Soils and Crops

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Hogging Down Corn.

It is not so much the question of producing more pork to the acre but rather one of producing the most at the lowest cost. Hogging down the corn appears to be the answer to the problem, especially if we consider the value to the other crops of the labor saved in handling the corn harvest.

The advantages to be gained from hogging down corn may be briefly summed up under three heads. First of all, and one that is of utmost importance at the present time, is that the practice is ideal from a labor-saving standpoint. Every farmer is aware of the amount of man and horse labor that is required to cut, husk, haul and crib corn, and then feed it out to the hogs in the pen. The expense of these operations may be largely saved and at the time of the year when there is usually a great rush of out-of-door work.

Then there is the fertility problem that must be considered. In feeding corn in the pen there is almost always a waste of valuable fertility. If any of the manure made is returned to the soil it is accomplished at quite an expense and only after many hours of laborious and not altogether pleasant work. When harvesting their own corn the hogs are making manure and depositing it directly upon the land. They are also leaving cornstalks where they may be turned under without first being hauled out to the field.

The general health of any farm animal is always to be considered. In hogging down corn the animals receive a great deal of exercise which keeps them contented and vigorous. Instead of rooting around in sloppy pig yards as is often the case, they are working in clean fields which, as one may observe, is of no small benefit to them.

Before turning the hogs into the corn field they should be fed some corn in the dry lot. At first only a small amount, gradually increasing the supply until they are accustomed to the feed.

Hogs should not be permitted to cover too large an area at one time or they will not do a clean job of pasturing and hence a waste of good feed results.

The number of hogs that an acre will carry depends largely upon the yield of the corn and the size and vigor of the hogs. A fifty-bushel crop of corn will carry ten one-hundred-pound pigs from eighteen to twenty days. Three fall shotes and six spring pigs may be counted upon to clean up an acre of fifty-bushel corn in fifteen to twenty days.

One should approximate the amount of corn that will be hogged off and lay plans to keep them on that area until they have cleared it up.

A method commonly used in the corn belt is to roll down a portion of the field. The hogs seldom bother the standing corn as they find the knocked down corn so much easier to procure. After the portion of the field that was rolled down has been cleared up an additional amount should be rolled and the hogs will find this new ready feed in a short time.

Some practice the system of stretching a temporary fence through the corn by weaving hog wire in between the stalks. It is not necessary to make this fence very substantial as the hogs seldom attempt to go beyond it so long as there is good corn left within the enclosure. Some believe it advisable to knock down some corn when using the fence system, especially at first when the idea is rather new to the hogs. When that part of the field that has been fenced off is cleaned up the fence is moved over and the animals allowed to enter the new clean pasture. The fence system necessitates a little more work but is thought by many to be the best.

Although the hogs are apparently glad of the opportunity to obtain their own food in their own particular manner it has been the experience of feeders that they should be provided with other things besides corn, which is high in carbohydrates, but does not meet the protein requirements of the hog.

This protein element may easily be supplied and the hog allowed to obtain it as his appetite and body needs require. We are likely to consider the hog as an animal devoid of all sense, however, he has often shown better judgment concerning the choice of his food than some of the so-called higher animals.

Some farmers planted soy beans in their corn last spring and thus have provided a very good protein supplement for the corn feed which may be of considerable value this fall in hogging off the corn. Alfalfa fields adjoining the corn may be utilized to supply the protein. Probably one of the best systems is to place self-feeders in the corn fields and use tankage, shorts, or oilmeal.

Plenty of good fresh water should always be available. Troughs may be placed at convenient places in the field and daily attended to.

Provided with the corn, water, and a protein feed, the hogs may be depended upon to balance their own ration. They will work in the corn, pay a frequent visit to the watering trough and occasionally drop over to the self-feeder for their protein handout. The remainder of the time they may be found in groups contentedly discussing the topics of the day and at the same time laying on pork in a most satisfactory maner with very little attention from their boss.

Large Crops From Fall Plowing.

