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"There's a 'System' at Buitenzorg" by G.N. Angell, March 2, 1944

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There's a 'System' at Buitenzorg

By GEORGE N. ANGELL.

Staff Representative, The Washington Farmer

AS YET there are only about 45 acres in hay, and usually all of that goes into silos. In fact, there is a great deal yet to be done—even some land clearing—to put Buitenzorg Ayrshire farm into A-1 condition. But the purebred Ayrshire herd numbers over 80, the 40-odd females milking (including 17 first-calf heifers) averaged 331 pounds of butterfat their second year on herd test; and when classified for type last summer by James Linn of Manhattan, Kansas, representing the Ayrshire Breeders' association, seven females in it rated "very good," nine "good plus," three "good" and one "fair." Average score of all was 83, which is considerably better than good, if you know your scoring signals; and it is better than some of the highly touted eastern herds have rated.

And so, since the first 10 years are the hardest, Ralph B. LeCocq, who owns the farm, and G. A. Groenen, who manages it for him, feel pretty complacent about the results they have achieved since the Lynden attorney, who also is secretary of the Northwest Ayrshire Breeders' association, plunged into the wilderness near Custer in Whatcom county and started carving a home out of a family possession; and since Groenen, who had the advantage of wide experience in the "old country" and on one of Washington's public farms, joined him in 1938.

THE farm sign blossoms bravely beside the Sumas-Blaine highway, 18 miles from Bellingham. Farm and home lie on Sunrise road, just beyond. The 160 acres belonged in the LeCocq family, which bought it from the homesteader, and Ralph LeCocq managed it several years, then bought it and really started combing its hair.

Groenen is a full partner in the enterprise, LeCocq leaves no doubt about that; and already the farming skill which he manifested in state employ is evident at Buitenzorg. (Groenen had the reputation of being the only manager ever to make the state farm actually pay.)

USE the best sires obtainable, test the cows that are mated to them, and keep track of the sires until the production of the offspring is known.

This is the "system" at Buitenzorg, and it is being applied to some of the best Ayrshire blood obtainable in Canada or the eastern United States.

Oh, yes, the system includes feeding properly, too, and silage is one of the big items in that as indicated at the outset of this story. Many silage makers have found it advantageous to put a little molasses into legume silage as a means of increasing acidity and augmenting preservation. Molasses wasn't obtainable at Buitenzorg farm so they went right ahead and ensiled clover without it. Now that's regular practice—another part of the "system"—in filling two 50-ton silos, according to Groenen.

"There's never a bit of spoilage except a few inches on top," he said. "The cows sure like it, too. They never waste a bit."

Groenen's directions are simple. He lets the clover wilt a couple of hours—not more. Then he cuts it "real fine" and has a boy work it around and tramp it down while filling and every day for a week after.

For cutting he uses a Letz "mixed feed maker." "You can thresh with it, grind with it, or thresh and grind at the same time. You can do almost anything with it," Groenen said.

THE Buitenzorg herd was more or less nondescript when Groenen came, but that fall everything was disposed of except a registered bull and three females hailing from Edenbank farm at Sardis, B. C. The bull, Edenbank Bachelor, and one of the cows was of the old Robinhood (Clise) breeding, well known to western Ayrshire fanciers, and the bull had 500-pound production backing. From British Columbia also came Fentry Footprint, a grandson of the world famous "Honey-suckle," highest producing Ayrshire in Canada in 1938, with 945 pounds. His dam produced 722 pounds. Both the Bachelor and the Footprint bulls are out on lease, but three or four years ago LeCocq & Goenen secured

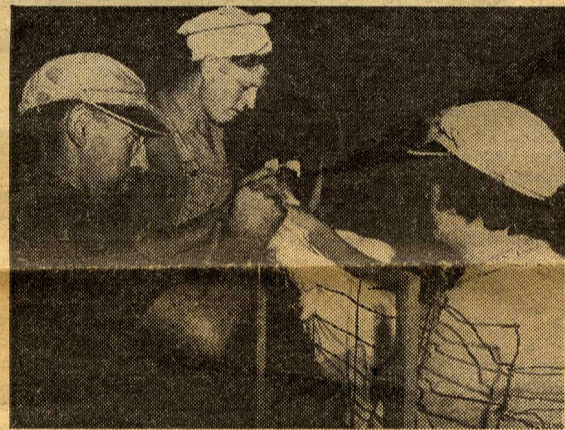
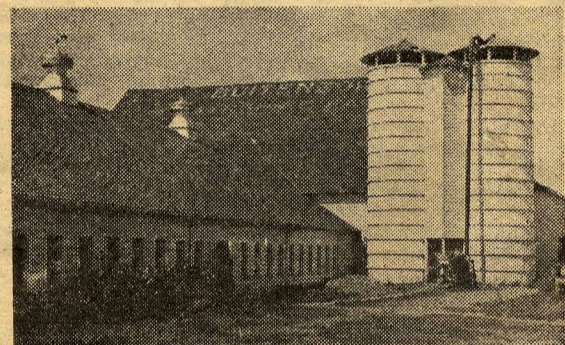
An attractive sign calls passers to stop for a look-see at the Buitenzorg herd of classy Ayrshires and the big barn and silos which house and help feed them. Not only Ayrshires, but a good flock of hens, make the place worth stopping to see. Lower right, the crew fits the hens with "spectacles" to prevent cannibalism.

