

Of interest to

THE FARMER

USE AND CARE OF THE TRACTOR DURING WINTER

The tractor represents a major investment in any farm business and must be worked a maximum number of hours each year to pay greatest returns on this investment. Winter use of farm tractors has been increased in many areas by the adoption of track type tractors or farm tractor tires on wheel type tractors. The increasing winter use has brought out the need for special care and servicing during a period when ordinary farm power units are laid up, states G. N. Denike, Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current, Sask.

Tractors with improved cooling systems and thermostatic control as well as reduced motor and chassis vibrations are the best for winter use. Good anti-freeze solution to protect the power plant against the dangers of sudden temperature or load changes throughout the freezing seasons.

Cold weather tractor operation demands the same motor care as cold weather on ordinary operation. Light weight crankcase oil, S.A.E. 10W or 20W is essential to proper motor lubrication. Light weight gear grease in transmission and differential is equally important.

The change-over to winter lubricants in motor, transmission, differential and pressure gun should take place as the temperature normally reaches freezing. Light lubricants of good quality will withstand relatively high temperatures better than the heavier lubricants will withstand lower temperatures. An early change-over of lubricants in the tractor will be liable to be run during the tractor will reduce maintenance costs by thorough lubrication at all times and by flushing out the accumulation of normal summer wear which remains suspended in the heavy summer lubricants.

Storage of tractors should be in a place where the temperature may be kept above freezing will help greatly to reduce motor wear as well as prove very convenient. Tractors, whether housed or not, should be given a warm-up period of from 5 to 20 minutes before putting under load in cold weather. Lower temperatures increase this warm-up period while warm storage will reduce it.

Many long haul jobs which were formerly rushed to completion during the busy fall season may be extended through the winter to make better year-round use of the farm tractor. When weather and travel conditions become impossible for tractor use the machine will be in suitable condition for careful overhaul. This should be done each year to ensure trouble-free use during these seasons when delays are most costly.

If the tractor is not to be used during cold weather, careful storage in a convenient place for overhaul is highly important. Rubber tired tractors should be blocked up with the weight of the wheels; use of a good rubber paint after cleaning will help preserve the tires; the valves should be turned to the top where they may be conveniently checked for air pressure before the blocks are removed in the spring; if only water is used in the tires as weight, it should be drained before freezing weather, and a quart of pure anti-freeze solution placed in the tube to prevent damage from that portion of the water which cannot be thoroughly drained out.

Thorough washing and cleaning down of all parts of the motor and chassis before storing, together with fresh grease in all bearings will help prevent the rusting and coating of essential parts. Fresh paint on all worn or scratched surfaces will preserve the finish and improve the value of the whole machine.

MAN, CHIEF CAUSE FOREST DESTRUCTION

Writing in the 1938 "Canada Year Book" on noxious insects and their control, J. J. de Gryse, Chief, Forest Insect Investigations, Dominion Department of Agriculture, in one part of his article says: "When, therefore, we refer to insects as pests or destructive enemies of the forest, we speak in terms of human relationships and we forget that, more than often, man himself is the prime mover in the calamities which are visited upon him. Our knowledge of insect ecology is still very imperfect and it would be absurd to pretend that all the causal relationships underlying the rise and fall of any one insect outbreak can be determined."

"However, the fixing of man's responsibility is, in many cases, a comparatively simple matter. Improvident and reckless exploitation, ill-planned reforestation, destruction of wild life, fire and the importation of insect species from foreign lands are broad categories under which man's offences may be readily classified. In planning measures of prevention and control, our first concern must be the regulation of man's activities and the correction of his mistakes. In some cases, appropriate legislation is the only source, in others, the education of the individual will be more effective. In any event, whether legislative or educational procedure be adopted, it should at all times be based upon a thorough knowledge of basic facts as it is possible to obtain."

