

OUR FARM PAGE: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO EVERY FARMER

SOW OATS SUITABLE TO YOUR DISTRICT

Ontario Farmers Advised to Contact Agricultural Representative in County for Best Advice

Continuing its drive for increased war-time grain production in 1940, the Ontario Department of Agriculture is advising all farmers to contact the Agricultural Representative in their own county as to the variety of oat that will give them the greatest number of bushels per acre in their own particular area.

Much has been heard, and will be heard, of the Vanguard and the Erban oat. In some districts and under certain soil conditions the Vanguard is superior, while in other sections the Erban tops Vanguard. This is where the Agricultural Representative can be of untold value to the farmer. As a result of grain variety experiments on 267 farms in Ontario in 1939, the Agricultural Representative is in a position to give excellent advice on varieties that will do well in given districts. It will pay any farmer to consult him.

The Vanguard is a late oat, resistant to stem rust and has done well in the majority of Eastern Ontario counties. The Erban is a medium early oat and is resistant to crown or leaf rust. The Department of Agriculture also points out that farmers who have produced heavy crops from other varieties and who see no reason to change, should make sure they get the best possible seed of that variety. Included in this list would be O.A.C. No. 72, Victory, Alaska, Cartier and O.A.C. 3.

Substitution of Alsike for Red Clover Is Suggested

Under favorable growing conditions red clover will slightly outyield alsike as a hay crop, but the latter possesses certain valuable characteristics that make its inclusion in a hay or pasture mixture advisable. Alsike thrives better than red clover on soils that incline to acidity or soils that are low and wet. Alsike is more winter-hardy than red clover and has a stronger tendency towards perennialism, and therefore persists longer than red clover, states J. M. Armstrong, Division of Forage Plants, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Alsike and red clover hay contain about equal quantities of digestible food materials per unit of dry weight. Seed yields of alsike in areas suited to production in Ontario are considerably higher than for red clover. The comparison is further in favor of alsike since a pound of alsike seed contains approximately twice the number of seeds as red clover. The prices of both range from 6 to 10 cents a pound.

The recommended mixtures of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, are as follows:
1. For non-acid soils where alfalfa can be grown successfully: Timothy 8 lb., red clover 3 lb., alfalfa 4 lb., and alsike 2 lb.
2. For non-acid soils where alfalfa is not adapted: Timothy 8 lb., red clover 6 lb., and alsike 2 lb.
3. For acid soils: Timothy 8 lb., red clover 5 lb., and alsike 4 lb.

In all these mixtures alsike is included and under acid soil conditions the recommended rate is increased. While existing practice recognizes the value of a partial substitution of red clover by alsike in seeding mixtures, it is conceivable that conditions might arise where a complete substitution might be advisable. When there is a shortage of our home-grown seed of red clover due to winter-killing, the domestic requirements are supplied by importing, and the growers run the risk of growing poorly adapted varieties. Under war conditions these importations may not be accessible. If there is no shortage of home-grown alsike seed the grower can substitute alsike for red clover in the seeding mixture for hay with the assurance that he stands to lose nothing in yield or feeding value of the resulting crop.

AUTO PRODUCTION UP

Automobiles produced in Canada during November numbered 18,412 compared with 9,640 the previous month and 17,992 in November 1939, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has reported. Included in last month's total were 9,862 passenger cars and 8,630 trucks.

COOKED POTATOES FOR BACON HOGS

A considerable portion of the potato crop is unsuitable for seed or table stock. Various methods of utilizing the cull potatoes have been suggested, and one method is to feed the potatoes to livestock. Potatoes may be fed to practically all kinds of livestock, but apparently they have their greatest value when cooked and fed to hogs, states Leonard Griestach, Assistant, Dominion Experimental Farm, Fredericton, N.B.

It has been demonstrated by many feeding trials at various institutions that four pounds of boiled or steamed potatoes will replace approximately one pound of ground barley when fed in a balanced ration to hogs. Hogs of all ages relish cooked potatoes and balanced rations including cooked potatoes produce bacon of excellent quality.

