

The American Kerry and Dexter Cattle Club

Bulletin Six

February, 1917

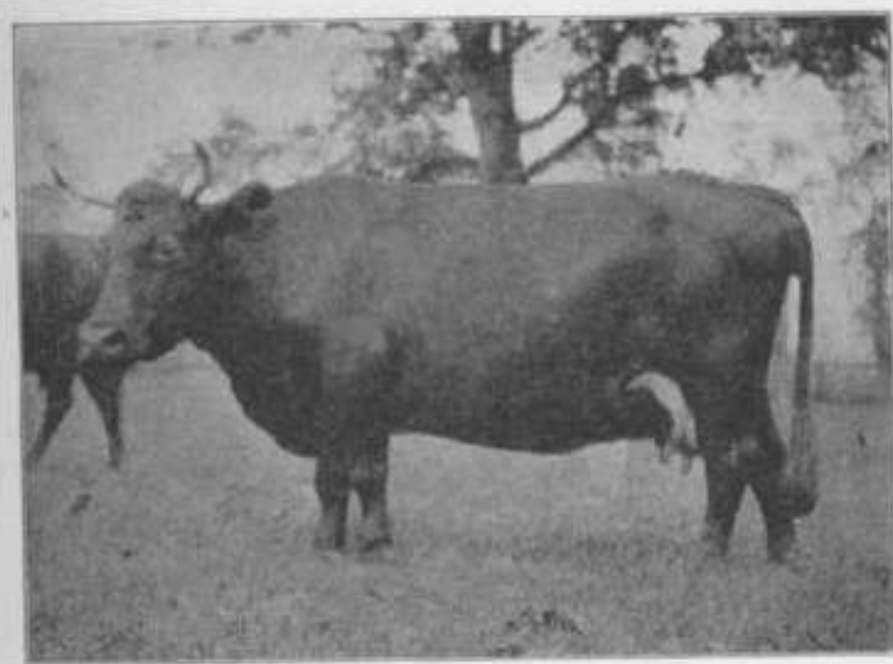


Fig. 1. Dexter Cow GORT SUNBEAM 5TH 114 (2335).
Owned by Elmendorf Farm. Photo by courtesy of
Mr. J. B. McNulty.

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**KERRY AND DEXTER CATTLE AS
PRODUCERS OF MILK AND BUTTER FAT**

The American Kerry and Dexter Cattle Club

A Statement.

The American Kerry and Dexter Cattle Club was organized in July, 1911, through correspondence only. No meetings of the breeders have ever been held in America. Mr. G. M. Carnochan, New City, New York, was elected President; Mr. C. H. Berryman, Lexington, Kentucky, Vice President, and C. S. Plumb, Columbus, Ohio, Secretary-Treasurer. A club membership fee of ten dollars was adopted, and up to January 1, 1917, thirteen persons have paid membership fees into the Club treasury, as follows:

- August A. Busch, St. Louis, Missouri.
- *G. M. Carnochan, New City, New York.
- Elmendorf Farm, C. H. Berryman, Manager, Lexington, Kentucky.
- Howard Gould, Port Washington, New York.
- *Cecil D. Gregg, St. Louis, Missouri.
- *B. Nason Hamlin, Boston, Massachusetts.
- Miss Gladys Ingalls, Hot Springs, Virginia.
- *Mrs. Clarence Moore, Washington, D. C.
- *Oak Hill Estate, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.
- C. S. Plumb, Columbus, Ohio.
- *F. J. Rodgers, San Francisco, California.
- F. E. Stevens, Glens Falls, New York.
- *Albert N. White, Greenfield, New Hampshire.

Since the organization of the Club many changes have taken place in the membership. Mr. Carnochan died in 1916, and a number of the members have disposed of their interests in these cattle. A star (*) has been placed against the names of those no longer owning herds of these cattle. Of the above members, only Elmendorf Farm and Messrs. Gould and Stevens of the active breeders, have shown any willingness to sell females, and as a result but few have been sold. Part of the herds disposed of by members have never been transferred on the books of the Club.

A personal word by the Secretary here seems necessary. The organization of the Club was undertaken by him on request of the late Mr. J. E. Wing, who had been solicited by British friends to organize Kerry and Dexter interests in America. Correspondence resulted in interesting the half dozen or so breeders in this country, articles of association and rules for registration and transfer adopted, and officers selected. The undersigned became Secretary-Treasurer in order to promote what seemed to him a worthy cause. There could be no financial compensation for services rendered, worth serious consideration, in view of the very small number of Kerry and Dexter cattle in America. It may not be inappropriate to state here that the undersigned is