There is difference of opinion among farmers in regard to fall plowing. Some claim great advantages, while others say that spring plowing gives the best results. Both classes may be right. In some cases there may be no decided difference in results between fall or spring plowing. The differences are due mainly to variations in soils and seasonal conditions.

Soils are classified as sands, sandy loams, loams, silt loams, clay loams, and clays, as the case may be. As we go down this list the quantity of fine material or clay increases and the soils become heavier or more difficult to work with tillage implements.

This heaviness or sticky nature of soils, caused principally by the amount of clay present, is offset to a great extent by good drainage or by gravel, sand or vegetable matter which they may contain, so that a well-drained clay-loam soil, well supplied with vegetable matter, may not clod or bake to any great extent, and may be quite easily pulverized by implements; another clay-loam soil undrained and low in vegetable matter may give serious trouble.

It is not unusual to find a sandy-loam soil, low in vegetable matter, that will clod and bake considerably. Since puddling, baking and clodding of a soil increases the difficulty of preparing a good seedbed, and may be harmful to crop growth, the tendency of a soil to puddle is a most important factor in determining the best time for plowing.

The purpose of plowing must be taken into account. The principle benefits derived from plowing are: 1. To bury vegetation and manure so that they will decay and be added to the soil mass. 2. To pulverize the soil in order to form a desirable seedbed for the crop. To conserve water. 4. To kill insects.

Light soils that blow, and soils on steep slopes that wash, lose fertility when fall plowed, because the fine soil particles are removed by blowing and washing.

The uneven surface of fall-plowed land catches and absorbs water resulting from rain and snow, while the soil mulch formed by plowing conserves this water against evaporation, and more moisture will be available for the spring crop.

An experiment performed at the Michigan Experiment Station showed that fall-plowed land contained more water available for an oat crop than spring-plowed land, and the yield of oats was increased more than nine bushels an acre by the fall plowing. Freezing and thawing of fall-plowed land helps to break down clods and tends to put soils in a better condition of tilth for spring crops.

One of the great advantages of fall plowing is that this work is out of the way of the spring rush, thus giving a better distribution of labor. This is an important matter, especially should the following spring be late, necessitating hasty spring plowing or working the ground when it is too wet.

Fall plowing buries many weeds before they mature seeds, which gives better control of these pests and causes them to decay and be changed to plant food before seeding the land. If done at the right time, fall plowing may destroy insects and worms by exposing them to the elements and the eyes of the birds that feed upon them.

In regard to depth of fall plowing, care should be taken not to go too deeply into the subsoil at any one time and turn too much of this raw soil up toward the surface. It is safe to plow as deeply as the surface soil will permit, especially for beets, potatoes or corn.

Honey for Home Trade.

If the colonies are thoroughly overhauled in September, and found to be strong with bees and heavy with winter stores, little if anything more needs to be done this month.

Care must be taken to store all surplus extracting combs away from the ravages of rats and mice, and get things about the apiary and honey house in shipshape for the winter.

By all means cultivate the home and nearby market, rather than to send to commission men, and if one produces a really excellent grade of honey, either comb or extracted, a local trade at top-notch prices can be established, and all disputes with far-away commission men will be avoided.

Attractive illustrated folders on the food value of honey, with some photo reproductions of the apiary and processes of extracting, will do much to establish a trade. Glass containers are the best for liquid honey, and for this purpose some beekeepers have found it both convenient and economical to use the ordinary jars, which can afterward be utilized by the housewife at preserving time, or for a number of other purposes.

Are you being robbed by a bull?

Poultry

As soon as the breeding season is over the fowl that are not intended to be retained for future breeders should be disposed of. The birds should be either put into a yard or confined to part of the yard, the rest being limed, plowed or spaded, and seeded to green crop such as rape or rye.

