

# OUR FARM PAGE: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO EVERY FARMER

## May Hold Seed Grain For Several Years

Experiments Show no Serious Injury to Germinating Power, States J. D. MacLeod, Ont. Dept. of Agriculture

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## Little Chats ON Farm Management NO. 3

### DAIRY FARM LABOUR

Labour cost is the largest single item of expense in dairy farming. From 20 to 30 per cent of the cost of producing milk is involved in labour. Not only does labour amount to a considerable sum but it is also one of the recognized economic factors to be considered in the production of any commodity. In order to make progress in farm management it becomes necessary to have some easily calculated standard by which labour efficiency may be measured.

Standards of measurement in this connection are gradually being developed for dairy farmers through the Ontario Dairy Farm Management Study. This investigation is being conducted co-operatively by the Economics Division, Marketing Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, and the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. More than 700 dairy farmers of the Province of Ontario are keeping records of their complete farm business. These records are checked at the farm and taken to Ottawa for analysis.

Two years of study indicate that the cash receipts of a farm business per man provides a useful standard of measurement of labour efficiency in dairy farming. To obtain this total labour time of all farm workers is reduced to a "man equivalent." The term "man equivalent" means the labour of one man working full time for 12 months on the farm. Members of the family working for part of the day only or doing less than an adult's work, and seasonal and occasional help are reckoned proportionately. The cash receipts include all cash sales of the farm business. A farm with cash receipts of \$2,800, and a "man equivalent" of 1.4, would have a cash receipt per man of \$2,000. It was found in the study that in all the fluid and processed milk zones, under conditions similar to the year ending April 30, 1938, the average dairyman needs to secure \$1,500 cash receipts per man to secure operation earnings approximately \$1,200. Operator earnings close to \$1,000 were obtained where the cash receipts per man were \$1,300 and where the cash receipts per man fell as low as \$800 the operator earnings were discouraging.

Though it was found that the most successful dairymen use the greatest amount of labour, not all dairymen, however, should take on a large labour staff. Those dairy farm operators who have the ability to manage labour by such a way as to secure a high cash receipt per man will be encouraged to use more labour.

Research breeding work is under way at the Horticultural Division, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, for the production of early maturing, smooth fruited, high quality tomatoes for home, market garden and canning purposes. Freedom from disease is being observed in connection with this work.

## A WAR-TIME RISK

There are many risks in the business of farming, some avoidable, and others unavoidable, states the Agricultural Supplies Board, and observes there is one very dangerous risk that of being insufficiently informed in dealing with your production problems.

For years agricultural scientists and experimentalists have been at work in laboratory, bar, and field. Their object has been to supply the farmer with practical, complete and up-to-the-minute information on the best practices in crop and animal production and the prevention of losses through pests and diseases. With the benefit of accumulated knowledge and the added incentive of war-time production requirements, these men are working more industriously than ever, if possible, in their efforts to assist and serve the producer.

Partial information is just as dangerous in farming as any other business—such risks may be avoided by utilizing the advice and information readily available from Provincial and Dominion sources, dealing with

## GUARD AGAINST BLAST OF OATS

Almost every farmer has noticed, at some time or other, a condition commonly known as "blast" or "blindness" of oats. He will have noticed that some of the spikelets in the head have failed to form kernels. These spikelets, which are commonly found on the lower part of the head, are quite empty and the chaff has a white, papery appearance. Sometimes a third or more of the head consists of these sterile and non-productive spikelets.

The cause of this condition is not very difficult to explain, states J. T. Johnson, Dominion Laboratory Plant Pathology, Winnipeg. The oat plant forms its spikelets some weeks before it comes into head. If the conditions of early growth have been very favourable, it will produce a large number of spikelets. If weather and soil conditions thereafter remain good, it may be able to carry all these spikelets to maturity. But if adverse conditions set in during the later stages of growth the plant apparently responds by cutting down the nutrient supply from the youngest and least-developed spikelets chiefly those located at the base of the head. In consequence these die and wither while the older spikelets in the upper part of the head keep growing. The adverse condition that conspires to bring about blast includes drought, and leaf injuries such as are caused by grasshoppers and other insects, rusts, hailstorms and so forth.