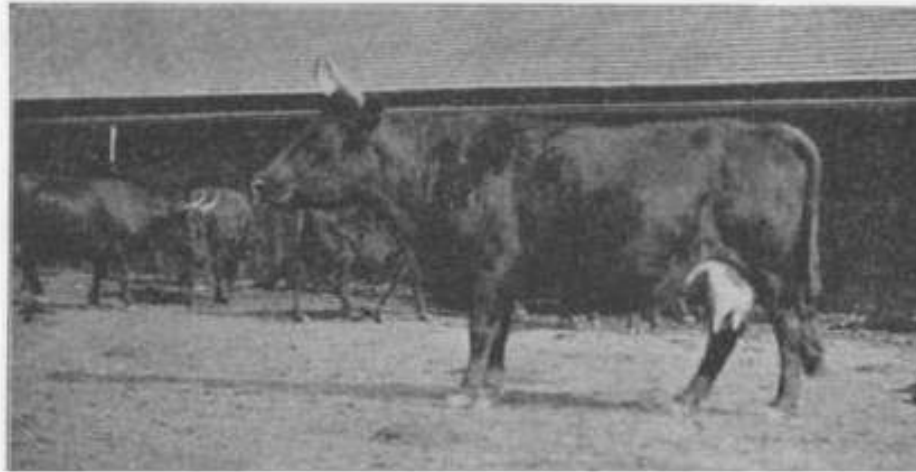


Fig. 2. Dexter Cow GORT HILDA 7TH 161 (2387). Owned by Elmendorf Farm. Photo by courtesy of Mr. J. B. McNulty.

Professor of Animal Husbandry in the College of Agriculture of the Ohio State University, and his work in behalf of these Irish breeds of cattle has been one of friendly interest, without regard to the value of his time or service. It is his desire that the Club increase in numbers and strength, and that he may be succeeded by some one who is sincerely interested in promoting the welfare of these interesting Irish cattle. Mr. Carnochan had taken much interest in the organization of the Club, and gave generously of his time and service in promoting its work until ill-health prevented. In his death the Club lost a valued friend.

C. S. Plumb, Secretary-Treasurer.

January, 1917.

KERRY AND DEXTER CATTLE AS PRODUCERS OF MILK AND BUTTER FAT.

By C. S. Plumb, Secretary-Treasurer.

In considering Kerry and Dexter cattle as producers of milk and butter fat, several important facts must be emphasized. These cattle originated in Southwestern Ireland, where the Kerry has been known for many, many years as the native breed. The people of Ireland have attempted very little in the way of improvement, and almost no records of production are kept by the owners of cattle in that country. In other countries than Ireland there are only a few scattered herds of these

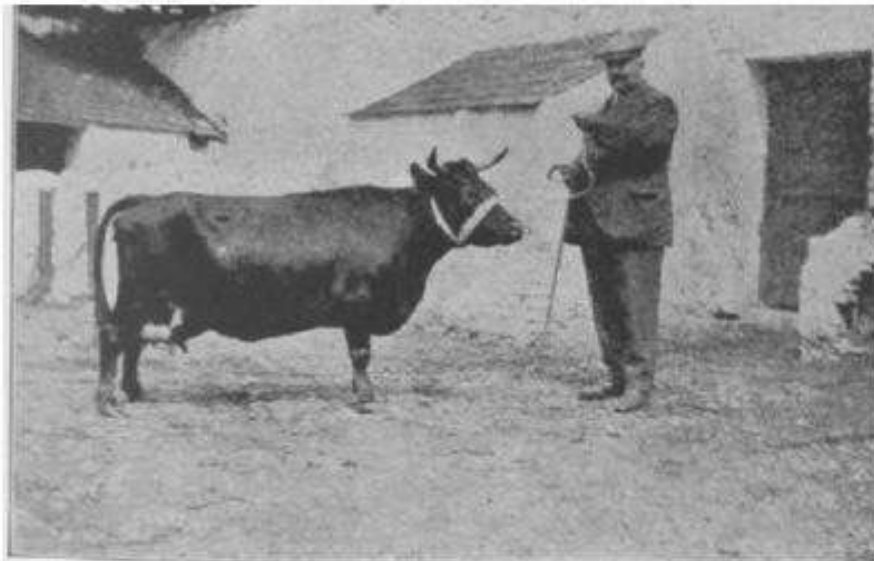


Fig. 3. Dexter Cow HARLEY COY (1655) and Mr. R. Tait Robertson, owner. A noted prize winner in Ireland and England.

cattle. In England are a few excellent herds, but the owners report no continuous records. In America there are probably not over 500 head of Kerry and Dexter cattle all told, many of which are not in milk or are not females. So far as the writer is aware, no official testing of a Kerry or Dexter cow has yet been reported by an agricultural college or experiment station in any country. It has seemed singular that the Irish people have made no greater efforts to improve their native breeds.

