

Neither does our country set great value on artificially screwed up high milk production of individual animals especially when the fat percentage is not taken into account. One shrugs one's shoulders when one reads of the fuss that is made in England about so-called "2000 (sometimes even 3000) gallon cows.

We attach great importance to milk testing. More than 65 per cent of the milk cows in Friesland are regularly tested. Not only the milk production but the fat percentage is regularly determined and in selecting breeding cattle, greater importance is attached to the latter than to the former. By applying this method the average production of milk cows inscribed in the Friesian herd-book has been raised from 4'357 kilos in 1912 to 4.586 kilos in 1924 and the fat percentage from 3.20 to 3.52 per cent and the production of butter from 150 to 175 kilos within the same period.

We have no duties on agricultural products.

(From the Countryman, July 1927).

### LAND POLICY IN EAST AFRICA.

The Governors who recently met in conference at Nairobi submitted a memorandum. It reads as follows:—

*Land* (i) There are those lands which were indubitably unoccupied and unclaimed at the time when British Government was established. (ii) There are those lands to which only there was a doubtful claim. (iii) There are lands effectively occupied by a large and settled native population. These lands mentioned in (iii) should clearly be reserved to its original native owners. In (i) and (ii) sufficient land for their own use should be secured to the native tribes originally sprinkled or wandering over it but the rest is clearly the property of the British Government to develop in the manner which it considers most suitable and effective.



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*Conclusions* (i) Wherever a native population exists, sufficient land should be secured to it to afford full opportunity for either stock breeding or dairying, or for production of crops according as the land is fit for pasture or agricultural purposes. (ii) European colonization should be encouraged wherever the climate is suitable and adequate areas are available for settlement without depriving the native population of sufficient land for its own use. (iii) The area reserved for a native tribe should be sufficient to accommodate the whole tribe together.

Then follows the labour policy which reads briefly as follows:-

*Labour* (1) The ideal in view should be to make the land put to its best economic use while also providing for the steady progress and welfare of its native inhabitants and safeguarding them against serfdom in any form whatever. (2) Steady progress cannot be secured in some areas unless every available native who shows no tendency to work is given to understand that Government expects him to do a reasonable amount of work either in production of his own reserve or in labor for wages outside it. (3) In areas where the first alternative is not within his reach the native should be definitely encouraged to go out to labor. In others where both alternatives are open to him the Government is not concerned to impose either upon him.

4. While communications are undeveloped the native should be instructed to grow sufficient foodstuff for his own livelihood.

5. In establishing markets for produce, it is desirable that the process of production should be regulated so as to secure the most efficient methods and the highest possible standard of production. If the principles are accepted they will indicate what restrictions are necessary in the production of certain crops by natives. There is no case for debarring a native just because he is a native from growing any economical crop but there is a very strong case for debarring from production any inefficient producer who endangers other producers, whatever his race.

6. In areas open for settlement Government should encourage the growth of those crops where least labor is required and should regulate the growth of those which make heavy demands on laborers for short periods of the year.



The frequency distribution of the coefficients of inbreeding are discussed with special reference to the fact that the greatest distribution of coefficients occurs when the graph of the average percentage of inbreeding for the breed rises most rapidly.

The most popular systems of matings practised in the Clydesdale breed are discussed. Matings of the cousinship degree of consanguinity are fairly common, while half-brother half-sister matings and the mating of sire to grand daughter are only practised with the animals of very best breeding. Noteworthy examples of "nicking" are also enumerated.

The homozygosity of the Clydesdale breed relative to the condition existing in the foundation stock, has been increased by 6.2 per cent due to inbreeding alone. Line-breeding being practised almost exclusively to member of one line of descent viz. that from Darnley, together with careful selection, appears to explain the remarkable homozygosity of the breed at the present day.

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### FACTORS AFFECTING EVAPORATION OF WATER FROM SOIL.

BY E. A. FISHER, ST. ALBANS.

#### *Summary of the article. \**

Some of the factors affecting the rate of loss of water from a drying system are shortly reviewed. These factors fall into two groups: (1) the drying system itself, and (2) the environmental conditions. The Second group may include (a) diffusion of water vapour through the air, (b) bulk air movements due to (i) temperature gradients between different parts of the drying vessel, (ii) temperature lowering of the drying mass itself due to evaporation, (iii) lower density of moist air, (iv) inevitable disturbance introduced by experimental conditions such as weighing or movement of apparatus (v) the geometry of the system. It is shown that of the external factors the most important are (2-a), (2-b) (i) and (2-b) (ii); (2-b) (iv) may produce irregularities in the rate curves of air-dry granular materials; (2-b) (iii) and (2-b) (v) appear to have little or no effect.