

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE BUSY FARMER

(Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture)

Spring Fairs

The dates of the spring fairs as announced by the superintendent, J. Lockie Wilson, are as follows:
Mitchell, March 28.
Hensall, April 1st.
Clinton, April 3rd.
Forest, May 3rd.

To Advertise Ontario Apples

Full details will be worked out shortly on the project to advertise Ontario grown apples as extensively as those produced in British Columbia. It has already been suggested that a levy of a few cents per barrel of apples be made or a small tax on each acre of apple orchard. The funds thus obtained could be used to good advantage to "push" the sale of Ontario apples.

Research on Weeds

At the current session of Legislature Dr. G. I. Christie, president of the Ontario Agricultural College, announced that a campaign is being instituted to launch a new research program aiming at the elimination of those noxious weeds, the sow thistle, in particular, with the farmer's crops have to battle nowadays. Prof. J. E. Howitt will be placed at the head of the program.

Apples Injured

A. Fulton, special overseas representative of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, in his latest bulletin stated that the last consignment of Ontario apples received in Liverpool were in a waxy condition, caused by frost injury somewhere in transit. This was particularly unfortunate because demand and prices had taken a jump upward with the result that Ontario prices remained low and other imported brands have been drawing good prices.

Pigs Need Care

Swine are profitable when given abundant sunshine and exercise, fed on well-selected feeds, gently handled and given proper sanitation and housing, kept free from worms and lice and protected against cholera and other diseases. Quite a lot can happen to a pig between birth and maturity, but it is an easy animal to keep in the straight and narrow path leading to successful and profitable development if you go the right way about it. Pigs frequently suffer more from the heat of the sun during the summer than they do from the cold of the winter period. If possible, make full use of all available shade trees when making your plans for swine pastures, feed lots or colony house locations.

Dairying in North

The increased interest in dairy farming in Ontario is nowhere more in evidence than in Northern Ontario. In 1917 the New Liskeard creamery was the only one operating north of North Bay and had a total output of butter of 40,000 pounds per year. Last year five creameries in the district of Temiskaming alone had an output of 600,000 pounds of butter and some cheese as well. The Cochrane district creameries last year had an output estimated at between 200,000 and 300,000 pounds.

Lamb Prices

Sheep raisers are viewing with some concern the recent decline in lamb prices. Undoubtedly a contributing factor has been the heavy imports of lamb and mutton from other countries, chiefly New Zealand and Australia, and particularly at a time when our home-grown product is coming on the market. A practice of stamping high quality Canadian lamb similar to that followed in beef grading would go some distance in securing a suitable recognition for the home-grown product.

Tobacco Seed

Tobacco seed for the 1930 crop will be cleaned and tested free of charge by the Dominion Experimental Station at Harrow. Tobacco seed as it is shelled out usually contains a considerable quantity of light and immature seed, chaff, and other foreign matter. Such seed should be sifted through suitable screens to remove the chaff and put through a tobacco seed cleaning machine to remove the dust and the light seed. Well cleaned seed is also less likely to introduce certain diseases in the seed bed.

Free Material

The Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union is prepared this spring to distribute into every township and county of the province, material for experiments with grains, potatoes, roots fodder crops and fertilizers. The complete list of the material to be distributed will cover 30 distinct experiments and include practically all the cultivated field crops grown in Ontario. Only the best seed of outstanding varieties will be used in this seed distribution. Any farmer in Ontario is entitled to receive free of charge, material for conducting any one of these co-operative experiments in field husbandry and will get this in good time for spring seeding if he applies at an early date to the secretary of the Experimental Union, O.A.C., Guelph.

The Value of Straw

The talk among farmers that there is no straw this year and that as a result feed is scarce, calls for a statement that it has to be proven that straw has any value as a feed. It is good for bedding and this is all; the sooner the farmers realize that they must depend upon alfalfa and corn, the better. Straw has no food value whatever.

No Let-Up on Corn Borer

A well-attended gathering of corn-borer inspectors and agricultural representatives from all parts of Western Ontario was held in London on Friday, March 14, with Prof. Caesar, Provincial Entomologist in charge. It was emphasized during the session that the Corn Borer Act will be just as rigidly enforced during the coming summer as in the former years. The fact that some improvement in conditions has been made does not mean that the fight can be abated in the least. Farmers should keep this fact in mind.

Bacon Exports Fall

Figures recently made public by the British Board of Trade show that in 1929 Canada's bacon export to Great Britain was but one-ninth of the quantity sent in 1905-25 years ago. In fact Canada was lowest on the list of countries shipping this commodity to Great Britain. Denmark having shipped nearly 25 times as much as this country. Netherlands was next, while the United States, although far down on the list, shipped three times as much as Canada did. This occurred in spite of an enormous increase in the amount of bacon consumed in that country in the past few years.

