir Pietertje Ormsby Mercedes 37th, the only Holstein bull having four daughters that have produced over 1200 pounds of butter in a year as helpers. The paternal granddam of Duke Ormsby Mercedes Korndyke is Spring Brook Bess Burke 2d, a cow with four 1000-pound records, and the only 1000-pound cow having a 1000-pound butter fat daughter. The dam of Duke is Jenny Korndyke Ormsby, the latter being a daughter of Jenny Wren Korndyke Hengerveld, a cow with three yearly records of over 1000 pounds of butter. The junior herd sire in the Holstein herd is Echoland Sir Bess, a yearling son of Echoland Bonheur Ormsby, and out of Bess Fayne Maid. His sire is from a 1017-pound show daughter of Sir Pietertje Ormsby Mercedes, and the dam of the bull is by a 1057-pound son of Sir Korndyke Bess. Both of these Adohr Stock Holstein bulls are excellent individuals, and should make very creditable records in the "Black and White" herd which goes to supply Adohr Certified Holstein milk.

The results which have been obtained at Adohr Stock Farms are, in the last analysis, not a glowing tribute to Guernsey and Holstein cattle, even though these two popular breeds are playing the stellar roles in the plant. As the writer sees it, the biggest asset in the entire establishment is the keen vision of the management in its efforts to efficiently produce clean human food from well-bred dairy cows, and by so doing reflect lasting credit to the State's great dairy industry.

ESCONDIDO.—County Horticultural Commissioner R. R. McLean announces that Deputy Commissioner M. E. Salsberry, stationed here for several years, has been promoted to the office of fruit inspector.