All litter should be removed from the house and the ceiling, walls and floor thoroughly swept. Movable fixtures should be taken out and the whole interior given a thorough washing. The best way to do this is to use the hose if you have one, after the hose give the building a good flooding and scrub it down with a stiff brush. If there is no hose, be even more careful about the scrubbing. After the house has been thoroughly cleaned give it a soaking with a good strong disinfectant. One of the coal tar preparations will be found satisfactory for this purpose, this should be applied with a spray pump so that it will be forced into all the cracks and crevices of the building. If there is no spray pump, use a brush, but be sure to get it into these cracks and crevices.

The house should be left standing for a couple of days to dry out, leaving it wide open to allow the sun and air to enter freely. It should then be given a good application of whitewash. The fixtures, nest boxes, roosts and dropping boards which have been removed should be treated in a similar manner.

At the time of this annual house cleaning it is a good plan to note what repairs to the houses, fixtures and fences are needed and have them made as soon as possible. Also clean up and burn any accumulation of rubbish, leaving nothing under which vermin may hide. A clean house free from lice and mites is easy to keep clean. Then see that the pullets are healthy and free from lice, when they are put in, and the problem of winter eggs is more than half solved.

Diseases of Potatoes.

Late Blight of the potato is one of the diseases that causes serious loss to the grower. How serious the loss may be is told in a newly issued bulletin prepared by Paul A. Mruphy, Plant Pathologist in Prince Edward Island in connection with the Dominion Experimental Farms. In Prince Edward Island the potato crop covers around 30,000 acres, the yield from which is about 200 bushels an acre and the total production 6,000,000 bushels. Were it not for late blight the yield per acre, according to the writer, would be 290 bushels of sound potatoes, meaning nearly a third more. The extent of the loss at 75c per bushel is $2,925,000. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the loss is estimated respectively at 30 per cent. and 25 per cent., which entails a sacrifice of something like $5,600,000, or eight millions and a half for the three Maritime Provinces. Spraying with home-made Bordeaux mixture, composed of two pounds copper sulphate or bluestone, two pounds quicklime and 40 gallons of water, is recommended as a remedy. Late Blight is not quite so serious in Ontario and Quebec, but there are other diseases that are troublesome, such as Leaf Roll, which is more or less widespread in Canada, and the loss from which in southern Ontario in one year is estimated at two and a quarter million dollars; Mosaic, the loss from which in a single year in New Brunswick and Quebec is calculated to have been 5 per cent. or 1,525,000 bushels, and in Ontario 2½ per cent. or 500,000 bushels; Black Leg, from which the losses in Ontario are recorded as greater than in the Maritime Provinces (where the losses have also been considerable in some years), and the Curley Dwarf with its relatives, which are found more frequently in southern districts on Ontario than in the more eastern provinces. The bulletin goes deeply into the results of the investigations, describing symptoms, the soils principally affected, and the methods that should be employed in checking and suppressing potato diseases.

Pruning Berry Bushes.

Raspberry, blackberry and dewberry plants are usually pruned in the fall, as soon as the crop is harvested, but it can be done any time before cold weather.

If the raspberries or blackberries are in hills remove all the canes that fruited last season; also, all the weak canes, leaving from eight to twelve strong canes. If they are growing in rows thin out the canes to eight inches apart. The blackberries require more room than the raspberries; therefore leave fewer canes. Be sure to remove all canes that will interfere with cultivation next summer.

Lateral branches should be shortened by cutting them back from one to four feet, depending upon the variety and the bud development. The idea is to reduce the amount of fruit to such a quantity as can be properly developed. It is simply a thinning process. Unbranched red raspberry canes should be cut back to a height of four or five feet.

Remove all diseased canes and any in which tree crickets have deposited eggs; such canes will be weak. Burn all prunings to prevent the spread of insects and diseases and also to get the brush out of the way.

Quarantine of the Corn Borer.

