

THE HEREFORD CATTLE.

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Introduction.

The reason this subject has been selected for so vast an investigation, comes from our eager interest in the Herefords, and the object to gather as much information as possible that will be valuable to ourselves and others.

We have endeavored to shun partiality whenever it appears, and have in every case tried to gather the exact truth and correct meaning from all information offered. We started with a view of proving the Hereford breed of cattle to be the most profitable beef animal for the stockman, both ranchman and breeders of pure blooded stock.

History.

The Hereford cattle originated in Herefordshire, England, at an early date (Not known) but we have men writing on the merits of the breed as early as 1660.

Some of the early writers are Speed, Marshall, Culley, Cambell, Garrad, Duncumb, Knight, John Lawrence and Youatt. The Hereford's white face has always been a distinguishing feature, their hair was of a medium red, their form, however, was more rangy than the Hereford of the present day.

Mr. T. F. B. Sotham was the first man of prominence to import the Hereford to America, and he has proven himself an honest breeder by making it his life work and always directing his energy to the improvement of the breed.

Since importation they have found much favor in American ^{markets} ~~lands~~, both for beef and breeding purposes, the greater part of the large ranches in the West being stocked with them. The breeders of Herefords in America have done much for the breed, always working for individual merit rather than pedigree. Among the things improved has been the form, which has been made more blocky. The constitution has been made more hardy, and the disposition more gentle and docile.

The honest spirit, and care of the Hereford breeders in America has been of such a nature as to make the Hereford of today the pride and glory of the feed yard and the never ceasing victor of the show ring.

The following is the substance of information given by the most successful breeders in 17 states. These states represent all parts of the United States. From this we feel that we are placed in a position that enables us to draw conclusions that are based on material sufficient to substantiate them.

Why did you choose the Hereford?

F. O. Bunting, Drews Valley, Oregon. Early maturity, stands a great deal of exposure, demands more money on the market.

H. H. Clough, Elyria, Ohio. I first bred the best type of Short Horn beef cattle, my experience proved them to be deficient in the amount of milk given, it not being sufficient for the support of calf. They were also expensive in feed lot. I then chose the Hereford for their easy keeping, early maturity and their offspring could be sold for more money and at an earlier age than any other beef breed. My experience has been such that I conclude I have made no mistake.

C. G. Comstock & Son, Independence, Missouri. For their superior feeding qualities, early maturity and kind disposition.

Cottrell Bros., Irving, Kansas. By experience they have proven to be the best breed. Have better market with the feeders on account of their early maturity.

Colin Cameron, Lochiel, Arizona. Experience with other breeds proved the Herefords to be the best suited for range purposes.

E. M. Gillet, Verona, Maryland. Kind disposition, uniform marking, early maturity, their adaptness to wide range of climate and their ability to rustle.

Giltner Bros. Eminence, Kentucky. Because of great demand for Hereford bulls among range men.

H. Hudnall, Salt Lake City, Utah. Vigorous constitution, prolific-ness, early maturity and easy keepers.

H. Johnson, Watertown, South Dakota. Because of the increased profit they afforded over all other breeds. The demand for Hereford bulls on the range, and also because they stock a large ranch with cattle.

W. M. Morgan, Irving, Kansas. Because of their kind disposition, their rustling qualities, easy keepers and superior beef qualities. Their adaptation to wide range of climate and their superior flavor of flesh.

F. A. Nave, Attica, Indiana. Because they mature early, excellent grazers and have always found them superior to all other breeds in the feed lot.

E. W. Pointing, Moweaqua, Illinois. Because of their superior feeding qualities, early maturity, their ability as grazers and their ableness to withstand the cold. I had both Short Horns and Herefords in my herd at first but found the Hereford to be superior in the above points and so discarded the Short Horns.

C. W. Redhead, Des Moines, Iowa. I chose them after a very careful comparison with the Short Horns. I was more careful with the Short Horns but after the first winter I was convinced that the Herefords were the best because of their rustling qualities and making their flesh better under the same conditions.

