

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE BUSY FARMER

(Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture)

Bright Poultry Outlook

Prospects appear bright for profitable egg and poultry production over the next several months. For this reason farmers and commercial poultrymen would be well advised to purchase day-old chicks without delay as such chicks are being sold at a reasonable price.

The egg market is reported as unusually strong at present. In place of the usual drop in egg prices immediately following Easter, prices this year have risen in the past week. More inquiries are being received from Great Britain for export eggs than for several years past. The prospective market for poultry meat is even more encouraging, present prices being higher than for several years, and poultry stocks in storage being much lower than in 1937. Sales of chicks in the United States are reported as being about 8 per cent lower than last year, which would point to a shortage of both eggs and poultry meat later in the season in the States. This in turn affects the Canadian market.

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Know What to Sow; Good Seed Important

In the regulations under the Seeds Act, grades of seed are defined as Registered Seed, Certified Seed and General Seed of Commerce. Seed to qualify for a Registered or Certified seed grade must be of an approved variety true to name, and seed under all grades must be well matured, plump, sound, sweet, well cleaned and graded to remove small, shrunken, immature or broken kernels and inert matter. It must possess strong vitality and conform to standards of freedom from noxious weed seeds and other impurities prescribed for the different grades. It should be emphasized that certain varieties of seeds are best suited for certain farms and conditions. The varieties most suitable for any farm can only be determined accurately by trial tests which each farmer is urged to make.

This is the time of the year when a farmer should plan to sow enough registered or certified seeds in a small plot to test their value on his own farm. To do this take a good piece of land, prepare it well, and clean the drill carefully before sowing. Take good care of this plot and if the crop is superior to the main crop use the seed threshed from it for seeding purposes the following spring. This is a practical way of renewing the seed supply at little extra cost.

Farm Accounting

Modern farming is a business and to be successful should be conducted in a business-like manner. Farming has developed to the stage where it is a commercial enterprise in which the character of the management largely determines income and profit. It involves the produc-

tion and sale of commodities as well as the use of capital and the purchase of supplies and labour the same as most other kinds of business.

Present conditions in farming emphasize the importance to the farmer of having a record of his business transactions as well as a permanent record of other details of his farm enterprise to which he can readily refer. The problem of the farmer is to meet conditions in such a way that his farm will give him the most satisfactory net returns, year in and year out, for the use of his investment, his labour and his managerial ability. Many farmers realize that some change or adjustment in their combination of enterprises or methods of management might increase their farm income. They may be unable, however, to determine what changes to make owing to a lack of records on which to base any changes in enterprises or methods. A farm account book, properly kept and analyzed, is the fact finder for the farmer. An account book points out the weak spots in the farm business and points out the holes through which the profits have leaked. A Farm Account Book may be procured from the King's Printer, Ottawa, at a nominal price.

Cleaning and Testing Seed Grain

Every farmer who makes a success of live stock breeding is careful to weed out weak individuals and breed only from the best animals, but many farmers fail to take similar care with their seed grain. It should be quite evident that poorly developed seeds will not produce healthy, vigorous plants and that the practice of grading seed to produce a reasonably uniform sample is well worth the effort. Besides maintaining the uniformity and vigour of the grain, careful grading gives an added benefit in the removal of weed seeds. Weed problems today are difficult enough for the farmer to solve without adding to them by sowing a fresh crop of weeds along with the grain.

The successful farmer is careful to control any parasites or diseases that may attack his live stock, and also, with reference to his seed, realizes that smut diseases, which take a heavy toll of the grain crop throughout the country, can be readily controlled by seed treatment. Most of these smuts, namely, loose and covered smuts of oats, covered smut of barley, and bunt or stinking smut of wheat are carried on outside of the seed coat and may be very effectively controlled by the use of either formalin or mercury compounds.

Loose smut of barley and loose smut of wheat are more difficult to handle. These two diseases are carried within the kernel and are not affected by surface treatments such as those mentioned above. The only satisfactory method known for the control of these two diseases is the hot water treatment. For the average farmer, this is not a practical method, owing to the fact that fairly exact water temperatures must be reached and maintained. Such being the case, the farmer who finds his stock of barley and wheat infected with loose smut would be well advised to secure smut free seed. If this is done and the new stock carefully handled, little trouble should be encountered from this source for several years.