As a result of the scouting work for the European corn borer carried on by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, it has been found that this insect has spread into new territory this year. On account of the danger of carrying the pest into uninfested districts a Ministerial order was passed on August 26, 1921, prohibiting the removal of corn, including sweet corn and seed corn on the cob, corn stalks, etc., from the following townships in the Province of Ontario:

Charlotteville, Houghton, Middleton, Townsend, Walsingham north, Walsingham south, Windham, Woodhouse in the County of Norfolk, Cayuga north, Dunn, Rainham and Walpole in the County of Haldimand, and Raleigh and Romney in the County of Kent.

The order is supplementary to the order-in-council which was passed on May 18, 1921. All persons desiring detailed information concerning this quarantine should apply to the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

The Advantages of Stacking Grain.

Recently a test was conducted on shocked-threshed and stacked grain which had grown in the same field under the same conditions. The shocked grain was threshed as usual, while the stacked grain was allowed to stand for six weeks. The tests were then made on fifty bushels of each kind of grain. The shocked grain tested nearly fifteen per cent. moisture, weighed fifty-five and a half pounds per bushel and graded number two on the market. The stacked grain had only a little more than thirteen per cent. moisture, weighed fifty-nine pounds per bushel and graded number one.

Seedmen and growers of pure-bred grain also are practically unanimous in their agreement upon the advisability of stacking. This is rather significant and their experience must be considered valuable.

Rich Vein of Copper Found in Shetlands.

A rich copper vein has been discovered in the Shetland Islands, according to reports received in London, Eng. The lode was said to have been proved to yield a high percentage of copper.

Experts who are erecting a plant where the discovery was made said half a million tons of ore were in sight. A London syndicate has acquired the rights to the property.

The Welfare of the Home

Controlling Children—By Margaret Wright North.

The adage that a man is not fit to command others until he can command himself is never more true than in the training of children. A mother who has acquired self-control has more than half won the struggle of controlling her children.

In the course of a conversation the other day, a mother remarked to me, "I don't see why Charles has to pick just the time when I am busiest to be the most exasperating." What a picture that gave me of the mother!

I could see her in the afternoon sitting quietly with her mending basket, answering Charles' interminable questions with tact and patience, entering into his "pretends," and making the child feel that his mother was a real pal and playmate.

Then I could see her a little while later, bustling about the kitchen getting supper, Charles still asking questions. After a few half-hearted replies, mother turns on Charles with an impatient, "Charles, if you don't stop asking me questions I'll send you to bed; you drive me wild." There is a moment of silence and then another question. "What did I tell you? Now not another word." Another moment and then a hesitant, "Say, Mother?" "Charles! Go right upstairs, take your clothes off and go to bed."

Now where was the fault? Was Charles being "most exasperating" or was it just that Mother was not in the mood and lost her patience?

That mother was expecting too much of her child. She wanted him to appreciate the strain that getting supper put upon her mind, body, and nerves. Since cooking was outside his experience, he could not put himself in her position. Even if she had quietly told him that she could not play with him any more, giving the reason, he would not have been able to change his play without her help. He was so filled with one idea that a new suggestion was necessary.

How easy it would have been, when she could not work with his chatter going on, to have suggested that he go to the front window and count the number of white horses going by while she was getting supper; and tell how many windows he could see in the houses across the street; or that he show her how nice a house he could build with his blocks.

Because the mother expected the child to have the self-control which she herself lacked, displeasure and resentment replaced the sympathetic friendliness of the afternoon, and Charles was unjustly punished.

Let us remember that children are very much like rivers, it is impossible to stop them, but comparatively easy to change their course.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 18

Abstinence for the Sake of Others. 1 Cor. 10: 23-33; 3: 16, 17. Golden Text—1 Cor. 10: 31.

Connecting Links—Paul went on from Athens to Corinth. Some years later, writing from Ephesus to the Christian community in Corinth, he recalls his first coming to that city. "I was with you," he said, "in weakness and in fear, and in much trembling." He had travelled far in strange lands; he had been driven by persecution from place to place; he had parted company with his travelling companions and had gone on alone. It may be that he was discouraged by the small success of his preaching in Athens. At any rate he determined to attempt no more philosophical discussions, for he says, in the letter above quoted, "I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." But, after a while Timothy come from Thessalonica, bringing good news from the church there, and Paul was comforted and encouraged.