B. C. Rhone, Fort Worth, Texas. From experience with the Short Horns and Herefords on the range I chose the latter.

W. L. Richards, Dickinson, North Dakota. Because they are admitted to be the beef breed best adapted to range conditions. They

have proven themselves to be so with me as I have handled both the Short Horns and Herefords.

P. G. Scott, Las Animas, California. Bred Pole Angus until they proved unprofitable and then invested in Herefords because of great demand for them on the market, their early maturity and hardiness.

C. A. Stannard, Emporia, Kansas. From experience with the Galloways and Short Horns found the Herefords to be better rustlers, more able to withstand the cold and also mature quicker. They have a quiet disposition.

Steele Bros., Belvoir, Kansas. Their ability as grazers, early maturity, good feeders and their ability to adapt themselves to any and all climates and conditions.

John Sparks, Reno, Nevada. Because of their early maturity and hardiness.

E. W. Simpson, Wilson, North Carolina. Early maturity, requires little feed to fatten, adapted to a great range of climate, their kind disposition, their precocity, uniform marking and because they were especially a beef breed, and not the dual purpose as it is impossible to have perfection in beef and dairy qualities in the same individual.

Thomas O. Taylor, Sanbornton, New Hampshire. Best general beef breed, early maturity, require little feed to fatten and a kind and docile disposition.

Whitman & Son, Canyon City, Texas. Because of their superior beef qualities.

A. Spooner, Mandann, Iowa. Because of their long, deep, broad body and short legs. Their uniform color and marks, also their kind

disposition and the demand for Hereford bulls on the western ranches.

How long have you handled them?

Bunting. Graded stock, 12 years. Pure blooded stock, 1 year.

Clough. For 20 years.

Comstock & Son. 10 years.

Cameron. 20 years.

Cottrell Bros. For six years.

Giltner Bros. For three years.

Gillet. 10 years.

Johnson. Four years.

Hudnall. 21 years.

Morgan. 60 years with great success.

Nave. 20 years.

Pointing. 30 years.

Rhone. 12 years with pure breds, and 18 years spent in grading cattle.

Redhead. For 10 years with great satisfaction.

Richards. 12 years.

Scott. 12 years.

Spooner. Five years.

Steele Bros. 11 years.

Sparks. 20 years.

Simpson. Six months.

Stannard. 13 years with great satisfaction and success.

Taylor. 20 years.

Whitman & Son. 35 years.

What strains do you prefer?

Bunting. Lord Wilton and Grove 3rd.

Cameron. Sir Richard 2nd, Anxiety and Lord Wilton.

Comstock and Son. Anxiety, Lord Wilton and Grove 3rd.

Cottrell Bros. Anxiety & Lord Wilton.

Giltner Bros. Anxiety and Lord Wilton.

Gillet. Wilton and Grove 3rd.

Hudnall. Anxiety.

Johnson. Grove 3rd, Lord Wilton and Anxiety.

Morgan. Anxiety and Lord Wilton.

Nave. Individual merit regardless of pedigree. Care nothing about strains.

Pointing. Grove 3rd, Anxiety and Lord Wilton.

Redhead. The ancient Britton line.

Rhone. Grove 3rd., Lord Wilton, Garfield and Anxiety.

Scott. Anxiety and Lord Wilton.

Stannard. Anxiety, Grove 3rd and Lord Wilton.

Steele Bros. Anxiety, Lord Wilton, Grove 3rd and Horase.

Sparks. Grove 3rd, Anxiety and Lord Wilton.

Spooner. Lord Wilton, Grove 3rd, Earl of Shadland.

Simpson. Lord Wilton, Grove 3rd, Anxiety and Garfield.

Taylor. Lord Wilton and Anxiety.

Whitman & Son. Corrector, Ancient Brittan.

What is your ideal type as to form?

Bunting. Low and blocky.

Comstock & Son. Low and very thick set, short legs, with well developed fore and hind quarters.

Cottrell Bros. Low blocky animal with short and straight legs.

