THE FARM FRONT

by John Russell

Most of us have heard of such things as celery-fed ducks and, in a bygone day, corn-fed blondes; but I must confess that milk-fed tomatoes are something new — at least to me. However, that's what they're saying — feeding milk to young tomato plants is not only possible, but highly profitable as well.

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According to Prof. Frank M. Harrington, who is head of horticultural research at Montana State College, the milk feeding will not only make the tomato plants grow. They'll mature earlier; the vines will be sturdier; the root systems 50% bigger at transplanting time; and at harvest-time the tomatoes will be big, solidly-fleshed, with few seeds.

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As for the yield—that from the milk-fed plants will be about double. In fact the milk appears to act very much the same as some of the new growth-stimulating hormones we hear so much about.

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In charge of the Montana experiments was Dr. Leon Johnson. He dissolved powdered milk in water till it formed a soupy mixture and poured about one-third of an ounce around each new plant the first week it was up. Then he increased the amount one third of an ounce each week for five weeks. He also used buttermilk and skim milk in the same manner.

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As for the actual results—plants that hadn't been given extra plant food of any sort produced at the rate of 6,829 pounds of tomatoes per acre; those receiving skim milk alone yielded at the rate of 9,814 pounds; while plants receiving both skim milk and ammoniated phosphate averaged 12,374 pounds.

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One pound of powdered milk fertilizes 100 young plants in pots, and will take care of even more if grown in flats. Johnson believes that milk-feeding tomatoes will prove practical for both home gardeners and commercial growers. And after the milk had made such a startling showing on tomatoes, Johnson tried it on young onions —and with similar results!

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Which will be enough about milk for the time being—now something about the milk producers—the cows. The Dominion Experimental Farms have just issued information about the value of dehorning, some of which I'm going to pass along to you, in hopes it will be found of value.

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Nature gave horns to the wild cow for her protection. Today they're of not practical value, and fully developed horns may cause serious injury to udders, while painful body wounds often result from hooking and fighting among cattle.

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Calves may be dehorned cheaply, safely and effectively anytime until they are ten days old, or as soon as the horn button appears. Caustic potash, which you can get in stick form at any drugstore, or commercial "horn stoppers" may be used. If applied correctly both treatments give excellent results.

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The dehorning is quite simple. The calf should be thrown, or tied securely, not only to make your work easier but also so that the dehorning material can be applied only to the horns. The horn buttons should be clipped bare to make them easy to locate. (With the caustic treatment, the stick should be held in dry paper to prevent getting your fingers burned).

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The horn button is then rubbed with the moistened end of the stick over an area the size of a 25 cent pieces. The skin will redden and the horn button will become bare. A ring of vaseline around the base of the button will prevent any excess moisture from the treated area leaking over and burning the calf's eyes or face. Other calves must not be allowed to lick the treated area as the caustic will burn skin tissue badly.

A new commercial dehorning preparation is becoming quite popular. It may be applied by painting the bare horn button thoroughly, using a small brush. This material does not run as it contains a quick drying ingredient which seals the treated area quickly. It is said to be equally effective in stopping horn growth as the caustic treatment.

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Now, something about the serious losses which seem bound to occur among baby pigs. Every good hog man knows that it is impossible to nail down all the causes for such losses. But there is a growing belief in the minds of many expert veterinarians and research men that undue chilling during the first twelve hours after farrowing is one of the most common and important factors involved

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Such chilling not only upsets the vital balance of blood sugars, but also lowers the pig's resistance to any disease — encouraging the growth of any bacteria that may be lurking about looking for a spot on which to pounce.

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In their wild state, sows farrowed their pigs during the warmth of Spring sunshine, and on a bed of clean leaves. An efficient farmer should try, as best he can, to duplicate such natural environment by providing artificial heat when necessary, and strictly sanitary farrowing pens.

B. C. Wool On The Hoof

Acres of Canadian Wool On The Hoof—Studding the rolling landscape of the 6000-ft-high alpine pastures of British Columbia, thousands of sheep of the Hayward Ranch near Kamloops, B.C., are being fattened and sheared on their 1800-acre spring range. The lambs are destined to provide next fall's lamb chops, and their wool may become the yarn for that new suit for Easter, 1950. From this spring range, the sheep will be moved to a summer pasture 150 miles away.

Some Facts About Elephants

An elephant's skin measures from one-eighth of an inch to two inches in thickness. It takes a year to tan an elephant skin. Yet an ordinary fly can draw blood.

The average life span of an elephant is 50 years, and its average weight three tons.

Elephants suffer from pneumonia, colds, consumption, tumors, flat feet and corns. When they become ill, their trainers take care of them exactly as if they were humans. If they have a cough, a steel instrument holds their mouths open while the trainers put giant pills down the animals' throats.

Elephants cannot stand cold. In chilly climates they wear special blankets that cover their ears, trunks and tails.

Elephants have to be taught to like peanuts after they come to civilized countries. They eat no peanuts in their native jungles.

