

# PRACTICAL FARMING



## DISINFECT THE STABLES.

The fact that regular disinfection of the stables is not a common practice in Canada is sufficient evidence that we as farmers are not thorough or do we appreciate the importance of the health of our animals. As in other countries, disease of animals is responsible for the loss to farmers of many millions of dollars annually. Such diseases as tuberculosis, abortion, scours, blackleg, glanders, hog cholera, etc., take enormous toll from our revenues. Again parasites such as lice, ticks, etc., each year cause the waste of enormous amount of expensive feed to say nothing of the losses in production of milk, meat, and young stock. Farmers of Canada, it is your duty and your best business to stop these losses. Don't wait till animals die of disease or are emaciated and hairless from parasites before discovering trouble. Diseases are spread more rapidly when animals are confined in winter quarters.

One of the most important factors in cheap and healthy wintering of animals is clean quarters and no quarters can be kept clean and free from disease and parasites without disinfection at least twice annually.

The basis of disinfection is direct contact. Disease germs under a layer of manure, straw or dirt, cannot be killed by average disinfection. Hence the first step is the thorough cleaning out of the barns, scraping (and washing, if possible), all walls and floors, and sweeping dirt, dust and cobwebs from walls and ceilings. Wood floors should be repaired and earth floors renewed with a layer of clean soil.

### What Disinfectants to Use

1. Sunlight. This is the cheapest and one of the best. Every stable should have at least 6-sq. ft. of glass per mature head of horses and cattle and one-quarter this amount for calves and mature hogs. Sunlight induces cleanliness, health, comfort, and greater profits.
2. Whitewash. A good whitewash applied hot to ceilings and walls covers and kills germs and parasites. Add drug disinfectant, such as carbolic acid, if barns have housed diseased animals. Apply with spray pump or brush.
3. Drug Disinfectants. All floors, gutters, and mangers should receive extra care. Disinfect by soaking thoroughly with one of the cool tar distillates such as kresol, wescol, zenoleum, creolin, etc. etc., applied in water solution 2% to 6% varying with strength of disinfectant. Apply with spray pump or sprinker and brush in.

The Health of Animals Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, can supply free instructions in selecting and preparing whitewash and disinfectants.

Thoroughness in the above disinfection is most important.

The intelligent stockman intent on maintaining healthy stock finds it wise to disinfect mangers and feed passages more frequently. A light spraying monthly will suffice. A light spraying proves that disinfection is cheap insurance and an investment yielding a high rate of interest. If Canadian farmers unitedly will but realize this, our animal disease and losses therefrom would decrease 20% per annum.

### The Care of the Fall Litter.

The measure of the swine feeder's ability may well be taken by his success in handling his later summer and fall litters. Here the percentage of culls and unthrifty pigs is usually high, particularly with the late fall litter obliged to winter in cold or worse damp quarters. Generally speaking, no young pigs should arrive after September, unless the feeder has exceptional facilities for winter swine raising.

To ensure strong fall litters the sows should spend the summer on pasture with as much range as possible. Clover, alfalfa, rape or grass may be utilized to the exclusion of meal for the first two months, provided the pasture is abundant. For the duration of the gestation or carrying period, the use of a little meal, once daily, will be amply repaid. Shorts and bran, equal parts, with a handful of oats per sow, fed a few pounds daily, is recommended.

One very fertile cause of unsatisfactory fall litters is found where the sow has produced a litter in the spring, been heavily milked, and bred in a thin weakened state, and at the same time properly nourish the litter she is carrying. Ordinarily, breed the sow a few days after weaning. If she is much pulled down at the expense of a later fall litter.

When the sow farrows, if in August, September, or later, observe the following facts:—

1. See that the youngsters have exercise and plenty of it, right up to snowfall.
2. They must have a warm, dry place to sleep. One thorough chilling, such as may be contracted on a wet, cold fall evening, where improper shelter and little bedding are supplied, will ruin the sucker or weaner for good and all. Given a dry floor,

### Winter Care of Poultry.

Housing the flock is an important matter. The house first of all must be reasonably clean and should receive thorough cleaning at this time, or earlier. If an earth floor is used, the top of the earth should be removed and fresh, dry sand or gravel put in to take its place. If this sand or gravel can be artificially dried, so much the better. New scratching material (hay, straw, leaves, etc.) should be put on the floor and should be changed or renewed as often as is necessary. Material added as often as is necessary. If the house has not been cleaned, it should be whitewashed now after sweeping down all cobwebs and dirt from the walls and roosts. A whitewashed hen house is not only cleaner, but is lighter and more cheerful for the fowls, an important matter.

