NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE BUSY FARMER

(Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture)

Judging by the crop of early lambs the past winter has suited the flock. In many flocks there is an average of two lambs to a ewe, or 200 per cent. increase. The pleasing feature is that the lambs seem particularly strong.

Pigs are rapid growers if well and properly fed. But they require plenty of nourishment to make vigorous growth. It is a good plan to have the young pigs eating before weaning so as to avoid a setback. If growth is slowed up at any stage a loss is probable, especially at the low price of hogs. Grain alone will not give rapid development.

When to Plant Garden Seed

A timely suggestion with respect to the planting of the home vegetable garden is that the hardy seeds should be sown as early as weather and soil conditions will permit. Smooth or dimpled peas, onion, radish, lettuce and spinach can be sown as soon as the soil has dried enough to permit working without injury to the texture. Beet, carrot, parsnip and wrinkled peas may follow, with beans and other tender crops sown or planted after the danger of freezing is past.

When to Apply Lime

A test of the soil should be made to make sure that it requires lime. If the soil proves to be acid then the answer to the question when to apply lime might be "when you have time." Lime is for the benefit of all crops in the rotation, but particularly of benefit to legumes. The best time is possibly just before sowing a grain crop that is seeded down with alfalfa or clovers. Liming land plowed for fall wheat which is to be seeded with clover in the spring is a convenient and satisfactory practice. Lime is not a fertilizer, but simply neutralizes the acidity of the soil, and should be thoroughly worked into the soil during the preparation of a seed bed to become efficient. It is poor business to farm land that is lacking in lime and strongly acid in reaction. The productive power of the soil is reduced when it becomes acid. Correcting this condition with the use of ground limestone increases the efficiency of the manures and fertilizers applied and therefore contributes to the cutting down of costs of crop production.

Interesting Publications

Among publications recently issued of interest to farmers are the following: Report of the Ontario Veterinary College, 1931; 53rd annual report of the Agricultural and Experimental Union, 1931; and a bulletin on the subject of Draft Horses, by J. C. Steckley, Professor of Animal Husbandry, and M. W. Staples, Lceturer in Animal Husbandry, at O. A. C. Copies of these publications are obtainable free upon application to your local agricultural office.

Feeding Young Chicks

Tests made at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, have shown that better results are attained by feeding chicks early than by the methods of delayed feeding formerly in vogue. The following is a chick starter, that has given excellent results at the farm: 1 part shorts, 1 part middlings, 1 part ground yellow corn, 1 part ground groats, ½ part animal feed mixture, 3 per cent. bone meal, 1 per cent. salt, 1 per cent. cod liver oil.

The animal feed mixture used is made up of equal parts ground beef scrap, fish meal and milk powder. When liquid milk can be had the milk powder is omitted. Hoppers of chick grit, oyster shell and charcoal are hung at a convenient height on the walls.

Weekly Crop Report

Seeding operations in Ontario are in progress from as far west as Rainy River to Glengarry County in the east. Reports from the Agricultural Representatives would indicate that the land is working up in a very friable condition. Fall wheat is reported in excellent condition and the majority of counties report Red Clover and Alfalfa having withstood the winter much better than was anticipated. Sweet clover seems to have fared the worst and many cases of heaving are reported. Cheese factories are opening up and farmers are anxious to get their cattle out on grass as feed is getting scarce. Prices for hogs, eggs, butter-fat and lambs are very disappointing. Orchards are looking well with a goodly number of fruit buds in those orchards where fertilizing is an established practice. Wellington County seems to be typical of the general attitude in regard to alfalfa, as it looks as if 12,000 acres will be seeded to alfalfa in that county this spring.

Alfalfa Now Sixth

Alfalfa now stands sixth in area among all field crops grown in the Province of Ontario, and occupies about 650,000 acres. According to James Laughland, Field Husbandry Department, O. A. C., Guelph, the great increase in this crop during the last 20 years has been due to the development of hardy strains along with the outstanding merits of alfalfa as a forage crop. Being a hardy deep-rooted perennial legume alfalfa improves the texture of the crop, adds humus and aids in the storing of nitrates. It begins to grow early in spring, helps to control weeds and remains green throughout the season.

Home Surroundings Count

"We are influenced to a greater extent than we realize by our surroundings," observes F. C. Nunnick, chairman of the More Beautiful Canada Campaign Committee of the Canadian Horticultural Council. As he points out "children are particularly responsive to home surroundings and wheret these include lawns, shrubs, trees and flowers they make a much better place in which to bring up children than in a home where no attention whatever is paid to these friends of the plant kingdom."

Environment is an important factor with children. The constant contact with the beautiful things of nature which well-kept home grounds affords is too important in the welfare of the home and the child to be overlooked.

