

OUR FARM PAGE: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO EVERY FARMER

How Farmers Can Obtain Profits From Potatoes

Four Years of Experimental Work in Middlesex. Show Certified Seed, Proper Fertilizing, Early Planting, Efficient Spraying, Proper Harvesting and Grading is the Answer.

Four years ago the Ontario and Dominion governments commenced experiments on three soil types in Middlesex county at the request of the Caradoc Potato Growers' Association. In 1938 similar experiments were begun in the Alliston area, South Simcoe county. Growers in these famous potato growing areas asked investigations into such problems as low yields, and difficulties in producing potatoes of high quality. In addition to the factors mentioned, demonstrations have been conducted on 38 Middlesex farms on one acre plots with adjacent check plots.

Results obtained on the experimental plots and put into practice on the demonstration plots showed five main factors contributing to more profits from potatoes. These were:—

Certified seed of a suitable variety. Plentiful supply of plant food supplied by barnyard manure, green manure crops and artificial fertilizers.

Efficient spraying.

Proper methods in harvesting, grading, packing and labelling.

Good seed was found to be one of the most important factors in securing profitable yields. Although all other conditions might be ideal for a bumper crop, the crop might be a failure if the proper seed was not used. Certified seed does not mean seed potatoes that are entirely free from all diseases but it is an assurance that the minimum of disease is present.

Results of experiments in both Middlesex and South Simcoe showed that the best time to plant potatoes was from the 18th to 25th of May. Those results are supported by similar findings at the O.A.C., Guelph, and Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Efficient spraying throughout the growing season increased yields on an average of 75 to 100 bushels per acre. Spray and dust experiments at the Ridgeway Experimental farm for eight successive years show that plots sprayed or dusted five times during the growing season gave an average increased yield of some 28 per cent over unsprayed or undusted plots.

Growers should recognize that profits are not necessarily measured by the number of acres grown but by the yield of good quality tubers produced per acre.

The objective of Ontario potato growers should be "More bushels of high quality potatoes from fewer acres."

"Wonder if I could find a match for this coat." "Burn the trousers too, while you're at it."

Miss Howler: "Did my voice fill the drawing room?" Mr. Blunty: "No, it filled the refreshment room and the conservatory."

GEORGE C. BROWN NORVAL Phone 382 r 21

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BRAY CHICKS Deliver the goods!

Improve THE HOMESTEAD



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"No sir, I got a Home Improvement Loan from the Bank of Montreal. A simple matter—no fuss or bother. The rates are low, and I'm paying it back by instalments."

Home Improvement Loans... obtainable at \$3.25 per \$100 repayable in twelve monthly instalments. For borrowers with seasonal incomes repayment may be made in other convenient periodic instalments. Ask for our folder.

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Georgetown Branch: A. C. WELK, Manager

Little Chats ON Farm Management NO. 4

WHAT IS YOUR FARM WORTH?

Increasing interest is being shown in the ownership of farm land. This is characteristic of war periods. It may be that a farmer will be approached by someone asking the selling price of his farm and in many cases this is not an easy thing to state. Farm values are determined by several factors, methods but probably the most usual is by comparing the merits of the farm under consideration with those of some other nearby farm which has recently changed hands at a known price. In some localities no sales have taken place and it is necessary to place a value on it by guess.

To the buyer, who of necessity must pay for the farm with operation profit, the farm value is very closely linked with its productivity. The problem of securing a satisfactory measure of farm productivity as a basis of value is now being solved.

The Economics Division, Marketing Service, Ottawa, and the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, by means of the Ontario Farm Management Study, have found that cash receipts in comparison with investment gives a measure of productive value, and this is expressed as the number of years it takes for the cash receipts to equal the capital investment.

A study of 334 whole milk-shipping farms for the year ended April 30, 1938 shows that it requires the cash receipts of 4.8 years to equal the total value of the farm, live stock and equipment. Another group of 258 farms, from which milk was shipped for manufacture required 5.2 years for the cash receipts to equal the total capital value.

By using these ratios of turnover to capital a farmer can arrive at a fair valuation of his farm. Cash receipts are made up of all farm sales during the year. In order to make a fair estimate of these an average should be used of the receipts over a period of years. This average, multiplied by the figure given above, applicable to the type of dairy farm will give the productive value of the total farm capital. If, from this sum, the value of live stock, machinery and other moveables is deducted, the balance is a valuation for real estate.

