Soils and Crops

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VARIETIES RECOMMENDED BY THE O.A.C.

For increased acre yields, it is not only important to use seeds of high quality, but it is very desirable to use those varieties which have proven superior, so says Dr. C. A. Zavitz of the Ontario Agricultural College. The Field Husbandry Dept. has done much in importing, testing, selecting and hybridizing varieties, not only with the object of supplying the most reliable information but also with the aim of originating new varieties which are superior to any already in existence. This is no easy matter to accomplish. We believe, however, that in some of our most important crops of Ontario, varieties of superior merit have been originated. The following list gives our latest information regarding a few of the most desirable varieties of farm crops for use in Ontario:

Oats—O.A.C. No. 72, Banner, and O.A.C. No. 3.

Barley—O.A.C. No. 21.

Winter Wheat—O.A.C. No. 104, Dawson's Golden Chaff, and Imperial Amber.

Spring Wheat—O.A.C. No. 85, Marquis, and Wild Goose.

Spring Rye—O.A.C. No. 61.

Winter Rye—Rosen, New Invincible and Petkus.

Emmer—Common.

Buckwheat—Rye.

Field Peas—O.A.C. No. 181, Arthur and Canadian Beauty.

Field Beans—Pearce's Improved Tree and Pea Beans.

Soy Beans—O.A.C. No. 211.

Vetches—Hairy.

Flint Corn—Gold Nugget, Longfellow, and Salzer's North Dakota.

Dent Corn—Golden Glow, White Cap Yellow Dent, Wisconsin No. 7, and Bailey.

Sweet Corn—Golden Bantam.

Sorghum—Early Amber.

Sunflowers—Black Giant, and Mammoth Russian.

Mangels—O.A.C. No. 2 (strain of Yellow Leviathan).

Swede Turnips—Good Luck, and Hall's Westbury.

Millet—Japanese Panicle, and Japanese Barnyard.

Pasture Rape—Dwarf Essex.

Cow Cabbage—Sutton's Earliest Drumhead.

Early Potatoes—Irish Cobbler.

Late Potatoes—Dooley, and Green Mountain.

Alfalfa—Grimm, and Ontario Variegated.

Sweet Clover—White Blossomed Biennial.

Grasses—Orchard, Tall Oat, and Meadow or Tall Fescue.

Prevention of Losses Among Chicks

By S. W. Knipe

Recent figures show that there are only about 55 chicks raised out of every 100 hatched, and this is on farms where there exists a better average of poultry conditions. Many poultry raisers try to reduce their loss by "doctoring" sick and weakly chicks. They lose sight of the fact that for the previous 9 or 10 months the stock these chicks were raised from had not the care and attention necessary to produce sturdy chickens, and so care of breeding stock results in chicks hatched with weak constitutions, unable to live under ordinary farm conditions. A strong, vigorous chicken, with good brooding system, clean and proper feeding, should be easily raised to maturity. The greatest loss is owing to lack of vitality, which may be caused by poor parent stock, poor care of eggs before they are set, or poor incubation. On farms, where the fowl are allowed to forage for themselves most of the year, there are many mistakes made in breeding, the fault often being due to both male and female. The males, often late hatched, lack vigor and are small in size. Because such birds give a high percentage of fertility in eggs does by no means warrant the assumption that the chicks hatched will be sturdy. Good hens are almost as important as good males. For best results it is not wise to mate the entire flock, better pick out only the best females and mate them to the best males procurable. Never mate cockerels and pullets. Never use hens which have been sick and out of condition. Bowel trouble and diarrhoea are sometimes caused by infection of the eggs, therefore the necessity of not breeding from any birds thus infected. The best of eggs may be ruined by faulty incubation, not only artificial, but when broody hen is used. If the hen is flighty she should not be used. Nests should be in a place easly accessible, where water and food are conveniently obtained. Incubator chicks are just as strong as hen hatched if they are properly hatched. Too high or too low a temperature, not enough fresh air, and wrong moisture conditions, are the most common faults of weak chicks from artificial incubation. Do away with these causes and you hatch good, vigorous, healthy chicks. Good incubators are usually obtained by poultry raisers, yet a great number of these people make the "penny wise" and pound foolish" mistake of thinking they can make a brooder at home quite good enough to brood the small number of chicks they raise. Too often these home-made brooders do not keep the proper temperature nor supply the ventilation necessary. Again, if the brooding system is too small for number of chickens hatched there is apt to be "crowding," causing loss through suffocation. Coops without floors for hen-hatched chicks often result in chilling the little birds. Chills usually bring along bowel trouble.