Sources of information as to the producing capacity of Kerry and Dexter have come from various statements through the agricultural press, and from a few herds where records of production have been kept. Through the courtesy of Mr. C. H. Berryman, manager, and Mr. J. B. McNulty, dairyman, the writer is able to present a number of records from the herd at Elmendorf Farm. This is the largest Kerry and Dexter herd in America, and furnishes information of special importance and interest.

MILK AND BUTTER FAT RECORDS OF KERRY COWS AT ELMENDORF FARM.

NAME OF COW	YEAR TESTED	No. Days Milked	YIELD OF		Fat %	Calved
			MILK	FAT		
La Mancha May 36 (1214).....	1913-14	325	6103.9	269.8	4.4	1906
La Mancha Poll 34 (1221).....	1914-15	307	4751.6	183.8	3.7	1906
La Mancha Moll 40 (1216).....	1914-15	307	4814.8	177.0	3.9	1906
La Mancha Doris 45 (1207).....	1913-14	356	6031.6	.....	...	1907
La Mancha Dainty Girl 42 (1203)...	1914	216	3885.9	.....	...	1907

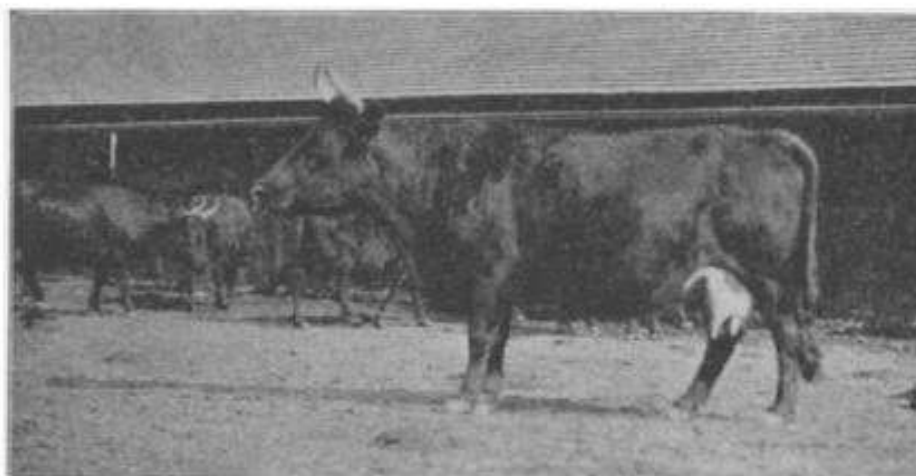


Fig. 4. Kerry Cow LAMANCHA DORIS 45 (1207). Owned by Elmendorf Farm. Photo by Mr. J. B. McNulty.

Four of the above records cover most of the year of lactation, and one falls far short. For small cattle, a yield of over 6,000 pounds of milk is an excellent showing. Fat

records of two of the cows were not furnished, but the other three range from 3.7 to 4.4 per cent, with the best total fat record of 269.8 pounds.

MILK AND BUTTER FAT RECORDS OF DEXTER COWS AT ELMENDORF FARM.						
NAME OF COW	YEAR TESTED	No. Days Milked	YIELD OF		Fat %	Calved
			MILK	FAT		
Gort Daisy 4th 105 [2394].....	1914-15	289	5193.8	207.3	4.	1910
Gort Hilda 7th 161 [2387].....	1913-14	290	4621.4	181.4	4.	1909
Gort Sunbeam 5th 114 [2335].....	1914-15	292	4413.5	169.8	4.	1907
Gort Peep 3d 30 [2332].....	1914	263	3884.7	168.7	4.4	1908
Gort Beauty 6th 119 [2427].....	1914	254	3655.1	137.6	3.7	1910
Gort Fairy 7th 34.....	1913-14	300	5392.7	.....	...	1909
Gort Love 4th 29 [2384].....	1913-14	288	5374.7	.....	...	1908
Duv Rosy 120 [2445].....	1913-14	315	5038.8	.....	...	1910
Gort Clara 2d 150 [2420].....	1913-14	258	4588.5	.....	...	1908
Gort Sunbeam 9th 174 [2482].....	1913-14	358	4457.7	.....	...	1911
Gort Florrie 5th 60 [2393].....	1913-14	256	4633.0	.....	...	1910
Bishopscourt Ivy 37 [2408].....	1913-14	323	4005.1	.....	...	1909
Gort Woodvine 6th 176 [2483].....	1913-14	315	3792.6	.....	...	1911
Gort Bee 4th 148 [2385].....	1913-14	342	3750.7	.....	...	1908
La Mancha Modesty 56 [1777].....	1913-14	272	3674.4	.....	...	1909
Gort Sunray 2d 36.....	1913-14	333	3460.0	.....	...	1909
Duv Mary Lee 2d 35 [2405].....	1913-14	261	3228.4	.....	...	1909
Duv Norry 58 [2346].....	1913-14	273	2869.5	.....	...	1909
Gort Beauty 5th 121 [2480].....	1913-14	263	2791.7	.....	...	1910

Four of the above Dexter cows have records of slightly above 5,000 pounds of milk each, in periods of time ranging from 288 to 315 days. Five Dexter cows have butter-fat records ranging from 137.6 pounds for 254 days, up to 207.3 pounds for 289 days. The milk shows a butter-fat test of four per cent. No fat record is given for fourteen of the cows, these not having been furnished. The smallest average daily milk yield of any of the nineteen cows was 10.3 pounds for Gort Sunray 2d, and the largest for Gort Love 4th, that produced a daily average of 18.6 pounds for 288 days.

