

fitting
and
showing
Dairy
Cattle



JACK SPEARING

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Fitting and Showing Dairy Cattle

\$1.50

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert D. Stewart, assistant secretary of the American Guernsey Cattle Club writes this about the author of Fitting and Showing Dairy Cattle . . .

In recognition of his years of faithful training and ever-dependable, courteous service, Jack has been very deservingly awarded the highest honor in North America for outstanding ability in fitting and showing fine dairy cattle. From his pen flow words of wisdom gathered through years of actual practice and experience.

Born and raised on a farm near Newton, Iowa — two miles from the nationally known Maytag Dairy Farm herd — Jack Spearing has had many years of valuable experience in fitting and showing fine registered dairy cattle. His first trip away from home was in a "show car" to Toronto, Canada, in 1933 where the Maytag herd exhibited two cars of cattle at the Royal Winter Fair. From that time on, Jack Spearing has worked with top specimens of the dairy breeds and has fitted and shown many blue ribbon winners at the National Shows in the United States and Canada.

He loves fine livestock, knows their needs and has the rare ability of providing for them what is needed when it is needed. If "Levity King" needed exercise in the cool of the evening, or "Marie" needed an extra feeding of hay before bedtime, he made certain that they got it. No effort, or extra hours of work for the benefit of the animals he fitted was too great for him. A twenty-hour day was no different from a ten-hour day if massaging an inflamed udder would reduce the swelling and maintain a strongly attached mammary system.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

(continued from ^{previous page}
~~front flap~~)

Jack worked with the Maytag show herd each year from 1933 through 1940, being responsible for the fitting and assisting with the showing. During three different years, animals exhibited by Maytag and under Jack's care won five of the fifteen All-Americans annually selected in the United States and Canada.

From 1941 through 1944 he was herdsman for the nationally known Pine Manor Guernsey herd at Goshen, Indiana. He was also in charge of fitting and showing the Curtiss Candy Company Guernsey herd for four years. During his later years of service with Curtiss, Jack had general supervision of fitting and showing all their dairy breeds. In 1946 their Guernsey entries won both grand championships at the Dairy Cattle Congress and ten blue ribbons. In 1947 at the same show their Guernsey entries won five first prizes, grand champion cow and junior champion bull.

The highest recognition for fitting and showmanship came to Jack Spearing at the Dairy Cattle Congress in 1948 when he received the "Art" Klussendorf Trophy. This trophy is awarded to the outstanding herdsman and showman of the five dairy breeds during the entire show season.

Jack fitted and showed Afton's Golden Marie, grand champion at the 1948 National Guernsey Show, exhibited by Curtiss Candy Company Farms. At the same show their Guernsey entries, shown and fitted by him, won junior champion male and six blue ribbons. A few weeks later at the Royal Winter Fair he was awarded the Jack Fraser Trophy for outstanding showmanship where Curtiss Guernseys won 17 blue ribbons including grand, reserve grand, and reserve junior champion female, and junior and grand champion bull.

ROBERT D. STEWART
Assistant Secretary
American Guernsey Cattle Club

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Dairy Cattle

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By JACK SPEARING

*Winner of the Klussendorf and
Fraser Trophies, 1948*



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Foreword

THE IMPORTANCE of the show ring as a factor contributing to the breeding of better dairy cattle cannot be overstressed. The animals winning top awards in the show ring generally are the result of good breeding practices combined with intelligent handling. The spirited competition among breeders for show ring honors thus encourages the development of better types of dairy cattle and the principles of good management.

No hard and fast rules can be set down to guarantee winning in the show ring, but certain basic principles exist and should be followed. Herein lies the value of this book, written by an experienced, successful and respected showman. Of greater importance, of course, the information in this book will help the reader carry out the basic purposes of the show ring — sound dairy animal practices and sensible herd management.

DELBERT H. KINGSTON
*Superintendent—Livestock Division
Curtiss Candy Company*

Preface

THE AUTHOR has observed from attending cattle shows and sales throughout the country that breeders often do not fit and display their cattle to the best advantage. The methods described in this book have been used for many years to fit a large number of blue ribbon and championship animals. By following these methods the reader may increase his skill in readying his dairy cattle for the show ring and the sale ring.

This book is dedicated especially to young breeders, to members of the 4-H Club and Future Farmers, and to the farmer-breeders, who want to show their cattle or consign them to a sale.

County agents, vocational agriculture teachers, and leaders of young rural people also may find this book helpful in teaching their groups how to correctly fit dairy cattle.

I would like to express my appreciation to the following persons whose advice and assistance aided materially in the preparation of this book:

To George Baur, Maurice Core, Dr. John Foley, Dr. Joe Heger, Dean Kingston, Myra Kingston, Roy Seitz,

and William Shenton for their help in taking the pictures used in this book. To Delbert Kingston, superintendent of the Curtiss Candy Company for supplying the pictures of individual animals owned by Curtiss Candy Company, and for the encouragement he gave me in writing this material.

To William Hitz, Rosebud Farm, Polk City, Iowa, for the use of his cattle in illustrating some of the steps in fitting cattle, and to Fred Idtse, secretary of the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association, for permission to use the Unified Score Card of the dairy breeds. To Harry Strohmeyer and John Carpenter, livestock photographers, for permission to use pictures taken by them.

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JACK SPEARING
June, 1952

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