Gillet. Low down, thick chest, straight back, belly and sides, small head and fore and hind quarters coming well down and being filled well out.

Giltner Bros. Short body and legs, deep loins, fore and hind quarters well developed and short neck and head.

Clough. Medium size, straight top and bottom line, short head, legs straight and wide apart.

Hudnall. Large girth, good straight top and bottom line.

Johnson. Broad back, deep loins and short legs. A short and broad face bearing a kind eye.

Morgan. Low form, short leg, broad back and hind quarters well filled out.

Nave. Low, blocky animal with just as much scale as possible without loss of quality.

Pointing. The female should have a feminine appearance, a wide chest short legs, the hind ones being straight. A good wide back, and well developed loins. Well padded over crops, and a well sprung rib. Horns drooping.

Rhone. Blocky, low down, good loins and quarters.

Redhead. Symetrical animal, back must be good, good front, good hind quarters and a good bread basket.

Richards. Low heavy set, hind and fore quarters well developed, small head and a well sprung rib.

Spooner. Low set, medium length of body, full twist and broad loins. Short neck and face.

Scott. Straight top and under line, good length of body, muzzle short and fine, neck short and thick, strong and well laid shoulders.

Stannard. Long body with short legs. Back broad and fore and hind quarters well filled out.

Sparks. Low and heavy set.

Simpson. As near like a shoe box as possible, a perfect block.

Hind and fore quarters especially well developed.

Steele Bros. Short with broad back, short neck, short legs and the front pair well apart.

Taylor. Short leg, heavy quarters, round barrel, straight back.

Wide head and short neck.

Whitman & Son. Low and thick, fore and hind quarters well developed, rib well sprung.

Do you consider them especially well adapted to range conditions?

Bunting. Yes, better than all other, this is where they shine over all of them in Oregon.

Clough. I consider them the best.

Comstock & Son. Yes.

Cottrell Bros. Yes, better than all others.

Giltner Bros. Yes, excellent.

Hudnall. I do.

Johnson. Yes I do, especially in this section of the country, the climate is quite severe and I know from experience that the Hereford is far more profitable on the range than any other beef breed.

Morgan. I do in every respect.

Nave. I consider them especially well adapted for range conditions.

Cameron. They have no equal.

Pointing. Their hardiness and ability to adapt themselves to existing conditions fit them perfectly for this. I consider them

superior to all others for the range.

Redhead. I consider them better sires than any other on the range.

Rhone. I do, and especially better than others for the Southern climate.

Scott. Yes, excellent.

Simpson. Yes, because of their ability to mature with little food and also their disposition as rustlers.

Sparks. Yes.

Steele Bros. I consider them superior to all others for this purpose.

Spooner. Yes they are excellent for the range. They adapt themselves very readily to surrounding conditions.

Stannard. Yes.

Whitman & Son. I do, they have proven this to be a great point in their favor in Texas.

What is the weight of your animals at six and twelve months of age?

Bunting. No record.

Clough. Six months, 600 pounds. Twelve months, 1200 pounds.

Comstock and Son. Six months, 550 pounds. Twelve months, 1000 pounds

Cameron. 840-900 pounds at nine months.

Cottrell Bros. Six months, 500 pounds. Twelve months, 1100 pounds.

Gillet. Bulls. Six months, 500 to 600.pounds. Twelve months 1000.

Heifers. Six months, 400 to 500. Twelve months 800 pounds.

Giltner. Six months, 600 pounds. Twelve months, 1200 pounds.

Hudnall. Six months, 450. Twelve months, 900 pounds.

Johnson. Bulls. Six months, 400 pounds. Twelve months 600 pounds.

Heifers. Six months, 250 to 400. Twelve months 500 pounds.

These are raised under strictly range conditions.

Morgan. Heifers. Six months, 500 pounds. Twelve months 850 pounds.

Bulls. Six months, 600 pounds. Twelve months 1000 pounds.

Nave. Heifers. Six months, 480 pounds. Twelve months, 960 pounds.