Cow Testing

Ontario has .22 per cent. of its cows under test: New Zealand has 19.7 per cent. of its cows under test. The following figures show a remarkable increase in cow testing in New Zealand: 1922-23, 84,825 cows; 1923-24, 151,214 cows; 1924-25, 196,850 cows; 1925-26, 169,776 cows; 1926-27, 170,150 cows; 1927-28, 224,130 cows; 1928-29, 259,594 cows; 1929-30, 283,731 cows.

It has been estimated that in the last ten years the average production of butter fat in New Zealand has increased by 50 pounds per cow.

Here in Ontario our dairy farmers are not cow testing to any great extent, herd improvement has not been very rapid and seems more than desirable that Ontario farmers should weigh the milk from individual cows, have it tested for butter fat—thus being able to eliminate poor producers, in order to compete with New Zealand or any other country that follows a system of scientific improvement.

HOBO'S REWARD

Somewhere on the North American continent is a tramp, a hobo, a knight of the road, or whatever else you may like to call him, who has a drawing account on a Canadian millionaire.

No matter where he may be, all over the North American continent, this tramp with the wanderlust can present himself every month at any bank in either Canada or the United States and he will receive an allowance which will continue as long as he lives. The name of this tramp is unknown, but the name of his benefactor is a household word in Vancouver, B.C., and a prominent word in political life, for it is that of Major-General A. D. McRae.

Several years ago, while on a trip through the Canadian Rockies, on work for his party, General McRae saw a man walking ahead of him. It was getting hard, so the general good-naturedly stopped his car and gave the man a lift. His passenger was obviously a tramp. He was down at the heel and out at the elbow, unshaven, and very dusty, but he accepted the ride.

While the millionaire and his chance acquaintance hummed along, they entered into conversation. Suddenly the car overturned into the ditch, and General McRae was pinned under the wheel,, while the tramp was thrown clear. After a long struggle which involved almost superhuman effort, the stranger managed to achieve a rescue. He lifted the car and successfully extracted General McRae from beneath it, and gave him first aid. He then hailed a passing car and had the injured man transferred to the closest hospital. Undoubtedly the smart work of the tramp saved the life of the distinguished Canadian politician. A program then presented itself of how best to reward the tramp. General McRae recognized that if he was to give a large sum of money it would be of no permanent value and on this point the tramp himself was in agreement.

It was at length decided to present this tramp with credentials, and every month he could go to any bank on the North American continent with these credentials and draw credit from General McRae's account with a generous cash allowance.

CONTROL OF CLUB ROOT

Farmers who grow turnips, cabbages, cauliflowers and related vegetables find that the yields of these crops are often severely reduced by attacks of club root. This disease is caused by a minute parasite which enters the underground parts of the plant and causes an abnormal swelling of the roots. The diseased parts ultimately decompose and the parasite enters the soil where it is capable of persisting for many years. Experiments conducted at the Dominion Field Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Fredericton, N.B. reveal that the severity of the disease can be reduced by the observance of certain cultural practices. Inasmuch as the parasite causing the disease is capable of passing through the intestinal tract of domestic animals unharmed and existing for many months in the dung, manure so contaminated should not be applied to soil intended for crops susceptable to club root. If there is some uncertainty as to whether the manure is free from club root, it is safer to apply commercial fertilizers. A soil which has become heavily infested with club root can only be rendered fit for growing turnips, cabbages and allied vegetables after such susceptible crops have been totally eliminated from rotations for 5 to 10 years. In addition every precaution should be taken to prevent the growth on such land of weeds susceptible to club root, such as mustard, shepherd's purse and pepper gras. A certain measure of control can be obtained by soil treatment with lime. Heavy applications of lime (2 to 5 tons per acre) 3 to 6 months prior to sowing are usually necessary, however, for a commercially satisfactory control on most club root infested soils. The use of basic slag as a phosphatic fertilizer failed to control club root successfully and air-slaked lime was found to be of questionable value in preventing the disease. The extravagant use of lime should not be resorted to if potatoes are included in the rotation on account of the tendency of lime to produce scab. Treatment of infested soil with disinfectants such as corrosive sublimate formalin and organic mercury compounds failed to reduce the severity of the disease. Contrary to ordinary belief, club root is not borne by the seed. In consequence, seed treatment is of no value in the control of this disease. The most hopeful line of control appears to be the use of resistant varieties. Certain varieties of turnips tested at this laboratory appear sufficiently resistant to be of commercial value on most soils moderately infested with club root. These include selections from the White Swede, Bangholm (Herning, Sludsgaard and Olsgaard strains). Certain new varieties recently developed at this laboratory also show a favorable degree of resistance to club root even on heavily infested soils.

