Preparing the Flock for Winter.

The success to be obtained from the farm flock will depend very largely on the way it has been handled during the autumn months. The plan at the Experimental Farm, Nappan, N.S., is, before the breeding season opens in the fall go through the flock, pick out all the nonproducers, poor milkers, or any that may have bad mouths or spoiled udders; also any that may be too old for breeding profitably, and discard them. In selecting out the breeding flock looks alone is not the only guide, as many times a ewe may be a profitable breeder yet be very thin, due to the fact that she has been brought down by a heavy milk flow. Good ewes should be retained in the flock as long as they will breed and feed their lambs properly.

All lambs not intended for breeding purposes are sold. If the market happens to be flooded it is found to be more profitable to feed them well until January or February, by putting them on good aftermath until barning time, then finish on roots and meal.

Ram lambs intended for breeding are placed in a separate field with good clover aftermath and given a light grain mixture of ½ pound oats; ¼ pound bran and 1-5 pound oilcake meal. The ewe lambs are also placed in a field by themselves, but not given much grain unless the afterfeed is poor. All breeding ewes are flushed during the latter part of October or the first of November. This consists in putting them in a good field of clover and giving them a light grain ration of oats, bran and a little oilcake meal. Hence the ewes make a rapid gain in flesh. There are several advantages from this practice. 1st. The ewes which are bred in a thrifty condition are more apt to throw vigorous lambs. 2nd. They are more reliable breeders; 3rd, more likely to drop twins; 4th, the flock will all breed more evenly together, which makes it much better at lambing time in that the lambs are all dropped within a short period of each other, thus making less work for the shepherd.

In selecting the flock ram it is the endeavor to choose the very best, typical of the breed and vigorous. Then he is fed well in order to keep him virile but not too fat. He never gets grain until about a month before breeding season. He is never allowed to run with the ewes continually but put in with them two or three hours each day.

In dividing the pen for winter, all mature ewes are put together; shearlings in another pen and ewe lambs by themselves. The latter are not bred until one year old. Should there be any weak ones, they too are given a separate pen; otherwise they would not get a fair show at the trough with the more vigorous ones. The above method of preparing sheep for winter has been found to be most satisfactory.

Potato Seed Selection.

Like begets like in the potato field as elsewhere, but judging by the quantities of inferior tubers used for seed purposes, the importance of this law is not appreciated by many. The use of small potatoes taken from the bulk of the crop, year after year, and used for seed will eventually lead to yields of inferior potatoes.

At potato digging time the great opportunity for seed selection is offered. With the product of each plant spread on the soil it is an easy matter to select out those plants that have given the largest yield of the most desirable type of potato and are free from disease. The potatoes from such plants only should be gathered and saved for use as seed the following year. This saving of seed at digging time may seem to many as an extra burden during a rush of work, but it is not.

There is less actual labor attached to seed selection at the time of the potato harvest than there is by practising any other method of seed selection. Furthermore, the results from hill selection are reasonably certain while with other methods there is some speculation. Potato growers would do well to watch closely for exceptionally good plants. These, harvested and saved apart from the main crop, may become the grand-dads of fine potato fields in the future.

WINTER PROTECTION OF FRUIT TREES

By C. B. Ford

One of the most important factors in establishing a fruit orchard is that of protecting the young trees from mice and rabbits during the winter. These pests may not touch a tree in your orchard for several seasons; then, unexpectedly, they may girdle and kill forty per cent. of them. Mice and rabbits usually damage only small trees, although in some cases they attack trees from four to six inches in diameter. Many young orchards in Ontario have been seriously damaged in one winter by these pests.

Mice and rabbits are more active in young orchards during the winter months, when the supply of green food is limited, but if there is a mulch about the trees, or if cover crops grow up about the tree rows, both mice and rabbits may do considerable damage during the fall. There is something about the bark of young apple and pear trees that seems particularly attractive to rabbits. During the winter when snow covers up the grasses and clovers for rabbits and provides an agreeable cover under which mice can hide, the young trees should have some cheap and effective protection.

The only safe means of preventing these injuries is to provide guards for the trees so that the animals cannot touch the bark. Washes and paints have been tried and recommended, the idea being to cover the bark with substances that would prove repulsive to the animals. But these substances have proved ineffective in affording the desired protection. Such materials as blood, liver, axle grease and other greases have no good qualities to recommend them for protecting young trees.

