

# OUR FARM PAGE:

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO EVERY FARMER

## Crops Look Favourable Throughout the Dominion



### Halton Farm Cited as Example of Good Farm Management

FAMILY HERALD PRAISES AMOS NEWELL MILTON FARMER

The unusually abundant rainfall in southern Ontario and other parts of Canada this spring, will prove of inestimable value to Canada and the Mother Country alike. This is the belief of Amos R. Newell, farmer near Milton, who, like other well-known Ontario farmers feels that soil and crop indications herald a banner year in agriculture, just when it is needed most in view of the critical state of affairs overseas.

An example of productive activity in Ontario this year, due to moisture conditions, is Mr. Newell's 20 acre crop of alfalfa, which is two to three weeks ahead of its normal growth at this time. Mr. Newell states that his alfalfa should show a yield of between three and four tons per acre. His 75 acres of spring grain, 22 acres of fall wheat, 33 acres of timothy, and six acres of corn also show splendid promise. The remainder of this beautiful 200 acre farm is in pasture which resembles a thick pile carpet, thereby doing its share towards indicating the effect of this year's moisture.

The Newell farm, lying just to the east of the fruit belt which nestles beneath the Niagara Escarpment, is an example of good farming and wise management. From the main farm with its fine buildings and grounds, runs a straight lane with 60 rod fields on either side of it, down the centre of the farm. At the end of this long lane is a second set of buildings, where Mr. Newell's beef cattle are wintered, while the dairy cattle are stabled at

the other end of the lane. The sense of order which comes to one on a visit over the farm coincides with the owner's passion for taking care of his machinery.

Never is a piece of machinery on the Newell farm left out after its immediate use is over. There is a good implement shed on the farm, and all machinery is oiled carefully by their owner before being placed inside. This is probably the reason for the perfect condition of a 24-year-old manure spreader which has seen a lot of punishment during its regular use on the 200 acre farm. One of Mr. Newell's strongest convictions is that care of machinery is an important factor in farm economy.

**Needs Mixed Farming**

"Real mixed farming is necessary today. If we are to supply Britain's war-time needs, and at the same time farm successfully, we must be a distinct general farmer. He has seen too many 'putting all their eggs in one basket' and suffering a downfall. Observing that mixed farming balances those things which 'might' and 'do happen,' he pointed out to the writer that a week rarely passes without his having something to sell.

He milks 9 fine Holstein cows and ships cream regularly. He crosses his Aberdeen Angus bull on the Holsteins and achieves an excellent beef result. At present he has a beef herd of 20 animals. Some 10 beef calves go to market every spring. He owns 3 sows, one of which brought in a litter

of 17 during the winter, another bringing 14 during May. In connection with this, it might be added that the farmer never has crippled pigs to contend with. There is a 3 acre pig and wood-yard to the rear of the barn. A tightly-woven fence embraces the yard, where the pigs are turned out all summer, getting a healthful start from feeding on the early grass in the spring.

Recalling that splendid crops enabled Canadian farmers to supply the Allies with an abundance of produce during the last Great War, this season's productive promise is regarded by Mr. Newell as a significant blessing by Mother Nature who appears to be doing her part once again toward an Allied victory. If potential production this year from the level acres of loam on the Newell farm may be considered a standard for Ontario, the Mother Nature is in sympathy with the Allied cause.

With the almost monotonously frequent rains, wells which in many cases were bone-dry last year are filling rapidly. The only drawback to the abundant moisture lies in its deterring effect on those few unfortunate farmers who had not completed their seeding when the rains arrived. There is the exceptional case in the districts near Toronto and Hamilton, where farmers with considerable acreage had managed no more than a start at their seeding.

Morton Wilson in the Family Herald

### MILLION APPLE TREES ARE NEVER SPRAYED

Insect Pests Increase Rapidly in Ontario - Seven Sprays Now Necessary by Commercial Growers to Ensure Clean Apples, Says P. W. Hodgetts, of Ontario Fruit Branch.

There are over one million apple trees in Ontario that are never sprayed and should be out down, as they are hotbeds of disease, says P. W. Hodgetts, Director of the Fruit Branch, Ont. Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto. The last census showed there were over 200,000 farms in Ontario with 170,000 of these farms having fruit trees, mostly apples. Not 25,000 farmers sprayed their trees, Mr. Hodgetts stated.