three eastern heifers and a bull calf, Sycamore Attractor, a son of Pennshurst Advancer and he by Pennshurst Man o' War with 68 daughters averaging 421 pounds in 305 days. Advancer himself has four daughters averaging 645 pounds, and his highest record daughter is granddam of the Buitenzorg farm sire. She is the phenomenal producer and "Excellent" cow Sycamore Adabelle, with 19,599 pounds of milk and 804 of fat in 305 days at 5 years. At 16 years "Advancer" is rated on his daughters' records as the best bull of the breed, and Buitenzorg has 15 or 20 of his son's daughters, some of them bred, and as many more cows in calf by the young Pennsylvanian.

LAST May he was joined by another top-notch, the 5-year-old Springburn Golden Cross, from the Glen Eden farm sale at Langley, B. C. This one was bred by Gilbert McMillan of Quebec province and was sired by Bois de la Roche Golden Glow, twice champion at the National Dairy show and son of an imported bull that four times was champion at the Royal Winter fair in Toronto. Golden Glow's dam made 452 pounds at 2 years and 610 at maturity. Springburn Golden Cross' dam was first prize 2-year-old in milk at the Royal, but it was the heifers he sired that sold him to Groenen. Three fresh before the sale averaged over 40 pounds of milk daily, and first to freshen of the three which Groenen brought home with the bull produced 45 pounds testing 4.2 per cent.

"We're getting some very beautiful types from the Sycamore bull, but this new one—you should have seen his daughters," Groenen enthused.

BUT they are counting at Buitenzorg not only on bulls but on "cow families," foremost of which is that of Laura 4th, at 10 years the highest producer in the herd with 585 pounds. She hails from the famous "Laura" family at Glen Eden, and there are three of her daughters at Buitenzorg. There are four each of Graybrook Royal Lady and of Grandview Rena, the latter from Shannon Brothers' at Cloverdale and granddaughter of the world record Ardgowan Valda with 31,156 pounds of milk and 1356 of fat in 365 days on three-time milking. The only record exceeding this is that of the Washington Holstein with 1402 pounds on four-time. Rena's first daughter made almost 400 pounds with first calf. Royal Lady was bred by Graybrook in British Columbia but was picked up from a neighbor. Groenen gave



\$50 for her, untangled \$200 worth of regulations, and proved her to be a wonderful cow.

THE LeCocqs' charming home is a resort for breeders from far and near. He has practiced law 30 years, he explains, and likes to talk something else, preferably cows and preferably Ayrshires, but he is not choosy. Naturally he rejoices in the steady expansion in Ayrshires the Pacific northwest is witnessing. Washington, for example, has 160 breeders; Whatcom the largest number of purebreds of any county in the state. And they compare favorably with those in other sections, the Ayrshire Digest reported after the work done here by the national association last summer, when 15 Washington and Oregon herds were gone over and 311 animals of milking age classified as to Ayrshire type. This was the first work of the kind ever done here, but Linn and E. W. Van Tassell, vice president and western representative of the Ayrshire Breeders association, found three "excellent" cows, 50 "very good," 122 "good plus," 112 "good" and only 24 "fair." Average score was 80.82 per cent, but more than half (56.2 per cent) rated "good plus" or higher. As the experts look at it, "good" means just a fairly good cow. "Fair" disqualifies a cow's bull calves, and "poor" cancels her own papers.

Wading Water Helps Control Ox Warble

CREEKS and shallow lakes are not the stockman's solution of the ox warble problem, but the dairyman who has a fine little creek meandering through his pasture is less troubled than the one who has none, thinks Louis A. Bonjorni of Kittitas county. And he submits his own beautiful Guernsey herd as exhibit A to prove it. The trouble is, he agrees, that only a few stockmen can have a creek or a wadable lake.

"You watch cattle in a pasture like this," he said to a Washington Farmer field man one day last heel fly season. "Instead of running madly up and down they make for the creek."

Heel flies lay eggs about the heels of cattle, where they hatch into tiny grubs that later appear as warbles under the skin along the back. The theory is that when cattle can get into shallow water the flies can not lay

their eggs, and therefore no grubs can be hatched.

BONJORNI'S fine herd of Guernseys was grazing in a rich, irrigated clover pasture when THE FARMER man called. Its heavy growth the dairyman attributed not only to irrigation, for which he is strong, but to heavy manuring. He said he set the spreader lever so it would throw the maximum amount of nature's fertility. He prefers to apply it in the fall, but actually does it in the spring because there is less loss at that time by leaching.

The Bonjorni place consists of 50 acres of well situated irrigated land, and pasture and hay are its big products. His hay stacks are among that great army of stacks you see when you top the rise that overlooks the queen of hay-producing valleys which has made Ellensburg the thriving little city it is.