

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Agricultural Experiment Station.

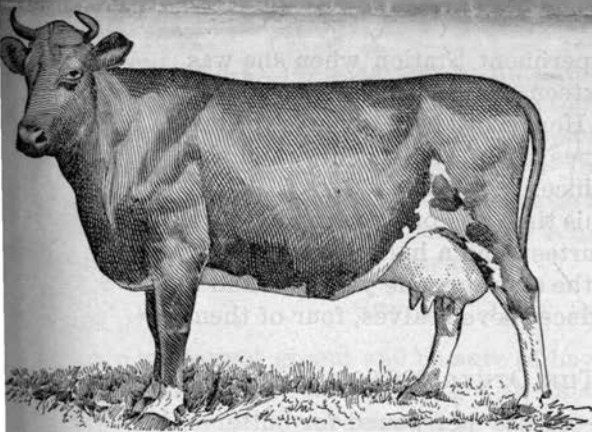
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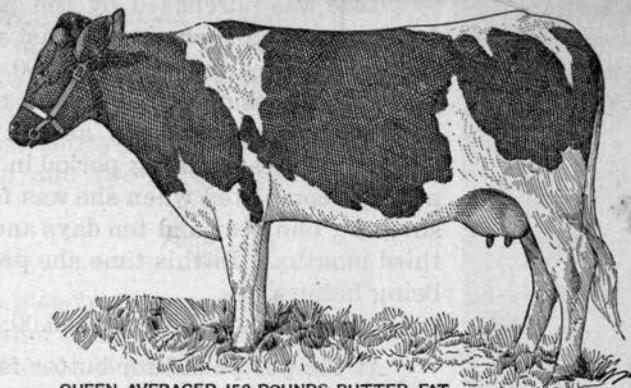
By Wilber J. Fraser, Chief in Dairy Husbandry

STORY OF ROSE AND QUEEN

One a Great Success, the Other a Charity Boarder—They Stand
for Two Classes of Illinois Cows.



ROSE AVERAGED 384 POUNDS BUTTER FAT.
ROSE RETURNS \$56.00 PER YEAR PROFIT.



QUEEN AVERAGED 152 POUNDS BUTTER FAT.
QUEEN LACKS \$2.00 OF PAYING HER BOARD AND LODGING.

Rose is a bovine matron of rare attainments. She has been growing old now for several years but has manifested no intention of retiring from the activity of a remarkable career. She has shown what character and achievement can be put into the routine of a quiet life. With a comely form and physical vigor, she has combined a high intelligence and a very amiable temper. While she has devel-

oped to the utmost a secretive disposition, this very thing has brought her into prominence. She has risen from the common herd and her fame has gone out from Urbana to the uttermost parts of the State, and beyond. Like most great men she had a good mother and she has improved upon this inheritance right well.

A TEN YEARS' RECORD

The peculiar, perhaps unparalleled, record of this cow is that for ten years she has produced an average of 384 pounds butter fat or 448 pounds butter per year. This is 1.23 pounds butter for each and every day of the 365—yes, of the 3,650 days. Her largest record for one year was the enormous yield of 580.6 pounds butter fat—677.3 pounds, or more than one-third of a ton of butter. This was worth, at 22 cents per pound, \$149.00.

In the same herd is another cow bearing the unearned title of Queen, and she has another record—a six years' record of 152 pounds butter fat or 177 pounds butter per year. While this is almost a fourth better than the average cow in the United States, yet Rose produced two and a half times as much butter fat as Queen for that long period. And in an exact comparison for one year, Rose made more than three times as much butter fat as Queen from exactly the same feed, both in kinds and amount, and with the same care.

HISTORY OF ROSE

Rose was purchased by the Experiment Station when she was four years old and she is now past sixteen. She was picked up among the cows offered for sale at \$50.00. Her record here given is for ten years in succession including the times when she was dry, and she has been doing practically as well since.

Her longest milking period in this time was one year and eleven months, completed when she was fourteen and a half years old; her shortest, one year and ten days and the average, one year five and a third months. In this time she produced seven calves, four of them being heifers.

ONE INCOME \$96.00; THE OTHER \$38.00

At 25c per pound for butter fat—or 22c per pound for butter—the annual income from Rose is \$96.00, and that from Queen \$38.00. The income from Rose is \$58.00 more than that from Queen. But this does not represent the difference between these cows to a man in the practical dairy business.