Insect pests have increased rapidly in the last 30 years due to neglected orchards. In 1910 only three sprays were necessary to combat disease and produce good clean apples, while in 1940 seven sprays or more will be needed to ensure quality fruit.

San Jose scale is still bad in southwestern Ontario due to neglected orchards as breeding places.

### Scientific Agriculture Great War Time Role

The role of technical agriculture during the war, said Dr. J. M. Swaine, Director, Science Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture, in a recent address at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., is clearly to assist in maintaining a sound agricultural industry in Canada, competent to supply the agricultural products required to a greater degree than ever before, to furnish the United Kingdom and the Allies of Canada with what ever they may need, and to maintain a stability that will make post-war adjustments possible without serious trade disturbances.

With an industry dependent so largely on overseas trade, and with those markets greatly reduced and future demands extremely uncertain, technical agriculture has before it a great field of work. Canada's largest market, the home market, should be more fully exploited—much attention has been given to selling apples and poultry in Great Britain, probably too little to selling them in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces. Soil fertility must be improved and maintained; the best seed produced and used, improved varieties developed and applied; plant and animal pests and diseases controlled; new uses for agricultural products found and exploited; much more extensively, and production and marketing policies and educational programs carried through as effectively as possible. Canadian produce should be of the finest quality, with the greatest economic production possible, at the lowest cost to the producer and to the consumer.

In all this work, scientific-technical agriculture must give leadership and guidance, for on its help the agricultural community will be dependent as never before in the history of Canada. Careful planning by agricultural leaders and by individual farmers will be absolutely necessary in order for agriculture to play its part successfully in the years ahead.

"Frank says his father could wipe the floor with you, dad."

Host (absent-mindedly, to singer) — "Will you give your song now, or shall we let the guests enjoy themselves for another half-hour?"

### The Weed of the Week

#### WILD MUSTARD

This annual weed, now in flower, is so prevalent in Ontario that a description of the plant is hardly necessary. The seed is black, 1-16 of an inch in diameter, perfect, spherical, resembling rape or turnip seed and retains its vitality for many years when buried in the soil, says the Crops, Seeds and Weeds Branch, Ont. Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

An average plant produces about 15,000 seeds. The seeds are dispersed by water and birds but chiefly as an impurity in seeds.

Contrary to the belief of many farmers, a heavy infestation of Wild Mustard does reduce the yield of grain by as much as 8 or 10 bushels per acre, by the action of soil moisture and plant food.

Full stray plants when in bloom. Where a field is badly infested delay seeding to allow for more thorough cultivation, thereby killing myriads of young plants before grain is sown.

### INCREASED ACREAGE FLAX PRODUCTION

It is estimated by the Agricultural Supplies Board that 22,000 acres will be seeded to fibre flax in Canada in 1940, which will make available for export to the United Kingdom approximately 1,000 tons of fibre and 3,000 tons of tow. The production of seed from the 1940 crop is placed at 110,000 bushels, of which 48,000 bushels will be required for seeding in Canada in 1941 leaving 62,000 bushels available for shipment to Northern Ireland. In 1939 the total acreage in fibre flax entering commerce in Canada was estimated at 8,000 acres.

Since September 1939, when the export of fibre flax seed was prohibited by Order-in-Council, and the Agricultural Supplies Board was authorized to purchase all available supplies of seed for re-sale to producers in Northern Ireland, and in Canada, 31,488 bushels of seed have been purchased by the Seed Supply Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Board. Of this quantity, 17,754 bushels have been shipped without loss to Northern Ireland, and the remainder, less a small amount at present on hand, has been sold at cost to producers in Canada. Distributions have varied from 5 bushels to nearly 4,000 bushels.

Professor "Did you hear that ignorant person snoring during my lecture?" Friend—"Yes, he woke me up several times."

### THE ANNUAL CLEAN UP

The importance of the annual clean up for all poultry yards and equipment is a matter worthy of greater attention than the average flock manager recognizes. The practical value of maintaining sanitary conditions on the commercial poultry plant as well as on the farm has been proven many times over. The high death rate commonly encountered in laying stock could be greatly lowered if flock owners would practice even ordinary sanitary practices every year.