The only safe and practical means of preventing these winter injuries is to put wire or wood guards about the trunk of the trees. In case you discover that serious damage is occurring, and you want to stop it immediately, wash the trunks of the trees with a lime-sulphur solution, or with ordinary whitewash in which arsenate of lead has been mixed at the rate of two ounces to each gallon. This will prevent injury until the next hard rain.

Effective wood guards are made of veneer cut from logs, by special machinery. It comes in flat packages, crated together, and sufficient wood for each tree costs about one cent. Before putting them around the trees soak in water and wrap them about the trunks of the trees and tie them with tarred string. When the wood becomes dry it is quite hard and offers little inducement for the mice to gnaw through.

These woods guards are cheap, durable and effective against mice and rabbits, and if closely fitted and pressed into the soil about the tree help in preventing the entrance of borers and cutworms into the trunks of the trees. These veneer strips come with two or three inches of the end, that goes into the ground, treated with a preservative. This end should be set in the ground to prevent the worms and bugs which crawl on the surface from burrowing in the trunk of the tree under the ground.

Many commercial orchard owners object to these wood protectors because they have to be removed each spring, on account of keeping the sunlight from the trunk of the trees. If this is not done the constant shading of the trunk has a tendency to damage the bard and cause it to blister and check. Removing them each spring requires considerable time and the work comes at a time when other activities in the orchard demand attention.

Wire guards are more expensive. They possess all of the desirable qualities of the wood guards except that they do not keep out worms and bugs. The greater cost is more than offset by the fact that when once applied to the trees they do not need to be replaced. This is a more important item in the commercial orchard than on the average farm where only a few new trees are put out from time to time.

The best way to buy wire tree protectors is to buy rolls of proper mesh wire sixteen inches high and cut it in strips twelve inches wide, making a roll about three and a half inches in diameter. This makes a very desirable shield for young trees. Unless one buys material especially adapted for tree protectors, a few small stakes will be needed to hold the protectors in place.

As a rule, quarter-inch mesh wire is preferable, for a mouse can get his head through a larger opening and do considerable damage. If the orchard site is frequently covered with deep snows it will pay well to use higher guards to prevent rabbits from reaching any part of the trunks of the young trees.

Even though the trees are well protected with guards it is well to keep grasses and cover crops from settling down close to the trunks of the young trees, because there is always danger of fire running through the dry grass and leaves and burning the bark of the trees. It is also a good plan to tramp the snow firmly about the trunks of the young trees.

Young fruit trees are too valuable to leave unprotected during the winter. A little thoughtful attention to putting on these protectors in the fall is a good insurance against winter losses from mice and rabbits. The value of one good tree will more than repay the cost of time and materials necessary to protect one hundred young trees.

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, 233 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

Anxious Mother:—Between the second and twelfth year of a child's life he should be given from three cups to one quart of milk a day. Between three and eight he should never have less than one egg daily. For his lunch box hard-boiled egg or cream cheese is excellent. Jellies, custard and milk puddings are popular and wholesome desserts for school days. To prepare the fig filling for sandwiches that you enquire about—take 1 cup chopped figs, ½ cup of boiling water, ½ lemon (grated rind and juice), ½ cup corn syrup and 2 tablespoons cornstarch. Cook the filling until it is thick enough to spread.

Marguerite:—Yes, it is permissible to send candy to the men at the front but it is against the law to make sweets in the home, using cane sugar. However, you can make them with substitutes such as maple syrup, white corn syrup, fruits, dates, etc.

Organizer:—In summoning your women workers together for winter plans, you might discuss with them the possibilities of a local community kitchen. Ottawa women are organizing towards this end and it is expected that within a month or two the captial will be following the example of old country cities where national or community kitchens are now the order of the day.

Mrs. Rex:—You will be able to get plenty of fish this winter. Plans are being devised by the Food Board to extend the distribution of fish during the winter months through a mail order system for the benefit of farmers and those living in sections where fish are not retailed. Dealers will be encouraged to cater to this trade by packing fish in 50 and 100 pound boxes, quoting the price f.o.b. shipping point, and accepting mail orders for delivery by express. In this way, a farmer can secure early in the winter sufficient frozen fish to last during the season, and thus cut down his consumption of other meats.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON
NOVEMBER 3.