FARM WOODLOT CAN BE MADE VALUABLE

To make the woodlot a valuable asset to the farm, considerable attention has to be devoted to its upkeep. That reasonable profits can be made from the farm woodlot has been demonstrated on many occasions, but systematic management is required to bring this about. It is a generally accepted fact that it is necessary to leave a good stand after each cutting, if any future forest crops are expected, and the question arises as to the proper number of trees to be left on an acre of land for the largest possible returns. Also there are the questions to be considered: what trees should be left to mature, and does it pay to leave seed trees?

Experience has shown that the trees selected for cutting should be chosen with careful consideration as to their potential value as saw-timber or for piles. Trees which give indication of developing into high-quality timber should be left to mature, for timber of this quality may later on net a profit from three to ten times as much as the same timber would bring as pulpwood. With regard to seed trees, the need must be considered for leaving seed trees properly scattered throughout a stand in order to be sure of getting reproduction if the stand is damaged by wind or fire. Such a practice will also increase the annual income per acre by providing extra timber.

On a stand where the timber averages up to ten inches in diameter, it is good practice to leave between 100 to 200 of the best trees per acre, if the most profitable returns are to be obtained. Unless such timber is on very poor soil, it is reasonable to expect the stand each year to grow an equivalent of one cord per acre. This means that it will be possible to go back to the same area and cut the equivalent of five cords of pulpwood every five years, at least until the trees reach saw-timber size.

Systematic management of the farm woodlot includes removing dead and diseased trees, cutting only mature trees for lumber, and fencing the wooded area to protect

TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO STRAWBERRY PLANTS

In view of the fact that much greater attention is being paid to the production of strawberries in Canada as a commercial crop, the pamphlet on common strawberry insects, just issued by the Dominion Department of Agriculture will be found particularly useful at this time of year in safeguarding the plants. It has been prepared by R. P. Gorham of the Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Fredericton, N.B., and gives suggestions on how to prevent injury by these destructive pests.

Strawberry production in Canada in 1937, estimated at 24,500,000 quarts, exceeded all past strawberry crops except that of 1935. The quantity produced in 1937 was about 18 per cent greater than the 1936 crop of 20,600,000 quarts, and 13 per cent greater than the average 21,500,000 quarts produced during the five-year period of 1931-35. In 1937 also, the export shipments of fresh and processed strawberries represented an increase of nearly 96 per cent over the average for the years 1931-35.

The most common enemies of the strawberry plant are white grubs, strawberry weevil, strawberry leaf roller, strawberry root-weevil, strawberry root-worm, leaf chafer, strawberry mites, and slugs. The pamphlet on these insects may be obtained free on application to the Publicity and Extension Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

A NEW WALT DISNEY COMIC
Every week, in The Detroit Sunday Times, you will find a new page comic in color, "The Practical Pig" by Walt Disney. The million dollar all-star cast of "The Three Little Pigs" in a fun riot! Follow it every week in the Comic Section of The Detroit Sunday Times.

it from grazing by livestock and from fire. Cutting all weed trees and lopping brush into short length and scattering them throughout the woodlot helps to decrease the amount of run-off and to increase soil fertility.

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COMMON PROBLEMS ARISING IN THE STORAGE OF MCINTOSH APPLES

(Experimental Farms Note)

At this time of the year McIntosh apples, picked and stored under ideal conditions, are approaching the end of their storage life. So it is at this time that faulty storage practices are emphasized. Unless conditions have been ideal, McIntosh apples at this season have frequently passed their prime as far as quality is concerned. Although the fruit may show no sign of disease or definite injury, it has lost its delicate aroma and flavour for which the variety is noted and such fruit is seldom attractive to the consumer.

