

## News and Information FOR THE BUSY FARMER

[Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture]

### Farm Youth Active

One of the distinctive features of modern agriculture in Ontario is the prominence of youth in all that pertains to the industry. This was not always so. In times gone by, owing to force of circumstances there was little inducement to youth on the farm further than a love of hard work, but, since the interest of young people has been aroused, the love of achievement in the oldest and greatest of all industries has placed the young farmer in a position of commanding importance.

This commanding position is in reality the outcome of one of the most progressive and encouraging movements of modern times, namely, farm club organization for girls and boys. Officially known as "Boys' and Girls' Farm Club Work in Canada," the movement is designed to develop interest in the farm and farm life; to provide a practical education in agriculture and home economics; to improve farm practices; to encourage the use of better livestock and seed; and to train young people for citizenship in their respective districts.

### Sheep Breeders Meet

An object lesson in agricultural co-operation was afforded by the first field day of the Ottawa Valley Sheep Breeders' Association which was held recently at the farm of Donald M. Stewart, Osgoode, Ont., when more than 300 representative sheep farmers, accompanied by their wives and women folk, were in attendance. The meeting was also a remarkable tribute to the keenness of the sheep breeders and the farmers interested in sheep from the fact that they gathered in full force from the counties of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec to set their official seal on the newly formed Ottawa Valley Sheep Breeders' Association by electing their first officers. Thus the first field day was the first annual general meeting of the association.

The society intends to play an important part in encouraging all phases of the industry and in developing a demand for lamb in the Cities of Ottawa and Hull, and other towns in the Ottawa Valley. The objects of the Association also include help in the development of better facilities for marketing wool, lambs and purebred stock. The Ottawa Valley district is particularly well suited to the raising of sheep, including the production of good quality wool and choice commercial lambs.

### Potash in Agriculture

Potash is one of the three "essential elements of fertility"—nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. These elements have received this appellation, not because they are any more essential to the growth of crops than the other nine or ten elements entering into the composition of plant tissues, but because they are the three which must be constantly returned to the soil if its productivity is to be maintained under our ordinary systems of farming, which, as we know, entail the removal and sale of at least a portion of our crops.

Of these three elements, potash is the more widely distributed and less frequently deficient in soils than nitrogen and phosphoric acid and may be considered the least important from the standpoint of the necessity of application. Clay loams as a rule are well supplied with potash and seldom respond profitably to an application of a special potassic fertilizer. Indeed, upon heavy clays such an application may depress the yield by bringing about an unfavourable condition of tilth. It is more particularly sandy and gravelly loams, limestone soils and soils rich in vegetable matter such as mucks and peaty loams, which are poor in potash and upon which this element may be expected to give a profitable return.

Again, it is not all crops that call for potassic manuring. On our staple cereal crops, wheat and oats, potash seldom gives a remunerative re-

turn, save on the lightest and driest soils. Barley, for malting purposes, is to some extent an exception among cereals, frequently responding profitably to potassic manures and particularly so on sandy soils.

### Crop Conditions

The latest crop report prepared by the Statistics Branch shows that field crops generally in Old Ontario made phenomenal growth in the month of June. An abundance of moisture and fairly cool weather provided the best growing conditions experienced in years. Fall wheat and fall rye, hay and clover, spring grains and pastures grew very rapidly. Fall wheat is now ripening in Western Ontario and in the more southerly part harvesting will commence within a very few days. Bumper yields will be obtained on most fields, but lodging has reduced the yield somewhat on some stands. Spring grains have developed so rapidly in most of Central and Southwestern Ontario as to completely offset the extreme lateness of seeding. Early oats and barley promise excellent yields. In Eastern Ontario spring grains have made good growth but are still below average. In Lake Erie counties frequent rains have interfered with haying operations and made curing difficult. As a result a considerable quantity of hay in this section will be of inferior quality. Weeds are the worst in years as late seeding and wet conditions of the soil have prevented cultivating. However crop conditions on the whole are quite promising in Old Ontario. In the major portion of Northern Ontario the weather since seeding has been too dry for satisfactory growth. The hay crop is especially poor and spring grains are backward and need rain for continued development. Grasshoppers are causing consider-

able damage in sections of Sudbury, Algoma and Manitoulin, and applications of poison bran have been necessary.

### Controlling Plant Aphids

Aphids or plant lice are soft-bodied insects which are frequently found feeding in clusters on a wide variety of plants. They vary greatly in colour—white, green, blue, red and black. When they are discovered, they should be checked before further damage is done. They can be controlled much more easily at the beginning of an outbreak than later in the season when their numbers will have increased and the leaves on which they are feeding will have curled up in such a way as to protect the insects from sprays or dusts.

Spraying the plants with nicotine sulphate 70 per cent (Black Leaf 40) and water, to which has been added a small amount of laundry soap, is the easiest and best method of control. In small amounts, two teaspoonfuls of nicotine should be used in a gallon of soap water. For larger amounts, nicotine should be used at the rate of 3/8ths of a pint to 40 gallons of water with two to three pounds of soap added. The material should be applied on a hot, calm day, drenching both upper and lower surfaces of the leaves so as to actually hit all the insects.

In protecting field crops, at least 100 gallons of the spray should be used per acre at each application. Two or three applications at weekly intervals will be necessary for complete control. In buying nicotine sulphate in quantity, large containers should be purchased in preference to a number of small bottles or cans, because the cost is very much reduced by buying in bulk lots.

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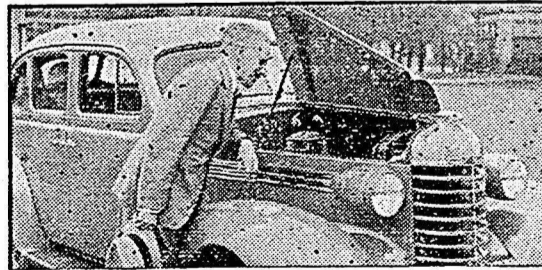
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