CONTROL RASPBERRY DISEASES (By Use of Certified Raspberry Stock)

The diseases affecting raspberries have been studied during a number of years at the Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, St. Catharines, Ontario. From these studies it has been found that the most important diseases the raspberry grower has to contend with are mosaic and leaf curl, which are diseases of the virus type. Plants found to be infected with these diseases showed reduction in yield, impaired vigor and general unthriftiness. It was soon evident that great losses were being sustained by the industry through these diseases and it was necessary to secure some means of overcoming or controlling them. This has been acomplished by the above institution in its development of certified raspberry stock.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture, through its Plant Pathological Laboratory at St. Catharines, supervises and regulates the production of certified raspberry stock so that the purchaser of such stock is assured that it is not only healthy and vigorous, but is the best obtainable for planting purposes. Where such stock is not used there is great danger of high percentages of mosaic and leaf curl developing in the new plantation since these diseases are spread through suckers arising from diseased parent plants. The inspection during the growing season of all canes for certification purposes is a guarantee to the purchaser of such stock that the plants are free of the virus diseases. The use of certified stock therefore, ensures a healthy plantation which has a decided advantage in developing into a profitable planting, over one where ordinary stock has been used.

There is one point in the use of certified raspberry stock, however, which growers should keep in mind. Certified stock is not immune to disease and may readily develop either mosaic or leaf curl if planted in close proximity to diseased bushes. The diseases are spread from such buhes into the new planting by the agency of sucking insects. It is strongly recommended, therefore, wherever possible, to plant certified stock at least 320 feet from nearby or culitivated raspberries as this will minimize the amount of spread which might occur from such sources.

For full information regarding raspberry diseases and the certification of stock, write the above office or the Dominion Botanist, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, for copies of Dominion Department of Agriculture Pamphlets No. 120 and 130 New Series.

SOME POINTERS ON LEGUME INOCULATION

Inoculation is strongly recommended when a legume crop is being seeded for the first time, or in cases where previous crops have been unsuccessful, especially of soil and climatic conditions have been otherwise favorable. It is furthermore advisable when a legume is to be grown after a lapse of several years. The proper bacteria are maintained int he so liol by developingny tained in the soil by developing in the root nodules, and if a legume is absent from a soil, the bacteria peculiar to that legume tend to die off, and under average conditions their numbers become so depleted after two or three years that reinoculation is recommended. Thus it is not only in cases where the legume bacteria are completely absent from a soil that inoculation is of value. Even is some nodules may appear on the roots the extra bacteria contained in the inoculation will frequently be of definite value in producing a more abundant nodule development, and thus permit of more active assimilation of nitrogen for the benefit of the plants.

Reeearch work has been conducted by the Division of Baceriology of the Dominion Experimental Farms on various points concerning the practical value of inoculation. Not only has inoculation been found to be of value for alfalfa, sweet clover, soy beans, etc., but also in many cases for red and alsike clovers, peas, beans and other legumes. Investigations have indicated that the wet method of inoculation, whereby the seed is moistened as the culture is applied, is more reliable than the recently devised dry method in which a dry powdery culture is used with the seed dry. Although this latter method is handier, comparative tests have shown the older wet method to produce better nodulation of the plants. Experiments have also shown that it is best to inoculate just before sowing and that fresh cultures are better than old. Some of the most dependable commercial cultures now on the market are labelled with the date beyond which they are not considered reliable. When there is any doubt the best policy is to inoculate, since inoculation costs little in comparison with the price of seed and in many cases may be the deciding factor in success. It should be kept in mind however, that inoculation is but one factor in legume production, and that the better the seed, climatic and cultural conditions, the better will be the chance for the culture to perform its useful work.

It was getting very close to the time for the celebrated guest to make his speech. The chairman, looking about the table, came over to the speaker and whispered: "Shall we let them enjoy themselves a little longer, or do you think you'd better begin your speech now?"

MISS MACPHAIL'S LETTER

Continued from page 3.)

Plenipotentiary in Washington. It turned out that Mr. Massey was not organizing for the Liberal party; that he had become interested in the League for Social Reconstruction which has been formed in McGill and Toronto Universities by well-informed and high-minded professors and citizens who, sensing the bog our country is in, set about evolving plans to improve conditions. Mr. Massey is a patriotic and unselfish Canadian and had used his opportunity of meeting people across Canada to acquaint them with the advanced program of the above mentioned professors and citizens.

Mr. King in dealing with the money question, inflation, deflation, etc., confused the two and quoted Professor Keynes presumably to prove that inflation was distastrous. What actually Keynes was saying was that deflation was a policy which benefitted the rich and harmed the poor.

"The grandest career any woman can have is to be the wife of a man of genius.—Mrs. A. A. Milne.