

## News and Information FOR THE BUSY FARMER

[Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture]

### Exhibition Dates

Peterboro Ont., Industrial Exhibition, August 18 to 21.  
Central Canada Exhibition, Ottawa, August 19 to 28.  
Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, Aug. 27 to September 11.  
Western Fair, London, September 13 to 18.

Canadian horses are in demand in various countries. Of recent shipments to the British Isles, the largest consisted of 70 fine horses for the London market where prices, varying from \$200 to slightly over \$500, were obtained. Twenty-one of the horses, which were big, clean-legged animals, each averaging over a ton in weight, met with a keen demand.

Five Canadian horses were recently shipped to Barbados, British West Indies for police duty.

### Gather Eggs Often

Eggs should be gathered at least twice a day, and three times daily is better during hot weather. The time of one gathering should be just before dark or as near to it as practicable. This last gathering may not produce a great number of eggs, but since broody hens will commonly search out the nest containing eggs after the day's laying has ceased, failure to gather late in the day is a common source of distinct deterioration.

Each gathering should be placed in the coolest part of the cellar if no other cool spot is available, as soon as gathered. Eggs should not be put into cartons or cases immediately if this can be avoided. The ideal container for cooling eggs is a wire tray. A wire basket is the next best, and perhaps the most practical. These baskets are ordinarily offered for sale as waste paper containers.

### Seed Cleaner at Ridgeway

Work is being rushed on the new seed cleaning plant at Ridgeway Experimental Farm to get it ready for fall wheat. The new one-storey structure is to be 60 feet by 30 feet, and will include a small laboratory for testing soil. There are many such cleaners and graders through the province. Others in the southwestern area district are at Dresden, Wyoming and Shedden.

It will also have a small bean picker and complete dust-removing machine. Farmers will be charged a reasonable fee the same as the usual prevailing rate for such work.

The small laboratory for soil testing will be in a corner of the seed and grain cleaning plant, and farmers coming to have grain cleaned and graded will be able to get their soil tested at the same time.

### Chickens on Range

Chickens require less attention while on range than at any other time, and, if a few simple precautions are taken, clean grass or clover range will provide ideal conditions for producing well-grown vigorous stock with a minimum amount of labor and expense.

At the Dominion Experimental Station, Fredericton, N.B., the sexes are separated when the chickens are from 6 to 9 weeks of age. The brooder houses are moved to a clover sod area on which there were no chickens for at least one year and the chickens are confined to a yard until they are between three and four months of age. They are then moved to a range on which there were no chickens the previous year. A pasture field or a meadow from which an early crop of hay has been taken is ideal for this purpose. Range shelters constructed of two inch material and enclosed with wire netting provide sufficient shelter and allow ample ventilation for as many birds for which roosting space is provided. A feed hopper which is protected with a roof is located near the range shelter. If the fields are used for pasture for live stock, a temporary fence, which provides access only to chickens is built around the feed hopper. Water is supplied in troughs. This method of watering

is preferable to allowing the birds to drink from springs or creeks, as these places provide conditions which are favorable for the spreading of parasites.

### Sugar Beet Crop

The commercial sugar beet crop of South-western Ontario, although seeded late, developed very rapidly and the operation of blocking and thinning was practically completed by the end of June. The heavy rainfall and favorable growing weather of late May and all through June brought the major portion of the fields to the thinning stage at the same time, and caused great pressure on the labor supply. This situation was aggravated by numerous hold-ups in the work owing to the wet condition of the fields. Nine separate rainfalls were recorded at Chatham during June, totalling 4.7 inches, or double the average amount for June.

As is usual with spring seasons of too heavy rainfall, some trouble has developed from blackroot and insect pests. Weeds have grown rapidly and without the usual check provided by frequent cultivation. Notwithstanding, the difficulties experienced this spring, however, the thinned fields generally show excellent stands and give promise of a good crop. The commercial acreage will be somewhat less than the 30,000 acres planned as frequent rains prevented some farmers from seeding the full acreage for which they had contracted.

### Control of Asparagus Beetles

There is every reason to believe that serious outbreaks of asparagus beetles during the cutting season, such as that which was experienced this spring in some parts of the Niagara peninsula and in Norfolk

county, could be prevented if a regular practice were made of dusting or spraying all asparagus patches with an arsenical after the cutting season is over. The early injury is done by the beetles which overwinter, and therefore, the logical method of preventing such injury is to reduce the population of overwintering beetles to very small proportions by applying an arsenical now and by applying it to all asparagus plantations. The application should be repeated when and where necessary.

**Dusting**—Use an \$5-15 lime-calcium arsenate dust (\$5 lbs. hydrated lime mixed with 15 lbs. calcium arsenate). To insure proper mixing, the dust should be purchased from one of the spray companies.

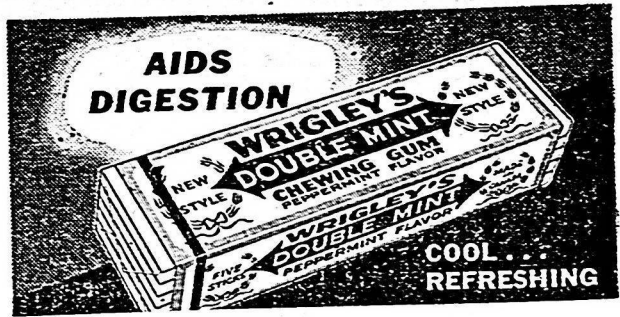
**Spraying**—Use (1) 2 lbs. lead arsenate and 2 lbs. soap in 40 gallons water; or (2) 2 lbs. lead arsenate and ½ lb. calcium caseinate in 40 gallons water.

In order to reduce mechanical injury from the spray rig to the minimum, it is suggested that the spraying should be done from the top of the tank and that the spray mixture should be allowed to drift with the wind over as wide a strip as possible. Long, narrow patoes may be sprayed wholly from the outside. Still another suggestion which should make it possible to spray wide strips is that an extra long hose should be used and that part of it should be held above the plants by a man or by being attached to a long pole or scantling fastened at right angles to the end of the sprayer.

**Sanitary Measures**—Late in the fall, burn all rubbish in and around the plantations to destroy any hibernating beetles in it.

**Note Regarding Cyanamid**—Observations and preliminary experiments indicate that pulverized cyanamid, at the rate of 300 to 350 lbs. per acre, is the most effective insecticide which may be used to prevent beetle injury during the cutting season.

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