The city of Corinth presented grave and difficult problems. It was a busy commercial city, a sea-port on the Greek Isthmus, having six or seven hundred thousand of a population. It gathered into itself much of the best and of the worst of the ancient world. Unfortunately that worst was very bad indeed, and Corinth became notorious for its vices. "To accuse a man of behaving like a Corinthian was to accuse him of leading a low, shameless, and immoral life." It is probable that, outside the Jewish colony, there was very little religion. And yet it is to this city that Paul makes one of his finest and most effective appeals for unity, chastity and temperance.

10: 23-33. "All things are lawful." No doubt Paul means all things clean, wholesome, and useful. But of such things, things which in themselves are not wrong or harmful, and which he might freely do, there are some which he will not do. They "are not expedient." It is better for his own sake and for the sake of others that he should not. The doing of something which might be to him quite innocent and harmless, or which would give him real pleasure, would cause harm to others, or would not be the best employment of his own time. "All things edify not." The man who regards life seriously, who has high ideals and ambitions in life, will seek not merely to avoid what is unlawful or harmful, but to know and do what is positively good, what will edify, or build in character and efficiency, and in the ability to render service to others. Paul recognizes not only the law of commandments and prohibitions, but also the higher spiritual law of choice and self-control. Above all he would place the law of love, the earnest desire and purpose to help others. "Let no man seek his own, but each his neighbor's good." (Rev. vers.)

"The earth is the Lord's." (see Psalm 24). Paul applies what he has said above to a case of conscience which had arisen in the Corinthian Church. The question was whether or not a Christian man might eat without offence meat which had been slaughtered in sacrifice in the idol temples, or drink wine which had been offered there. Such meat and wine were offered for sale in the markets or served at public banquets. A man might presumably, buy or use them without knowing their history. Paul counsels first the free use of them. "Eat, asking no question." For the earth and all its produce is God's, and nothing is in itself unclean.

But if a question is raised, and your neighbor be offended or hurt, by what you have done, Paul counsels abstinence. For the Christian law of love requires that we sacrifice even our own good, our pleasure or gain, for the sake of others.

"My liberty" to do or not to do is judged by my own conscience. But in this case I curtail my liberty for the sake of another man's conscience. Paul reasons also that, in this same case, if he partakes of food which has been offered in heathen sacrifice, he may be misjudged. Although the food is good, and he has given thanks to God for it, yet there are those, Christian or heathen, who will regard his eating of it as a compromise with idolatry. His good will be "evil spoken of." See Romans 14:16, and the whole argument in chapter 14. The highest Christian law is that of love towards one's fellows, and to glorify God. "Do all," Paul says, "to the glory of God." "Give none offence," or, as in revised version, "give no occasion of stumbling." He declares that he has made this the law of his own life. "Not," he says, "seeking mine own profit, but the profit of the many, that they may be saved." Paul is the unselfish, high-minded Christian gentleman.

The generous and kindly teaching of Paul, who follows the example and spirit of Christ, may well be applied to certain well-known forms of amusement and social indulgences of our own day. The argument of liberty is often an argument of rank and brutal selfishness. It means "I have a right to do what I please, to indulge in what I regard as good. It is nothing to me whether another man's conscience is hurt by it or not." Is it not better to say with Paul: "It is good not to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor to do anything whereby thy brother stumbleth" (Rom. 14: 21).

3: 16-17. "The temple of God." Paul is speaking here of the Christian community or church. He has been exhorting to unity, to the banishment of strife, and to the putting away of anything and everything which might disrupt or defile the pure life of Christian fellowship. He has laid the foundation; they are the builders of this house, this temple of God. He would have them build into its walls only what is fine and pure and strong.