The close confinement of baby chicks is often claimed to cause leg-weakness, something which rarely is seen in chicks which are allowed on outside run, ever for a few minutes, after they are about a week old. Of course, in stormy or wet weather this is impossible, therefore for such occasions keep sand or fine litter on the floor. Feed grain in dry litter to induce exercise. Keep brooder house well ventilated. Supply green feed such as sprouted oats, lettuce, green alfalfa or clover cuttings.

No matter how brooded the chickens must be kept free from vermin, must be kept dry, must have plenty of exercise, and small birds should not be allowed to run with half-grown ones, as the little chaps don't have a chance to get the proper amount of food if compelled to fight with much larger birds for it. Keep your baby chicks growing every minute till they mature, which can be done by proper feeding. Improper feeding is feeding too soon and without making chicks work for their meals. Positively, do not feed chicks before they are 48 hours old. The yolk of the egg provides food for at least that length of time. Additional food is over-loading a small stomach and causes digestive troubles.

To sum up the matter, the remedy for the great loss of chicks is "prevention." "Eternal vigilance" is the price which must be paid to reduce the loss to a minimum. Careful feed and attention from the day the chicks are hatched, for remember, these chicks may eventually be the breeders you are going to depend on, and must have every chance to mature into well-developed, vigorous pullets and cockerels.

SHEEP.

Sheep like fresh air and sunshine. If allowed to run at will they seldom seek protection from chilling winds and cold weather. So long as their fleeces are kept dry, they enjoy freedom.

My experience has been that there is danger of housing breeding ewes too closely during the winter months. Like many other flock-owners, I have on cold stormy nights closed the doors and neglected to open windows for ventilation. The following morning the air would be distressingly foul. This, I am thoroughly convinced, is not for the best health of the animals.

Breeding ewes need every advantage. Fresh air is not only essential to their well-being, but it costs little or nothing to provide. Opening the windows from the direction opposite to the prevailing winds generally will give the result sought. This arrangement prevents draughts which cause colds.—L. C. R.

DAIRY.

Cows, like people, are creatures of habit. They eat most of what they like best, if they can choose their diet. It is very natural for them to consume first the food that is most palatable. In searching for the finest morsels, a delicate feeder often throws her feed about in the manger until it has become soiled or mussed up, and then refuses to eat the amount necessary to produce her maximum flow of milk.

The appetite of a cow depends upon the condition of the digestive tract. Often the digestion becomes sluggish from an excess of food low in digestible nutrients. The way to overcome this condition is to feed something that will keep the digestive organs active. Silage will do this. So will roots. Succulent food is, therefore, important when teaching the cow to consume the required amount of the foods she should have.

Select Bacon Hogs.

Ontario showed a good increase in select bacon hogs in January compared with the corresponding month of last year, the number being 29,207 against 13,815. Alberta showed a slight increase, being 4,185 against a slight increase being 1,669 against 1,386. Quebec showed a decrease, being 4,185 against 7,152, and Manitoba's figures this January were 2,793 compared with 3,708 in the corresponding month of last year.

It takes a big man to live up to the estimate of his youthful son.

We hear that dog meat is being eaten in Germany. Maybe some of our mutton-flavored canines could profitably be exported.

Record of Performance for Dairy Cattle.

The popularity of the Record of Performance test work for pure bred dairy cattle, carried on by the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa, is brought out by the Hon. Mr. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture, in the report of the work of his Dept. for the year ending March 31st last. In that year alone applications for entry were accepted for 3,868 cows, which was an increase of 882 over the preceding year, and cows were entered for the test from 1,720 farms throughout the Dominion.

A recent modification of the rules governing the test has been brought into effect. This provides for the accepting of entries only from owners who place all their pure bred milking, untested, normal cows in the test. The object of this rule is to stop the practice of some breeders entering one or two of their cows and giving them special care in order to make records that are in many instances considerably higher than the average production of the entire herd.

An interesting fact brought out in the Report is that the Minister's own Department was at that time the owner of the highest producing cow in the Dominion—the Holstein-Friesion "Agassiz Segis May Echo," located at the Experimental Farm, Agassiz, B.C. At the time the report was made, this cow held the world's butter fat record for all breeds and ages, having produced within the year 30,886 pounds of milk containing 1,345 pounds of butter fat. This record has since been slightly exceeded by another Canadian bred cow, "DeKol Plus Segis Dixie," which produced 33,477 pounds of milk and 1,686.5 pounds of butter in 365 days.

Pasture for Hogs.