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Print New Handbook Dairy Cattle Feeding

Valuable War-Time Information For Every Dairy Farmer Issued by Ont. Feed Board Through Ont. Dept. of Agriculture

The Ontario Feed Board, through the Ont. Dept. of Agriculture has issued a 20-page handbook on "The Feeding and Management of Dairy Cattle," that can be obtained free of charge by Ontario farmers from the Agricultural Representative in his county or by writing direct to the Station and Publications Branch, Ont. Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

It would also be advisable to ask for the large convenient placard on Dairy Cattle Rations, which can be hung in a convenient spot in the barn near the feed bin. This placard contains suggested meal mixtures as well as rules and recommendations for dairy cows in milk.

It is pointed out by the Hon. P. M. Dewar, Ont. Minister of Agriculture, that agricultural war-time efforts in Ontario are not confined to increased production of foodstuffs, but include cheese and powdered milk. To step-up production of these products, dairy cattle must be fed wisely and the farmer must know feed values and their uses if he is to profit.

The handbook on "Feeding and Management of Dairy Cattle" is just off the press and contains valuable war-time feeding information for the farmer on every one of its pages, dealing as it does with the important fundamentals of feeding dairy cattle.

Write for your copy now.

Carpenter Ants Destroy Cedar Poles

Destruction by ants of cedar poles along telephone and power lines in central Canada is a relatively new problem even to entomologists. In recent years, public utility companies have noted a premature loss of poles due to the destruction of the heart wood by a large black ant, the largest of its type known as the carpenter ant.

The insect bores through the softer portions of the annual rings of wood and after a few years the pole may be little more than a hollow drum from ground line to a height of some ten feet. The pole becomes weakened and, at times, unsafe.

Many thousands of poles in central Canada are known to be infested and, in some instances, the normal 20 year life expectancy of some poles is reduced to an actual 6 or 7 years. Infestations are not restricted to power lines, however; verandah posts and other structural timbers and fences are also attacked. The ant bores only to prepare a suitable home in which to live and increase. The wood is not used as food. Colonies once established may persist for many years, but as crowding becomes evident in the home, winged males and females migrate to establish new colonies.

While more or less satisfactory treatments can be used to destroy these colonies, the real solution of the problem consists in protecting new poles from the attack of these ants. Many difficulties are involved, due to the hardiness of carpenter ant control is being investigated by the forest entomologists of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, in the Winnipeg laboratory.

LOW COST INSURANCE

Farming is a business naturally beset by many risks. These risks may include variable climatic conditions, possible ravages by insect pests, and plant and animal diseases. Risks may be incurred through faulty methods of cultivation and harvesting, and the use of poor seed and unsuitable foundation stock.

Research by the scientists and tests and studies by the experimentalists have shown very conclusively what may be done to reduce or eliminate risk in the production of crops and live stock, states the Agricultural Supplies Board. Over the years a great amount of practical information has been made available and is being utilized by producers to their great advantage. Even during the past ten years the benefit that has been derived from the application of such information is beyond measure. Failure to keep informed as to the results of agricultural experiment and research may result in losses which could easily have been avoided.

There is risk in out-of-date methods in the general routine of production. Reliable insurance against such risks is very cheap. The premium may be no more than a postage stamp, and a letter requesting information and advice from those who for years have been dealing with just such problems as yours. Information and advice on all phases of farm production and related activities may be secured from Dominion and Provincial sources by writing to the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Agricultural College, or the nearest Experimental Farm or Station.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE HORSES

The Dominion Department of Agriculture has been advised by representatives of the French Government that they expect to purchase horses in Canada. According to present prospects, first inspections will take place during the second fortnight in May. The actual purchasing is expected to be done through French purchasing boards operating at the larger railroad centres in Eastern and Western Canada.

Two types of horses are wanted: horses for cavalry purposes, and horses of light draught type. Horses of cavalry type should be between the ages of 5 and 10 years, standing 15 hands

1 inch to 16 hands, close to the ground, with good neck, short back, deep shoulders and high withers, well sprung ribs, good legs and feet, good action, and weighing from 870 to 1,100 pounds.

Horses of light draught, or light "vanner" type should be well broken, between the ages of 5 and 10 years, standing 15 hands to 16 hands 2 inches in height with short back, strong quarters, plenty of bone, true action, capable of pulling a big weight off rough or broken ground, and weighing from 1,100 to 1,200 pounds. The desired proportions of the two types are 60 per cent cavalry and 40 per cent light draught.

