

News and Information FOR THE BUSY FARMER

[Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture]

Horseshoe Pitching

Horseshoe pitching, the one Canadian farm game which is racy of the soil, will reach its climax at the Royal Winter Fair in the last week in November when the singles championship under the Dominion of Canada Horseshoe Pitchers' Association will be decided. This is the recognized championship for the whole country. It will be part of a four-night program of pitching beginning on Monday, November 23rd, and concluding with the championship contest. First-class pitches are being prepared in the judging ring of the East Building. The lighting and general conditions are excellent. Rules and shoes are those of the Association. All events, including Senior A and B doubles and singles, are under the auspices of the Royal Winter Fair through an appointed committee. Entries are reported to include some of the most interesting players in Ontario and some new talent is expected to be seen.

Potatoes and Corn

The yield per acre of potatoes in Ontario is above the very low yield of last year but considerably below normal. Total production is estimated at 14,500,000 bushels as compared with 13,130,000 bushels in 1935, and an average crop of about 18,000,000 bushels. The total Canadian crop of 64,190,000 bushels is only slightly less than a year ago.

Corn for ensilage was checked by the drought and total production will amount to 2,425,000 tons as against 3,034,000 tons last year. Dairy farmers in Central Ontario will be hit by the reduction in the yield of fodder corn as grain yields on many farms in this section were also below normal and a large number are finding it necessary to purchase feedstuffs in an effort to produce a normal supply of fluid milk this winter. The European corn borer was much more numerous this fall in the eastern part of Ontario and in the County of Essex, but in the areas where drought occurred, an improvement is reported. For instance, in Norfolk County, where drought was intense, borers were only about one-third as numerous as in 1935.

Effects of Drought

For the first time in many years a large part of Old Ontario was visited by a severe drought last summer. The more obvious effects of this lack of rain has been, of course, the curtailment of crop yields, but there were other serious effects which were not so obvious during the dry spells but are showing up now.

According to a report made by Prof. O. McConkey of the Ontario Agricultural College, "farmers in some sections of the province have been experiencing difficulties because the feeds grown on their farms are too low in the essential minerals to maintain healthy stock. Animals show symptoms of mineral deficiency troubles by depraved appetite, i.e., chewing bones and sticks, lack of thriftiness, decline in milk production, and in breeding troubles.

An analysis of 105 samples of hay from different farms in Ontario showed that the protein content ranged from 5 per cent. to 21.75 per cent. and the calcium content from .22 to 3.99, while the phosphorus content ranged from .06 to .22. According to recognized authorities on this subject hay should contain at least .16 per cent. phosphorus and .7 of calcium.

The above survey shows that some farms are producing hay which is four times higher in protein than others, and that a considerable percentage of the hay is too low in the essential minerals to maintain good healthy animals.

Where drought has occurred mineral deficiencies will be more acute during the coming winter. Feeds will probably contain less phosphorus than usual, and it will be a wise precaution to start feeding a recognized mineral supplement early in the stable feeding period to prevent trouble and loss.

Youth Program at Royal

The climax of a 15-year story of progress will be reached at the Royal Winter Fair, November 18-26, when the spirit of "Youth in Agriculture" will animate the whole program.

All is to be a sort of celebration of the achievements in advance of our future farmers. The term is not a slogan merely, but an expression of spirit which animates the whole of this year's Fair. Numerous boys' and girls' contests to be featured, including an oratorical contest for Canadian youths from every Province.

Arrangements have been made for all students at the Ontario Agricultural Colleges of Guelph, Kemptville and Ridgetown to attend. An extensive plan is being completed to bring into Toronto groups of young farm people, and, with the co-operation of the Department of Education, pupils of collegiate institutes and high schools within bus-ride distance, roughly outlined by a circle around Niagara Falls, Orangeville, Lindsay and Cobourg. Over 1,500 country boys are to be "on parade" in the arena during the opening of the Horse Show.

Nearly 16,000 entries have been received—a Fair record. Horses, cattle, sheep and swine will fill the accommodation. Flowers, fruit, vegetables, grain, butter, honey, livestock judging, beef carcass and export bacon carcass contests are some of the farm activities. Twenty-four specialty poultry clubs will hold their annual gatherings and club contests at the Coliseum with over 6,000 birds.

Mice Injure Orchards

One of the greatest hazards in the growing of an apple orchard is the danger of girdling by mice. This is especially true in orchards under sod culture, although even orchards under clean cultivation are frequently subject to considerable damage from this cause. The amount of damage caused by these animals varies greatly from year to year, depending largely upon their available supply of food.