From the standpoint of our improved dairy breeds, these yields are not notable. However, as the records of the small-

est breed in America, that has never been carefully bred for milk production, these the first published records of the kind, are of interest and importance. One factor of interest here is that these little cows are noted for economy of production, and while we have no figures on that point, Messrs. Berryman and McNulty have expressed the opinion to the writer that these Irish cattle on the basis of food consumption were very economical producers of milk and butterfat.

Dexter Cow Records at Castlegould Estate.

Milk and butterfat records of Dexter cows have been kept at the Castlegould estate of Mr. Howard Gould, Port Washington, New York, for some years. The following records are furnished by the herd manager, Mr. W. C. Baikie:

Name Cow.	Year.	Yield.	Fat Test.
Slane Clara 3.....	1911	9046 lbs.	4.26%
" "	1912	7113 lbs.	4.15%
" "	1913	6996 lbs.	5.37%
" "	1914	6104 lbs.	4.76%
Kingswood Courtly Girl 9.....	1911	5634 lbs.	5.20%
" " "	1912	4968 lbs.	5.82%
" " "	1913	4884 lbs.	5.35%
" " "	1914	6298 lbs.	5.08%

In 1914 Slane Clara was 14 years of age, and Kingswood Courtly Girl was 9 years of age.

In 1910, in the Castlegould herd, five Dexter cows made the following records:

	Yield.	Milk Testing
Cow 1	7349 lbs.	4.3% Fat.
Cow 2	8268 lbs.	4.0% Fat.
Cow 3	6127 lbs.	3.9% Fat.
Cow 4	6507 lbs.	4.4% Fat.
Cow 5	5235 lbs.	4.1% Fat.

Test of Kerry Cow "Bognut of Waddington" 49.

The Kerry cow Bognut of Waddington 49, owned by the Ohio State University, calved in 1907, dropped a calf on Dec. 12, 1912, and was given a seven day test commencing Jan. 14. Her record, which is essentially official, was as follows:

Date.	Milk Yield.	Fat %
Jan. 14	30.6 lbs.	1.225
Jan. 15	32.5 lbs.	1.374
Jan. 16	31.6 lbs.	1.264
Jan. 17	31.4 lbs.	1.349
Jan. 18	31.2 lbs.	1.225
Jan. 19	30.2 lbs.	1.201
Jan. 20	26.5 lbs.	1.087
Total yield	214.0 lbs.	8.723

During the year 1913 Bognut of Waddington 6,261 pounds of milk in the University Herd were made weekly during the period of lactation cent ranging from 4.0 to 5.6. This cow became a breeder and was sold to the butcher.

SOME ENGLISH KERRY RECORDS.

Records at Babraham Hall.

For some years Kerry and Dexter cattle were bred at Babraham Hall, near Cambridge, England. While

