

OUR FARM PAGE: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO EVERY FARMER

CLEAN SEED FIRST STEP IN PROFITABLE FARMING

May be Determining Factor in Success or Failure of Farming Operations, Says J. D. McLeod, Ont. Dept. of Agriculture.

The sowing of clean seed is the first step in profitable farming and may easily be a determining factor in the success or failure of farming operations, says J. D. McLeod, seed expert of the Crops, Seeds and Weeds Branch Ontario Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

A definite number of bushels per acre are required in order to pay for the production of the crop. In the total yield per acre is below this amount, a direct loss will be the result. This is true not only of crop production but also of all other in which are more or less dependent on the economical production of field crops.

There are three important factors in crop production — weather conditions over which farmers have no control; soil conditions over which farmers have partial control and the condition of the seed which is sown over which farmers have almost complete control. When one considers this latter fact the folly of sowing poor seed is apparent, Mr. McLeod states.

Clean seed should be a bright, plump, uniform sample, pure as to variety, free from all foreign matter including seeds of other cultivated crops, diseased grains, small, shrunken grains and weed seeds.

Ontario has been fortunate in having two good crop years. We do not know what is in store for us in 1940, therefore, farmers are urged to make sure that they have their 1940 seedling requirements on hand. Clean and grade a sufficient amount of seed for your own use. Do not leave this important work until your bins are low.

Do it now. If you have not sufficient or suitable seed of your own, purchase high quality seed from your neighbour, advises Mr. McLeod.

When a well-cleaned and graded sample is sown of a recommended variety, one may expect a vigorous and germination, strong plants capable of resisting unfavorable weather conditions and disease, a uniformly ripening crop, harvested with a minimum loss and of the best marketable quality, also cleaner — farms, greater yields, higher grades, better prices and more profits.

It is the duty of every farmer to endeavour to increase crop production at the present time. This can and should be accomplished by increasing yields per acre, thereby lowering costs of production rather than by increasing the total acreage under crop. It costs little more to produce a 70-bushel crop of oats than it does a 50-bushel crop. The sowing of clean, well graded seed of a recommended variety will make the possible providing climatic and soil conditions are favorable.

1939 WHEAT CROP SECOND LARGEST PRODUCED IN CANADA SO FAR

The third official estimate of the 1939 wheat crop in Canada at 489,623,000 bushels represents an upward revision of 10,658,000 bushels from the second estimate issued in November, 1939. The 1939 wheat crop is 129,613,000 bushels above the final estimate of the 1938 crop of 360,010,000 bushels, and is the second largest wheat crop so far produced in Canada.

RECEIVED CERTIFICATE
A. Stark and Son, Milton, have just received a record of performance certificate from the Dominion Dept. of Agriculture, for Lady Francy Ingalls, a member of their purebred Holstein herd. As a four year old on twice-a-day milking she produced 20,129 lb. milk containing 752 lb. fat. This was the highest record reported from the entire Dominion during the past month in this class.

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Hog Marketings Increase In 1939

The volume of hogs marketed in Canada during 1939 showed a substantial advance over that for 1938. In 1939, 3,701,061 hogs were marketed as against 3,239,798 in 1938, an increase of 461,263 hogs, or 14.23 per cent. All the Provinces, with the exception of the Maritimes, registered an increase. Although Ontario and Alberta marketed the greatest number of hogs, 1,667,950 and 979,892 respectively, the percentage increase (2.33 for Ontario and 25.17 for Alberta) were less than those of Saskatchewan, which had an increase of 43.76 per cent with 322,188 hogs marketed, and Manitoba with a percentage increase of 30.85 on 327,212 hogs marketed. Quebec marketed 336,573 hogs — an increase of 53,486 hogs, or 18.89 per cent.

The detailed figures are as follows, with 1938 figures in brackets: Canada, 3,701,061 (3,239,798), increase 461,263 or 14.23 per cent; — Alberta, 979,892 (782,838), increase 197,054, or 25.17 per cent; Saskatchewan, 322,188 (217,152), increase 95,036, or 43.76 per cent; Manitoba, 327,212 (250,055), increase 77,157, or 30.85; Ontario, 1,667,950 (1,631,473), increase 36,477, or 2.23; Quebec, 336,573 (283,087), increase 53,486, or 18.89; Maritime Provinces, 77,246 (80,911), decrease 3,665, or 4.52.

The increase in hog production was reflected in a heavier volume of bacon exported from Canada to the United Kingdom. Exports during 1939 totalled 199,458,916 lb. as against 168,489,716 lb. in 1938, an increase of 30,969,200 lb. for 1939.

LEAD CLASSES IN PRODUCTION

Two Jersey cows in the herd of R. J. Grahama, Georgetown, Ontario, have led their classes for production in Canada in 1939. Royalist Seaside Tess is the high two-year-old buterfat producer in the 365 day division on twice-a-day milking, with her record of 10,108 lb. of milk and 657 lb. of fat, averaging 6.97%. Royalist Rushing Flo is the high milk producer in the same division with 10,700 lbs. of milk, 507 lbs. of fat, with an average test of 4.73%.