The problem then is to tell when McIntosh apples reach this stage in storage. First it may be pointed out that apples stored at higher temperatures will reach this stage earlier than at lower storage temperatures. The only way this point can be determined is to sample the apples from time to time during their storage life. A common error is to test apples while still in storage. The apples should be removed from the store and left at a higher temperature and the actual condition of the fruit as it reaches the consumer may be ascertained. When the flavour of the apples show symptoms of depreciating it may be assumed that this will be followed directly by mealiness and unattractive palatability although actual injury is not evident.

Another common problem in cold storage is that of fruit shrinkage. A certain amount of loss in weight takes place under almost any storage condition. Much of this loss is caused by escape of moisture from the fruit tissues causing a decrease in tissue content and a shrivelling of the skin. The best method to control this is to maintain a high relative humidity in the storage room.

Maturity also plays an important role in fruit shrinkage. If the apples are picked too immature much more shrinkage will take place. If the apples are allowed to mature properly on the tree, less shrinkage and shrivelling will result in storage.

Another storage difficulty, particularly with McIntosh, is a form of tissue breakdown known as core flush. This condition is more prevalent in apples from orchards receiving high applications of nitrogen fertilizers. Early picking will aggravate the injury. Another feature with this trouble is that it occurs at the lower storage temperatures in the case of McIntosh.

The importance of maturity can readily be seen. Besides influencing core flush and shrinkage, the general quality and flavour of the fruit is influenced by maturity. If McIntosh apples are permitted to hang on the tree until the ground colour reaches the recommended stage and the starch test shows that this substance is rapidly decreasing, many storage problems can be eliminated.

WHY FERTILIZERS ARE NECESSARY

Fertilizers are materials which furnish in available form one or more of the three so-called essential elements of fertility in soil, namely, nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash. When the material supplies all the three elements, it is known as a complete fertilizer. Experience has shown that plants in their normal growth and development take ten or more elements from the soil. These elements include nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, sulphur, magnesium, manganese, sodium, iron, chloride, silicon and boron.

The available supplies of only three of these elements of plant food tend to become deficient for crop requirements under normal conditions. These elements are nitrogen phosphoric acid (phosphorus) and potash (potassium) and are commonly known as the essential elements of fertility, for the reason that their available stores are

POULTRY MARKETS PROSPECTS BRIGHT

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Hay and Clover

Supplies of hay and clover on farms in Canada at March 31, 1938 is estimated at 2,740,000 tons, which is a moderate reduction from the 3,356,000 tons on hand on March 31, 1937.

"SHE" BUYING LAND

Sir Rider Haggard's legendary chieftainess, "She," who figures in his fantastic novel of the same name is negotiating with the Union of South Africa for 20,000 acres of land in the Lebata district, according to Johannesburg, South Africa, reports. Holder of one of the strangest dignities in the world, the woman Modjane, of the Bolebedi tribe in Northern Transvaal, inspired the writer to tell of the monarch who held the secret of eternal youth. While not the same person described by him, the present woman holds the office and name and it is believed by the natives to be the same immortal one. Not even during the present negotiations does "She" abandon the veil of secrecy behind which she dwells.

DUCHESS' LIFE TOLD

The "secret" life story of the Duchess of Bedford, who is believed to have been killed after she disappeared on a solo airplane flight last March, is to be told in book. The Duke of Bedford, fourth richest duke in the British kingdom, has commissioned John Gore, noted biographer, to prepare the work. Only 40 copies will be printed and they will go to near relatives. Now aged 81 with his affection for the "Flying Duchess" as steadfast as ever, the duke regards the publication as the one great task before him. Private diaries of the duchess, treasured at Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire, England, will be included.

more quickly depleted by cropping than the others and therefore must be returned (or furnished), if fertility is to be maintained or increased. Lime (calcium) has also been found to be deficient in many soils, more especially in districts subject to heavy rainfall. In such districts, an application of lime in some form or another may be found essential to productivity; in fact, lime may be the limiting factor of growth for those crops which do not thrive in an acid soil.

