Of course, you can

buy cheaper teas, but

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is undoubtedly the most economical and what appears to be 'cheap' in price will prove to be extravagant in use. The fresh young leaves of "Salada" will yield you generous value for your money. B115

Your Problems

Conducted by Mrs Helen Law

Mothers and daughters of all ages are cordially invited to write to this department. Initials only will be published with each question and its answer as a means of identification, but full name and address must be given in each letter. Write on one side of paper only. Answers will be mailed direct if stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed.

Address all correspondence for this department to Mrs. Helen Law, 235 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

Economist:—1. To use the liquid from a can of peas, take about one-half cupful of the peas, mash through a sieve and add to the liquid. Then add 3 tablespoons of cornstarch and 1 cup of milk. Bring to the boiling point stirring constantly. Cook for three minutes, remove, and season to taste. Serve with sodas or toasted cubes of bread. The liquid from the peas, beans and so forth contains much of the vital elements and, therefore, should be saved for future use. This liquid also contains much of the valuable vegetable protein and, if it is discarded, the food value of the product is lessened. To cream peas, drain the liquid from a can of peas and add to this liquid one-quarter cupful of milk, one tablespoonful of cornstarch. Blend in a saucepan and bring to the boiling point. Cook slowly for three minutes, then add the peas and heat until the boiling point is reached. Serve. 2. Buckwheat being now to the front and its delicious cakes so popular for breakfast, you might try the following compound to serve with them. Place in a saucepan 1 cup syrup, ½ cup water and 2 tablespoons butter. Bring slowly to the boiling point. Cook for four minutes and then beat hard with a Dover egg-beater. You will find this a good substitute for the butter and honey or maple syrup.

Country Girl:—1. The best law book for the Canadian farmer is entitled "The Canadian Lawyer," price $2.00. 2. "How to Keep Hens for Profit," by C. S. Valentine, price $1.65, is a good book on the subject. 3. The name chosen for the farm should be suggestive of something connected with it. You may find a suitable name among the following: "Clovermead," "The Lilacs," "Elmdale," "Riverside," "Sunny Heights," "Woodlawn," "The Maples," "Belleview," "Springhurst," "Cedar Hedges," "Ashlands," "Oakwood," "Fair Haven," "Fernwood," "Braeside," "Meadowlands." Or you might incorporate your own name if you prefer.

The Sunday School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON
NOVEMBER 11.

Lesson VI. Nehemiah's Prayer—Neh. 1. 1-11. Golden Text, 1 John 3. 22.

Verses 1-3. Nehemiah receives bad news concerning conditions in Jerusalem. Chislev—The ninth month of the Jewish calendar, corresponding to part of November and part of December. Twentieth year—Though no name is given, the reference must be to the reign of Artaxerxes I (Neh. 2. 1), king of Persia from B. C. 464-424; hence B. C. 445 or 444. Shushan—Or, Susa, the ancient capital of Elam, selected by Cyrus as one of the capitals of the empire founded by him. Palace—Or, "castle;" as a court official Nehemiah lived in the royal palace. Hanani—A brother, or, at least a near relative of Nehemiah (compare Neh. 7 ,2). Men out of Judah—Hanani himself may not have visited Jerusalem, but he received news from men who had come from the land of Judah; and, believing that Nehemiah would be interested he brought the men to him. Escaped . . Captivity—Jewish exiles who had returned from Babylonia prior to the days of Nehemiah; perhaps during the earlier years of Artaxerxes's reign (Ezra 4. 11, 12). They had made an attempt to rebuild the city walls, but were hindered from completing it. Province—Judah. Affliction—Conditions in Judah were bad during the century following the edict of Cyrus (compare lesson for Oct. 14); the population was small, there was much poverty, and the surrounding tribes were hostile (compare the books of Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi).

4. Nehemiah's grief. The story of the misfortunes of his fellow Jews moved Nehemiah to tears (compare the grief of Ezra, Ezra 9. 3-5; 10. 6). Certain days—His distress was not relieved by one outburst of tears; he mourned bitterly for days. During these days of mourning he gave himself to fasting and prayer. God of heaven—Postexilic Jewish theology emphasizes the transcendence of God. The expression is not found in pre-exilic writings, nor was it ever used very extensively, but Nehemiah is very fond of it.