It is generally acknowledged by successful hog raisers that there is economy in pasturing hogs during the growing period. This practice not only develops general thrift but is conducive to the healthy growth so essential to hogs of the "select" bacon type. The question then arises, What pastures are best for hog raising? According to experiments conducted at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Japanese millet has proved to be a more economical producer of pork than either oat and barley pasture or sweet clover and oats. The sweet clover and oat pasture came second, barley pasture third, and oat pasture at the foot of the list. During the pasturing period, the hogs were fed a similar grain diet in all experiments, as well as milk to drink.

With the millet pastured hogs, gains were made at a cost of 4.01 cents per pound as compared with 4.79 from sweet clover and oats, 5.46 from the oat pasture, and 5.87 from the barley pasture lot. The pasture crops were sown on the 5th of June, and the hogs were placed in the plots one month and one day later when the growth of forage averaged from 6 to 9 inches in length.

Of the several crops tested, Japanese millet proved to have the greater stock carrying capacity. Nine hogs on a plot 115 by 30 feet in size were unable to consume this crop quickly enough, and it was found necessary, after a few weeks, to divide the plot into halves, and place six other pigs on the second half of the lot. The grain ration consisted of a mixture of middlings, shorts, ground oats, ground corn and tankage, with skim milk.

Supplying Bacon Type Sows.

The introduction of hog grading has created a general demand for brood sows of the bacon type. To assist farmers in securing these, the Live Stock Branch of the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa, through the agency of field men, makes suitable stock available in districts where it is most needed. According to the Report of the Dominion Minister of Agriculture for the past fiscal year, 757 head of bacon type sows were purchased in Ontario and shipped for sale direct to farmers in various parts of Quebec. Besides these, more than three hundred Quebec brood sows were turned over from the breeders to districts that had not been supplied. In the Province of Alberta, according to this Report, 42 young sows of the Yorkshire breed were purchased and sold to pig club members, and a quantity of similar stock was made available to Ukranian settlers. That this work will produce good results in due time is shown from the experience of the Peace River District, which was supplied with bacon type hogs of both sexes two years ago. The stock coming out of the district the year following the introduction comprised a much higher percentage of select stock than that marketed from other parts of Alberta.

How to Treat Garget.

In cases of garget, give one pound of Epsom salt in three pints of tepid water well sweetened with molasses; then one-half ounce each of powdered saltpeter and poke root, in feed, once or twice daily. In severe cases give two to four drams of formaldehyde twice daily in water, instead of above medicines. Rub into udder once or twice daily a mixture of one part each of turpentine and fluid extracts of belladonna leaves and poke root, and five parts of melted and unsalted lard or warm sweet oil. In severe cases rub in a mixture of equal quantities of carbolized oil, comphorated oil, and compound soap liniment.—Dr. A. S. Alexander.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

TWO LITTLE SOMETHINGS.

When little Jackie Rabbit and Billie Woodchuck, Junior, returned from school one afternoon, they found their mothers were not at home. This was very unusual, and they were quite pleased. You see, they lived right next door to each other, so it meant they could have a nice long play together and their mothers would not be there to call them to do some little task.

"Come over and play in my yard, Billie," said Jackie, as he saw his little friend coming out of the house munching a big sugar cookie. (Jackie was enjoying a big ginger one with a raisin in the middle).

Billie didn't need a second invitation, because Jackie had a big swing in the maple tree in the back yard. Of all the things he liked to do, Billie thought he liked swinging the best. To go as fast as the wind to and fro up among the leaves was heaps of fun. And this is what Mother Rabbit and Mother Woodchuck found their children doing when they returned home.

"Come here, Jackie," called his mother from the back door. And off Jackie went running, with Billie following as fast as his chubby legs could carry him.

"I want you to go on an errand, Jackie. Take this package down to Sammie Squirrel's house. Mrs. Squirrel has a big surprise for you, two little somethings. Billie's mother says he may go with you."

"What do you mean by two little somethings, Mother?" asked Jackie.

"Run along, children, and you will see," she answered, "but be sure and hurry back."

"Two little somethings," questioned Billie and Jackie, "what do you think they can be?"

"I bet they are two little cars," said Jackie, "and maybe we can ride in them."

"I'll bet they are two swings, and I can have a swing in each one," said Billie.

"Rap, tap, tap," on Sammie Squirrel's door.

A pretty lady squirrel all in white opened the door for them.

"Come in boys," she said.

"Please, ma'am, mother sent this package to you," said Jackie. "And she said you had two little somethings to show us."

"That's right, I have, boys. Just wait a minute." And she went tiptoeing off into the bedroom.