Each of these essential elements of fertility has a separate function to perform in the growth of the plant, and, if one is deficient, crop growth will be restricted by the lack of a supply of that element, although the other elements may be present in amounts ample for highest production. In other words, there may be present in the soil all the potash and phosphoric acid that the plant can utilize, with but very small amounts of available nitrogen. Under these conditions, good crops cannot be grown until the deficiency in nitrogen has been overcome. Deficiencies in soil fertility may thus be made good by commercial fertilizers. In Canada all fertilizer is now sold by analysis, and is subject to inspection by the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

Medical Relief Care In Essex County

Editor's Note: This is the first of a series of three articles describing the system of administering medical care to 17,000 relief recipients in Essex County, Ontario. The system was worked out co-operatively by 100 physicians in Windsor and in Essex County and has received support from the Rockefeller Foundation to insure its continued operation for further study.

BY WESLEY H. MAURER
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Not the least of the disturbing social, economic and political problems resulting from the new public policy of taking care of citizens who are victims of depressions and recessions is the problem of finding a system or providing them with adequate medical care that would be acceptable to the medical profession, satisfactory to relief recipients and within appropriations allotted by governmental bodies.

The medical profession has heretofore protected private practice by providing its own services to the improvident, the indigent, but as economic disaster overtook large blocks of the community's population, this service, it was felt, became a burden that many physicians could not assume. On the other hand, governmental agencies, charged with caring for the health of persons on relief, did not appropriate sufficient funds to provide relief recipients with the services of private physicians.

The consequent experimentation of governmental agencies, which too often resulted in inefficiency and annoying bureaucracy, has not been well received by the medical profession. Even where the medical profession was given a free hand, the systems set up by physicians were, in many instances, far from satisfactory to their colleagues. The profession, it was soon found, was no better prepared to assume control than were the public relief agencies.

Of the many experiments conducted by the profession, the Essex County system with headquarters at Windsor, Canada, seems to hold prospect for making a contribution to the problem. At least the 100 physicians in Windsor and in Essex County are enthusiastic about the plan which they worked out co-operatively and which is now operating in behalf of 17,000 persons on relief. The directors of the system, speaking for the county medical society, believe they have found a plan which preserves the principle of private practice while at the same time affording incentive to give adequate medical service at minimum cost to the government. In it, the profession seems to have realized the application of a principle widely held among medical men as a first essential in medical relief economics: that the government cooperate with the profession in developing some medical programs.

The system, the result of a little more than a year's co-operative experimentation, has already gained wide attention. A part of the system has already been adopted in Toronto, and plans are in progress to put the system in operation in several states in this country. Preliminary work of the Essex County Medical Society won support from the Rockefeller Foundation which saw in it a worthwhile effort toward a possible solution of the medical relief problem. Inquiries coming to the society from many centers in the medical world, including New South Wales, New Zealand, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Alberta, Quebec, and from public health officials and federal and state relief administrators in Maine, Illinois, New York, Ohio, and Washington, bear out the belief of members of the society that the system they have established may be as highly significant in the field of social administration as it is in medical economics.

Details of the system were worked out by the Essex County Relief Committee which now includes Dr. R. E. Holmes, chairman and research director; Dr. J. I. Humphries, Dr. W. M. Master, Dr. C. V. Mills, Dr. G. T. Whitty, all of Windsor; and Dr. Nathan Sinal, of the University of Michigan, the committee's consultant. The committee believes that the plan not only allays suspicion of various groups of the medical profession which jealously guard their professional business interests from outside interference, but that in addition it emphasizes the validity of the profession's contention that in any change or contemplated changes in the organization of medicine the profession should occupy the dominant position.

The Essex County Plan consists of two basic parts. One is the impersonal review of physicians' relief service reports as a means of equitable distribution of fees to physicians. The use of mathematical formulas in the accounting eliminates most of the human element so distasteful in other systems of control. These formulas also eliminate a large part of the overhead costs and the red tape so annoying in other systems. The elimination of the bureaucratic type of administration through this device makes the plan highly attractive to many practitioners who had come to see bureaucracy and extravagance as inevitably tied up with any system other than the established practice.

The other part of the system is a record-keeping and service reporting plan which is simple, speedy, thorough and economical. The use of automatic electric computing and sorting machines makes possible

TRAILER FOLKS PREFER NORTH FOR SPENDING WINTER SEASON

Concord, Mass.—Nearly 100 years ago Henry David Thoreau, Concord's famous poet-naturalist, forsook luxury and society to live in the open on the shores of Lake Walden.