As these are factors over which the farmer has little or no control, he is naturally not in a position to remove the cause of blast. That is not to say, however, that he can do nothing to reduce or minimize blast. In most parts of Canada, the factors that bring about blast become operative towards mid-summer. If the oat plant is not yet in the head by the time these factors exert their action, it very largely escapes their influence. It is therefore clear that the chief weapon of the farmer against this yield-robbing disease is to promote blast resistance in the oat plant. It usually develops well in the late spring and early summer while temperatures are still low and moisture abundant. Hot weather is less favourable and with the coming of the hot summer months, the various factors that promote blast are at their height. Late sowing and early sowing both tend to reduce yield better than late sown and partly because of the more vigorous development of early-sown oats.

## SOME ESSENTIALS BROODING CHICKS

The normal profitable egg-producing life of the farm hen is so short that if he is to maintain his flock on a sound economical basis, he is faced with the necessity of replacing a large number of his birds each year, says W. T. Scott, Head Poultryman, Dominion Experimental Station, Harrow, Ont. If his practice is to buy his chicks from a hatchery and brood them himself, the poultryman must provide good brooding conditions in order to develop the chicks into profitable laying stock. Stunted chicks and a high mortality may be the result of poor brooding and the loss cannot be replaced entirely. Late replacements are responsible for delayed maturity, small eggs, and low production in fall and winter when prices are at their peak.

As it is a bad practice to mix chicks of different ages and as the brooders are available for more than two hatches only under very favourable weather conditions, sufficient equipment should be provided to accommodate at least half, if not all, of the chicks under one brooding. The chicks require the brooder heat for seven or eight weeks, and the temptation to make room for the second hatch by depriving the first of the heated brooder before they are comfortably feathered is dangerous. A sudden drop in temperature will result in chilling, followed by pneumonia and a high death toll.

The utmost care and the most elaborate equipment will not raise vigorous, profitable chicks that have inherited poor vitality or susceptibility to disease. No car those chicks that have met reverses in the brooding stage be raised profitably. The essentials that insure success are good stock, good dry draught-free houses, reliable heating, clean litter, and sufficient "waste proof" feed hoppers to provide room for twenty-five per cent of the total chicks to feed at one time. With a temperature of 95 to 100 degrees at the edge of the hover, a good chick starter mash always before them, clean water to drink, a hopper of grit and some succulent green feed there should be no difficulty in brooding the baby chicks satisfactorily.

Pre-War Propaganda By Hitler Revealed

Every case of German goods entering the last few years before the war contained Nazi propaganda of some description or other, according to J. S. Roe, Wartime Examiner of Publication and Director of Publicity, Customs Division, Department of National Revenue. Cases of German Novelties, for instance, revealed upon inspection, contained Nazi propaganda in the form of leaflets extolling the Nazi creed, the Hitler Creed. Phonographic records of the Fuehrer's vitriolic speeches were often found among shipments. A virtual flood of propaganda was stemmed at Canada's frontiers by Customs Inspectors.

A Gipsy family had just cleared away from near the vicar's home and left a dead donkey partly covered. The vicar wrote to the Council about the donkey. They responded by sending a clerk to say that it was the vicar's duty to bury the dead. The vicar replied that he knew that, but he just wanted to let relatives know.

## Gardening

### WHEN TO START

It does soil no good to be dug while too wet. It is liable to become lumpy later, perhaps, to bake hard. With heavy clay soil early working is particularly dangerous.

A good test is to look at one's shoes. If these become muddy after a tramping through the garden it is best to go back to the fire-side and read a seed catalogue or a book.

Texture of both heavy and light soil will be immensely improved by digging in of well-rotted manure, decayed leaves or other garden refuse. This sort of thing adds humus and moisture absorbing powers to light soil, makes the heavy kind more amenable to spade and fork.

### SOMETHING WILL FIT

No matter how unusually situated, there are flowers to fit almost any garden. Some like damp soil, some dry, some full hot sun, others shady corners. Certain types do the best in deep, rich soil, while some actually seek the poorer sorts. Special likes and dislikes will be found mentioned in the better Canadian seed catalogues and it is advisable to make special selections. Certain annuals like clarkia, alysum, larkspur, pansy and phlox will actually give better results, more delicate coloring if planted in partial shade.

