The Life of a Jamaica Hope Cow

Dr. Olivia Scott

*Dr. T.P. Lecky et al created the Jamaica Hope breed of cattle, which was declared a breed on June 25, 1952. The Jamaica Hope Cattle Breeders Society was formed on June 30, 1953, and the first cattle appraisal took place at farm of H. C. Cahusac, Esquire, Dean’s Valley in Petersfield Westmoreland on September 10, 1953.*

Moo, being a cow in this life ruff!
Would you exchange your life for mine?

We have a calm temperament
We could not hurt a fly
Yes we swish our tail to run the fly away
But who wants a fly to pitch on them anyway?

We are found on Dairy Farms island-wide,
Giving milk, cheese beef, and leather from hides
And although, few in number are we
We bring farmers an income any way you look at it, you see!

At times the calves endure difficult birth.
There can be a turned head and bent leg or even a breach,
and we cannot come out because of the hitch.

We have to be helped by Veterinarians so dear
And if they weren’t around, some of us would not be here.
“Hush my dear, the pain will soon be done,
Just push a little harder, you’ll see the outcome!”

Antibiotics are sometimes injected
To help get us better when we’re infected
But to make sure food safety is preserved
The Withdrawal Period must be observed
It is now mandatory, that we all have NAITs Tags in our ears
To identify from whence we came, far or near
We now have big earrings that can be seen from afar
And passports too that go wherever we are
It will be easier to track and control diseases,
With some protection from thieves, our farmers that pleases!

Some times in the year, to shows we go
Good food, good treatment, excitement and so
We get Red, Blue, or Yellow Ribbons that tickle our ear
Lots of clapping is heard, and lots of good cheer
Best Udder, Best Heifer, Best Dairy Cow!
And then to the parade to take a bow.

But where are we now? And where are we going?
Basil, Chief, Count, Comus and Design
All powerful bulls, all great Sire Lines
So drink milk all you can! Help preserve our great breed!
We are truly Jamaican and we are in need.