Bulls. Six months, 600 pounds. Twelve months, 1200 pounds.

Given good attention.

Pointing. Heifers. Six months, 450 pounds. Twelve months 950 pounds

Bulls. Six months 560 pounds. Twelve months 1100 pounds.

Richards. 500 to 800 pounds.

Stannard. Six months 550 pounds. Twelve months, 1000 to 1100 pounds.

This is without any extra care whatever.

Rhone. No record.

Redhead. Six months, 600 pounds. Twelve months, 1200 pounds.

Spooner. Heifers. Six months, 400 pounds. Twelve months 850 pounds.

Bulls. Six months, 500 pounds. Twelve months 1000 pounds.

Steele Bros. Six months, 450-550 pounds. Twelve months 900-1100.

Scott. No record.

Sparks. Six months, 500 pounds. Twelve months, 800-10000 pounds.

Taylor. Six months, 500 pounds. Twelve months 1000 pounds.

Whitman & Son. Six months, 500 pounds. Twelve months, 1000 pounds.

Our cattle only gets feed two and one half months out of a year.

Do your cows give enough milk for the support of their calves?

Bunting. Where cattle are matured on the range, the Herefords are
the best milkers we have.

Clough. Ninty nine cows out of one hundred can support calves in
fine condition.

Comstock and Son. Yes, they give plenty for calf, although they are n
not a milking breed.

Giltner. Yes, they give more than is required.

Gillet. Yes, some of my cows give a great deal more than the calf can use.

Hudnall. Yes.

Pointing. On good grass they do, when fitting for the show and am obliged to keep cows in barns we use nurse cows instead of feeding the calves so much grain.

Richards. Yes, always.

Sparks. Yes.

Simpson. Yes, unless you wish to push them for extra rapid growth, and then for two months made gains of an average of 20 pounds per week up to two months.

Spooner. Yes they give plenty of milk for the calf under ordinary circumstances, but if it the desire to make a show animal out of the calf, and make as large a growth as possible, it is necessary to put in a nurse cow.

Scott. Yes, gives plenty of milk when not too fat. Some are extra good milkers.

Taylor. Yes.

What is your opinion as to feeding young animals for flesh?

Bunting. Keep in extra good flesh at all times.

Clough. For breeding do not feed for flesh.

Comstock and Son. If for breeding purposes do not feed for flesh, it injures them.

Cottrell Bros. I would not advise to begin feeding for flesh too early as it is liable to injure the calves health.

Cameron. Full feed from time of birth.

Gillet. Should be fed protein feed in order to keep them gaining, but should not have feed that will fatten them when young, it is liable to injure their breeding qualities.

Giltner Bros. Keep in good growing condition but do not put on flesh.

Johnson. I feed my beef cattle to make baby beef.

Morgan. They should be fed ~~such~~ feed that will keep them in good growing condition but not fatten them too rapidly if intended for breeding purposes it will injure them.

Nave. Do not push young animals too rapidly for flesh, keep them in good growing condition.

Pointing. Keep calves in good growing condition. I do not advise pushing them if they are to be used for breeding purposes.

Rhone. Never have fed for beef.

Redhead. I believe in giving plenty of muscle forming food with plenty of exercise in order to give a wealth of lean meat instead of a surplus of fat.

Sparks. Keep calves in good thrifty condition if for the market they should be fed from birth.

Spooner. I would not advise feeding the young animal for flesh, but rather for the development of bone and muscle, for if pushed too hard when young it weakens their constitution.

Sampson. Keep calves in good thrifty condition and fatten when ready for market, never let them stop growing.

Steele Bros. If it is the desire to make "baby Beef" I would push them from the time they were dropped until time for market.

The Herefords are excellent for this purpose.

Taylor. The earlier they are matured, the better.

Whitman & Son. If for breeding purposes I would only feed such as to keep them in good growing condition.

Would you advise a young man to raise pure blooded animals for fancy prices, or for the range and expect prices ranging from \$75 to \$150?

