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

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There's a 'System' at Buitenzoerg

An attractive sign calls passers to stop for a look-see at the Buitenzoerg herd of classy Ayrshires and the big born and bred silo 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 cow fits the hens with "spectacles" to prevent cannibalism.

BY GEORGE N. ANGEL.
Staff Representative, The Washington Farmer

As yet there are only about 45 acres in hay, and usually all of that goes into silo. In fact, there is a great deal yet to be done—even some land clearing— to put Buitenzoerg Ayrshires on a par with their counterparts on the purebred Ayrshire herd numbers over 80, the 40-in-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," twelve "fair," and twelve "average" of all 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. LeCoe, who owns the farm and the farm,Groenman, who manages it for him, feel pretty compliment about the results they have already. Since the Lyden attorney, who is also secretary of the Northwest Ayrshire Breeders' association, plunged into the wilderness near Cutler in Whatcom county and started cutting a hundred acres of a family possession, and since Groenman, who had the advantage of wide experience in the "old country," and on one of Washington's public farms, joined him in 1935.

The farm sign blossoms brightly beside the Salmon.
Blaine highway, 15 miles from Bellingham. Farm and home lie on Sunriver road, just beyond. The 150 acres belonged to the LeCoe family, which bought it from the homesteader, and Ralph LeCoe managed it several years, then bought it and really started combing its hair.

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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 assured.

This is the "system" at Buitenzoerg, and it is being applied to some of the top blooded Holstein in Canada or the eastern United States.

Oh, yes, the system includes feeding properly, too, and slauge is one of the big items in that as indicated at the outset of this story. Many slauge makers have found it advantageous to add a little slauge into the grain mix as a means of increasing acidity and augmenting preservation. Molasses wasn't obtainable at Buitenzoerg farm so they went right ahead and emulsi cow feed without it. Now that's regular practice—another part of the "system" — in filling two 30-ton silos, according to Groenman.

"There's never a bit of spoilage except a few inches on top," he said. "At the end of the year, I never have a cow for a week,"

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

For cutting he uses a Letz "mixed feed maker," You can thrust with it, and it is of the same design as at the same time. You can do almost anything with it,"

The Buitenzoerg herd was more or less nondescript when Groenman came, but that fall everything was disposed of except a registered bull and three females, butting from Edenhall farm at Sandwick, British Columbia; a bull, Edenhall Bachelor, and one of the cows was of the old Robbithood (Clee) breeding, well known to western Ayrshire fanciers, and the bull had 500-pound production heaving. From British Columbia also came Footprint, a grandson of the world famous "Honey, suckle," highest producing Ayrshire in Canada in 1936, 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 LeCoe & Groenman secured three eastern heifers and a bull calf, Sycamore Attractor, son of Pennhurst Advance and he by Pennhurst Man of War with 68 daughters averaging 321 pounds in 365 days. Advance himself one of the birds that was not much different in type the Lyden Ayrshires, and Groenman says that he had 324 pounds in 365 days. Advance himself one of the birds that was not much different in type the Lyden Ayrshires, and Groenman says that he had 324 pounds in 365 days.

LAST May he was joined by another top-notch, the 3-year-old Springfield Golden Cross, from the Glen Eden farm sale at Longley, 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 Royal Dairy show, son of a imported bull that four times was champion at the Royal Winter fair in Toronto. Golden Glow's Dam made 323 pounds at 3 years and 318 at maturititty. Springfield Golden Cross' dam was first prize 2-year-old in milk at the Royal, but it was he that Groenman bought and sold to him to Groenman. Three fresh before the sale averaged 40 pounds of milk daily, and first to freshen of the three which Groenman brought home with the bull produced 45 pounds in 35 days.

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

But they are counting at Buitenzoerg not only on bulls but on "cows," 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 Buitenzoerg. There are four each of Graybrook Royal Lady and of Grandview Rena, the latter from Schraun Brothers' at Cleverdale and granddaughter of the world record Ayrsgow Velda with 11,556 pounds of milk and 1335 of fat in 365 days on three-time milk.

The only record exceeding this is that of the Washington Holstein with 1492 pounds on four-time. Rena's first daughter made almost 400 pounds with first calf, Royal Lady was bred by Graybrooke in British Columbia but was picked up from a neighbor. Groenman gave

Wading Water Helps Control Ox Waxbal

CREEKS and shallow lakes are not the stockman's solution of the ox waxbal problem, but the dalrynman who has a fine little creek meandering through his place is well advised to take advantage of it. Louis A. Bonnorp of Kittitas county, and he submits his cow beautified with waxbal as an exhibit. All to prove it. The trouble is, he argues, that only a few stockmen can have a creek or a washalake.

"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 creeks."

Feet flies lay eggs about the heels of cattle, where they are moist and warm, but later, when perches 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.

Bonnor's fine herd of Guernseys was growing in a rich, irrigated clover pasture when THIS FARMER man called. Its heavy growth the dalrynman 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 Bonnor place consists of 30 acres of well situated irrigated land, and pasture and hay are its big products. His hay stacks are among that great army of stacks that overlooks the queen of hay-producing valleys which has made Ellensburg the thriving little city it is.

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

The LeCoe's charming home is a resort for breeders from far and near. He has practiced law 30 years, he explains, and likes to talk about something else, preferably cows and preferably Ayrshires, but he is not choosy. Naturally he repays 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, 13 Washington and Oregon herds were gone over and 331 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 Tassel, 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 80.83 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.