Current Crop Report

The crop report for the second week in March indicates a brisk demand for seed in Carleton County. Dundas and Dufferin are both apprehensive regarding the unusual weather conditions. Egg prices in Durham are at a very low level. Alfalfa and clover in Halton appear to be favorable at the present time while in Hastings the reverse is true. A good supply of red clover seed obtains in Huron and will replace alfalfa in many cases. Flowing has already started in Lambton and a great interest in the better cleaning of seed grain is reported. No scarcity of hay exists in Lanark with quantities moving at from \$9 to \$12 per ton. Fall wheat and clover are good in Lincoln and fruit trees have wintered well. Milk production in Middlesex is adequate to meet all demands. In Peel one farmer reports 150 of 200 trees so badly girdled by rabbits that bridge grafting is useless to save them. Fall wheat and clover look good in Ontario. Peterboro and in Prince Edward. Conditions are not as good in South Simcoe but feed is plentiful. In Waterloo fall wheat is in a precarious condition.

Taking His Medicine

A portly woman of very elusive beauty was addressing a meeting on temperance reform.
"My friends," she said, "I had a husband who was addicted to the bottle. He was a great trial to me, but one day I persuaded him to take the pledge. He did so on my joy was so great, so overwhelming, that a flung my arms around his neck and kissed him."
"And served him jolly well right," added a voice from the crowd.—Boston Transcript.

Try Gardening

Girl, colored, green, wishes light housework.—Ad. in the Brooklyn Eagle.



SASKATCHEWAN GETS RESOURCES

Saskatchewan has had her natural resources returned to her safe keeping by the Federal Government. Above are three of the four prominent officials who were responsible for the signing of the agreement, which made the change valid. They are, left to right: Hon. Charles Stewart, Minister of the Interior, who signed the agreement on behalf of the Federal Government; Hon. J. T. M. Anderson, Premier of Saskatchewan, who signed for his province, and Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Justice, who also signed for the Federal Government.

THE VALUE OF SUNLIGHT IN THE GROWTH OF CHICKS

(Experimental Farms Note.)

The present practice of hatching chicks in the winter and early spring forces a new factor into the consideration of brooding practice. Formerly no hatching was done until late spring when beneficial sunshine was available to the chicks. Confinement to brooder houses during cold weather robbed the chicks of the sun's health-giving rays; and consequently a new technique in chick management grew up. In the absence of sunlight faulty bone formation and the more extreme rickets were the results.

It has been found that two substitutes for sunlight are available and suitable to some extent for use with chicks, namely ultra violet rays from special lamps and cod liver oil. Of these cod liver oil is economically the most important at the present time and will protect chicks against rickets; and allow excellent growth even in confinement. Since cod liver oils vary greatly in quality with reference to the anti-rachitic factor under consideration, the poultryman should demand the best quality and a biologically tested oil if possible. Several years of experiment have shown cod liver meal, a product sold for the same purpose, to be inferior to cod liver oil. The No. 1 oil preser- ved from steam-rendered livers is most efficient; the sun-rotted oil is not fit to be fed as a rule while the refined is too expensive. By feeding a good grade of oil at the rate of 2 per cent of the mash, consumed either in wet mash at noon or mixed with the dry mash, good growth and freedom from rickets can be obtained. The mercury vapour lamp has consistently given the best results of any treatment. The cost of the lamp, however, detracts from its practicability except under special conditions and with large numbers of chicks.

Certain glass substitutes are quite efficient in permitting the beneficial ultra violet rays of the sun to penetrate to the chicks. Of these vita glass and cel-o-glass have been experimented with at the Poultry Division, Central Experimental Farm, to a considerable extent. The first mentioned has shown itself to be more efficient but it is also more expensive. Its durability is much greater, however. The use of such substitutes is only indicated where chicks are hatched so early that no sunlight can be allowed into the brooder by opening windows or cotton screens, since direct sunlight is much more efficient than sunlight through these substitutes. It is suggested that the feeding of cod liver oil until sunlight is available to the birds is more economical than the purchasing of such materials in view of their cost and the lack of durability of the cheaper grades.