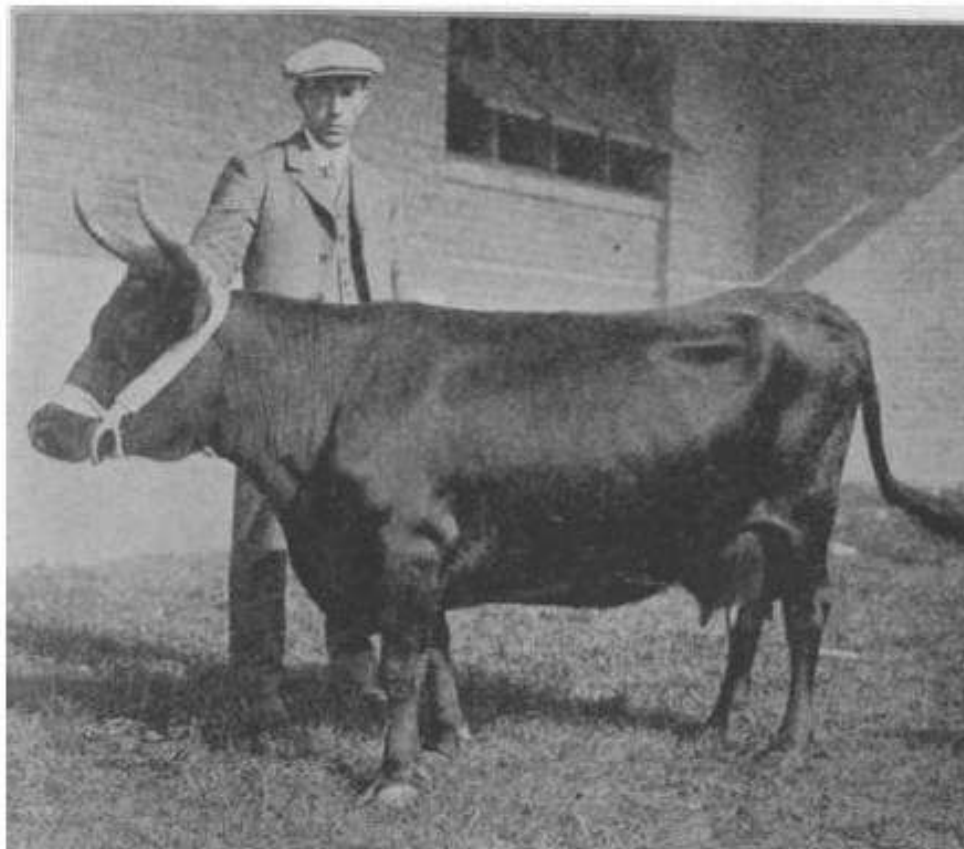


Fig. 5. KINGSWOOD COURTLY GIRL, 7 (1151). First prize ag champion Dexter female at the New York State Fair. Owned and exhibited by Howard Gould.

of the estate, Mr. F. N. Webb sent the writer a considerable number of records made in the herd, of which the following are given here as of interest:

Name Cow.	Yield Milk.	No. Days.	Year.
Babaham Belle	6504 lbs.	297	1890-91
" "	5952 lbs.	282	1891-92
" "	6764 lbs.	289	1892-93
Blackberry II	6879 lbs.	290	1890-91
"	6166½ lbs.	308	1891-92
"	6400 lbs.	272	1892-93
"	6733½ lbs.	329	1893-94
Lesbia	6449 lbs.	298	1890-91
"	6799½ lbs.	322	1893-94
"	6246 lbs.	273	1894-95
Black Bess	6943½ lbs.	.....	1894-95
"	5943½ lbs.	.....	1895-96
Bumble Bee	6282 lbs.	317	1890-91
Barbara	6225½ lbs.	305	1890-91
Bridesmaid	6259½ lbs.	330	1891-92
Briony	6103 lbs.	301	1894-95
Basingstoke	6694½ lbs.	266	1895-96

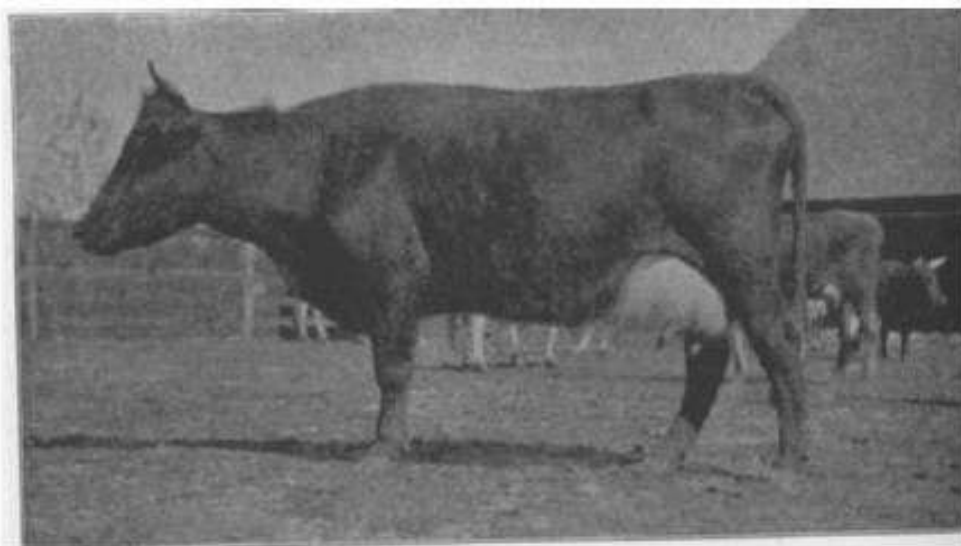


Fig. 6. Dexter Cow GORT DAISY 4TH, 105 [2394]. Owned by Elmendorf Farm. Photo by courtesy of Mr. J. B. McNulty

James Long on the Kerry For Milk and Butter.