June is an excellent month to start a concentrated clean up program. Nesting material, litter, and overhead straw should be removed from the pens and burned. All movable house fixtures should be taken out, scraped, scrubbed and disinfected. Within the hen house the floor, walls, ceiling, dropping boards, and feed hoppers should be thoroughly cleaned. The floors should get special attention, as many poultry diseases can be traced directly to filthy floor conditions.

The general raking up of old sticks, papers, and other trash which has accumulated during the past months makes a tremendous difference not only to the look but also to the cleanliness of any poultry yard.

this operation a real clean up of non-layers and birds in poor health. Cleaning out a flock of unproductive birds increases many potential disease carriers and in this manner alone the health of the whole flock is improved and the mortality of the coming winter correspondingly reduced.

The importance of the annual clean up cannot be over emphasized. The essentialness of this practice in good poultry management has shown itself many times over in lowered flock mortality, improved health, livability, and increased egg production.

### HAY MAKING RAIN OR SHINE

The old maxim "Make hay while the sun shines" is fast losing its universal application in connection with the process of converting grass and legume crops into feed for livestock. The relatively newer method of ensiling these crops enables the grower to produce a good quality of feed under adverse weather conditions which might render hay making impossible, states P. O. Ripley, Field Husbandry Division, Dominion Experimental Farms Service.

This does not mean that rainy weather is more suitable than fine weather for making silage, but since it takes several days to make grasses and legumes into hay, while they can be ensiled immediately as cut, the chance of weather damage is practically eliminated by the latter method.

For sixteen years the Field Husbandry Division, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, has conducted experiments with regard to various methods of ensiling some 20 different crops. Red clover or alfalfa cut when in bloom, sweet clover in the bud stage, and timothy, oats and barley cut just after heading, have all been made into excellent silage. The moisture content of the crop is extremely important in making silage. If it is too wet there is danger of rotting and if too dry moulding may take place.

Grasses and legumes properly handled as silage will provide highly nutritious feed with comparative little loss and at relatively low cost. In contrast to hay making, ensiling is not so dependent on the whims of the weather man.

Below will be found a brief synopsis of telegraphic reports received at the Head Office of the Bank of Montreal from its Branches under date of June 20th, 1940.

#### GENERAL

In the Prairie Provinces well distributed heavy rains and showers over the main wheat growing area have improved moisture conditions and areas are in the process of progressing favourably. Wheat presents an even, healthy stand and is stooling well. Coarse grains are advancing satisfactorily. Grasshoppers are appearing in some districts, but control measures are under way, the most heavily infested areas are in Southwestern Saskatchewan and adjacent districts in Alberta. Cutworms and wireworms have caused slight damage and weed growth is strong in some districts. Pastures are in good condition. In the Province of Quebec seeding and planting have been completed under generally favourable conditions, moisture is ample, and early growth has been satisfactory. In Ontario all crops, after a late start, have progressed satisfactorily and prospects generally are favourable. In the Maritime Provinces, where the season has been late, seeding in backward sections is now nearing completion and early growth of potatoes, fruits and hay shows good promise. In British Columbia beneficial rains have fallen throughout the Province and crops generally are showing very satisfactory progress.

#### PRAIRIE PROVINCES

ALBERTA—Crop conditions throughout the Province are satisfactory and moisture supplies are sufficient for the present, but in some districts good rains are required soon. Early sown wheat is stooling well and shows vigorous growth. Grasshoppers have caused some damage in extreme South-eastern areas. Pastures are in excellent condition. The sugar beet crop is favourable and thinning is well advanced. SASKATCHEWAN — Crop conditions on the whole are satisfactory. Wheat is of even growth and yields are making fair progress. Moderate to heavy general rains have been beneficial, particularly in the North and Central districts, where reserves were low. Grasshoppers are threatening crops and some damage has occurred in the Southwestern area, where infestation is heaviest. MANITOBA — Crops are advancing satisfactorily under favorable weather conditions. Rainfall has been general and has proved most beneficial in the Northern and Central areas, where conditions were becoming serious. Wheat is making good growth and is stooling well. While cool weather has held grasshoppers in check, wireworms have caused some damage. Sugar beets have germinated well, growth has been retarded by cool wet weather.

#### PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS AND QUITWA VALLEY — Seeding and planting have been completed. There is ample moisture and grains have germinated well and show good growth. Pastures are in excellent condition and a good hay crop is in prospect. Orchards blossomed well. Strawberries and other small fruits give promise of a good yield. LOWER ST. LAWRENCE AND LAKE ST. JOHN DISTRICT — Seeding and planting are practically completed. There is ample moisture and germination has been good. Warm weather is now needed to promote growth. Pastures are in good condition.

#### PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Frequent rains have caused rapid growth, but warm, dry weather is now needed. Crops on low lands have suffered from excessive moisture and in Eastern sections some areas have had to be resown. Fall wheat is in shot blade and prospects are favourable. Spring grains are making good progress. Planting of corn and roots, delayed by wet weather, is practically completed. Sugar beets are satisfactory and thinning is in progress. Pasture is ample and in excellent condition. A heavy hay crop seems assured and cutting has commenced in some sections. A good yield of strawberries is indicated, other small fruits are promising. The set of early apples is satisfactory. Transplanting of tobacco has been completed under favourable conditions.

#### MARITIME PROVINCES

Moisture conditions are satisfactory, with the advent of warmer weather, germination should be rapid. Potato planting in New Brunswick is completed and early growth has been satisfactory. Haylands and pastures are in

very good condition. Apple orchards in the Annapolis Valley showed good bloom and other fruits promise well.

#### PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Cutting of the first crop of alfalfa in general, with a good average yield in prospect. Potatoes and tomatoes are growing satisfactorily with acreage increased about 20 per cent. Some damage from pests will reduce the onion crop yield. The peak of the strawberry season has passed, with the crop not as heavy as originally anticipated. Raspberries are moving to market and picking of loganberries has commenced. Orchards are in good condition, but in the Okanagan the cherry crop will be light and the apple crop is estimated as likely to be below average. A good yield of peaches and apricots is expected. Pasture is plentiful and moisture conditions have improved, with the water reserve for irrigation purposes about normal.

### Efficient System for Food Production

Foresight in evolving an efficient system of food production capable of functioning in Canada under any eventuality is reflected in the recent speech of the Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, in the House of Commons on the War Appropriation Bill. "Before the war came," said Mr. Gardiner, "the government had reorganized the Dominion Department of Agriculture into four divisions, with a director over each division. It was done because the experiences we were having in the British market, that something very unusual was going on in the continent of Europe. It was done, too, as a result of an action taken by the Prime Minister, which had some relationship to myself as Minister of Agriculture, in the spring of 1936, when he said to me that he desired to go to Great Britain and Europe. When I asked him why, he replied, 'No one can ask the Department of Agriculture in the House of Commons to produce for marketing in Great Britain or on the Continent, without having an intimate knowledge of what is going on both in Great Britain and on the Continent.'"

He continued Mr. Gardiner, "that as a result of the experience gained at that time we reorganized the department and changed it from a department composed of a dozen or more branches to a department organized under four directors, a deputy minister, and an assistant deputy minister. The day war was declared, the principal officers of the department were called together to discuss the part to be played by agriculture in war activity. An agricultural supplies board composed of six members was established. The board, together with the department, commenced immediately to deal with the agricultural situations arising out of the war. Cooperation with provincial authorities, with advisory boards, and with other Dominion government bodies was sought from the beginning to accomplish the following things: (1) to establish constructive direction for agricultural production; (2) to make available for export those commodities required by Great Britain; (3) to conserve essential supplies such as feeding materials, insecticides, and fertilizers needed to meet the production of farm products in Canada, and (4) to assist in the marketing of surplus farm products."

All these things have been done. The special committees of the Agricultural Supplies Board in every province of Canada cover practically every phase of agriculture. Other war time boards and committees functioning since the outbreak of war are the War Times Price and Trade Board, the Bacon Board, the Wool Controller, the Sugar Administrator, the Hides and Leather Administrator, the Committee on Animal Feeds, together with sub-committees set up under the direction of the boards. The farmers throughout Canada have been kept informed of developments through these various committees, Board organizations, as well as directly through agricultural representatives, the newspapers, and the radio.

"Did you get home all right last night, sir?" Passenger: "Of course, whyask?" Conductor: "Well, when you got up and gave the lady your seat last night, you were the only two in the car."

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