Galvanized wire screen makes the most effective protection. The initial cost is high, but as it only has to be placed once and will last for a large number of years, it will be found cheaper in the long run. This wire should be cut into pieces large enough to encircle the trunk and leave room for expansion of the trunk, as the tree grows. The lower end should be buried about one inch in the soil, in order to prevent mice from working underneath.

Turkeys in Winter

Breeding turkeys should not be confined to houses during the winter months but allowed to roam at will during the day. The only shelter that is required for them at night is a straw barn or closed-in shed. They should not be kept in a draughty place, but any building that will provide shelter from wind, rain, and snow is quite suitable. Never house turkeys with hens or in heated pens because colds which later develop into roup are almost sure to follow. During the winter months the breeding turkeys should receive only limited rations, as they have a tendency to become over fat if well fed. Hard grain should be given in preference to mash or ground grains. Equal parts of oats, wheat, and buckwheat are quite suitable during the cold months, but when the weather moderates in spring, the buckwheat should be discontinued. Once daily during winter is often enough to feed, and fresh water should be provided at least once a day.



Saugeen Lodge No. 327
Markdale, Ont.

NOVEMBER 23rd, 1936—Installation of Officers by the D.D.G.M.

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W. J. COLEMAN, Rep. Sec., Markdale

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EUGENIA

The Women's Association will hold their meeting on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 19.

The Sunday School and School will hold a Christmas concert in the Church on Dec. 22.

A number from here attended the funeral of the late Mr. Robt. Plantt to Salem cemetery on Thursday last. We extend our sympathy to relatives in their hour of sorrow.

Mrs. C. Martin attended the joint meeting of the Board of the Presque Isle Camp and the executive of the Young People's Union of the Grey Presbytery of the United Church of Canada on Friday evening in the United Church at Flesherton. About 25 officers were present. A bounteous supper was served by a group of ladies of the Church, and enjoyed by all, after which the meeting took place.

Mr. Chas. Park has gone to Niagara to spend a while.

Miss Ila Magee of Toronto is spending a while with her mother, who has been ill the past week. We hope Mrs. Magee will soon be well again.

Mr. and Mrs. Cartwright and Douglas and Mrs. Armstrong, Miss Anna and Master Andrew of Long Branch were Sunday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Magee and Miss Irva.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack McCowell of Toronto visited over the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Bert Magee and family.

Mr. Ken. MacDonald of Froud, Sask., is on an extended visit with his cousin, Mr. Neil MacDonald, 5th Line.

Mrs. Benson and family of Maxwell visited in the village on Wednesday of last week.

Mr. John MacDonald, wife and little daughter, Donald, of Brighton visited a few days with the former's sister and brother here.

The Young People's Union held their regular meeting on Wednesday evening of last week with the new President, Miss Annieta Turner, presiding. After the singing of the opening hymn, the Lord's prayer was repeated in unison. The Scripture passages were read by Winneta Martin and Willie Fenwick. The minutes of the last meeting

were read and approved. A motion was passed to withdraw the next meeting and attend the annual rally of the South-Grey section of the Y. P. Union of the Grey Presbytery of the United Church of Canada to be held in Pricerville on Tuesday evening, Nov. 17. Mrs. Martin and Miss Dinsmore were appointed as a committee to see about getting cars for those going. The discussion topic, "Christ's teaching and war", was taken by Wesley Jamieson. At an opportune time an address from the Society to Misses Marjorie and Ida Benson was read by Mrs. C. Martin, while, on behalf of the Society, a presentation of a bon-bon dish was made to Marjorie by Leone Duckett and salt and pepper shakers on a stand to Ida by Annieta Turner to show appreciation of their services.

The girls, taken by surprise, made replies thanking all for the tokens of remembrance. The girls, who were officers in our union last year, have gone to reside at Maxwell but were present for the meeting. Rev. A. Bushell conducted a spelling match for recreation. The meeting closed in the usual way.

Mr. and Mrs. Murdock Leitch and son, also daughter-in-law and babe of Paisley visited recently with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Parliament and called on Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Williams and other friends.

The Kincardine relief committee is considering the purchase of a small bush lot. It is hoped by providing work in the bush to take all off relief except possibly two families.

A Message to Mrs. Housewife



Take an Inventory during the Fall Cleaning Season. You'll be surprised at the number of valuable articles no longer in use, articles someone else would be glad to pay cash for. Turn them into cash in the surest way: through

The Markdale Standard
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