
Book review

Bowman, J.C.: An Introduction to Animal Breeding. 2nd Edn. Studies in Biology, No. 46. London: Edward Arnold 1984. 81 pp., several figs. and tabs. Soft bound £ 3.35.

This little book has served as a useful primer in animal breeding, in presenting concisely the essentials of quantitative genetic theory and its applications in animal breeding. In this second edition, the chapter headings and sub-headings are unchanged from the first edition. Following an introductory chapter on biological variation, Mendelian genetics and single locus selection models are discussed before moving to quantitative genetic theory and heritability. Selection in theory, selection experiments and factors affecting selection responses are presented in two chapters, followed by one on inbreeding and crossbreeding. The final chapter deals with selection in practice in the context of commercial livestock breeding. New material has been included on long term selection, crossbreeding in practice (although there are two errors in Figure

6-3, and Figure 6-4 is presented without explanation, so that its interpretation is likely to be difficult for most readers) and the economics of selection programs. Given the ten years since publication of the first edition, some updating of references might have been expected, but these appear to be unchanged. Particularly in the section on long term selection, reference to experiments that have been done to evaluate the theory would have been useful. Although this book will be quite suitable for a short course on animal breeding, the chapter on quantitative genetics and heritability will confound the practical breeder and most students. Simple and useful diagrams are used effectively in other chapters, and this approach with less algebra, would have made this section more appropriate in an introductory text. Apart from this, the material is clear and well-presented.

J.S.F. Barker, Armidale

Announcement

Basic and Applied Aspects of Pollen Biology

An international meeting on pollen biology will be held at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass., USA, 8-11 July 1985.

For further information, contact either of the following: David Mulcahy, Botany Department, University of Mass., Amherst, MA 01003, USA; or Ercole Ottaviano, Genetics Institute, University of Milan, Via Celoria 26, I-20133 Milan, Italy