For full sun, especially if planted close to a south wall where there is little protection from summer heat, there are things like coreopsis, California and other poppies, portulaca or climbing morning glories and nasturtium, which love the sun and give remarkable results even in a sieve of dry weather.

For scent, especially in the evening, a few nicotina, carnations, mignonette or stocks will perfume the whole garden.

Solid beds of annuals or big blocks in borders have exceptional appeal, phlox, dwarf marigolds, nasturtiums, and these can be made up of petunias, verbenas or zinnias.

## Method of Entry Changed, R.C.A.F.

Under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, the only method of entry to the Special Reserve of the Royal Canadian Air Force for elementary flying training will be through enlistment. No further applications for commission in this category will be accepted. For airman pilot the applicant must be between 18 and 26 years of age; for air observer and air gunner, between 18 and 32 years of age. Education requirements are Junior Matriculation or its equivalent. Applications for appointment to the experienced pilots, presumably with at least 200 hours of flying experience to their credit.

## Report of Trans-Canada Air Lines

Montreal, March 29.—Operating revenue of the Trans-Canada Air Lines last year totalled \$2,360,473.97, according to the annual report of the board of directors issued today by S. J. Hungerford, president. Of this amount, \$843,915.48 was contributed by passenger fares, \$1,632,973 came from mail and \$28,513.01 from express.

Regular over-night mail service between Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver was in effect only 10 months of the period, and passenger service across the continent and between Lethbridge and Edmonton only nine months. In July, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto were linked by a separate daylight schedule and this was augmented in November when flights between Toronto and Moncton were begun.

The number of passengers carried in 1939 was 21,569, with July and August the heaviest months. "Passenger service," says the report, "was particularly a satisfactory degree of regularity and the company's flight and ground personnel have established a reputation for discipline, efficiency and courtesy in dealing with the public. The patronage of the service has considerably exceeded expectations, particularly on the transcontinental route." For the year, all schedules, the percentage of passenger occupancy (passenger miles divided by seat miles) was 58.1.

Air mails carried aggregated 452,000 pounds. December was the best month, accounted for 59,636 pounds, which was 6,842 pounds better than August, the next in volume.

Air express totalled 45,819 pounds. The heaviest month was September, with 7,113. December was second, with 5,884 pounds, which was more than four times greater than the January quantity.

Operating expenses, including \$1,724,153.50 for aircraft operation and maintenance, \$636,256.94 for ground operation and maintenance and \$10,763.39 for general taxes, aggregated \$2,586,743.83. The net operating loss was \$236,269.71. Adding \$175,904.53, interest on capital invested, and subtracting \$517.65, miscellaneous income, the deficit appears as \$411,859.83. This is provided by Dominion subsidy and is \$720,441 under the amount (\$488,941) appropriated by Parliament for the purpose. The operating expenses include, in addition to the operating costs of revenue-producing services, all the development of new services and the training of personnel.

The paid in capital of the company, which has all been raised by the issue of capital stock, is now \$3,750,000, an increase of \$500,000. Of the funds thus obtained, \$2,699,889 has been invested in aircraft buildings and ground equipment. No portion of the capital has been utilized for organization, training or development expenses.

Adequate depreciation reserves have been provided in respect of all property subject to depreciation. Depreciation charged to operating expenses in 1939 totalled \$57,342 and comprised more than 20 per cent of

the total operating costs. Full insurance coverage is carried with outside underwriters for passenger, public and employer's liability. Provision is also made for self-insurance or with outside underwriters for loss or damage to aircraft and other company-owned property.

Property and equipment are shown at \$3,869,882.40, less accrued depreciation of \$834,241.88, the net asset being \$3,035,640.72. The company has 15 twin-engine aircraft, each accommodating 10 passengers and a crew of three and has a cargo capacity of 2,800 pounds. It has its own hangars at Moncton, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Lethbridge.

From the beginning of operations (between Vancouver and Seattle) in September, 1937, until the end of 1939, Trans-Canada planes flew 5,174,707 miles, 1,265,842 of which were in training flights. In 1939 the mileage amounted to 3,125,393. Hours flown in the year totalled 19,496. Scheduled miles flown daily number 9,044.