Both are sired by the silver medal bull, Brampton Favorite Royalist. The champion producer on twice-a-day milking over all classes was Pansy Loo, the dam of R. J. Grahama's Junior herd sire.

SPRING MANAGEMENT OF BEES

The success of the summer work with the apary depends largely upon the management given in the spring, states E. D. Craig, Head Beekeeper, Dominion Experimental Station, Kentville, N.S. All colonies should be carefully gone over the first warm day in the spring. Unless each colony has fifteen pounds of stores they should be fed. For this purpose a comb of aged honey put away from the previous fall crop simplifies feeding, but never give honey back to bees unless you are absolutely sure that it came from disease free colonies. Place one comb of honey on each side of the brood nest. First breaking the combing over the honey. If combs of honey are not available the feeding of sugar syrup consisting of two parts of sugar and one of water will have to be resorted to. The syrup is fed in a ten pound friction-top tin which has about thirty holes placed in the cover. The tin of syrup is inverted over the frames. An empty Super is placed on the brood chamber and the hive cover is then put on the super.

On the first examination of the colony, the beekeeper should make sure that it has a fertile queen which will be indicated by the presence of capped brood. The cappings should be flat. If the cappings are raised, the queen should be killed as she is a drone breeder, and the colony united to one that has a fertile queen. If a queen appears to be old and worn out she should be replaced by a young queen, otherwise the colony will not become sufficiently strong by the time the main flow comes to store a surplus of honey. All weak colonies should either be united to one of medium strength or they can be saved and strengthened by placing on top of strong ones, with a queen excluder between the two. If the weak colony does not have any brood, a comb of brood should be given it from a strong colony. Three weeks later the colony containing the most brood should be moved to a new stand. Another method of strengthening weak colonies is to add a two-pound package of bees without a queen. This practice is quite widespread and will make the difference between failure and success in securing a crop of honey.

Colonies that are wintered in the cellar are generally placed on their summer stands when the willows begin to bloom. They should be taken out on a dull day or in the evening, so, as to lessen the danger of drifting. In colonies wintered outside, cases should not be removed until the latter part of May.

"An optimist? I should say he was. Why he fell 10 stories, and as he passed each window he shouted: 'All right — so far.'"

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OLD CHUM

GEORGETOWN, Ont.

Production Keynote As Farmers to Meet

War-time crop production will be the theme of agricultural annual meetings scheduled for Toronto the week of Feb. 12th. The Ont. Crop Improvement Assn. which now has 39 branches, is sponsoring a seed display during the entire week, while the Ont. Provincial Winter Fair is holding a commercial seed show with prizes. All this activity is housed in the King Edward Hotel and over 1000 delegates will be present.

Over 500 delegates are expected to attend the annual meeting and convention of the Ont. Assn. of Agricultural Societies, Feb. 15 and 16, with Class A and B Fairs meeting February 14th. These Societies dotted all over the province are prepared to give leadership in the effort to increase crop production. The delegates will hear addresses on the dairy products situation by V. S. Murn, Toronto, and "Trends of the Canadian Dairy Farmers' Federation, while Hon. G. J. Taggart, chairman of the Bacon Board, Ottawa, will talk on bacon, and Dr. L. H. Newman, Dominion Cerealist, Ottawa, on field crops. Hon. P. Dewar, Hon. Minister of Agriculture, and Hon. Mr. Taggart will speak at the banquet.

Women are taking an ever-increasing and important part in the work of Agricultural Societies and a two-day program has been outlined for them. Among other matters, they will discuss methods to overcome harmful competition of extensive and so-called professional exhibitors.

The Ont. Crop Improvement Assn. meeting Feb. 14th will have some 300 delegates present to hear the seed situation in Canada discussed by W. T. G. Weiner, seed supply committee, Ottawa. The results of crop-testing work and recommendations in Eastern and Western Ont. will be given by Dr. L. H. Newman and Dr. G. P. McRostie, O.A.C. Guelph, James Laughland, O.A.C., will talk on rust resistant varieties. Hon. P. M. Dewar will speak at the banquet.

Over 250 members of the Ont. Planters' Assn. will hear an interesting address on "the state of the farm man from farm to market" by Prof. L. G. Heimpel, Macdonald College. A "Branch match management" is another interesting item on the program. The plowmen meet Feb. 13th.