Potatoes are low in minerals so rations including potatoes should be fortified with mineral supplements. A satisfactory home-mixed mineral supplement consists of 40 pounds bone meal, 40 pounds ground limestone and 20 pounds salt. When potatoes are fed, about 4 pounds of this mineral mixture may be mixed with each 100 pounds of grain portion of the ration. Potatoes are also to win protein, so care should be taken to feed plenty of skim-milk. If skim-milk is not available, a protein supplement such as fish meal should form about 20 per cent. of the grain portion of the ration until the pigs weigh about 120 pounds. The protein supplement can then be reduced to about ten per cent.

Extensive experiments with feeding potatoes to hogs and ensiling potatoes in trench silos for hogs have been carried on at the Dominion Experimental Station, Fredericton, N.B. It has been found that potatoes can be ensiled in trench silos by slicing them and mixing about five per cent. by weight of moist fermented corn meal with them, as they are being ensiled. The silage will keep for at least two years and probably longer. If properly ensiled, better results will be obtained if the silage is cooked before it is fed. This silage is nearly twice as high in dry matter as fresh potatoes, so it should be fed at the rate of only about 2 pounds to each pound of meal mixture.

CANADA'S ARMY CONSUMES EIGHT TONS OF BEEF DAILY

Soldiers of One Division Eat Equal Quantities of Bread and Potatoes

Eight tons each of beef, bread and potatoes, one ton of jam, another of butter—these are the major items in the daily issue for a Canadian army division of 16,000 men, as outlined in the sixth radio talk by a defence department spokesman.

The talk showed the amount of work involved in organizing a division for war. Laying accommodation, clothing, food and war equipment have to be provided on short notice, the spokesman said, and this has proved a huge task, because in Canada no unit was maintained at war strength in peacetime.

Clothing, Equipment
Clothing and equipping the troops has been an "intricate and highly technical matter," said the spokesman. The many changes that have taken place since the last war, including the mechanization of the equipment and instruction of new types of armament, ammunition, technical equipment, and clothing, have increased.

A theatre in a small American town had a burglar alarm fitted in the box office. You just had to press a pedal on the floor, and a bell rang at police headquarters.

Two days after it was installed, a gangster poked his gun through the box office window, and demanded the cash. The girl pressed her foot on the pedal, stilled a bit, then began to hand over the money.

At this point the phone rang. The gangster grabbed the receiver. "What is it?" he asked. "This is the police station, darn you," said an angry voice. "Say, do you know you've got your foot on the pedal and we can't hear ourselves talk because of that blooming alarm bell!"

HINTS ON PRODUCING CLEAN, HEALTHY MILK

The problem of producing clean milk and first class dairy products is demanding more and more attention from the dairy farmer. The question of buildings also merits consideration. A modern dairy barn is airy, well ventilated, and free from dampness. It has steel slat-roofs or adjustable catwalks, and the length of the stall and the width of the gutter are constructed so that cows of different size can be placed accordingly. With the older barns, each has a particular problem in order to change or modify it to satisfactory modern requirements for clean milk production.

Another problem, C. D. MacKenzie, Animal Husbandry Division, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, points out, is that of keeping the stable clean. It should be remembered that clean milk production requires dust-free air at milking time. Therefore the throwing down of hay, the cleaning out of the stable or the cleaning of cows stir up dust and odours, some of which may contaminate the milk. If stables cannot be cleaned out at least one-half hour before milking, the throwing down of hay, the cleaning out of the stable or the cleaning of cows stir up dust and odours, some of which may contaminate the milk. If stables cannot be cleaned out at least one-half hour before milking, the throwing down of hay, the cleaning out of the stable or the cleaning of cows stir up dust and odours, some of which may contaminate the milk.

