

Milton Brubaker: 40 years of service to the Ayrshire cow

BY MARTHA J. GEHRINGER LITTTZ — To many, Milton Brubaker's name is synonymous with Pennsylvania Ayrshires.

He has worked with the Ayrshire cow since 1934 and has been active in the association since 1944. He has served the state and southeast associations in every office. Currently Brubaker is secretary-treasurer of the state association.

Brubaker started in the dairy and retail milk business in 1932 by making home deliveries with milk from his herd. This was a common marketing approach and the field was filled with strong competition Brubaker noted.

This competition spurred him to seek a registered breed of cows that would increase his test and provide him with a more marketable product.

At that time northern Lancaster County was not strong in either the Jersey or Guernsey breed, leaving him a choice of Ayrshires or Brown Swiss. His choice of the Ayrshire cow came after viewing the breeds at the Farm Show in 1934. He liked the beauty and style of the Ayr-

shires and the association provided more information and assistance in locating cows, Brubaker noted.

Ayrshire milk with its cream advantage also provided Brubaker with some outstanding selling points. "Look at our creamline," he would tell potential customers.

This milk was also scientifically proven to be a soft curd milk with small fat globules. "It was the best milk for babies, invalids and anyone with digestive problems," Brubaker said.

"We never had any outstanding production records but we always kept the housewife supplied," he proudly reflected. "In fact, many of my customers preferred Ayrshire milk and could detect differences when other milk was served," he added. "Sometimes when away from home, the children would tell their mothers, 'This milk isn't as good as at home,'" Brubaker remembers with a smile.

Brubaker's family has been in the dairy business since 1873. His father pioneered the retail milk business for Brubaker when glass



Milton Brubaker

milk bottles became common in 1905. In 1922 however, he sold out. Brubaker's re-entry into the dairy business lasted until 1979 when he too dispersed his herd.

"No young folks were interested in continuing and my wife and I

decided to slow down somewhat," Brubaker said.

However, instead of slowing down he merely shifted gears and became more active in church and community affairs. He has been a 4-H leader for 32 years and is active on the dairy promotion committee.

"I believe in the 4-H clubs. Its one of the best things for developing farm youths," Brubaker noted. His son Jim went through the 4-H program and showed the grand champion 4-H Ayrshire in his first year.

His activities with the association have also escalated since his "retirement."

He was instrumental in establishing the Spring Calf and Heifer Sale and the Ayrshire calf award program, which annually awards a calf to an outstanding FFA youth.

The Pennsylvania young sire committee has also benefitted from his input. This is one program that he is particularly pleased with.

"This is one thing that will help the breed and prove more bulls.

This program has gained cooperation from all breeders across Pennsylvania and will help get proofs in record time," Brubaker said.

The committee is sending their seventh young sire into sampling and has received a plus proof on the first sire produced in this program Brubaker explained.

He has also managed consignment sales on the state and private levels. He served as Sales Manager for the Pennsylvania Ayrshire Association, the SE Ayrshire Club and the Central Ayrshire Club until his resignation from this post in 1983.

An enthusiastic breeder for many years and a lifelong supporter of the Ayrshire cow, Brubaker use every opportunity to promote his favorite bovine species.

He is optimistic about the Ayrshire's future as he sees an increased interest in the breed from new sources. Brubaker credits this interest to the cow's efficiency in converting feed to milk. Also top animals can purchased at reasonable prices.

Brubaker's promotional efforts can be seen on his farm which he presently rents to Stanley Miller and his mixed herd of Guernseys and Ayrshires. Miller is in the process of acquiring Ayrshires as fast as possible.

The most recent activity which has dominated Brubaker's time has been the planning of the National Convention which will take place next week, April 22 to 25.

"Everybody in Pennsylvania is cooperating and every committee is working on schedule," Brubaker reported.

At week's end registrations from more than 400 breeders and agribusiness people had come in from across the country and Canada, well exceeding the anticipated turnout.

As Brubaker noted, "Everybody wants to come and see what we have in Pennsylvania."

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