An English lady, a self-appointed supervisor of village morals, accused a workman of having reverted to drink because "with her own eyes" she had seen his wheelbarrow standing outside a public house. The action made the verbal defence, but the man standing he placed his wheelbarrow outside her door and left it there all night, records an English paper. **W.H. said**

Provinces Pledge Support in Efforts For Food Supplies

At a conference between Ministers, Deputy Ministers and other officials of the Provincial Departments of Agriculture and the members of the recently formed Agricultural Supplies Committee, held in Ottawa September 27th and 28th, the fullest co-operation of the provinces with the Committee in any effort to promote the production of essential food products to meet the needs of Britain and her Allies and the people of Canada, was pledged.

Hon. James C. Gardiner, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, at the opening session of the conference said: "It had been called with a view to getting co-operation in an effort to insure that agricultural services that are assigned to do special duty in connection with the war, be explained that the fact should be kept in mind that the war will end some time and consequently it would not be advisable to plan now on definite lines of production, but so that the industry agriculture should not be thrown out of gear when the war does end."

Dr. G. S. H. Barton, Deputy-Minister of Agriculture said that it was the hope that the Agricultural Supplies Committee would act as a clearing house for co-ordinating the various agricultural services that are assigned to do special duty in connection with the war. He explained that as yet the fullest information was not available as to just what food products would be required. All that the Conference could hope to do for the time being is to shape a tentative program. One of the highest contributions to the war efforts that can be made, he said, is by the sending of supplies for the Allies. While it will be necessary to concentrate in this direction the organization must be prepared to be readily readjusted in the light of needs and conditions as they develop, but the plan can be nevertheless be prepared on a sound and efficient basis.

Dr. Barton said it was plainly apparent that the temper of people of Canada is that this war shall not be one of great profit to anyone. In an outline of the present position of production in relation to supplies of essential food products was given to the Conference by different officials of the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

STEADY IMPROVEMENT OUTPUT BACON HOGS

The quality of Canadian hogs, as indicated by grading results, has been steadily improving ever since the inauguration of the National Bacon Grading Policy instituted by the Dominion Department of Agriculture in 1922 and this improvement has rapidly increased within the past few years through the greater stability given the Canadian hog industry by the establishment of the bacon quota with Great Britain. This is shown by a comparison of the years 1934 and 1938. In 1934 there were 3,025,161 hogs graded, of which 19.1 per cent were select, in 1938 the number of hogs graded was 1,940,161, showing the percentage of Selects at the increased figure of 29.5. These figures refer to five gradings, and the smaller number of hogs shown for 1938 is due to the fact that 1,085,324 hogs were graded as carcasses in that year.

An important factor in hog improvement has been the carcass grading service inaugurated in 1934 as exemplified by the accelerated increase in desirable grades made during the past year, when this system of grading reached considerable proportions. For example, combining the live-graded and carcass graded hogs for the first seven months of 1938 as against the first seven months of 1939, the following percentage increases are shown in the two top grades for 1939—Alberta 9.3; Saskatchewan, 9.7; Manitoba, 7.2; Ontario, 3.8; Quebec, 3.8; and for Canada as a whole, 5.8. These figures represent a great improvement for one year and naturally there is a corresponding decrease in the proportion of undesirable hogs during the year.

One of the greatest difficulties in selecting suitable bacon for export has been the large proportion of hogs marketed at undesirable weights, but even this situation is improving under the increased popularity of carcass grading. The carcass grading results demonstrate this fact, as indicated by a comparison of the carcass grading results of 1938 with those for 37 weeks of 1939, as under:

1938 (37 weeks), 1,305,374 carcasses, 72.4 per cent right weight, 13.8 per cent under weight, and 10.7 per cent overweight.

1939 (37 weeks), 1,120,097 carcasses, 76.2 per cent right weight, 11.1 per cent underweight, and 8.7 per cent overweight.

The unusual feature here is that both light and heavyweights show a decrease, making 4 per cent more carcasses available for export by reason of weight alone. The really important point about the improvement in quality and weight of market hogs is that this improvement is at once reflected in the quality of the export bacon. While this may be encouraging, say officials of the Live Stock Inspection and Grading Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture, statistics show that less than one-third of desirable weights attain the highest classification.