In the midst of the community, which is His temple, God dwells. His presence makes all sacred. The welfare of the community is dear to Him, and those who promote that welfare serve Him. Those who bring in strife and uncleanness, defile the common life and bring to pass their own destruction. What then of the saloon, the gambler's den, the brothel? What of the home poisoned by drunkenness, or the drug habit? What of the selfish greed which fattens on the misery of others, or indulges itself in boundless luxury, while others starve and freeze and die? True temperance is self-control, guided by love, and possessed of a sincere desire to promote the common good.

Application.

To abstain from some things for the sake of others is a Christian obligation. It would seem as if there had been some in the Christian Church at Corinth, who had insisted upon their rights. Of such, Paul must have been thinking when he wrote: "love seeketh not her own." Now if Paul had written: "Love seeketh not that which belongs to others," we would easily have understood his position; but he goes further and insists that love is willing to give up—to deny itself—to abstain for the sake of others. Depend upon it, the man who is continually saying, "I'll have my rights" is not possessed by the spirit of Jesus Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

Once upon a time, longer than long ago, Oliver Elephant had ears about as large as a muffin, not one bit bigber. It was so inconvenient for him to hear 'cause when some little creature went to speak to him he'd have to get down on his knees and put his trunk to his ear to find out what they were saying; and as for his appearance, well, it was just ridiculous.

One day as he was looking sadly in a forest pool and wondering why his ears were so small for the rest of him, the little old man of the woods came by. And the little old man of the woods is a second uncle to a fairy, which makes him quite magic.

"What's the matter, big Oliver Elephant?" asked the little man of the woods. Oliver put his trunk behind his ear and got down on his knees, for the little fellow was no bigger than a waffle.

"Beg pardon?" said Oliver Elephant, politely. The old man of the woods repeated his question and Oliver Elephant asked him how it was his ears were so small, when all the rest of him was so big.

"If they were larger my nose or my trunk wouldn't seem so long!" wailed Oliver Elephant. The little man of the woods shook his head wisely.

"They didn't grow long enough; they must have been picked too soon," he said slowly and sat down on a tree stump to think. After a while he began to dance around Oliver Elephant in excited circles.

"I have it. I have it; we'll plant 'em again and then when they are big enough I'll pluck them and wish them back on you."

Oliver Elephant was a bit worried, but when the little man of the woods assured him that he could wish his ears off without hurting him he just heaved a big sigh and told him to go ahead. So the little man did and the next thing that elephant person had no ears at all and the little man of the woods had dug a hole and planted those he had had. Poor Oliver Elephant—he had enormous trials for a whole four weeks, 'cause he couldn't hear a single thing any one said. His enemies slipped up before he could see them and nipped pieces out of him, and his friends were all mad at him because he wouldn't answer their questions. How could he, I ask, without a single ear?

So finally he just went camping by himself right where the little man of the woods had planted his ears. Every day they grew larger and more shapely, and Oliver was tempted two or three times to pick them, but restrained himself because, of course, he could not put them back, and a disconnected ear is like a disconnected telephone—no use.

The little man of the woods had gone on a journey and just as Oliver Elephant was growing very much frightened at the size his ears were reaching he came back.

"Well," said the little magic man of the woods, "didn't I tell you they would grow? Are they all right?"

Oliver could not hear a word he said, but he nodded hard, and the next thing he was sitting down three yards off with a terrible headache. The man of the woods had wished his ears back so quickly that the shock had upset Oliver Elephant, but hayricks, how happy he was. He could hear even the grasshoppers singing in the grass, and as for his looks, well you know yourself how becoming they are. Yes, that's the way Oliver came to have big ears. And you can ask the little man of the woods, if you do not believe me.

In one county, sixty-eight culled hens kept five days laid just one egg. At least a fifth of Ontario's flocks are of that kind. Cull 'em!

Lower freight rates help the cattle business some. Feeders, too, are cheaper this fall, and if broad, short headed steers are purchased, the buyer should make out a lot better on the deal than he did a year ago.