5-11. The prayer of Nehemiah. Great and terrible—Usual attributes to the God of heaven; he is terrible toward his enemies. Covenant—Jehovah had always been loyal to the covenant established with Israel at the time of the Exodus. Lovingkindness—He always treated Israel with special consideration. Love . . . . keep commandments—The attitude of Jehovah toward men is dependent on their attitude toward him; Israel he had treated more kindly than it deserved. Pray—The participle used in Hebrew denotes continuous action (verse 4); the same idea is implied in "day and night." Confess—Old Testament prayers contain much confession, which is an element in all real prayer. In support of his petition Nehemiah reminds Jehovah of an earlier agreement and quotes words which he is said to have spoken to Moses. Scatter—The threat of dispersion is frequent in pre-exilic literature; the outcasts are the dispersed. Heavens—Babylonian inscriptions contain a similar expression, "the four quarters of heaven;" equivalent to "the ends of the earth." Place—Jerusalem, which Jehovah has chosen as his earthly dwelling place. These—The Jews struggling in Jerusalem. Redeemed—The Hebrew word is used of the freeing of slaves; the reference here is primarily to the deliverance from exile. Since Jehovah has done so much, he ought to complete the restoration (compare lesson for Oct. 7). Fear—The Old Testament term for true piety, which expresses itself in loving obedience. Thy name—Equivalent to the emphatic pronoun. To fear the name of Jehovah is essentially the same as to fear Jehovah as he has revealed himself in various ways. Prosper—In the interview already decided upon. Mercy—Or, "favor," so that the king may listen sympathetically and grant the request. How the prayer was answered is told in the next lesson.

An ordinary horse's strength, roughly speaking, is equal to that of about five men.

Grading potatoes for market increases the possibilities of sales and raises the price received. Keep the cull on the farms and save the cost of hauling.

A cheerful bed of tulips helps to welcome spring. There are many places in the home grounds where they will more than repay the cost and trouble of planting. Plant bulbs now, two or three inches deep in well drained soil, and when the earth first freezes cover them with a mulch of straw or manure, to be removed as soon as freezing weather is past next spring.

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Farm Crop Queries

Conducted by Professor Henry G. Bell

Henry G. Bell

The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of an acknowledged authority on all subjects pertaining to soils and crops.

Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. As space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.

THE GREAT PROBLEM

Less Livestock and More Grain or More Livestock and More Grain

Shall I cut down my livestock so as to be able to grow m re wheat next year? This is a question in the minds of not a few Ontario farmers to-day. Britain must have more wheat, and the food of all the allies must be increased.

Scarcity of labor and high expenses all around tempt the livestock farmer to break up more acres for grain and to cut down on his stock. Before he actually yields to this temptation he should take into consideration five points, to wit:—

1. Meat and dairy products are essential to a well rounded diet; hence, there will always be a steady demand for them.

2. At present, prices of livestock and their products are well advanced.

3. Only by keeping a good supply of livestock can roughage be most economically used on the farm.

4. The terrible war is destroying no small amount of Europe's best stock. It is said that at the present time the best herds of Holsteins are in America. When the war is over, Europe must turn to America to rebuild her livestock herds.

5. Experience has established the fact that our present acres can be made to produce greater crops, hence maintain our present quota of livestock and at the same time produce cereals for the market.

Let us illustrate the last point.

What a Typical Dairy Farm Did

The question the livestock farmer is asking is: How can I increase my net income without giving up my production of livestock? He must find his answer in more efficient methods of the production of crops, larger yields of corn, small grain and hay, which are easily within his power if he but pays attention to the up-building of the fertility of his soil by the use of fertilizers. Moreover, he can greatly increase the carrying capacity of his pastures by liberally fertilizing them. To illustrate our point, let us consider a typical dairy farm with its present carrying capacity and its capacity under more intensive methods of crop production. The size of this typical dairy farm is 176.4 acres, we will say, and its cropping system includes the following:

Hay	23.2 acres
Pasture	33.8 acres
Corn	28.1 acres
Succotash	7.1 acres
Oats	55.1 acres
Barley	9.2 acres
Wheat	6.7 acres
Minor crops, garden and homestead,	13.2 acres

Yields obtained from these crops are approximately as follows:

Corn	40 to 45 bus. per acre
Barley	31 bus. per acre
Corn stover	1¼ to 1½ tons per acre
Corn, green	10.2 tons per acre
Corn, field-cured fodder	2½ to 2¾ tons per acre
Hay	2 to 2½ tons per acre
Oats	47 bus. per acre
Wheat	14½ bus. per acre

With this yield the average farm maintains the following number of livestock:

Dairy	13
Miscellaneous cattle	12.1
Horses	6.9
Hogs	16.1
Poultry	118.4
Sheep	69.5

This number of livestock is high for the average farm; yet the relative numbers and the various kinds of stock are representative for dairy farms of Ontario. The results show that the typical farm is by no means a poor farm, nor is it poorly managed.