For several years your Medical Officer of Health has recommended the installation of Recording Thermometers in the pasteurizers. In 1939 this was made obligatory. We now have a permanent record of temperatures used in pasteurization.

The public can be assured of a clean, sanitary supply of milk and no sickening cases of typhoid fever, or other diseases, which could be attributed to impure milk has been reported in 1939.

C. Water: There was a plentiful supply of water during 1939. Samples are sent from time to time to the Ontario Department of Health for detection of presence of impurities. Some are graded Low, showing the presence at times of intestinal organisms. These are probably of animal origin, but their presence indicates that pollution by human excreta could occur. Should such a person be a typhoid carrier, a serious situation might develop.

Because our reservoir is supplied by so many streams it is practically impossible to fix any one as occasionally being polluted. Heavy rainfalls and thaws carry in washings from fields which may be some distance from these streams. This condition has been present for many years; water tests have been somewhat better last year and no sickness has occurred in 1939 which could be proved as due to impure water. Once yearly the reservoir is emptied and cleaned under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. G. Marshall. There is at times a temporary formation of a scum on the water in the reservoir, caused by algae plant life. This has spontaneously disappeared without requiring any special treatment. Its presence does not constitute a health hazard.

D. Licenses of Boarded Homes. No report.

E. Control of Communicable Diseases in General

The Local Board of Health did not have occasion to deal with any outbreaks of communicable diseases in 1939, which is a most gratifying situation. This low incidence can be maintained only by continued co-operation of affected families in notifying the family physician at once and then carrying out strictly the regulations of isolation and quarantine. The teamwork of Georgetown physicians, School Nurse, and Sanitary Inspector has been of great value in reducing the number of communicable diseases to such a low figure. The immunization of children at the Public School against Diphtheria and Small Pox will be referred to later.

Communicable Diseases

(1) Prevalence

(2) Prevention: The yearly immunization programme has been carried out by your Medical Officer of Health and Public School Nurse, with the co-operation of the Public School Board, Principal and Staff. This consists of giving Toxoid for the prevention of Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox.

(a) DIPHTHERIA: After the school assemblies in the Fall "Consent Forms" are sent to the parents of children who have not already been immunized; any parents who wish to have their pre-school children treated are welcomed to the clinic. The treatment consists of 3 inoculations, with an interval of 2 weeks between each inoculation. This renders 95% of them immune against Diphtheria. No child should be denied the protection afforded by this procedure.

(b) SMALLPOX: In February "Consent Cards" are sent to parents for vaccination of the children against Smallpox, and a clinic similar to that held in 1938 is held for this purpose. The response has been gratifying, but it is noteworthy that parents who have come from the British Isles are much more interested in having their children vaccinated than Canadian-born parents. In this country so little has been seen or heard of Smallpox that there seems to be very little fear of it. The possibility of such an epidemic is not at all remote. There is no disease more serious or loathsome than Smallpox, and prevention is a simple procedure. Parents who deny their children such protection are derelict in their duty.

Both Toxoid Inoculations and Smallpox vaccinations are administered to these school-children free of charge.

(3) Extent of Immunization Programme: The records of the Local Board of Health show for Diphtheria 32 persons immunized and 32 certificates granted. Smallpox 30 persons immunized and 30 certificates granted.

Note: Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough Immunization is not carried out as a Public Health procedure in Georgetown as your Medical Officer of Health is not convinced that it is satisfactory, except in private practice.

As a result of the current programme and the work of former years, it is estimated that of the 305 children attending our Public School 250 are protected against Diphtheria and 216 have been vaccinated against Smallpox.

It should be noted that immunization of children should be commenced at about 6 months of age. A very small number of such children attend the Public School clinic.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

MATERNAL AND CHILD HYGIENE: No instruction in pre-natal, infant, and pre-school care is given in Georgetown except by family physicians.

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL: For a few years a diagnostic clinic visited Georgetown at regular intervals to examine any suspected cases. The municipality is in the fortunate position of being unable to provide patients for

the clinic, so it was discontinued. On account of our proximity to Sanatoria, any suspected cases are sent there for diagnosis, and treatment if necessary. As can be noted in Statistics of Communicable Diseases, Georgetown is very free of this disease at present. When cases do occur, every effort is made to have all contacts examined in order to ensure that they are free of this disease; this is for their own sakes and to prevent its spread to others. It is astonishing how frequently such contacts are loathe to undergo such an examination, fearing that they will be found to be affected.