Prof. James Long is generally recognized in England as an authority on dairy cattle and dairying. He for years held the position of Professor of Agriculture at the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, and is an agricultural writer of distinction. The following is a quotation from an article by him in the *Agricultural Gazette* (London) of August 21, 1905:

"If we take the milking trials at the National Dairy Show at Islington, and travel over a number of years, we find that in one year eight Kerries averaged 36 pounds, or more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of milk per day, this milk containing 3 1-3 per cent of fat. In another year twelve Kerries averaged $25\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of milk per day, this milk containing the large proportion of 4 1-3 per cent of fat, while the solids not fat reached 9.2 per cent. Again, in a third year, seven Kerries averaged $33\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of milk, containing 3.69 per cent of fat. In two other years the averages of ten cows in each year were $27\frac{1}{4}$ pounds of milk and 33 pounds of milk, the fat percentage being in one case 4.36, and in the other 4.26; while in every instance but the first-named the solids not fat exceeded 9 per cent. In the first place, I would notice that taking the whole series the Kerries very nearly approached $3\frac{1}{4}$ gallons of milk per day, while in three different years thirty-two cows gave milk exceeding $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent of fat, which practically means that although some of the animals must have yielded less, others probably reached nearly or quite 5 per cent. Here, then, is material for building up a strain or herd of deep and at the same time rich milkers. Surely the Kerry is worth supporting under such conditions. The figures point to possibilities which are great, while quite apart from the fact that good prices are now paid for selected stock, the size is such that the Kerry is practically placed within the reach of the smallest and poorest of cow keepers.

I am afraid the data with regard to butter production is not so prolific, but in one year at the London Dairy Show two Kerries averaged 1 pound $7\frac{3}{8}$ ounces, the butter ratio being almost as good as that of the average Jersey, for it was only 21.28, that is to say, a pound of butter was produced from slightly more than 2 gallons of milk, whereas in five years 126 Jerseys yielded an average of 1 pound $10\frac{1}{4}$ ounces of butter, showing a ratio of 19.15. This remark is



Fig. 7. Rear view, GORT
DAISY 4TH 105. Photo by
Mr. J. B. McNulty.

made, not to depreciate the splendid powers of the Jersey, but to show the relative capacity of the Kerry. If we go further and see what has been accomplished by individual cows, we find that Babraham Belle, the property of Mr. Adeane, produced some 1100 gallons of milk in a year, while we are told by Mr. Tait-Robertson, who has evidently inherited the passion for the Kerry entertained by his late father, that many instances are on record of yields of 20 to 22 quarts per day."

Kerry Records at the English Royal.

Each year at the show of the Royal Agricultural Society of England comparative trials are held of the different breeds, and attract much attention. In 1914, Mr. John L. Ames contributed to *The Field* (July 25) an article discussing the milking competition at Shrewsbury, with the special purpose of calling attention to the position of the Kerry in this contest.

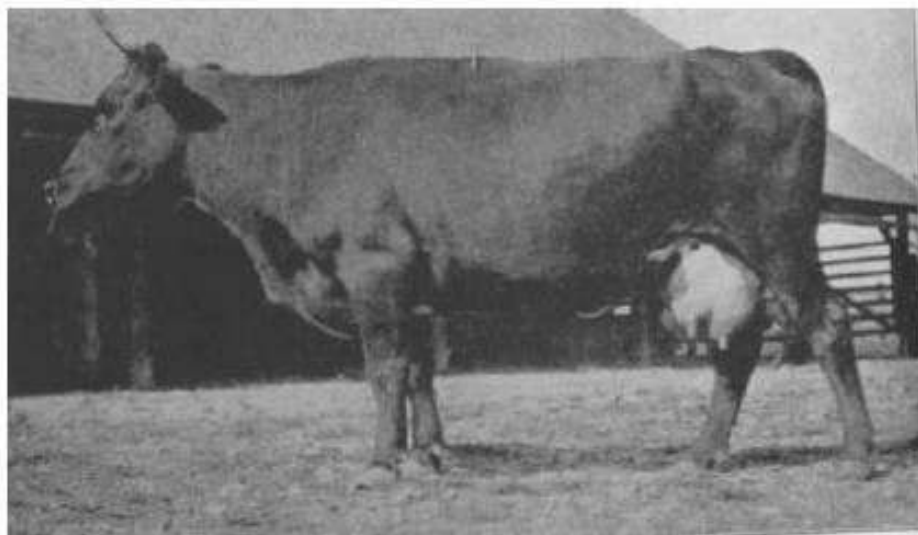


Fig. 8. Dexter Cow LA MANCHA MODESTY 56 [1777]. Owned by Elmendorf Farm. Photo by courtesy of Mr J. B. McNulty.