The problem of keeping dust, dirt and odors out of milk is not only a question of cleanliness, but also one of feeding. Turnips, silage or other strong-smelling feeds should not be fed just prior to milking, nor should the odor of silage be in the barn at milking time. This is a good plan to select a highly probable that the milk will become tainted.

The cleanliness of the cows' bodies is one of the chief factors relating to the contamination of milk. If the cows are allowed to become filthy through standing or lying in the gutter, defective milk is likely to result. In addition, to keep cows clean and to avoid contamination, the thorough grooming of the cows daily and the clipping of the hair on their udders, flanks and tails is definitely recommended. Further, it is a good plan to wash the udder and flanks before milking, and to wash the switch of the cow's tail at frequent intervals.

The observance of these points relating to the sanitation of cows, together with the use of thoroughly clean and sterilized utensils, will result in higher quality milk and greater returns from the milking herd.

DISEASE HAZARDS 250 YEARS AGO

Silicosis and other occupational hazards to which modern science gives much attention not only existed centuries ago, but they were also recognized then.

Neither is compensation laws for industrial diseases a new idea. They were proposed as far back as 1690 when a Venetian doctor, Bernardino Ramazzini wrote a work on Diseases of Tradesmen ("De Morbis Artificum"). A copy of this book was recently found in the University of Pennsylvania library and its translation brings out facts that are most interesting in view of the period in which it was written.

Ramazzini, it appears, made a practice of leaving the sick bed and going to where the patient worked; to study materials and hygienic conditions as a clue to the illness. In that way he obtained information which he carefully recorded, on certain occupational diseases known today. He knew about silicosis—the disabling lung disease—which he saw afflicting the dust-breathing workers in the pottery and glass-making industries. Ramazzini anticipated modern sanitation methods by suggesting that materials be wetted to keep dust down and that arrangements be made for adequate ventilation.

Speaking of the occupational hazards of the white collar workers of two and a half centuries ago, he said of scholars, "that the sedentary posture and intense concentration were bad for digestion. He even discussed writer's cramp. His prescription for these ills was "Get more of the outdoors into your life."

PROSPECTS PROMISING FOR NELSON SHORT COURSES

The annual one month short courses in Agriculture and Home Economics will open at Nelson on Tuesday, Jan. 2nd. We understand that prospects are promising for an excellent attendance in both classes. Announcement has just been made by Agricultural Representative J. E. Whitehead that Miss Lulu Taylor Curries will be in charge of the course in Home Economics which will be held in the home of Harris Bell. Miss Row, who will teach Clothing has had a lengthy experience in short courses in Home Economics and in Girls' Pledge work. She will be assisted by Miss Blanche Misener of Burlington who will teach Nutrition. Alex Muir, prominent dairy farmer from near Woodstock, will assist with the class in Agriculture which is being held in the Township Hall. Mr. Muir, we understand, has also made quite a reputation for himself with field crops, swine and poultry and incidentally was one of the provincial winners in the Home Improvement Campaign sponsored by the Farmer Magazine.

During the courses special itinerant lecturers will visit the class in Agriculture. Jan. 4th, J. F. Francis of Guelph, on Poultry; Jan. 8th, R. J. Bryden of Guelph on Soils and Fertilizers; an 11th, W. J. Stephen of Toronto on Weed Control; Jan. 17th, W. L. Bishop of Norwich on Co-operation and Marketing; Jan. 22nd, J. P. L. Adams of Forestry Branch, Toronto, on Farm Forestry; Jan. 24th, T. C. Adams of Toronto on Cream Grading and Testing.

We also understand that plans are laid to take the members of both classes for a trip to the Ontario Agricultural College and Macdonald Institute on Jan. 18th and a further trip to one of the Packing Plants may also be included for the class in Agriculture.

This would appear to be a wonderful opportunity for the young people of Nelson District to further prepare themselves for their life work.

House Loans Show Decline

Operations under the National Housing Act in November showed a slowing of pace in comparison with the past year. The number of units financed under the Housing Act in the summer of 1939, up to the outbreak of war, monthly totals of loans under the Act have shown large increases, ranging from 30 or 40 per cent. up to nearly 200 per cent.