The sun not only lights the poultry house, but warms and purifies it. Therefore the windows should be clean so that the rays of the sun get in, and the glass should be so arranged that the sun should reach every part of the house at some time during the day. All poultry houses should be equipped with platforms under the roosts, high enough so that the fowls can use the floor space under them, which means they must be about two feet from the floor with the roosts six inches above the platforms. This enables one to keep the floor litter in the best condition and to keep the house more sanitary, especially if these platforms are cleaned every two or three days.

The care of the flock is important. The fowls may have a good poultry house and plenty of good feed, but if they are fed irregularly or are frequently frightened, the best results in egg production are impossible. Dogs should never be allowed to run into the poultry house and stragglers should be kept out of the pens. The caretaker should be friendly with the fowls and should feed at regular hours and do other work in regular order, so as to affect the life and habits of the fowls as little as possible.

### It Pays To Care For Farm Tools.

Farm machinery represents a financial investment. Taking proper care of it results in a monetary gain; leaving it exposed in the open at all seasons of the year must mean economic loss, not only to the farmer but to the whole country. It is generally recognized by authorities on agriculture that, if exposed in all sorts of weather, farm machines depreciate more than they do from fair wear and tear. That is to say, the farmer, who is careless in this respect pays for more than twice the number of implements than he actually requires. At the same time great manufacturing plants and small armies of workmen have to be kept busy replacing these losses, which, in thousands of instances, are purely and simply the result of carelessness and neglect.

To house implements properly, it may not be necessary to have a special implement shed. Many farmers can utilize an unused barn floor, or a part of some other building. Poultry or other live stock should never be allowed access to the building, or part of a building that has been set aside for machinery. On most farms, however, a special implement house is desirable. A suitable building, if carefully planned to conserve space, can be built at a reasonable cost. Plans can be obtained from the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa.

Before implements are stored for the season, they should be carefully cleaned and oiled. It is a good plan, after removing all dirt, to wipe the entire machine with an oiled rag and to grease all wearing parts with tallow or axle grease. Further, it pays to renew the paint on the machinery at regular intervals. Paint of good quality, applied to well-cleaned surfaces, is an excellent protection, as well as improving the appearance of the machines. Then, too, it is an advantage to attend to all necessary repairs during the winter when the machines are not required. This will save much time and annoyance in the busy seasons.

To sum up: Proper care of farm machinery necessitates a suitable building where the implements will be protected from the sun, wind, rain, snow and live stock, when not in use. In addition, it should be kept clean, well oiled (painted, if necessary) and in good repair.—A.D.

### The Self-Feeder Pays.

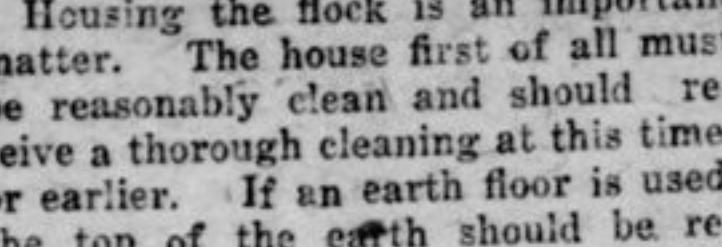
With the ingredients of a good ration constantly before them, placed so that they may eat at will, hogs will make gains more rapidly and more economically than when fed by hand. The time needed to bring them to a certain weight will be shortened and the labor of feeding them will be reduced.

Never plant bulbs so they will come in direct contact with manure.

Bee keeping, that is, producing honey, pays better in proportion to the investment than any other rural business. And the value of the bee in the pollination of fruit blooms exceeds its value as a honey producer.

Turnips will withstand hard frosts, but alternate freezing and thawing injures them. Gather, top and store the roots in banks or pits, or in an outdoor storage cellar. Do not place them in the storage room in the basement of the dwelling as they give off odors that penetrate throughout the house.