Bunting. Should be governed by conditions if possible sell for fancy prices, otherwise sell for range prices. Big money in both.

Clough. Would advise a selection of herd and sell to both markets.

Comstock & Son. For fancy market.

Cottrell Bros. I would advise to raise for both markets and reap harvest from both.

Gillet. Depends on the amount of experience he has had with cattle, his situation and business qualities. If unexperienced I would advise raising for range market.

Geltner Bros. Would advise both, sell best animals to fancy market, poorer ones for range.

Hudnall. Advise to raise for range.

Morgan. I would advise a young man to raise for the range market.

Johnson. Advise both, do not expect much, be careful in foundation of herd.

Pointing. Would advise him to do both. Sell the more common stock to range and keep the better one for fancy market.

Redhead. For both, as they go very well hand in hand. If you get on that is especially well merited it can easily be fitted for fancy markets.

Rhone. Would depend upon location and herd, but I would advise both.

Richards. No. The cost is too great, and requires a great deal of experience that can be had only by working with cattle.

Scott. Advise to raise for range, it is not so risky. If well situated it is easy to branch to fancy market.

Simpson. For range market, is less expensive for inexperienced.

Cannot compete with old veteran breeders when first starting.

Spooner. I would advise first to raise for range, as the investment in individuals is not so great, as for fancy animals, but as business grows would take up fancy animals.

Stannard. Advise both. Select only those animals that are especially merited for the fancy market.

Steele Bros. Raise for the fancy market, and build up a reputation, and the range trade will follow.

Whitman & Son. If with limited means I would advise raising for the range, but as capital increase, I would build up a fancy herd. There is both satisfaction and money in show herds.

What does it cost you to raise your animals up to twelve months of age?

Bunting. Average \$20.

Comstock. No record.

Cottrell Bros. About \$25 to \$30.

Giltner Bros. Average \$20.

Clough. Interest on money invested in cow included, it cost \$100.

This is owing to high price of feed and land in the east.

Johnson. For breeding purposes it requires \$40, if raising steers it only requires \$20.

Hudnall. \$15.

Morgan. Calves nine months old \$20. I let them run with mothers until six months old.

Redhead. For the fancy market where extra care and feed are required it will take \$50 to raise to twelve months, for range, the cost is about one half.

Rhone. No record.

Stannard. Without extra care, the average is generally \$24.

Spooner. The average is about \$20.

Sparks. \$50.

Scott. Average \$25.

Steele Bros. No record, but will say that a bushel of corn and a little alfalfa will go farther with a Hereford than any other breed on earth.

Whitman & Son. \$25 for range cattle to \$50 or \$75 for fancy animals.

What prices do you get for your animals, both sexes and age?

Bunting. I sell only male stock. Calves 10 months old \$100, 12 months \$125, 15 months \$150, extra good yearlings \$150.

Cameron. Females \$100 to \$200. Males, \$75 to \$125.

Clough. Average \$175.

Comstock & Son. Average at 10 months \$150 to \$175.

Cottrell Bros. Bulls 12 months \$100 to \$200, heifers the same.

Gillet. Six months, \$100 to \$150. Bred cows \$300 and upwards.

Giltner Bros. \$200 to \$1000, depends upon quality.

Hudnall. \$125 at six months.

Johnson. Both sexes average \$175.

Morgan. Range price for animals nine months old is \$100 for both sexes.

Nave. Small calf, \$100. Mature animals, extra fine, \$7500.

Pointing. Females at 12 months \$150. Males at 12 months \$125.

Redhead. All my bulls sell for more than \$150, age makes no difference.

Females are in greater demand.

Richards. 12 months \$50 to \$100.

Rhone. Females \$200. Males \$250.

Scott. \$100 to \$150 at 12 months.

Sparks. \$200 at eight months.

Spooner. Individuals 12 months old, home sold, \$150 to \$200.

Stannard. Both sexes at 15 months \$350.

Steele Bros. 12 months old, average \$175.

Whitman & Son. 12 months \$125 to \$500.

