

News and Information FOR THE BUSY FARMER

[Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture]

Selection of Eggs for Hatching
 The Department of Poultry Husbandry, O.A.C., Guelph, in Bulletin 379, "Farm Poultry," advise to select eggs for size, shape and colour. In view of the weight standard for market eggs, it is wise to select eggs for hatching which are two ounces or better in weight. It is well to keep in mind that two-ounce pullet eggs are equal to a somewhat heavier egg from the same bird as a hen. Continuous selection, year after year will give results. Do not select dirty eggs or handle eggs with soiled hands. The egg shell is porous, hence their is a possibility of contamination."

"Eggs deteriorate in hatching quality with age. When holding eggs for hatching, keep them in a cool place at about fifty to sixty degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature should be uniform. Be sure that the place is clean and not musty. Eggs for hatching should not be kept longer than ten days, and the sooner the eggs are set after being laid, the better the hatch is likely to be."

Conservation Committees
 There has been a conservation committee appointed by many of the county councils this year. One of the first questions asked is what activities should and will the committee sponsor? Naturally they wish to accomplish something tangible, and this often leads to a plant-

ing scheme. Planting is necessary and all work along this line is to be commended. Is planting the most important and is it not over-emphasized when compared to other activities that a conservation committee might carry on?

Is not the conservation of the remaining woodland the most important consideration? Most people realize that planting would not be necessary to-day if 10 acres of woods had been left on every 100 - 200 acre farm and all the sub-marginal land left in timber rather than clearing for agricultural crops and allowing fire to run through cut-over lands.

How can we encourage farmers to take measures to preserve the woodland that remains on their farms. If a farmer considers the woodlot an asset, he will preserve it. A woodlot that pays dividends is more liable to be preserved than one that doesn't. Much larger returns will be received over a period of years by following forestry principles in the management than in carrying on the common practices of clear-cutting young growth, allowing trees to decay, cutting all valuable species and leaving weed trees to seed up the woods. Farmers will plant trees more readily if their neighbour is making money from his woods.

All woodland should have small trees coming on ready to take the place of the large trees that are cut.

This reproduction may be secured naturally, that is from the seed that fall from the large trees and the farmer does not have to make a cash outlay. It is a guarantee that there will be a woodlot there 50 - 75 years hence. The natural reproduction is interfered with and in many woodlots eliminated by the grazing of livestock. More re-forestation could be secured in a few years from natural reproduction if all woodlots had the stock shut out than will by planting in the next fifty years.

The main activity of a conservation committee should be education, and the following phases should be emphasized:

1. The value of woodlots to the farmer, community and province.
2. Forestry principles that may economically be practised in woodland on Southern Ontario woodlots.
3. The necessity and the technique of establishing plantations and windbreaks. Municipalities should take the lead in planting, as they can wait the 50 - 75 years that it takes trees to grow to merchantable size.

Planting On The Farm
 Woodland on the farm is considered an asset by most farmers. The owner of a 10 - 15 acre woodlot is independent in regard to fuelwood and lumber for repairs and minor building around the farm. An agricultural district will grow better crops and living conditions are improved if 10 - 15 per cent. of the area is in woodland. It is a windbreak for the crops in winter and summer and helps to control floods by holding back and reducing the surface run-off. Woodland acts as a reservoir that tends to keep a regular supply of water in the wells and springs.

The area in woodland should be increased in many districts and most farms would be better if some planting was done. Each farmer should carefully survey his farm, and decide on the locations that should be planted.

Very little planting is necessary or will be successful in a woodlot that has not been pastured for years, as nature has attended to the starting of a new crop of trees. Planted trees would be crowded out by the vigorous trees that have started from seed. Trees may be planted in a corner that has not seeded up or an evergreen windbreak may be needed on the north and west sides of the woods.

Planting will be successful in an open pastured woodlot. The planting will speed up the restocking, and it gives the owner an opportunity to introduce valuable species such as pine, spruce, walnut, oak and white ash. White spruce, white pine and sugar maple will grow under the shade of light foliaged trees such as poplar and paper birch. The trees in the pastured woods and underplanting under poplar do not require the 6 foot spacing that is recommended for open land planting as there will be natural reproduction starting if the stock are kept out.

There are areas on many farms that would be better growing trees. It may be a steep hillside that is difficult to work, or that is eroding. Sandy and gravelly soils are often a liability if they are not growing trees. There are small irregular fields that are cut off by a creek, road or railroad.

Every farm should have a windbreak to protect the farm buildings. It improves living conditions by breaking the force of the winds, reduces snow-drifting on roads and around buildings if properly located and gives a beautiful setting for the buildings.

There are odd corners around the farm buildings that are not and never will be utilized. These corners if planted would improve the appearance of the farm, keep down weeds and be growing something of value.

Landowners in Ontario may secure free small trees for planting windbreaks, plantations and restocking woodlots. Application forms and descriptive literature may be secured by applying to The Forestry Branch, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, tree nurseries at St. Williams, Midhurst and Orono, or the county agricultural offices.

This week's fairy story: There is a boy in this town who says the thing he most dislikes about Easter is that it means holidays from school.

Farmers Benefit Most from Telephone Rate Reductions

Farmers will benefit by over \$100,000 yearly through reductions in rural telephone rates, effective April 1st.

In this district rural telephone rates are reduced 25 cents per month—\$3.00 yearly.

- Other reductions are—**
- Hand (cradle) telephones—** reduced from 30 cents to 15 cents per month over Desk type (effective with May bills).
 - Installation charge—** Business telephones reduced from \$2.25 to \$2.00.
 - Service connection—** (where instrument is in place) on Business telephones, reduced from \$1.15 to \$1.00; inside move charges reduced from \$2.00 to \$1.00 (effective April 1st).
 - Short haul Long Distance Calls—** 20-cent person-to-person calls reduced to 15 cents. The extra cost for reversing charges on calls to nearby places is cancelled (effective April 1st).
 - Deaf Sets—** The special type of equipment available for the hard-of-hearing is reduced from \$2.50 to \$1.50 per month.

These reductions, especially those affecting farmers' telephones, will tend to increase the general use of telephone service, making it of greater value to every user.



Can You Name the Two Best Known Men

throughout the County of Grey and Living in the following Municipalities:

Artemesia, Chatsworth, Euphrasia, Flesherton, Glenelg, Holland, Markdale

An entertaining Contest open to Everyone, with Bonuses to Winners who are Paid-in-Advance Subscribers and to Subscribers who Secure One or More New Subscribers

PRIZES

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| FIRST | SECOND | THIRD |
| \$3 to \$9 | \$2 to \$6 | \$1 to \$3 |

SEE PAGE 1 FOR FULL PARTICULARS

BALLOT

Name two men from each municipality whom you consider the best known

No. 1, Artemesia

No. 2, Artemesia

No. 1, Chatsworth

No. 2, Chatsworth

No. 1, Euphrasia

No. 2, Euphrasia

No. 1, Flesherton

No. 2, Flesherton

No. 1, Glenelg

No. 2, Glenelg

No. 1, Holland

No. 2, Holland

No. 1, Markdale

No. 2, Markdale

Signed

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