It is urged that continued attention on the part of the producer to the weight and finish of his market hogs will benefit both himself and the whole industry. This is particularly important at the present time from the national standpoint when all the resources of Canadian agriculture are being called upon for the utmost efficiency in food production as a war effort.

When Is Purple Purple? Most People Don't Know

When is purple purple? When is green green? Most of us don't know. In an age when science reproduces with dazzling accuracy the myriad colors of nature, we are inclined to take color for granted. Until related colors are examined closely, side by side, or until someone disagrees with us over the description of a color, we do not worry much about color names. After all, "what's in a name?"

Thanks to the corner druggist, and to the national association of which he is a member, science has at last undertaken the job of solving the color name problem, writes John H. Crider in the Scientific American. In fact, the national bureau of standards in Washington, backed by the American Pharmaceutical Association, has just about finished the classification of the color names of powdered drugs; the naming of microscopic structures and crude drugs is well under way.

The object of the work at the bureau of standards, financed by the American Pharmaceutical Association, is to provide "a means of designating colors in the United States Pharmacopoeia, in the National Formulary and in general pharmaceutical literature; such designation to be sufficiently standardized to be acceptable to science, sufficiently broad to be appreciated and usable in science, art and industry, and sufficiently commonplace to be understood, at least in a general way, by the whole public."

Word 'Canard' Started By Ducky French Story

It is interesting to note the manner in which we have come to apply the term "canard" to any slander or outrageous story. "Canard" is the French word for "duck." About 50 years ago a French journalist in Paris talking by an article in one of the daily newspapers, purporting to tell of a wager he had made with some other newspaper man to the effect that, "given one day to prepare, he could eat 20 ducks at a sitting." According to his tale his wager was eagerly taken by all who heard it. Then, according to his story, he went to the market, bought 20 ducks, and by the process of hourly killing one duck and feeding it to the others, he arrived, in 20 hours, at a final duck with all the others inside it. This, the journalist wrote, he promptly killed, roasted and ate "at one sitting." The story caused endless comment, was copied all over France and in other countries—until some curious person raised a public demand to know whether or not this procedure was accepted by the other bettors as a bona fide performance of the wager. Eventually the journalist had to explain that the whole story was a fake, written merely to "excite comment." As a result we have the word "canard" to define just that kind of a yarn.

U. S. Ship Was Germany's

FRUITS S. Callao, the former Sierra Cordoba, which was a German vessel interned in Peru at the time of the World War. It belonged to the North German Lloyd line. The ship was purchased from Peru by the United States shipping board and arrived in tow from Callao at Panama on September 24, 1918. The vessel was operated by the navy department from April 26, 1919, to September 20, 1919. After 1919 she was reconditioned and used in coastwise trade on the Pacific coast. She is now called the Ruth Alexander and is owned by the President Terminal Steamship company of San Francisco.

Early Masks 'Horrible'

Beauty and the mask have rarely gone together. When ancient peoples made their masks—and man has been making them from primitive ages—they were made as horrible as possible, says the Washington Post. Their purpose was to protect the wearer from "evil spirits." No more beautiful are the masks of today. And there are many. Besides the much publicized air raid mask, there are added leather "foam" masks to protect boys during training; smoke and gas guards for firemen and policemen; sand-sifting nose and mouthpieces for dust bowl storms, and, of course, the mud pack for milady's complexion.

Cleaning Instructions

To clean pearls, first rub them with a cloth dipped in alcohol diluted with warm (not hot) water, or in a weak solution of soap and water, then dip another cloth in clean water and rub the pearls until they are dry. Be careful not to leave them wet. Either salt rice, pearl-powder, or some exceedingly soft substance may aid in cleaning them, but no abrasive such as ground pumice, electro-silicon, or any powder that is sold as a polishing powder, should be used.

\$6.50 a Year

The easiest job in England, that of ringing the old curfew bell of Stogursey, West Somerset, has recently been filled. The bell is rung only twice a day, and the bell rope is so arranged that it hangs down into the bell ringer's bedroom. He need not even stir out of bed in order to carry out his duties. For his efforts he is given \$6.50 a year, a joint of meat, about two tons of coal, free rent, and a garden.