Results better still, however, can be obtained at a greater profit by readjustment of the farming methods. By better soil tillage and more liberal fertilization of his crops, the farmer can make his land carry considerably more live stock and at the same time produce grain and other material for sale.

Reliable Figures as to Possible Crop Increases from Fertilizers

Relative to the increases in yield of crops which can be expected from the judicious use of fertilizers, it is difficult to obtain representative figures. Perhaps the best figures that can be obtained where long-time tests have been conducted with great care, are found in the records of the Ohio Experiment Station. At this institution the judicious use of fertilizers has been studied for the last 25 years. A recent publication, entitled, "A possible Wayne County Farm" actually details for the Ohio farmer of Wayne County, the increases in yield of corn, wheat, oats and hay, which the station obtains, over the average harvested in Wayne County, as a result of the judicious use of fertilizers, combined with the use of good seed. The publication points out that if the Wayne County farmers had pursued the same methods as were employed on the grounds of the Agricultural Experiment Station, they could reasonably have expected the following increases per acre:

Corn an increase of 17 bus. per acre
Oats an increase of 12-22 bus. per acre
Wheat an increase of 14 bus. per acre
Clover hay an increase of 1220 lbs. per acre
Timothy hay an increase of 2000 lbs. per acre

These are not the final yields per acre of these crops, but they are the amounts more per acre that the Experiment Station obtained than was obtained by the average farmer of Wayne County. In other words, they show what is possible. No figures are given for the increased yield of barley at Ohio Experiment Station, but it is safe for us to figure that barley would have made approximately the same gain per acre that was obtained for wheat.

The Carrying Capacity of Pastures Can be Increased

No representative figures are available in Ohio as to the gain in the carrying capacity of pastures, as the result of top-dressing them with fertilizers. In fact, the fertilization of pasture lands is a thing rarely thought of by the farmer. In 1911 an extensive experiment was reported as having been carried out by Scotch farmers under the direction of their Highland Agricultural Society for the years 1901 to 1910, inclusive. As an average for the years 1902 to 1910, there was a gain of 68 lbs. in the live weight carried per acre on animals pasturing on plots receiving 200 lbs. of phosphoric acid per acre, as against nothing. As an average of three years, animals on plots which received no-plots which received a top-dressing carried three head of sheep more per acre throughout the average season than did the undressed plots. As an average of two years there was a gain of 103⅛ lbs. in live weight of beef cattle per annum on plots receiving a dressing, as against returns from stock pasturing on plots which received nothing.

Yield of Typical Dairy Farm

Crop	Area	Unfertilized Yield per A.	Unfertilized Total Yield	Fertilized Yield per A.	Fertilized Total Yield
Hay	23.2@	2½ tons	= 58 tons	@3 1-3 tons	= 81.2 tons
Pasture	33.8	113 days	= 113 days	@17% Increase	= 132.21 days
Corn	28.1@	45 bus.	= 1265 bus.	@62 bus.	= 2185 bus.
Succotash	7.1@	2¾ tons	= 19.3 tons		
Oats	55.1@	47 bus.	= 2590 bus.	@69 bus.	= 3802 bus.
Barley	9.2@	31 bus.	= 285 bus.	@45 bus.	= 414 bus.
Wheat	6.7@	14.5 bus.	= 97 bus.	@28.5 bus.	= 191 bus.
Minor crops & Homestead	13.2				
	176.4 acres.				

Re-figuring the Typical Farm

With these figures of actual gain in hand, then, let us re-estimate the typical dairy farm in order to ascertain what would be possible, under an intensive method of handling. Results which have been obtained show what it is possible to do on a farm approximately the size of the one in question, which closely approaches the typical 160-acre farm so common in this country. The results show what can be done by properly balancing plantfood, assuming of course that reasonably good seed combined with attention to the essentials of fertility, such as good drainage and proper soil tillage can do.

The above chart, columns 1 and 2, records the crops already harvested from the typical farm in question. In the third column is recorded the average yield per acre obtained by adding to the present yields what has been found possible at the Ohio Experiment Station as a result of the judicious use of fertilizers. When the same acreage of crops as was grown on the typical farm is estimated at these increased yields, the results are shown in the fourth column. Remember, these figures of increase in crops are not merely theoretical estimates, but they are based upon actual accomplishments. They actually show how the livestock farmer can fertilize his fields and increase their livestock carrying capacity.