TERRACES ON FARMS INCREASE MOISTURE

The value of agricultural terraces for increasing moisture conservation and for decreasing soil erosion is constantly receiving greater attention from farmers all parts of Canada. The basic function of such installations is the interception of run-off water on sloping fields so that it may either be absorbed or conducted slowly down the fields depending upon the requirements. A Lennox, Ontario, farmer, E. D. Craig, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, has been using terraces on his farm for many years, occasioned by spring freshets or by heavy rains, may cause considerable damage by eroding the valuable surface soil. This water is of little value for crop production as it moves across the field so rapidly the soil has little chance to absorb it. By the use of a suitable system of terraces the farmer may control this water to his own advantage.

In the drier parts of Canada the principal use of terraces is to assist in conserving moisture for crop production purposes although even in these regions their value in checking soil erosion should not be overlooked. In using terraces for moisture conservation the water is either impounded on the sloping side or it is conducted at low velocity to adjacent level land where it is impounded. In either case the object is to have the run-off water absorbed by the soil so that it can be utilized by farm crop. On the other hand, where terraces are to be used solely for assisting in the control of soil erosion the object is to install the terraces in such a manner so that the run-off water can be conducted slowly and safely from the fields into waste ditches.

The installation of terraces usually requires a certain amount of preliminary technical considerations. If they are to be effective. However, the problem of their installation and effective use almost invariably resolves itself into simple commonsense farm practice which generally may be applied by the average farm operator with a little technical assistance.

HEATING HINTS

by James Stewart

DO NOT neglect the ashpit of your furnace. It serves three very important purposes: provided under the grate to receive the ashes which are shaken through.

- It receives the air from the cellar and helps to distribute it uniformly to all parts of the fuel bed.
- If ashes are allowed to accumulate in the ashpit, the air supply will be cut off and the stoves and complete combustion of the fuel will be hampered. Not only that... if the ashpit becomes choked up with ashes the grates are very apt to become overheated and warp or break. And it costs money to replace grates. Take my advice, therefore, and keep the ashpit cleaned out.

(14)

Ancient Commentary On Imported Fruits

In view of the large amount of native fruit available to Canadians at the present time, owing to restricted shipping space for exports, the quantity of imported fruit and plants in England over 300 years ago is pertinent to the present apple marketing problem in Canada. Writing in his Elizabethan England in 1587, the Rev. William Harrison says with reference to the importation of fruits and plants into England from Mediterranean countries:

"Certain they grow not for us but for the Arabians and Grecians. And albeit that they may by skill be applied unto our benefit, yet to be more skillful in them than in our own is folly; and to use foreign wares when our own may serve, the thing is more folly; but to despise our own and magnify above measure the use of them that are sought and brought from afar is most folly of all; for it savourith of ignorance, or at the least wise of negligence and is therefore worthy of reproof."

In another part of the same chapter after writing of the crops of 1857, Mr. Harrison comments: "And even as it fareth with our gardens so doeth it with our orchards which were never furnished with so good fruit nor with such variety as at this present. For besides that we have most delicate apples, plums, pears, walnuts, filberts, of sundry sorts we have no less store of other good fruits. So that England for these commodities was never better furnished, neither any nation under any clime more plentifully endowed with these and other blessings from the most High God who grant us Grace withal to use the same to His Honor and Glory."

SANITATION AND PLANT DISEASE

Sanitation is as important to the farmer as it is to public health authorities states J. E. Busher, Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Kaminichton, B.C.

Plant enemies include many fungi, bacteria, and viruses. They must all be carried to the plant by some means. Fungi and bacteria may be borne by insects and other animals, rain, wind, and cultivating tools, or with seeds, cuttings, and other plant parts. They may also go through the soil for some distance. Viruses are carried by insects, human beings, or other natural carriers, by contact or by propagation of infected plants. Many disease organisms pass the winter in plant refuse, and some may live for several years in the soil. These facts show the type of sanitation that is needed.

Simple sanitary measures include routine removal and burning of all

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Low lying areas often need special attention. Many root diseases can be eliminated by improving soil conditions through drainage, subsoiling, manuring with both organic and mineral fertilizers, and crop rotation. Poor air circulation over low-lying ground and in certain parts of greenhouses may result in a localized high humidity, which in turn, may cause disease outbreaks. It is not often possible to improve the air drainage out of doors, but adequate ventilation may stop the trouble in greenhouses.

A knowledge of the disease to which his crops are subject must be the grower's first step in their control. The publication available from the Dominion and Provincial Governments will form the nucleus of a library on this subject.—Science Service News.

AN EARLY RISER

"I reckon" said the farmer, "that I get up earlier than anybody else in the neighborhood I am always up before 3 o'clock in the morning."

The second farmer said he was always up before then and had part of the chores done.

The first farmer thought he was fibbing and decided to find out. A few mornings later, he got up at 2 o'clock and went to his neighbor's house. He rapped on the back door, and the woman of the house opened it. "Where is your husband?" asked the farmer, expecting to find his neighbor in bed.

"He was around here early in the morning," answered his wife, "but I don't know where he is now."

"We cannot win the war by just sitting still," says a military expert. Neither can Germany by just lying.

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