Taylor. \$25 to \$150 for calves.

Do you raise your animals for the fancy market?

Bunting. Yes I raise them fit for fancy markets.

Cameron. For both markets.

Clough. For both.

Comstock & Son. Principally for fancy market.

Cottrell Bros. I am just beginning to raise for the fancy market, have found the range trade to be profitable but believe the two combined will pay better.

Giltner. Yes, I raise for fancy market, also for range.

Gillet. Raise for both, cost is not a great deal more, it is more than realized in the profit.

Hudnall. No.

Johnson. For both, range principally.

Morgan. I do not.

Nave. I do.

Pointing. Raise for both markets, the cost is considerably more for fancy market but I consider it a good investment.

Rhone. I raise for fancy market, but the most of my cattle go to the range.

Redhead. I raise for both. I find that it is very satisfactory and profitable.

Richards. No, the risk is too great.

Steele Bros. I raise for fancy market, I also have quite a range trade.

Scott. For both, principally for range.

Sparks. Most certainly.

Spooner. For range market.

Stannard. For both markets.

Taylor. Fancy market.

Whitman & Son. Principally for range markets, although a few for fancy market.

In what respects do you consider the superior to other breeds?

Bunting. Mature at an earlier age, better rustlers, can stand more exposure and demand higher prices than any other breed.

Clough. Uniform color and size, largest per cent of valuable meat and smallest per cent of waste. Kind and docile disposition, early maturity, strong constitution and a greater demand on the market.

Gillet. Early maturity, kind dispositions, low blocky form, strong constitution, regularity in breeding, hardiness and their uniformity in size and markings. Also their never ceasing appetite.

Giltner Bros. Greater demand, ranchman consider them typical for range purposes, early maturity, and great size, uniformity in color, requires less feed for subsistence.

Johnson. They are the best rustlers, mature earlier, are of a uniform size and color, and are in a greater demand than any

other beef breed.

Hudnall. Vigorous constitution, prolificness, early maturity and easy keepers.

Pointing. Because of their hardiness, they are adapted to a wider range of climate, their form is lower, they put on a greater percentage of high priced beef, and the calf when born gets up much quicker than any other and they are very regular in their breeding.

Richards. Mature earlier, with less cost as to feed and care.

Sparks. Hardiness and early maturity.

Simpson. From experience and observation I find them to mature much earlier and on less feed than any other breed, also their kind and rustling disposition and ability to adapt themselves to a greater range of climate.

Scott. We think the Hereford superior to all others for range purposes, there is also a greater demand for them, they mature much earlier and are more prolific.

Spooner. Uniformity in color, better feeders, both in the yards and on the range, mature earlier, kinder disposition, and have more nearly the typical beef form.

Conclusion.

The following conclusions are drawn from the information gathered from breeders in 17 states.

1. The herefords are better adapted to range conditions than any other beef breed of the day.
2. The Herefords require less food to produce the same amount of beef in the same time than any other beef breed.
3. They are capable of maturing earlier.
4. They have a more docile and gentle disposition.
5. They are more prolific.
6. The great objection that is held against the Hereford, that is that cows do not give enough milk for support of calf, by other breeders seems to be a mistake. This question was asked of a number of breeders and all of them answered in the affirmative. The only time that nurse cows are used is when the breeder wishes to push the calf to as great a gain as possible, and then this is done instead of feeding so much grain, and in order to push the calf from an earlier age.
7. The most prominent strains are Anxiety, Lord Wilton and Grove 3rd.
8. The most favorable type as to form is an animal with short straight legs, good fore and hind quarters, full shoulder vein, short neck and straight top and bottom line.
9. The average cost of raising an animal up to 12 months is \$26.
10. The average weight at 12 months for females is 950 pounds, for males 1050.

11. The average price at twelve months is \$190.

12. The majority of breeders would advise a young man to first raise cattle for the range market, but as soon as he becomes an experienced breeder to breed for both markets, as the cost is no greater when the breeder becomes acquainted with the business.