To Maintain an Average

The average amount of feed consumed by the dairy cattle in the experiment in question was

Roughage,	5,840 lbs.
Grains (made up of corn, barley & oats)	542 lbs.
Pasture	166 days per cow

The Increase From Fertilization

Subtracting the original amounts obtained per acre from the various crops, from those obtained at the larger yields per acre after the crops have been fertilized, we find the following gains due to fertilization:

Hay	28.2 tons
Pasture	19.2 days
Corn	920 bushels
Oats	1220 bushels
Barley	129 bushels
Wheat	94 bushels

It is safe for us to assume that the increase in amount of corn fodder obtained would counterbalance the amount of succotash grown under the first system. Now, dividing this surplus amount of feed by the amounts of roughage, grain and pasture required per cow, the hay and pasture figures show it possible to increase the dairy herd by eight additional animals. This means that the typical dairy farm, from the products of fertilized crops, can maintain 21 head of high-grade stock instead of 13, as under the old system. It also means that beside increasing the dairy stock, there is a surplus of 898 bushels of corn to sell, 1170 bushels of oats, 101 bushels of barley, as well as an additional 94 bushels of wheat. Necessarily, this increase in grain production would make it possible to greatly increase the number of hogs kept, and possibly the number of sheep, but we shall not estimate any increase in the number of these animals, but shall estimate the value of the surplus grain at the following prices:

Corn	$1.10 a bushel
Oats	.55 a bushel
Barley	.60 a bushel
Wheat	2.00 a bushel

The increase as noted at these prices amounts to approximately $1,880. This means that the gross returns from fertilization show an increase in the carrying capacity of the farm of 8 head of high-grade dairy stock, and a gross increase in the income from the sale of surplus grain and hay of $1,880.

The 160-acre farm is probably large for the typical dairy farm of most of this country. It may be also small for others, but if a gain of eight head of cattle and $1,880 worth of grain can be made by simply fertilizing the corn, small grain and pasture land, at approximately 200 lbs. of fertilizer per acre, it is of great interest to the farmer. Such an addition entails but very little expense, with reference to labor, since the fertilizer can be applied at the same time the grain is seeded. What is possible on the dairy farm is equally as possible on the beef animal farm, since more feed both in the crib, in the granary, in the silo and in the hay-loft means that it is possible to raise or fatten off a larger herd of meat animals each year.

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Poultry

Keep fresh, clean water supplied daily.

Keep the nests clean. Burn the old nests to destroy vermin.

When there is old plaster or mortar to be had scatter in the poultry yard.

A few fruit trees can be grown in the poultry yard. There is no better place for plums.

Pale, soft combs or dark or purple combs indicate trouble. Healthy fowls have bright red, firm combs.

The late hatched chicks should not be fed with larger stock but by themselves, or they may fail to receive a proper amount of food.

Hens must be well cared for during the autumn and winter months for best results in eggs. See that fowls have sufficient room for proper exercise.

Put the poultry house in proper condition without delay. Make the roof watertight and the sides water and wind proof. Do this before cold weather.

Gather a lot of road dust now while the weather is favorable and put it away in boxes or barrels. The fowls will enjoy this in the dust boxes during winter.

The water in the runs must be kept free from contamination or disease will result.

Chicken mites, the night pest of poultry, may not always leave the fowls before daylight, as commonly supposed, but may remain in the feathers in such numbers as to make poultry possible carriers of this pest to uninfested places.

Curing Meat on the Farm.

In curing pork on the farm, be sure that the hog has been properly slaughtered and then chilled without freezing for at least 24 hours. Hams, shoulders and sides make the best smoked meat and should be trimmed of all three-cornered pieces and ragged edges. These small scraps make good sausage but poor ham. Rub the meat well with salt and leave over night. Pack in a clean hardwood barrel with the heavier hams on the bottom, the shoulders next, and the bacon on top. Good brine can be made from 10 pounds of salt, two pounds of sugar or molasses and four gallons of water to 100 pounds of meat. It is a good precaution to boil and skim the mixture. Saltpeter may be added to preserve the natural color of the meat but is harmful to the health, even if used in small quantities. Brine does not easily freeze but meat cures more rapidly if it does not become too cold. The bacon will cure in from 25 to 30 days, while the heavier hams need from 40 to 60 days. Freshen cured meat in lukewarm water for six hours. Dry and smoke with hardwood or corncobs for four to seven days. It is safer to let the fire go out at night. Well-smoked meat keeps best in a cool, dark, dry, well-ventilated place.