ONE ROSE EQUALS HOW MANY QUEENS?

If the market price of feed is such that it costs \$35.00 per year to keep a cow—and Queen's keep costs all of that—Queen would return

an annual profit of \$3.00 and Rose a profit of \$61.00 or as much as twenty Queens. If the price of feed were \$37.00 per year, Queen's profit would be \$1.00, and that of Rose \$59.00 or as much as fifty-nine cows like Queen.

But if these cows should be better fed or the price of feed should advance so that it costs \$40.00 per year—not an unusual cost for a well fed dairy cow—Rose would make a clear profit of \$56.00 while Queen would lack \$2.00 of paying her board and lodging. The greater the number of such cows as Queen, the farther they would be from equalling one Rose. It is figured that the calf, skimmilk and manure are well worth the labor in caring for the cow.

This means that Queen is entirely out of the list of cows worth keeping; there is absolutely no business in keeping her a single day.

ROSE'S RECORD FOR 10 YEARS

Butter fat, 3,840 lb.	@ 25c	\$ 960.00
Skimmilk, 73,526 lb.	@ 15c per 100 lb.....	110.29
Seven calves, (4 heifers)	at least.....	50.00
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Total income.....		\$1,120.29
Cost of keep @ \$40.00 per year.....		400.00
		<hr/>
		\$720.29

A GREAT LIFE WORK

This is a pretty good record for one cow, considering that there are at least three years besides these ten—and it remains to be seen how many more—yet to be added to her life achievement. The total clear profit from this cow is already beyond \$1,000.

In the ten years Rose produced more than thirty-six tons of milk. Hauling a ton a day, it would take a man and two-horse team a month and a fifth to haul this milk.

SEVERAL LIKE ROSE.

One cannot go out and be sure of buying such a cow as Rose. If the seller knew he were parting with this kind of an animal at four years of age, the price should be about \$300.00 or \$400.00. But here and there her ten-year record is equalled, and even excelled, for a less number of years. In the same herd at the University is another cow that has produced 405 pounds butter fat on the average for three years. She was bought from one of the dairy herds of the Elgin region for \$85.00. In 18 Illinois herds numbering 333 cows, three—or one percent—were found to have a record for one year better than the average record of Rose. But in the same general class of excellent producers with Rose were found thirty in this 333—or 10 percent—

that produced 300 pounds or more butter fat in one year, and the average production of the thirty was 342 pounds, meaning an income of \$85.50. Cows of this kind can be bought at a reasonable price, and better and easier still they can be raised from the heifer calves of high-producing mothers.

THE ONLY COW WORTH KEEPING

A cow must give two and a half gallons of 4 percent milk per day for nine months a year to be worth keeping. This means a total of 225 pounds of butter fat, an income of about \$56.00 per year and a profit of \$15.00 or more above the market value of feed. And yet there are a multitude of cows in Illinois dairy herds below this standard. Of the 333 cows in 18 herds carefully tested by this Station, 226 or over two-thirds, fell below this standard, and the 226 averaged but 164 pounds butter fat for the year—only 12 pounds above Queen. In three of these herds numbering 47 cows, not a single animal came up to this standard.

A QUEEN WITH A LARGE FOLLOWING

But this Queen is of more interest to the farmer than may at first appear. She holds sway in a large realm. Some of her subjects are to be found on almost every dairy farm, but often they remain in easy disguise, forming a sort of secret society. And strange to say, their concealment is unwittingly provided by the owner himself—by his guessing at their production instead of weighing and testing the milk. But they are every one dead beats and will never pay for their board. Their pass word is graft and their grip that of the sheriff. The more of them the farmer keeps the poorer he is. There is only one way to find out their record—to weigh and test the milk.

74 AVERAGE ONLY 126 LBS. BUTTER FAT

Among the 333 cows of the 18 Illinois herds referred to above, were found seventy-four—or 22 percent—that were as poor as Queen or poorer, in production of butter fat. More than every fifth cow of the 333 failed to earn her keep. The average production of these seventy-four was only 126 pounds butter fat—far below that of Queen.

Quite unsuspected these Queens have everywhere honeycombed dairy society, but they have no rightful standing in the stalls of bread-winners, and should be unmasked by the scales and test and sent to the only destination to which they have an honest ticket—without stop-over or return—the butcher's block. Look out for these idle, spendthrift Queens. They may not look much different from worthy cows, but they are different—vastly different.