SQUELCH

The late Lord Birkenhead, famous lawyer and after-dinner speaker, did not always see eye-to-eye with the judge before whom he was appearing. During an important trial at Liverpool, the judge demanded angrily, "Are you trying to teach me law, Sir?" Birkenhead replied sweetly, "I never attempt the impossible, m'lud."

What Goes On In Canada During May

A number of important exhibitions, celebrations and conventions are scheduled throughout Canada during the month of May, according to a survey released here by A. A. Gardiner, general passenger traffic manager, Canadian National Railways.

NOVA SCOTIA

May 9-11—New Glasgow—Music Festival
May 13-18—Sydney—Cape Breton Festival of Music, Speech and Drama
May 26-31—Halifax—Halifax Music Festival

QUEBEC

May 4 —Montreal—Opening games of Montreal Baseball Club
May 15-22—Montreal—Le Music Hall de Paris
May 23-28—Montreal—Showboat Theatrical Company
May 23-28—Montreal—Hamid Morton Circus
May 30 —Montreal—McGill University Convocation

ONTARIO

May 7-21—Toronto—Dufferin Spring Race Meet
May 21-28—Toronto—Ontario Jockey Club at Dufferin
May 26 —Guelph—Ontario Agriculture College Convocation
May 27 —Guelph—Bruce County Day at O.A.C.
May 30-June 3—Toronto—Greenwood Club at Woodbine
May 30-June 10—Toronto—International Trade Fair
May 30-31—London—Kinette Antique Fair
May 30 —Sudbury—Fun Parade Show sponsored by Sudbury Lions Club

MANITOBA

May 7-15—Winnipeg—Shriners' Circus
May 27-28—Winnipeg—Lions Club Fun Parade

SASKATCHEWAN

May 2 —Regina—National Tourist Week
May 4-5-6—Saskatoon—Light Horse Show
May 16-19—Regina—Musical Festival
May 27 28—Saskatoon—Fat Stock Show

ALBERTA

May 11-14—Calgary—Horse Show
May 24 —Edmonton—Spring Race Meeting

BRITISH COLUMBIA

May 1 —Ashcroft—May Day Celebrations
May (throughout)—Blue River—Spring Skiing
May 1 —Kaslo—Opening Day Salmon Derby
May 1-3-4—Mission—Music Festival of Fraser Valley
May 4- 7—Victoria—Spring Garden Festival
May 2- 7—Powell River—B.C. Products Fair
May 8-10—Victoria—Rotary Club District Convention
May 11-14—Vernon—Industrial Exposition
May 12-15—Victoria—Washington State Warehouse Convention
May 11-12—Victoria—Late Spring Flower Show
May 14-16—Victoria—Institute of Chartered Accountants Convention
May 19-21—Victoria—Pulp and Paper Convention
May 21-24—Victoria—May Queen Celebrations
May 22-25—Victoria—Canadian Legion Convention
May 28-June 2—Victoria—I.O.D.E. Convention
May 24-28—Vancouver—Stampede
May 24 —Duncan—Indian Carnival and Regatta at Cowichan Bay
May 24 —Keremos—Rodeo
May 24 —Hope—Lions Carnival
May 24 —Kaslo—Victoria Day and Crowning of May Queen Celebrations
May 24 —Ke'owna—Gyro Sports Day
May 24 —Mission—Elks Big Day in aid of Children's F
May 24 —Penticton—Sports Day

CANADA PRODUCES GOLD FOR ALL THE WORLD

Canada, world's second largest producer of gold, exports more than ninety-five percent of her product—an important contribution to the world supply of this universal medium of international exchange.

Why Seagram's sells Canada first

This is an adaptation of one of a series of advertisements which, for the past two years, The House of Seagram has published in magazines and newspapers printed in many languages and countries throughout the world. These advertisements feature various Canadian products—lumber, salmon, furs, nickel, apples, plywood and many others.

Nature has endowed our country with an almost limitless supply of valuable resources. Properly used and converted to manufactured goods, these resources can carry our nation to unprecedented greatness. But first, the peoples of other lands must learn of the prestige and quality of Canadian products.

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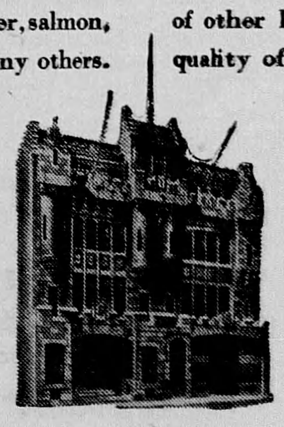
One out of every three dollars we Canadians earn comes to us as a result of foreign trade. This campaign is designed to help all Canadian industries and, consequently, to help put money in the pockets of every Canadian citizen.



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The House of Seagram believes that it is in the interest of every Canadian manufacturer to help the sale of all Canadian products in foreign markets. It is in this spirit that these advertisements are being produced and published throughout the world.

The House of Seagram

LITTLE REGGIE — By Margarita