

Canadian Shorthorn Cows Wanted for St. Louis.

Mr. H. H. Hinds, Stanton, Mich., who is selecting the Shorthorns for the dairy cow demonstration at the St. Louis Exposition, is desirous of getting in communication with the owners of the best dairy Shorthorn cows in Canada, and for that purpose has written Mr. F. W. Hodson, Live Stock Commissioner, Ottawa, for information regarding the best method of achieving his object. He writes: "I am exceedingly anxious to locate some of the best specimens of dual purpose Shorthorn cows in existence for the purpose of securing them to enter in the dairy demonstration to be held at the St. Louis World's Fair of next year. I am aware that our Canadian friends have many specimens of this type of Shorthorns, and am hoping and expecting to receive very valuable assistance from our friends across the border. At the Columbian World's Fair of 1893 we had some very fine cows from Canada that were selected by a committee of your Shorthorn Breeders' Association, and were brought out under the auspices of the Canadian Government. I am opening correspondence with many of your breeders, and desire your very able co-operation and assistance in securing a few cows for this demonstration from the Dominion. I think the committee of the Canadian Shorthorn Herd Book Association is already moving in this matter. Of course, should we secure some cows from Canada, and I think no doubt we will, the record of their performance would go into the aggregate of the very creditable showing that the Dominion will undoubtedly make in the live stock exhibition at St. Louis next year."

Breeders who have cows of the sort described by Mr. Hinds, and who are willing to allow their animals to go to St. Louis, should at once open correspondence with that gentleman at the address given above.

Effect of Mulching Vegetables.

Mulches cause some vegetables to mature later, while with others no delay was noticed. Late spring and early fall frosts injure mulched plants more than cultivated ones, making it inadvisable to mulch very tender vegetables that require the whole season for proper development. Early spring vegetables, which require only a few cultivations, can usually be grown more cheaply by cultivation than by mulching. Furthermore, very early mulching, before the ground has become thoroughly warm, is apt to retard the growth of vegetables. Summer and fall vegetables, on the other hand, which require frequent cultivation throughout the season, are grown more cheaply by mulching than cultivation. Moreover, the yield and quality of vegetables are often improved by mulching.

Many vegetables cannot be mulched until they have become well established and the weather has become warm, thus requiring some preliminary cultivation. Such cultivation as is commonly given farm gardens is better for most vegetables in early spring than mulching, but mulching is just as surely better in midsummer than the neglect which is the common thing in farm gardens at that time of year. The Nebraska Experiment Station tests have, indeed, shown mulching to be better in many cases than the most thorough cultivation throughout the summer. Results very favorable to mulching have been secured with cabbage, tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, potatoes and sweet potatoes. In all these cases the yields have been increased, on the whole, quite decidedly by mulching, and the required labor decreased at the same time. Mulched cabbage produced larger heads than cultivated cabbage, and there was less injury from rot. The vigor of tomato plants was decreased by mulching, but the yield of fruit increased. The fruit was also cleaner and less subject to rot. Mulched cucumbers produced perfect fruits during dry periods, when the fruit from the cultivated plants were small and imperfect. The quality of potatoes has not been hurt by mulching, except in wet places.

In case of transplanted onions, salisfy, beets, carrots, parsnips, peas and melons the results are not decidedly in favor of either of the two methods, both the yields and the required labor being about the same. From recent tests, it is thought unwise to mulch drilled onions, lettuce and sweet corn. With drilled onions, the stand of plants is usually hurt by mulching. With lettuce it is also difficult to spread the mulch without injury to the stand, and the crop is harvested so early that it is not worth while to mulch. With sweet corn the yields are about the same in a normal season whether mulched or cultivated, but this crop requires so few cultivations that mulching is hardly profitable. In a wet season mulching decreases the yield decidedly.—R. A. Emerson, in American Cultivator.

The green crop plowed under is composed of three chief parts. About four-fifths of it is water, or from 80 to 88 per cent.; about one-fifth of the whole, or 2 per cent., is composed of what is called the ash ingredients, and the rest is the so-called organic matter. This organic matter, which is really the most useful part of the green manure, makes up, therefore, about a twelfth of the whole mass put under the ground.

Cupid in the Country.

Young and bashful Henry Dorn and Jenny Hicks were standing on opposite sides of the fence that enclosed the Dorn farm. Jenny's elbows were on the top rail, and her chin was in the palms of her hands. Henry was standing a little off, wistfully but modestly contemplating his pretty little neighbor.