"Being particularly interested in Kerry cows myself," writes Mr. Ames, "I feel that it is only right that their capabilities as milkers and their great value as dairy cattle should be brought to the notice of everyone who keeps cows for home use. For the convenience of your readers, I ven-

ture to give the full conditions of the Royal Show milk-yield classes. The competition lasts twenty-four hours. One point is given for every 1 pound of milk; one point is given for every completed ten days since calving, deducting the first forty days; maximum points for lactation, twelve; four points are given for every 1 per cent of fat shown on an average of the percentages of fat found in the two milkings; fractions of pounds of milk, percentages of fat, and incomplete periods of less than ten days to be worked out in decimals and added to the total points.

Here all recognized breeds of dairy cows meet on an equal footing; no allowances are made for weight or for food consumed, and though the various prizes are confined to each breed, the conditions are the same for all. If we take the average number of points obtained by the prize winners of each breed, the order of the breeds themselves appear as follows: First, Lincoln Red, 83.93 points; second, South Devon, 76.29 points; third, Shorthorn, 75.71 points; fourth, Red Poll, 73.57 points; fifth, Jersey, 72.75 points; sixth, Devon, 67.15 points; seventh, Guernsey, 67.07 points; eighth, Kerry, 66.06 points; ninth, Holstein, 65.1 points; tenth, Ayrshire, 58.58 points; eleventh, Longhorn, 58.32 points; twelfth, Dexter, 50.95 points.

A Kerry cow, as everyone knows, is a small animal, and an exceptionally small eater, and when this characteristic, combined with her great hardiness and her capacity for roughing it are taken into consideration, it should go a long way towards her reputation, not necessarily as a fancy animal, but as a good, useful, homely cow. The Kerry is, in a way, the oldest breed of cattle known (they are mentioned, I am told, in the fourth century), and it is the only breed of cattle native to Ireland. Its origin lies in obscurity, nevertheless; it is only quite lately that Kerries have been brought into prominence as dairy cattle. Great efforts are being made, and will be made, by the English Kerry and Dexter Cattle Society to improve them still further.



Fig. 9. Rear view LA MANCHA MODESTY 56. Photo by Mr. J. B. McNulty.

Of the seven breeds of cattle which appear above the Kerry in this competition, it must be remembered that five of them—*i. e.*, the Lincoln Red, South Devon, Shorthorn, Red Poll and Devon—are all animals of great size, some of them, if not all, being double the weight of a Kerry, and consequently their consumption of food is in all probability in the same proportion; but their yield of milk and butter is by no means so very much greater. The Jersey is still unequalled by the Kerry, but this is hardly to be wondered at, considering the time and trouble that have been spent on

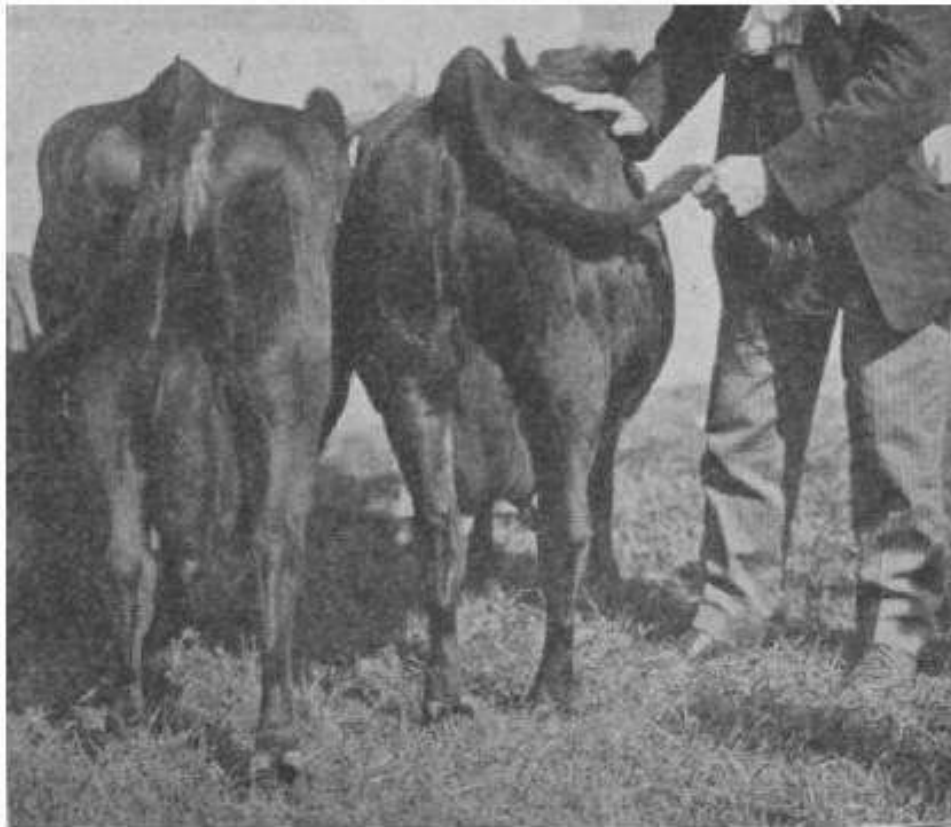


Fig. 10. The cow on the left is **KINGSWOOD COURTLY GIRL 7 (1151)**, first prize cow over 5 years; the cow on the right is **CASTLEGOULD DUCHESS 14**, first prize cow 3 to 5 years old at the New York State Fair 1912. Kingswood Courtly Girl in 1914 produced 6298 pounds of milk averaging 5.08 per cent fat.