# Poultry



## THE TRAPPER.

### Trapping For Skunk.

Skunk are usually found around old barns and buildings, hollow logs, old cross fences and cross hedges. When their den has been found, holes should be dug nearby in the paths they are most likely to run over and the traps placed in these holes. The traps should be covered with dry grass and dust in order that the ground look as natural as possible. Just above the trap hang a piece of rabbit, chicken or bird on which is sprinkled a few drops of the best skunk bait. This process of trapping the skunk has proved its success over and over again.

When the real cold weather sets in or there is a deep snow, skunk generally den up sometimes as many as fifteen or twenty in a hole. When the den has been found, the animals can be easily smoked out and caught, if the right kind of smoker is used.

The skunk furs are always in good demand and there has always been fine profits for the trapper in this animal. Traps should be visited every day if possible, or, at most, every other day, for a skunk caught is liable to gnaw off its foot and get away or have its fur seriously damaged by other skunks attacking it in the trap.

In preparing for the market, skunk skins should be cleaned pelt side out; all superfluous meat and fat should be scraped off before shipping. Care taken in preparing the skunk for the market will reward the trapper well.

### The Food Board Says

While there has been a numerical increase in live stock in Canada and the United States, owing to advanced cost of feed and the eagerness to realize on the high market prices, there has been a tendency found in all the live stock markets for farmers to ship cattle and hogs before they are properly finished. Loss of weight approximates 10 per cent. Fat-sighted live stock men are every effort to finish their cattle before marketing.

Figures showing the enormous deficiency of live stock in the principal countries of Europe most affected by the war—with the exception of Austria-Hungary, Russia, Turkey and the Balkans, reliable figures for which are impossible to obtain—were given out by Chairman H. B. Thomson of the Canada Food Board at a recent Live Stock Conference in Ottawa. These decreases are as follows:

France	2,266,000	2,258,000	2,215,000
Italy	396,000	138,000	354,000
Denmark	245,000	45,000	172,000
Sweden	435,000		252,000
United Kingdom	2,788,000		948,200
Germany	2,200,000	200,000	19,308,000
Holland			162,000

Leading Live Stock Producers, including the members of the Canadian Live Stock Council and representatives of the Meat Packing industry of the Dominion, in conference at Ottawa as to the best means of meeting the situation presented by the enormous live stock shortage in Europe, drew up a memorandum to the Government in the form of five resolutions which include the following points:—

That a policy of rural credit be sanctioned and supported by the Federal Government;

That steps be taken to establish credits in this country with France, Belgium and Italy;

That a Government agent, preferably Mr. H. B. Thomson, Chairman of the Canada Food Board, in the continuation of his present capacity, be sent to Europe to secure fullest possible recognition to the Government in supplying agricultural products;

That the Government provide necessary marketing facilities, including adequate controlled temperature space in railway cars, storage warehouses, and ocean going vessels;

That the Government give encouragement to a campaign throughout Canada for increased live stock production, in view of the enormous opportunities now presented to the Canadian live stock industry.

In his reply Sir Thomas White, Acting Prime Minister, said many of these points were being provided for and whatever further possible would be done.

### Farmers' Account Book.

"Will you kindly send me a copy of your Farmers' Account Book of which we were told by our pastor?" That is the way a letter recently received from a farmer by the Commission of Conservation reads. It shows how the clergy are seconding the efforts of the Commission to encourage businesslike habits among farmers. The Farmers' Account Book, which contains blanks for a simple but comprehensive system of farm accounts, will be sent on request to any farmer who states the number of acres of land he works.

# CO-OPERATIVE TESTING PAYS \$50,000,000



## By Earle W. Gage

An increased production of thirty per cent. in the average yield of milk per cow, resulting in an added dairy production of \$50,000,000, is the result of co-operative cow testing in Canada. Our dairy farmers have enforced since 1914 the strictest economy in production of all dairy products, as a war-time measure, and from their herds are not only able to produce more milk with less number of cows, but to secure a higher price for it.

When the farmers looked about them for ways and means of solving their war-time labor and production costs, in no line of agricultural work did they find a greater opportunity to increase production than in the improvement of their dairy herds. The average yield of milk per cow in Canada was at that time only about 4,300 pounds per year. Compare that with individual records of over 25,000 pounds of milk in a year and herd records averaging over 10,000 pounds for each cow down through the herd, and you have a picture of the achievement of these farmers and of the wonderful possibilities for the improvement of the average dairy herd throughout the continent.