In November, the amount of loans declined to \$1,515,377 from \$1,739,865 in November, a drop of 6 per cent. The number of loans (361) showed a moderate increase of 14 per cent. because of the greater proportion of loans for single family dwellings, but the number of units financed reflected a relatively negligible rise of only 5 per cent.

This continues the trend indicated by October returns, which showed a loan total only 34 per cent. above the level of a year before, though there was a 20 per cent. increase in units financed.

The present loss of acceleration and curtailment of volume in Housing Act loan operations is partly attributable to effect of war on construction generally, as reflected in the market declines during the past two months in urban building permits and construction contracts awarded. But it is also traceable to the distinct falling off during the past six months in the proportion of apartment houses, duplexes, and other multiple-family dwelling units financed by N.H.A. loans, and to the rising volume of low-cost single-family houses built with loans.

"This in November the average loan per housing unit (trating apartment and duplex suites as units) was \$3031 and 90 per cent. of units financed were covered by loans of \$4000 or less. Approximately 60 per cent. were on a basis of \$3000 per unit, and 40 per cent. required loans of \$2500 or less. Total of 87 loans were on the 90 per cent. mortgage basis for owner-occupied houses costing \$2500 or less.

In October there were only three loans approved for duplexes and three for apartment houses. Comparative total of all loans made under the Act and its predecessor statute (Dominion Housing Act 1935) now stands at \$464.7 millions, covering a total of over 13,000 housing units. Of this total \$20.3 millions was loaned in the 12 months ended November 30, 1939, compared with \$13.9 millions in the preceding 12 months.

In view of the war it was to be expected there would be a drop in the housing loans. However, spring should find a revival of building operations.

WINTER HAZARDS

The delayed but inevitable approach of wintry weather leads the Industrial Accident Prevention Associations to point out the increased hazards and possibilities of accidents during the "dark" winter days.

As the thermometer goes down, the danger of accidents goes up, warns the current bulletin of the organization. Shortness of daylight, slippery conditions under foot, and a certain filling of the eyes from cold all contribute to the creation of accident hazards.

Employers are urged to check up their plants to ensure that all possible precautions are taken to minimize winter hazards.

A recruit wearing also 14 shoes enlisted in the army. One day the officer missed him.

Officer: "Has anyone seen that recruit?"
Soldier from Rear: "Yes, sir, he has gone to the crossroads to turn around."

ONTARIO WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

This last week, we have another example of heroism at home. At Trenton, an exploded electric light bulb ignited some gasoline. A young member of the Air Force realized that a valuable airplane was doomed unless it was moved. So he rushed in to save it. In the last report he was said to be critically burned, a patient in the hospital. For less than that, Canadians were decorated in the last war.

A radio broadcast last week brought to mind that there is at least some compensation in the development of science which has helped to make war more horrible. Faster, stronger airplanes, improved explosives, brings a war closer to those far away from it as the Irishman said. At the same time, Canadians on December 23 were enabled to hear a full account of the arrival of their troops in England. Through the vastly improved medium of radio, listeners on this continent were given a picture of the actual arrival in port, the trip to Alderhot by train, and a description of what the troops were doing in camp; actually heard the voices of members of the first division, a message delivered by General McNaughton, chief of staff. Contrast this with the anxious weeks which elapsed between the arrival of Canadians in 1914 and detailed word about them from England.

Led by the Young Men's Club of the Toronto Board of Trade, there has been a widespread movement throughout Ontario to curtail accidents during the holiday season. Law enforcement officers are taking a more prominent part this year in combatting this public menace. A special appeal has been made to motorists to abstain from driving after indulging in liquor. Traffic officers have been instructed to take away keys from drunk motorists—and loss of license and other penalties are to be imposed on negligent and reckless drivers. Pedestrians are also being asked to help along the good cause, as it has been established that many accidents have been due to carelessness on the part of people afoot.