the breed to bring it to such a state of perfection; but the Jersey is far from suitable for all agricultural conditions, to say nothing of climate, and she would starve where a

Kerry would thrive. The Guernsey has beaten the Kerry by only one point. But it is in the two great dairy breeds that come below the Kerry that we see the greatest triumph. That she should prove herself superior to breeds with the reputation for milk and butter of the Holstein and the Ayrshire is an achievement to be proud of.

The first, second and third prize cows in the Kerry class are all foundation stock cows; that is to say, they were bred no one knows where and no one knows how, but have been accepted for the herd book purely on their merits. If cows are to be found like this, bred at random, to give over 50 pounds of rich milk in a day, what a foundation there is here upon which to build up a breed of dairy cattle, if proper steps are taken by breeders and breeding operations are carried out in a scientific way."

WEIGHTS OF DEXTER CATTLE.

The Dexter has found considerable favor among many people on account of its small size. Unfortunately the size has received too great relative attention from many who have become interested in the breed, to the neglect of more important qualities. However, small size is a special feature of the breed, and must be so regarded. The scale of points as adopted by the English Kerry and Dexter Cattle Society, specifies that the bulls should not exceed 900 pounds live weight and the cows 800 pounds. At the writer's suggestion, Mr. Baikie of Castlegould kindly weighed several of the Dexters in Mr. Gould's herd, and in 1916 furnished the following figures:

Castlegould Carson 23, bull, aged 2 years, weight 720 lbs.
Kingswood Courtly Girl 9, cow, aged 11 years, weight 700 lbs.
Castlegould Maree 75, cow, aged 4 years, weight 680 lbs.
Castlegould Bluebell 73, cow, aged 4 years, weight 590 lbs.
Castlegould Emeline 100, cow, aged 3, weight 600 lbs.

The Castlegould herd is of very superior merit, and is the oldest registered in America. The above figures may be regarded as representing desirable weights.

REQUESTS FOR LITERATURE AND PHOTOGRAPHS.

Many requests come to the office of the Secretary for printed matter and photographs. Requests for literature are always complied with, unless in cases where quantities are requested that involve expense to the Club that the treasury cannot meet. The small membership of the Club, and the few cattle in America, must necessarily give evidence of a very small financial showing. Under the circumstances the Club is unable to furnish photographs free, or to send many duplicate bulletins to meet demands from agricultural colleges and schools. If this were done, our funds for printing would soon be exhausted. The Secretary, however, will gladly render any service possible in promoting the welfare of Kerry and Dexter, and will answer correspondence to the best advantage possible.

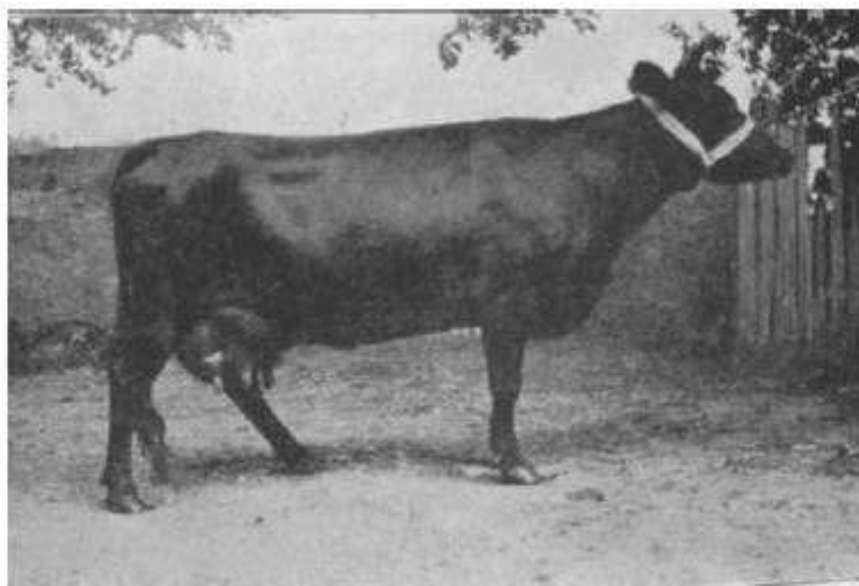


Fig. 11. Kerry cow WALTON CAN CAN (935). Second in class at Royal Agricultural Society of England Show, 1913. Photo by C. S. Plumb.