Fire Prevention on the Farm

In the ten year-period 1928-1938 farm fire losses, exclusive of dwellings, in Canada amounted to over \$38,000,000 in 41,705 fires. Of the known causes, there are eight which are responsible for 85% of the total losses in farm fires. This loss may be greatly reduced by the exercise of care and forethought. The eight major causes and suggestions for the elimination of hazards in connection with them are briefly discussed in the following paragraphs:

1. Defective chimneys and flues. Chimneys should be cleaned out regularly and not allowed to burn themselves out, as sparks often escape through cracks in the chimney and set fire in the attic, or they may drop on dry combustible roofing, setting fire to it. The safest type of chimney is a good brick chimney built from the ground up and lined with fire clay or vitrified clay of a thickness of at least 3/4 of an inch.

2. Sparks on Combustible Roofs. This hazard can obviously be eliminated by means of incombustible roofing material, instead of a material that will ignite readily when exposed to sparks or flying brands from other fires.

3. Lightning. The tremendous toll of life and property damage annually caused by lightning can be materially reduced by means of well installed lightning rods which have been proven to be nearly 100% efficient.

4. Spontaneous Ignition. On farms this occurs most frequently in under-cured or damp hay, although it also takes place in numerous other substances. To guard against this hazard, the following precautions should be observed: (a) Cure all hay and well. (b) Do not pack the hay. (c) Do not place straw, fodder, bundles of grain or grass hay either at the bottom or top of mows of alfalfa, clover or soybean hays. (d) Guard against wetting of hay in storage from a leaky roof or open doors and windows. (e) Ventilate hay as much as possible immediately after it has been stored. (f) Avoid, if possible, wide, deep mows.

5. Matches. Make sure that your matches are completely out before discarding them. A good practice is to break them in two after the flame has been extinguished. Always strike matches away from children and do not permit smoking in barns or near combustible material. During threshing operations insist on everybody clearing their pockets of matches and place them in a safe container.

6 Gasoline or Kerosene. Gasoline or kerosene should never be used to start or revive a fire. Avoid the use of gasoline, benzine or other inflammable liquids for cleaning floors or clothes. There are cheap and safe solvents on the market for these purposes. Never fill lamps, lanterns, kerosene or gasoline stoves, while they are burning. It is necessary to keep small quantities of gasoline, it should be kept in an approved safety can painted red and plainly marked "Gasoline." Small quantities of kerosene should be kept in closed cans of a size and shape different from that holding gasoline in order to lessen the chance of mistaking the one for the other.

a competent electrical contractor. Circuits should not be overloaded, and fuse of the correct ampereage (15 amperes for the ordinary branch circuits) should be used. Disconnect frons, curling tongs, heating pads and other appliances when not in use.

Remove all possible fire hazards, but be prepared to fight a fire should it occur. Chemical extinguishers, fire pails or barrels of water and ladders should be available on every farm.

Life has many strange mysteries. The Midland Free Press points out that a young woman with heavy responsibilities at home went to Britain to bring home an aged relative whose state of health made her a burden. When the Athena was torpedoed, the young woman was drowned and the aged lady saved.

7. Heating Equipment. Heating equipment should be properly installed, operated and maintained. Wooden floors under stoves should be well protected. The sides and back of stoves and ranges should be at least 3 feet from woodwork or wood-lath and plaster partitions. Avoid long runs of smoke pipes. The sections should be securely joined and the pipes supported at frequent intervals. Smoke pipes should be at least 18 inches from unprotected woodwork. They should not pass through floors or closets or enter a chimney in an attic, and they should be cleaned at least twice a year.

8. Electrical Wiring. Electrical Wiring and repair work should be done by

Agricultural Societies Fairs and Exhibitions, 1939

Forest Oct. 10, 11
Markdale Oct. 10, 11
INTERNATIONAL FLOWING
MATCH and Farm Machinery
Demonstration, Ontario Hospital
Farm, Brockville, Ontario,
United Counties of Leeds and
Grenville Oct. 10, 11, 12, 13
OTTAWA WINTER FAIR .. Nov. 14-17

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