Canadian dairy farmers have found the keeping of herd records, more commonly known as cow-testing, the safest and surest basis for that intelligent breeding and selection which, with proper feeding, is sure to result in an improvement in production that makes the difference between the general average yield and those which are at the top.

In Canada various plans have been tried since this work was first commenced under the direction of the Dairy Branch of the Department of Agriculture, which in 1904 started on a small scale to promote and extend a work of keeping herd records, resulting finally in 1917 in the operation of thirty-five dairy record centres, each of which was placed in charge of an experienced man who gave his entire time to the work of cow-testing within a limited area, and whose business it was to see that the samples were properly tested. There were also a large number of small associations, or groups, for whom the testing was done by some individual qualified.

In 1917 there were nearly thirty thousand cows under test record in connection with the organized efforts of this branch. There have also been many hundreds of cows tested independently by owners who were not connected with any of the dairy record centres or cow-testing associations, but who have been interested by the general results which they found their neighbors achieving.

Since this work was started the average yield of milk per cow for Canada has increased fully thirty per cent. This means that the total value of the Canadian dairy products was greater by at least \$50,000,000 in 1917 than it would have been if there had been no improvement in the herd since 1904. The increase in the yield of milk from individual herds has been much more striking because the general average includes all those herds whose production of milk has remained stationary, or nearly so.

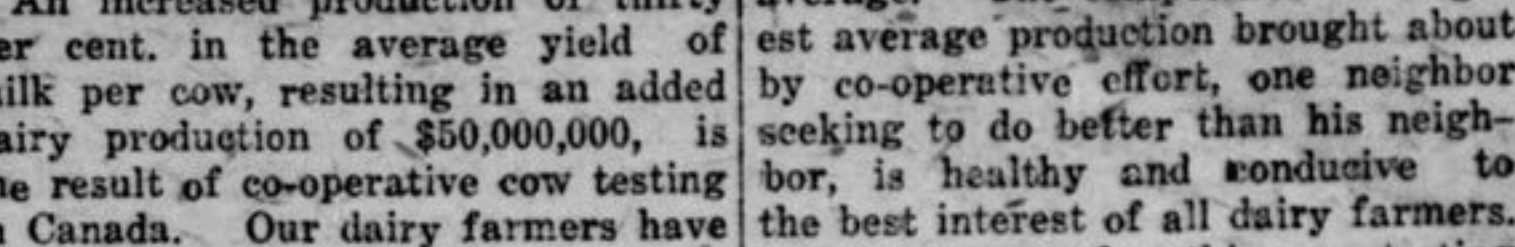
These farmers have not found that the plans for improvement of a dairy herd need be elaborate or expensive, but should take cognizance of the fact that there are good cows and poor cows, judged by their milk production, in all breeds and that it does not follow because a cow may have a lengthy pedigree that her performance at the milk pail is up to the mark; that there are scrub purebreds as well as common scrubs. It requires some moral courage to discard the expensive pure-bred scrub after she has been sown up in her true colors, but it is the right thing to do, nevertheless.

These dairy farmers believe that there is only one true standard, and the test must be production. This is not an argument against the purebred animals as such, but rather an attempt to place performance ahead of pedigree. Ancestry is an important consideration, but unless the record carries with it some account of production, it lacks the only important feature, and the man looking for superior animals gets no information from it that is of real value to him. He may have personal knowledge of the strain in question, but that is another matter. In war times we have learned that the son of the millionaire has no more right to lead than the son of the farmer, which is equally true in the case of the purebred cow as against the common grade animal.

Any plan which has for its object the improvement of dairy stock must provide for a study, and record, of the performance of the individual cow, as well as deal with the management of the herd, including its care and feeding, and the breeding of animals to replace those which are discarded in the "weeding out" process. Individuality can only be determined by the weighing and testing of each cow's milk.