At the end of the year the T.C.A. staff totalled 397.

"The company is performing an important function in the Dominion's war effort and war-time economy," the report states. "The value of a fully equipped national airway, with adequate means of communication and with facilities for servicing both military and civilian aircraft, has already been demonstrated.

"A number of employees have enlisted with the armed forces and have been given leave of absence for the duration of the war.

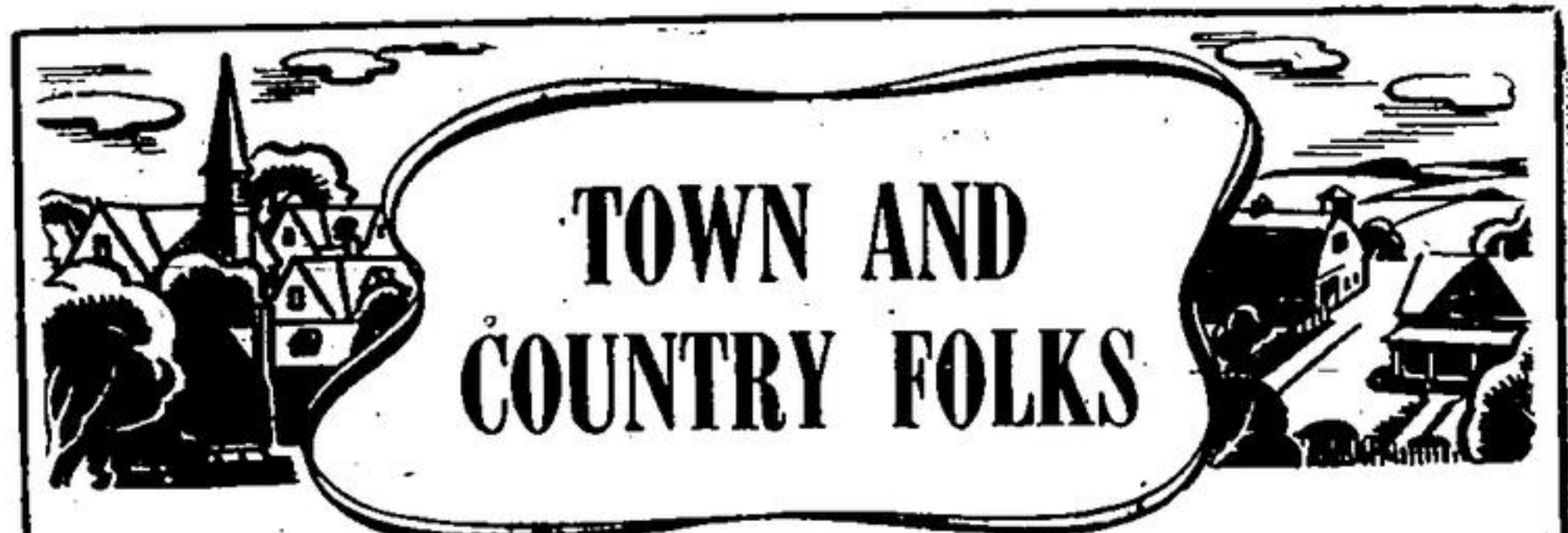
"The progress achieved during the past year in the development of the company's services is considered satisfactory and with passenger traffic well maintained during the winter, the prospects for 1940 are regarded as favorable. Plans for this year include a second daily flight between Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, a double daily service between Toronto, London and Windsor, and daily services between Toronto and Buffalo and Toronto and New York.

## APPLE TREE STUDIES

In the report of the committee of the Canadian Horticultural Council on horticultural research in 1939, it is noted that in the tree fruit improvement and rootstock studies conducted by the Horticultural Division, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, apples were harvested from 88 progeny trees, the results of specific crosses made in 1926. Seventy-eight of these new apples were marked for discard and 10 were considered of sufficient promise to retain for further investigation.

## IN A BAD WAY

Rastus—You ain't yo-self no mo'. Sick or sumph?  
Mose—Ah got insomniacs. Ah keeps wakin' up ev'ry few days.



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