SPRING CARE OF SEED POTATOES
(Experimental Farms Note.)
Seed potato production is such a highly specialized agricultural industry that success for those conducting it is measured by the care given to each phase. In this respect it may be said that the chain is as strong as its weakest link for this reason it is largely upon the very important matter of spring care of seed potatoes that the success of final results are based. Spring care of seed potatoes involves three important main considerations, namely: late storage conditions, seed treatment and cutting.
Late storage refers to that period in the spring when mild weather promotes rapid sprout development and sweating, which in turn favors the development of rot. Such conditions have an unfavorable effect upon the vitality of the seed and also predispose the tubers to destructive rots, thus effecting an appreciable loss as well as inconvenience. These undesirable conditions may be overcome in a measure by providing good ventilation in the storage basement or house.
Seed treatment has the effect of sterilizing the surface of tubers, thus freeing them from such diseases as rhizoctonia, common scab and powdery scab. In addition, seed treatment reduces black leg, a disease which may be very destructive. In this connection, it may be added that recent investigations carried on by the Federal Division of Botany demonstrated the superiority of corrosive sublimate over formalin as applied to black leg control. Detailed instructions for seed treatment may be obtained from the nearest Laboratory of Plant Pathology. Failure to observe certain precautions may result in serious injury to tubers following seed treatment. It is necessary, therefore, to place treated seed in a clean location where rapid drying is assured. It is harmful to leave treated seed in a

basement.
Cutting the seed presents further problems and at the outset it must be kept in mind that for best results seed should be planted immediately after cutting. Cut surfaces provide excellent conditions for the development of rots which destroy planted sets, thus causing poor stands. When it is necessary to cut seed some time before planting it should be spread out in a thin layer in a cool and well ventilated place and sprinkled with lime. At cutting time all tubers showing rot or internal discolorations should be discarded. One cutting knife should be kept in a disinfecting solution composed of two tablespoonfuls of formalin in one pint of water. When a rotted or diseased tuber is cut the contaminated knife should be exchanged for the one in the solution.

GRADING HAS HELPED CANADIAN WOOLS

Canadian wools are now recognized both at home and in outside importing countries as possessing highly desirable qualities. Since wool grading became a general policy several years ago buyers have learned to look to Canada for supplies of the various desired grades which they have learned to accept with confidence.

The Hon. Dr. W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture, in his report for the past fiscal year states that a little less than three and one-half million pounds were graded that year, which was slightly more than in the previous twelve months.
The grading was carried on at the collecting stations of the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers' Association at Weston and Carleton Place, Ont., and in other provinces.

Wool grading has had a very good effect on improving the annual wool clip and its preparatin for market. The fleeces as they are now received at the storages are said to be well rolled and tied and show a very small percentage of rejects or low grade wools. During

IT'S A FACT

An official of the Civil Service Commission says that even the grave members of one of the examining boards were amused by a certain answer in an examination paper.
The question was: "Give for any one year the number of bales of cotton exported from the United States."
The answer this applicant wrote was: "1492—none."

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- No. 1 Cooking Onions, 6 lbs for25
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- Tea, Social Blend, black, bulk, per lb.69
- Tea, Pick of the Garden, black, bulk, per lb.75
- Redpath Granulated Sugar, 16 lbs. for 1.00
- Redpath Brown Sugar, 17 lbs. for 1.00

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ONE THIMBLEFUL - A DAY'S FEED FOR ONE CHICK!

THINK OF IT! One tiny thimbleful... all the feed a chick can put in its little crop in one day. On this tiny bit it must live... grow... build bones... build muscles... start feathers. Think of the job feed has to do!

They must depend on feed for so many things! They get them all in Purina Chick Startena (mash) or Purina All-Mash Startena Chow... 12 different ingredients in every thimbleful. Cod-liver oil... dried buttermilk... alfalfa flour... granulated meat... these and eight others are there!

These 12 ingredients... think how carefully they must be mixed to make every thimbleful alike. Purina Startena and All-Mash Startena Chow are mixed over and over again... 960 times just to be thorough! You will find the same care taken with Baby Chick Chow (scratch)... to be fed with Startena until your chicks are six weeks old... and with Purina Growena (mash) and Purina Intermediate Hen Chow (scratch)... to be fed from then on until the pullets are laying at 16 weeks.

How little feed a chick eats... just one thimbleful a day... yet how important it is... how much depends on it... the chick's very life... its growth... what the pullets will do for you next fall and winter when eggs are sure to be worth good money. You can afford to feed only the best... Purina Poultry Chows.



Hear the Purina Checkerboarders special dinner hour program of music, every day except Saturday and Sunday--from station CJGC London, 12.30 noon.

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WIFE: "Oh, there you are, Egbert. Dinkle won't have the muzzie on. Do just wear it for a few minutes so that the darling can see it's all right and get used to it!" —The Humorist, London.