Lesson V. Appetite and Greed—Genesis 25. 27-34. Golden Text, Dan. 1. 8.

Time.—Only a conjectural date can be assigned for this lesson. Isaac was forty years old at the time of his marriage to Rebekah. They had no children for twenty years, until in answer to prayer the twins, Esau and Jacob, were born. These boys must have reached maturity by the time of the present lesson.

The purpose of the narrative is indicated in Genesis 25. 23. The individual traits of the two men set forth the issues and conflicts of two people—the Edomites, descended from Esau; and Israel, descended from Jacob. In the end Israel, the chosen people of God, overcomes those who despise the higher and more spiritual values.

Verse 27. Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field—These two phrases describe the natural character and temperament of the man. He enjoyed hunting, but did not care for steady work; adventure appealed to him more than the discipline of productive employment; to hunt and to eat were his chief joys, a sort of barbaric, rugged nature, not without excellencies of a certain sort; intense in emotion, but subject to its power. Jacob was a quiet man; dwelling in tents—The pastoral ideal is the key to this description. It is the orderly man in contrast to the undisciplined, irregular hunter; selfcontrol is the main feature of his character; steady purposes, whether good or bad, rule in his life. Jacob was a man of affairs, a manager, capable of getting results. Such the natural dispositions of the two men; each capable of much good or much evil.

28. Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison—The father and the son were unlike in most respects, but agreed in their fondness for savory food. Was this the old man's weak point? At any rate, he was partial toward Esau, as Rebekah was toward Jacob. Parental favoritism is the source of much spoiling, and it was this that did much harm to these two sons. It followed them all their days. It takes no prophet to forecast trouble in such a family.

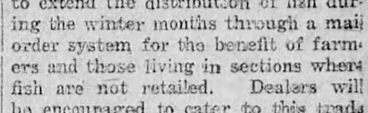
30. Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage—The word "pottage" is not in the original; it is, literally, "some of the red, that red." The thing indicated is described in verse 34; it was a soup made of lentils, something like pea soup, of a dark, reddish brown color, still an article of diet in Syria. The expression is emphatic and indicates the intensity of Esau's hunger. He was hungry and exhausted; his natural tendency to make much of mere physical appetite was intensified. The sight and aroma of the food took possession of his mind.

31. Sell me first thy birthright—The birthright denotes the advantages and rights usually enjoyed by the first born son. It included a position of honor as the head of the family, a double share of the inheritance, and presumptively greater natural vigor; but it was believed to be transferable to a younger son who proved himself more worth of the dignity. The Bible adds to the idea of the birthright greater spiritual privileges and blessings. The covenant promise made to Abraham was included in the blessing. The mixed character of Jacob appears in this transaction. He was capable of appreciating the value of a birthright, although he resorted to unfair means to obtain it. He valued ancestral privilege and knew the worth of divine blessing. Mere physical pleasure did not rule his decisions or satisfy his soul. He knew there was a supreme spiritual value to be sought and won.

32. Esau said, Behold, I am about to die—This is the language of a man who overestimates his feelings. Exaggeration is a fundamental weakness in character. A brief moment of hunger outweighs the highest position in life and the richest blessing God can bestow. No man can afford to live on his feelings; they will invariably betray him; a balanced judgment becomes impossible.

33. Swear to me first—The oath was a sacred and binding custom among Orientals. Jacob knew that a man who parted with a great ancestral right would change his mind, a thing so easily given away might be as easily recalled. He determined to make the thing sure.

34. So Esau despised his birthright—In Hebrews 12. 16 Esau is called a "profane person." The word "profane" means "before the fane" and indicates the ground outside of a temple or sacred enclosure. Hence common ground, walked over by man and beast. A profane man is one who makes himself common; he has no deep respect for himself as a spiritual being. Every common appetite and passion has free course in his life. A profane man loses the sense for spiritual value. Temptations sweep through such a soul almost without resistance. Esau's continual carelessness about the great things of life made him weak in the hour of temptation.