Halon County has one of the lowest morbidity and mortality rates in Ontario. This can be accounted for by the comparatively high standard of living of the inhabitants, the more general use of safe milk, and the proximity of Sanatoria with facilities for early diagnosis and treatment. The cost of such treatment for those unable to pay is no longer borne by the municipality. Recent legislation has made Sanatorium treatment obligatory when persons with active Tuberculosis are considered a menace to others.

V. D. CONTROL: Any cases which have occurred in 1939 have been under the care of private physicians.

CANCER CONTROL: No report.

HEALTH OF THE SCHOOL CHILD: The Local Board of Health is vitally interested in the health of the school children. As reported, every public school child has been given the opportunity of being immunized against Diphtheria and Smallpox. All children are examined for gross eyesight defects, dental defects and weights by the School Nurse. Any child found unwell is sent home by the School Nurse, with a note to the parents, suggesting in appropriate cases that the family physician be consulted. In this way children suffering from communicable diseases, skin rashes, colds, etc. will receive proper care and will not be a menace to other school children.

In case of malnourished children, it has been arranged through the generosity of service organizations—that those whose parents cannot afford it, are provided with extra milk.

Each year parents of children found with Ear, Nose or Throat defects, a g-diseased tonsils and adenoids, deafness, etc. are asked to have their children looked after by the family physician. If this cannot be afforded they are sent to the Sick Children's Hospital at Toronto, after receiving the parental consent. The Women's Institute, Local Council of Women, have for many years contributed to the expense of such treatment and the Lions Club have looked after transportation. The Hospital for Sick Children has consented to look after these children for a small fee. In 1939 tonsils and adenoids of 6 children were removed and 1 child visits the Deaf Clinic.

Dental Hygiene: In 1939 the Lions Club with the assistance of the School Nurse arranged with our dentists an examination of the teeth of every public school child. Cards were sent to the parents reporting all defects in detail. Where parents could not afford the necessary treatment, the Lions Club assumed the entire cost of the dental attention. 79 children were thus cared for in 1939.

Summary of Clinic Services

Toxoid (3 clinics), under auspices of the Board of Health, number of residents of Georgetown attending, 32. Vaccination clinic, under auspices of the Board of Health, number of residents of Georgetown attending 30. Ear, nose and throat clinic, under auspices of the Women's Institute, Local Council of Women and Lions Club, number attending, 7. Dental clinic, under auspices Lions Club, all Public School pupils.

Public Health Nursing

The work of School Nurse has been looked after very efficiently and conscientiously by Mrs. A. Squires until June. Miss E. Marshall has taken up these duties in a most efficient manner. The salary of the School Nurse is provided by the Public Health Board and is intended to cover her attendance at the school two days per week. This is only a fraction of the time that she gives to the school. Those closely associated with the school children can appreciate the extra time spent for their welfare.

The employment of a full-time Public Health Nurse would be a boon to Georgetown. It is very probable that one or two towns in this vicinity would contribute toward the salary of such a nurse for a part of her time. A full-time Public Health Nurse would be available for school work, pre-natal and post-natal clinics, well-baby clinics, conduct of First Aid and Home Nursing Classes, home nursing calls, etc.

Sanitary Services

Public Water Supplies: Total number of samples of public supply sent for examination this year, 6. Number of laboratory reports lower than Grade A, 1. The following infections were attributed to the public water supply this year: None.

Milk Supply: Milk by-law No. 46, was passed in 1927. Amended in 1929. Is pasteurization compulsory? Yes. Number of inspectors, 1; number of pasteurization plants, 2; per cent of total supply pasteurized, 100%; total average daily consumption, 1000 quarts; per capita consumption 0.8 pints; number of producers, 14.

Milk inspection: Units made to producers, 42; samples taken under, 90; distributors of raw milk, none; visits to distributors of pasteurized milk, 14.

There were no infections associated with the milk supply this year.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all who have assisted in the work of public health in our municipality during the year. I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant, C. V. Williams, M.O.H. for Georgetown, Ont.

M.O.H. Report

(Continued from Page 1)

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