NEWSPAPERS—NOT RADIOS

In a talk before the National Association of Chain Stores, Mr. E. E. Burlingame, district manager of the Liggett Drug Co., in Philadelphia, said: "Retailers do not condemn radio advertising, for all advertising which helps bring customers into our store is good, as it has been established that many accidents have been due to carelessness on the part of people afoot."

The Jersey cow, Royal's Favorite Belle, owned and tested by R. J. Graham, Georgetown, has recently completed a record of 829 lbs. of milk, 22 lbs. of fat, with an average test of 5.89 per cent, as a senior two-year-old in 305 days, and has been awarded a silver medal certificate by the Canadian Jersey Cattle Club. This is the fourth silver medal daughter for the silver medal bull, Brampton Favorite Royalist.

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The SNAPSHOT GUILD A SNAPSHOT PARTY



Snapshot parties, with costumes, provide lots of winter fun for you and your friends. Try a series of them!

FOR an evening of real winter fun—give your friends a snapshot party!

The arrangements are simple. Invite your friends each to bring a camera loaded with high speed film—and to wear a costume. You, in turn, provide a supply of inexpensive "flood" bulbs, a few cardboard reflectors of the lamp-shade type, and two or three bridge lamps in which the bulbs can be used.

That—aside from the refreshments—is all, and you can get the bulbs and reflectors from any film dealer who carries "snapshots-at-night" kits. The party activity, naturally enough, consists of snapshotting—one guest posing, another arranging the lights, the others shooting in turn.

Of course, there should be prizes. Offer one prize for the most absurd pose, another for the funniest picture idea, another for the most extraordinary camera angle or viewpoint. The best costume—best from the standpoint of picture possibilities—might also rate a prize.

Costume ideas are many. Your imagination may suggest carnival costumes, "hard times" costumes, or old-fashioned costumes. Or, you can leave the matter open—allowing each guest to use his imagination in choosing a costume idea.

Legion Will Appeal For \$500,000.00 for Special War Work

A national appeal for \$500,000 to be used exclusively for welfare work on behalf of Canada's fighting men will be made in February. Alex Walker, of Calgary, acting Dominion president of the Canadian Legion, announced here today.

The appeal is being made by the Legion's subsidiary wartime undertaking, the Canadian Legion War Services, Inc., under authority of the War Charities Act, and is being sponsored and supported by the 1400 branches of the parent organization throughout Canada. The money is required, Mr. Walker stated, to enable the Legion to extend its important activities among the naval, land and air forces of the Dominion now on active service, both in Canada and especially overseas.

"These activities," Mr. Walker said, "are being provided on a strictly non-profit-making basis. They include a comprehensive program of education which will make it possible for members of the forces to continue in a large measure their studies so that they will not be deprived of the elements of culture, practical training and character building to fit them for their return to civilian life." This work, he said, is being carried out in collaboration with the Canadian Association for Adult Education.

The Canadian Legion War Services is also providing special facilities to assist the men under arms in their personal and home problems. In addition, an extensive entertainment, recreation and sports program is in operation which, together with the establishment of recreation huts and leave centres, is being extended to England and France, including actual theatres of war.

"Experience has taught us," Mr. Walker said, "that the hardships, privations and sufferings of war can impoverish nations for generations to come unless far-sighted action is taken. It is to lessen these hardships and privations to which our young men will be subjected in the present conflict that the members of the Canadian Legion have pledged themselves in a common effort. Physical incapacities and age make many of the old Canadian Corps men unacceptable for active service again, but they feel it is their duty as well as their indisputable right to provide for the needs of their younger comrades who have answered the call. The Legion feels confident that in this voluntary work which is of such vital importance to the future of the Dominion, it will have the generous support of the Canadian people."

AN EFFECTIVE NEW WEAPON



Effective fighting units with the British Forces in France is the Bren Gun carrier. This picture of one of them and its crew, patrolling behind the lines.