From the time the heifers are bred until they drop their first calves is another critical period in the life of dairy heifers, and in most instances they will thrive better if kept away from the older members of the herd. It is better to keep them by themselves for the few months they are with calf on account of the danger from abortion, either through injury by the older cattle or from contagion, as there are very few herds of dairy cattle that are entirely free from this complaint. Contagious abortion is one of the most serious diseases that the breeders of registered dairy cattle have to contend with at the present time.

It is quite unnecessary that the ordinary farmer should convert his barns into breeding establishments, devoting his attention to breeding in "strains" and families of a fancy sort, at the expense of his other farming operations.

Care of the Eyes.

The person who wishes to keep young and useful should take excellent care of the eyes. Eye strain, besides other ill-effects, causes wrinkles.

The first rule in the care of the eye is to avoid straining it unnecessarily. This means that the eyes should be closed for a few seconds now and then when employed on work requiring great concentration. It means also that the eyes should never be strained by trying to read in a poor light or one that is badly placed. It means also that as soon as any eye trouble is suspected a good oculist should be consulted.

Besides all this, the eyes should be kept constantly clean. In the morning when you get up the eyes should be washed out with an eye-cup and a solution of boric acid. This is nothing more or less than a small teaspoonful of boric acid powder dissolved in a pint of previously boiled water—the boiling being necessary to insure the purity of the water. A bottle of this solution will last several weeks. This mild antiseptic will wash any dust from the eyes or lashes, or will remove the film often present after a night's sleep, and will leave the eyes feeling clear and refreshed.

Enameled Kitchen Walls.

If a painted wall is enameled it can be washed as often as necessary without injuring the surface.

To can juice from leftover beef bones, cover them with cold water, salt and let cook slowly for several hours. Pour the juice in jars that have been sterilized, then seal. This can be used later in soups, etc.

It Pays to Finish Poultry.

Even with the present high price of feed no one can afford to sell birds and especially cockerels, in a thin condition. The good prices received for poultry meat more than pay for the extra feed, and if there ever was a time when birds should be finished, it is now.

As a war measure the marketing of thin chickens should be prohibited. The most expensive part of the bird to produce and that which is of the least value for food is the frame. The cheapest weight for the feed fed is the flesh as it is all edible, the necessity of putting this flesh on is evident.

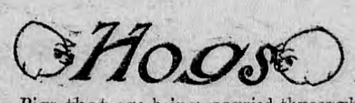
The most profitable weight at which to finish cockerels is when they weigh about 4 pounds, but even earlier birds may be fed with profit, as several experiments conducted at the Experimental Farm this summer go to prove.

Poultry meat of all kinds has been a good price. Hens have been selling as high as roasters and broilers have paid well. Leghorn cockerels at the Experimental Farm have been sold at about 2 pounds each, and because of being specially finished on milk, brought good returns and paid well for extra feed. Four different lots marketed in August, 152 birds, weighed 280 pounds, they were fed for about ten days during which time they gained 60 pounds, weighing at the end of the feeding period 340 pounds. They consumed 180 pounds of mash and 24 gallons of buttermilk. The mash was composed of 2 parts corn-meal, 1 part middlings, and 1 part buckwheat screenings.

The cost of feed was 180 lbs. at 4c per lb. = $7.20 and 24 gal. milk at 5c per gal. = $1.20, making a total of $8.40 for feed and milk. Add to this the value of the birds at the start 280 lbs. of thin chickens that would bring 35c per lb. $98.00, and it makes total cost for thin chickens and feed of $116.40.

The weight of the finished chicks was 340 lbs., having gained 60 lbs. in the 10 days feeding. The value per lb. was increased because of the quality o fthe flesh to 50c per lb. making the total value of the birds $170.00.

This meant a revenue of $54.00 for the care of 152 birds for less than two weeks. It also showed that for every pound increase on the birds it took 3 lbs. of mash and 4 lbs. of milk or an average cost of 14c. per lb. of gain.



Pigs that are being carried through the winter should have an opportunity for an abundance of out-of-door exercise. They should have a warm, dry place in which to sleep and remain during stormy weather. They should have their meals regularly at the same hours each and every day. When small it is best to feed three times per day. After they are three or four months of age they can eat enought to last them longer and feeding twice per day will answer.