It is quite practicable for individual farmers to test their own herds, and many in Canada are doing this, but some form of co-operation has been found an incentive to a more workable plan of community effort, thus raising the general average yield rather than the general individual

# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



## There is always a kind of solemnity in the ending of anything, and particularly in the ending of the year. We look backward and realize how much has been left undone; we look forward to the future and wonder whether we can succeed in approaching our ideals. Behind are the shadows, before are the clouds. Yet this is a gloomy condition, and it profits nothing. We cannot recall the past, we can only ask for pardon to rest over its failures and a blessing to crown its successes. We cannot govern the future, we can only pray for courage to go forward and do our best. As men and Christians we should, like St. Paul, forget the things that are past and reach forward unto the things that are before us. In other words we should plan for the future.

Now, this planning is limited by certain facts: First, we cannot tell what the future may have in store for us. Our plans may be completely upset by God's plans. Second, we may not be able to attain in any measure the excellence of our plans. Man's ideals are always—must always be—higher than any possible realization. Third, we do not know how long we may live. The rich man planned for many years of ease, but the decree went forth that he must die the very night of the day when his plans were laid. And, fourth, our plans may be unwise, proving as we pursue them that we have not known how to bring the things we desired. It is well for us, then, to study these principles.

The first is this: I must be morally and spiritually ready. The foolish virgins had neglected to carry oil enough to replenish their lamps. They were not strengthened by high ideals as they started out. They did not know the love of God, and their loyalty to Him had all gone. It is the old lesson which we are learning now from the world's struggle—the lesson of preparedness.

A second principle is assurance. God is working His purpose out, and because He is God and therefore perfect, that purpose must be for the final happiness of all His children; as the waters cover the sea, and again, because He is God, and therefore all-powerful, His purpose cannot be defeated. It is this truth that has always saved good men in the world's history. They cried: "One thing we know, that the Lord God has a plan and it will finally be revealed." And so strong did they make them that they did not care very much what happened to them. Whether they were here or there, whether they were at rest or in conflict, whether they had friends or were alone, mattered little, so long as they trusted their leader. Soldiers know what it is to go out, almost blindly, and obey commands, when they trust their commanding officer. And if I am convinced that all the forces of life are under the mastery of the King of kings, who loves and cares for His people, then I can go forward and meet anything and every one without a tremor; and my life will work itself into the plan of God and become a part of it. I must have assurance in that final triumph of God's will, which is righteousness and peace.

A third principle is fellowship with God. The Father of His children does not use them as pawns to accomplish His purpose. We are not atoms in the working out of blind fate. We are not even dead stones in the formation of a mosaic or unconscious threads in the weaving of the tapestry of the future. Rather are we living stones, ourselves building up the temple which shall at last be the glory of God and humanity. I am a worker together with God, not only to work out with Him my own salvation, but to help in the establishment of His kingdom of universal righteousness.

And this fellowship with God leads to fellowship with men. We are all workers together. We are all alike God's children, workers in the struggle to make life eternal a real thing. No man can disregard, or think less important than his own work, that which his brother-man is doing. And if any man fails to do his part or cannot see the vision, I must help him and try to bring him to a realization of his privilege. It is this that sweeps aside the pride of life and banishes man-made distinctions from us.

And the final principle to guide us in planning, for the future, is joy. It is a glorious thing to journey on to a country which we know we shall finally reach. It is an inspiring thing to know that life has a great meaning and a perfect consummation. How can I despise my life when I know God has given it to me and that He calls upon me to use it for the building up of His and my kingdom—mine because His, for He is my Father? It is a joyful thing to prepare the world for Christ's second coming, and to make our planning for the future a part of God's great plan for the happiness of all His people.

All we can do is nothing worth unless God blesses the deed; Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide 'Till God gives life to the seed. Yet nearer, nearer draws the time. The time that shall surely be. When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God.

—Arthur C. Anger.

### Frostbitten Plants.

Suddenly sometimes the weather changes when it is least expected and many house plants are frost bitten. When plants have been touched with frost take them to the cellar or to any dark cool place, where the temperature is above freezing; cut off all black parts back to where the stem is green and pull off the frosted leaves. Keep the plants in this dark place for a day or two and gradually bring them into the light, not exposing them to the rays of the sun until new growth has started.

Plants frozen in frames as a rule should be left where they are, keeping the sash covered with mats to exclude the sunlight until the frost has disappeared. If continued cold weather is expected the night covering should be increased.

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