He constructed a hut for himself, and for two years lived a secluded existence, studying and communing with nature beside the peaceful pond. Comforts and conveniences were at a minimum, as he carried out a plan of rigid economy.

Today, scarcely aware that they are observing ideals and precepts laid down by Thoreau in the same locality, nine Boston trailer families have forsaken the city and are making their home next to the fresh water.

Like Thoreau, some of them have built their own houses, though on wheels. Like him, too, they can study nature. But whereas the poet naturalist had only his own company, they have plentiful companionship; and the families, naturally enough, have grown into a small community, intermingling and borrowing and lending as neighbors. Moreover, they have social events, such as card parties, with the only restriction that the number present is governed by the size of the trailer used.

Trailers Are Adequate
While a trailer as a dwelling might seem small to persons used to country residences or city apartments, they are really quite adequate. In fact, the trailer folk say that the reduced quarters makes for coziness.

Of comforts and conveniences, of which Thoreau had few, especially when it is remembered that at one time he reduced his living expenses to seven cents a day, none seem to be denied the trailer occupants. They have radios, electric lights and a central heating system which insures plenty of warmth. More than that, they have acres of space around them, with the woods to roam in and the lake to view.

The cost: Only \$10 a month for parking space, which includes the use of electricity.

The trailers are parked in a regular camp, called Walden Breezes, run by Samuel A. Burleigh, former newspaper man and teacher. Interesting to note, Mr. Burleigh was once superintendent of schools in the district in Maine in which Dr. Payson Smith served before he became Massachusetts Commissioner of Education.

According to Mr. Burleigh, a trailer camp was farthest from his thought when he came into possession of the place four years ago. It was his intention, he said, to fix up the park for outings, and to that end he began construction of a baseball field.

A WPA worker, however, changed his mind, he said, when one day about a year and one half ago he drove in with his trailer. The worker surveyed the park, remarked that it would make a better trailer camp than outing spot. Mr. Burleigh agreed, and looking back on last summer's business has not been sorry.

Down to Lake Walden because of its beauty and attractions as a summer recreational centre, besides the camp's shower, rest room and laundry facilities, more than 30 trailers were usually parked on the lot. In all, 135 trailers stopped for varying times last summer. Mr. Burleigh is now extending the camp to take care of 200 next summer.

With the coming of fall and colder weather, most of the trailers headed for warmer climes. Not so the hardy nine, however, who have apparently deserted the path of the sun. The WPA worker, incidentally is still at the camp. Besides his typical of the rest, Burleigh and wife, he has a small daughter, and the three of them find no difficulty in keeping out of one another's way. In fact, to round out his family, he has a cat and a dog.

As to comfort, inside the trailer one cold day this week a small coke-burning stove was burning, which gave so much heat that the ventilator was open and an electric fan was on. At one end of the trailer was a long seat, which opens up at night to make a double bed. At the other end was a dining nook, the seats of which close together to make a bed for the little girl.

Make Room for Company
Closets and drawers are everywhere, and because of the reduced space, everything is put away when not in use. Company thus is welcome at any time.

The wife does her cooking on a two-burner stove, and admits no trouble in preparing a full-course dinner. An oven is placed on top of the stove, while vegetables are cooked over the coke stove. Asked if she became tired of having nothing to do during the day, she replied: "Why I wash every day, polish furniture every day, get my daughter ready for school, prepare the dinner at night, and keep the trailer tidy." That keeps my day pretty busy."

"Dad, what is a diplomat?"
"A diplomat, my boy, is a person who is appointed to avert situations that would never occur if there were no diplomats."

the handling of a large amount of statistical material by a small office force at relatively small expense.

The mathematical formulas and the statistical machines are not new to directors of extensive statistical surveys. The contribution of the Essex County experiment to medical administrators is the use of these devices as a means for autonomy as well as for significant fact finding in the field of medical economics through which this autonomy may be maintained.

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