The man who cares for the pigs should have a love for the work and not be afraid of a little extra work in order to meet the needs of the pigs. He should watch the pigs closely to see that they eat all of the feed quickly and that none is left to freeze in the trough. He should be willing to place a little clover or alfalfa in a rack where they can eat it each and every day. The forage feed helps in several ways; it bulks up the mass in the stomach thereby making digestion more complete and aids in the growth of bone and muscle.

We should remember that it is the growth in pounds that can be made cheaper than adipose membrane. Pigs grown rapidly for six months make their gains cheaply and bring prices that will leave a handsome margin of profit over the cost of production.

"To try is better than the thing you try for,
To hope is higher than the height attained,
To love is greater than the love you sigh for,
To seek is nobler than the object gained.
To 'wrestle with the angel'—thus avails,
Although the motive for the wrestling fails."

How Lila Went to The Picnic.

Lila had not been invited to the picnic that was to be held not far from her home, and she felt very unhappy about it. She had heard that there would be swings and games and ice cream, and she felt that she could not stay away.

"I'll hide behind a tree and watch, anyway," she said.

"They would see you," her mother answered, and promised her a dolls' tea party, with lemonade and crackers, if she would forget about the picnic; but Lila could not forget.

She lived in a little white houes at the top of a hill, and the picnic grounds were in a level meadow at the bottom of the hill. The night before the picnic she stayed awake a long time trying to think how she could watch the fun even if she could not go. After a while she had a plan.

The next day, an hour before picnic time, she was very busy. First, she put on her oldest clothes; then she put Don, the big shepherd dog, into the woodshed, and went into the barn for a while. After about ten minutes she came out rolling a large sugar barrel on its side. Under her arm she carried a bundle of hay, and she had a big splint basket turned down over her head.

When she reached the top of the long hill, at last, she turned the barrel up on end beside a stump and put the hay into it. After that she climbed over the edge, pulled the basket down on the barrel like a cap, and waited.

Back in the woodshed Don barked and begged, but down in the meadow the picnic people began to gather. A broken place in the side of the basket gave Lila a lookout place for one big blue eye.

Ten minutes passed, then twenty minutes, and there was more and more to watch. Games began down below, and grown people unpacked baskets and spread tablecloths. Lila felt that she just must go down.

All at once Don's barking seemed to grow louder. Before very long there came a sound of panting and scuffling feet; the barks drew nearer every moment. Lila knew what it meant; Don had somehow broken out of the woodshed. She held tight to the rim of the basket as he scampered up barking like mad.

"O Don, Don!" she groaned.

But there was no way to stop him. When he heard Lila's voice he jumped at the barrel joyfully. It tilted, then settled back into place. A second time he pounced upon it, and that time over it went, girl and all, and began to roll down the long hill, slowly at first, then faster and faster.

Down on the picnic grounds a little girl looked up and pointed. "What's that coming?" she cried.

"A runaway barrel!" two or three other voices exclaimed, and some one else said, "Head it off!"

Two boys stopped the whirling barrel and with puffing and pushing set it up and pulled off the basket. A red bow bobbed up and then ducked out of sight.

"A girl! A girl!" they cried. Everyone came running.

Lila stood straight up in the barrel and shook the hair out of her eyes. She was shaken but not hurt, and she was winking hard to keep back the tears. "I wanted to watch the picnic," she said.

"We didn't even know that there was a little girl in the house on the hilltop," the mothers said, when they understood, and they lifted her out and brought pink ice cream in a blue bowl. All the little girls stood round and smiled at Lila, and offered to swing her, and she was very happy. And after a while Don, who had run away when he saw the people, came wagging back and had a plate of bones, which was more than he deserved.

My Son.

Somewhere in France there lies my youngest son.
It seems such little time since he was small;
And now his life on earth so soon is done.
His Master needed him. He heard the call.
Within my sleep I dream of him each night,
And wake to find he cannot come to me,
For with the coming of the morning light
I seem to see his grave across the sea.
I know the sorrow and the bitter loss
That Mary felt when on that day at noon
Her Son was nailed upon that cruel cross,
While all the heavens turned to darkening gloom.
Oh, may I help some other mourning one
Who, like myself, has lost her much loved son.

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