"Jenny," he said, "have y' heard y're pap say how his potatoes air comin' out this year?"

"They're all little and mighty few in a hill, Henry."

Henry put out one hand and rested it on the top rail very near Jenny's elbow. "Ours is pretty good," he said. "Reckon we'll have a fair crop of 'em."

"I hope y' will."

Henry put his other hand on the rail. His position was face to face with Jenny, his hands enclosing her elbows.

"Air y' afeerd of fallin' backward?" she asked.

"Wall, it's kind o' humpy underfoot here. A plowed field's no place to stand 'thout holdin' on ter some'n."

Notwithstanding Jenny's covert intimation that Henry was edging rather close, she stood her ground.

"They say Mabel Haines is a-goin' to be married," she remarked.

"Waal, that's natel. I'd like to find some gal willin' to marry me."

"I s'pose any o' 'em would suit y'?"

"No, they wouldn't. The gal I want has blue eyes, yaller hair, and a mighty trim figure."

"Half the gals 'bout here has blue eyes and yaller hair."

"There's only one got the right shade for me."

Henry continued to pull himself forward at intervals, each time drawing a trifle nearer to Jenny's face.

"Y' better stop that," she said.

"Why?"

"Cause."

Although Jenny spoke very mildly, she frightened the bashful swain. He leaned as far back as his arms would let him and looked at her dubiously. He saw no encouragement. It did not occur to him that Jenny might stand farther from the fence. But Jenny's mild admonition was her only effort to prevent him touching her rosy lips with his whenever he had mustered the necessary courage.

"Jenny," he said, "I b'lieve y're eferl I'm goin' to kiss y'."

"No, I ain't. Y' wouldn't dare do that."

"Would y' mind?"

"Henry Dorn, y' jist stop talkin' 'bout sich things."

Henry started. He wondered how he could have been so bold. He let go his hold on the fence and stood back.

"Our brindle cow," he said, "had a calf last night."

To this bit of information Jenny made no reply. She dropped her arms on to the top rail and looked far beyond the easily discouraged Henry.

"Y're mad at me fer talkin' about kissin' y'?" he said.

"I ain't mad about y're talkin' about kissin' me," she replied.

"Y're mad from some'n. I reckoned that was it."

"What y' say?"

Henry repeated.

"Oh, y're standin' so far away I couldn't hear y'."

Henry pondered upon this remark, and a glimmer of encouragement penetrated his sluggish brain. He approached the fence, and after a few irrelevant remarks put his hands on the rail again, enclosing Jenny's round arms, though his were unbent, keeping him at a distance from the lips he coveted.

"If y' think y' kin drive me away from this fence," she said, "y're mighty mistaken."

"I ain't a-tryin'."

Henry began a process of swinging backward and forward. Several times he approached within a few inches of her lips. She neither moved nor spoke. Finally the temptation was too great for him, and as a bit of metal placed too close to a magnet will suddenly click against it, he got within an irresistible attraction and their lips met. Henry drew back, abashed.

"That was an accident," he said. "I wouldn't 'a' done it fer a quarter section o' land if I could 'a' helped it."

"And I wouldn't 'a' had y' done it fer another quarter section," replied the girl, coloring. "D'ye think I want anybody to kiss me as feels that a-way?"

"Air y' goin' to forgive me, Jenny?"

"No."

The word was spoken in a very non-committal tone, but Henry did not so understand it. He stood very near the pouting lips that had tasted so sweet, and a bit of recklessness came to him.

"Jenny," he said, "I reckon that if y' air not goin' to fergive me fer takin' one, I might as well have a dozen."

To this Jenny made no reply. She looked out toward a barn that loomed up on the crest of a distant hill and waited.

"How much madder would y' be if I took a dozen than if I took one?" he asked.

"Lots."

Henry was beginning to discover that the penalty he must pay for a kiss was not very severe. Jenny's lips were still pouting within a few inches of his, and he was thinking if one kiss had been so sweet that a dozen must be twelve times sweeter. He slowly drew nearer and nearer, giving her plenty of time to draw back. She did not move, and at last Henry was reveling in another kiss, though whether it was one long kiss or a dozen short ones, he never afterward recollected.

That was the way it began. It drifted for months before Henry said anything about marriage, and when he did Jenny had long understood that that would be the inevitable result.—Harriet Ferguson in "The 400."

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