In a minute she was back. "Come right in this way, boys," she said. "Here are the two little somethings that your mother told you about."

And weren't they surprised when they peeked into the bedroom, for there in a snow white cradle were two little baby squirrels.

The boys wanted them to come out and play, but the nurse said they must wait until they had grown to be a little stronger.

"What's their names?" asked Billie.

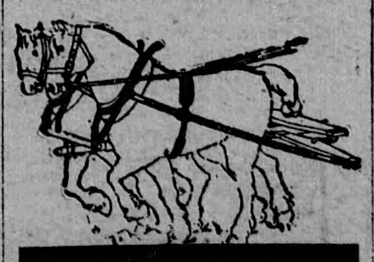
"This one is Sue, and this one is Sally," said the nurse as she tucked them in more closely.

The boys wanted to stay longer, but it was time for the baby squirrels to have their nap, so the nurse had to send them home.

"We'll be back to see Sue and Sally to-morrow," said Jackie.

"You bet we will," said Billie, "and maybe they won't be so sleepy then."

As one rotten apple will spoil a bushel, so will one scrub bull damage the whole herd a decade hence.



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ISSUE No. 12—'24.

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Home Education

"The Child's First School is the Family"—Froebel."

Teaching Our Boys and Girls How to Accept Responsibility

BY HELEN GREGG GREEN.

"I don't understand Aileen! She is positively lazy about the house," complained Aileen's mother. "She'd let me wait on her hand and foot, if I'd do it. And I guess I nearly do."

"My dear," spluttered Aunt Emmy Lou, "I can explain the case. You started wrong with Aileen. When she was a wee girl you were always doing things for her. "Wait, dear, it's raining. Let mother get your overshoes and umbrella. If you asked her to dry the dishes, and she wanted to play instead, you would say, 'Run along, dear, mother will do them!' Yes, you were Ailee's servant. There's no doubt about that."

The mother winced. "Oh, surely—"

"Yes, it's true!" Aunt Emmy Lou interrupted. "I believe in being a child's aid, friend and mother, but *never* his servant. No wonder Aileen is lazy now. You've taught her to be, encouraged it!"

"Oh, Aunt Emmy Lou, don't be cross with me," Virginia smiled. "But I guess you're right. I never thought of her laziness being my fault before. Why does it take us so long to wake up? From now on, I'll have a different system with my little girl."

But she was just twelve years too late beginning the proper "system."

It's not a kindness to a child to do the hundred and one little things that he should be taught to do for himself. We must teach our children initiative, and to do this they must have little responsibilities of their own. As they grow older these may be increased so that they will gradually become more efficient and better able to face the responsibilities of life.

One of the most unhappy girls I know is one who had a great deal of responsibility thrust upon her when she was wholly unprepared for it. Of course she was not equal to it. Her parents had shielded her all her life from the responsibilities she should have had. Even very small children should be given a small amount of responsibility; first in homeopathic poses, to be increased as the child grows older. Then in time he will be able to accept all that comes in his way in a capable, experienced manner.

Registered Silver Foxes.

The Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, in the report of his department for the year 1922-23, makes reference to silver fox farming. This industry, the Minister points out, had its inception in Prince Edward Island, in the vicinity of Tignish, somewhere in the early eighties. It has now spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and is firmly established on a business basis. According to this Report, the Canadian Silver Fox Breeders' Association was incorporated in 1920, when a stud book was opened for the registration of all foxes that came up to a required standard and which had been bred in captivity for a certain number of generations. Up to the end of March, last year, 10,000 foxes had been accepted for registration and were tatooed on the ears for identification.

The Live Stock Branch of the Department, at the request of breeders, recently took over the inspection of the foundation stock. The period of the year in which inspection can be made is limited from late September until the middle of January. Inspection has to be delayed until this date owing to the fact that it is the quality of the fur that makes silver foxes valuable and some cold weather must be experienced before the quality of the winter coats can be judged. The stopping of inspection in the middle of January is said to be due to the commencement of the breeding season at that time, when ranches have to be closed to all except those in charge.

With respect to the production feature of the silver fox industry, it is stated that there is a steadily increasing demand for furs of all kinds, and at the same time the supply from the wilds is just as steadily decreasing. Accordingly, in order to keep up the supply, it will be necessary to breed more and more fur bearing animals in captivity. As the silver black fox produces a high priced fur and one that cannot be successfully imitated, a demand for his pelt is bound to continue.

The wiseacre who said that it is good for one to do something disagreeable each day, apparently did not realize that most of us fulfilled that unpleasant duty by getting up in the morning.

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