

EFFICIENT FARMING

Record Stocks of Lard.

The uselessness of Canadian hog breeders trying to enter the fat hog field is proved by the present glutted state of the lard market across the line. Heavy hogs, for years past, have been cheaply fed on the corn products in those States known as "The Corn Belt," and there developed several breeds of hogs, such as the Duro-Jersey, the Poland-China and the Hampshire, which were particularly fitted for the American packer trade. Since war ended, however, the increase in preparations of vegetable oils as substitutes for lard in cooking, has reduced the demand for the latter very considerably and, to-day, not only is the export of lard from American ports very much smaller than it used to be, but even the domestic consumption has declined markedly.

Fight the Parasites Now.

It is a common idea that intestinal and other parasites only need be combated in spring and summer. That is a mistake. Some of the most important items of the campaign are applied before winter sets in.

It should be understood that adult animals carry intestinal parasites through the winter season, and in spring void their eggs, or embryos, and so contaminate grass for the year. Nature, left to herself, arranges that young animals should arrive in spring, and so prepare rich, green grass to stimulate a flow of milk for the sustenance of the foal, calf, lamb or pig, as the case may be. Horses get rid of their stomach bots when turned on grass. Nodular disease of the intestines, vulgarly termed "knotty guts," is contracted on spring grass from adult worms passing out of the adult sheep and distributing their eggs to be taken in by lambs, in turn. Adult cattle, swine and sheep also harbor other parasites during winter and get rid of them in spring, to be reinfested then by the same kind of parasites, or others.

Considering these things, it is good practice to treat all farm animals for worms in autumn. Horses may be given a mixture of two parts of table salt and one part each, by weight, of dried sulphate of iron and flowers of sulphur. The dose of this is one tablespoonful to be mixed in dampened feed night and morning for a week; then stop for ten days and then repeat the treatment. Iron should not be given to a mare that is pregnant. Give her more sulphur and salt. Colts take smaller doses.

Sheep should be dosed with one per cent. solution of sulphate of copper (blue-stone). The dose is three-quarters of an ounce for a lamb, and three and one-half ounces for an adult ewe and other sheep. Intermediate ages and sizes take less than the maximum dose, in proportion. The treatment should be repeated in ten days. Ewes should be treated before or immediately after service.

To hogs, give two and one-half grains each of antonin and calomel, one dram of powdered arsenic and one-half dram of bicarbonate of soda for each fifty pounds of body weight. Mix it in a very little slop, or give it in water as a drench, slowly and carefully from a bottle, after starving the animal for twenty-four hours. Repeat the dose in ten days. Also see to it that the hogs go into clean quarters and are fed and watered from clean utensils. Coughing pigs should be given pure turpentine in slop for three mornings in succession, allowing three teaspoonful for each 100 pounds of body weight. This helps, but is not a certain remedy for lung worms. Sheep affected with lung worms should be given the chloroform treatment by a trained veterinarian.

Cattle do not suffer much from internal parasites, but washing the back with strong salt water or a 150 solution of coal-tar dip will help to lessen trouble from ox-warble grubs, and also from ringworm. To keep cattle and especially calves, free from ringworm, however, the stables should be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected, whitewashed, lighted and ventilated in autumn.

How to Steady the Cattle Trade This Fall.

The fall of 1921 will prove a delicate, if not a critical, time in the Canadian cattle trade. It is due to panic, there is then a rush to sell cattle it will demoralize the market and do the very worst thing for farmers. At the same time it will load the refrigerators of the packing plants with a huge quantity of meat, probably from thin cattle that packers do not want and will not be able to dispose of to the best advantage of the livestock industry.

As a precautionary measure, therefore, packers believe that producers should carefully guard against a heavy rush to market in the fall months. The state of the packing trade is very much like that which faces farmers themselves—labor costs, upkeep, and all other charges still comparatively high, yet with a declining market for the output.

A glut in the freezers this fall would inevitably bring about that which packers are as anxious as farmers to avoid, i.e., a disastrous slump in prices. The basis of agricultural prosperity in Canada is the live stock industry, and a slump could not do other than injure producer, manufacturer and consumer.

Alone, packers cannot prevent this; but the co-operation of farmer-producers may be done to steady the live stock market prices this fall. Farmers would be wise to get together and co-operate with all organizations plan to spread their cattle shipments cautiously over the late summer and fall months, and to hold all cattle on the farms that are not well finished.

What appeals to the packer, from a business standpoint, is that the comparatively low prices at which feeders will probably be available this fall should be attractive to every farmer who has winter feed. While no one can positively foretell market conditions next spring and early summer, the history of past price depressions and advances make packers believe, if faced with the same condition in their own business, they could be justified in taking what risk there is and holding their stocks for the better conditions of next spring if it were feasible. But packers cannot hold fresh beef in the coolers long enough to protect the farmer in the market. If loaded heavily this fall, they would have to freeze the meat, adding expensive holding charges, and bringing this into competition with fresh meat next spring.

It is probable that both railroad and ocean freight rates next spring will be much more favorable. Spreading the marketing of live stock over the fall, winter and spring will, therefore, prevent what may otherwise result in serious conditions.

The early harvesting season should enable farmers to get a good lot of fall plowing done before the freeze up this fall.

Danish Government rules governing the bacon industry in that country permit curers to export only such bacon as has been graded No. 1 by a Government inspector. Nothing else is exported to Great Britain. Hogs that grade No. 2 and No. 3 are sent to the fresh meat market, chiefly in Copenhagen, according to a recent market report.

Our Markets Have Changed.

Livestock markets are not wide open as they were in war time, though the best still finds a ready outlet. Weight, quality and finish have never before been so important.

Profitable livestock production of best is maintained by adhering closely to the following points:—

In Hogs—Breed only bacon types of the right quality; market only at right weights.

In Cattle—Breed only good beef types; feed and finish to handy weights; get rid of the scrub.

In all Livestock—Keep up a steady, even supply of best quality.

The Essential Halves of the Livestock Industry.

1. Production and marketing of farm animals;
2. Manufacture and marketing of meat.

Keep Close to the Young.

Stave off old age by keeping close to the heart of as many young folks as you can. Live young, think young, stay young.

The Secret of Winning Red Ribbons

It takes a lot more than just a good animal, well bred, to win a red ribbon at a fair. A few years ago I buttonholed the men who were showing prize stock at the National Fair, and asked them the secret of winning red ribbons.

After getting a great deal of free advertising about the superiority of certain lines of breeding, one man was honest enough to say: "Go ask my herdsman; he did the work."

The story I got from the herdsman emphasizes the point I want to make—that there is no hocus-pocus by which a man can win a red ribbon any time he wants to. "We pick out a better animal than anybody else, then put him in a little better shape," said the herdsman. "Sometimes our animal isn't any better than the other fellows, but it looks better. The judge has to pin the ribbons on what he sees and feels."

In other words, if you want to win red ribbons, you must work for them. The first thing to do is to pick the right kind of an animal—one that has bred type, good quality, and is built right from the ground up. If there is any doubt as to whether an animal has these good points, time spent in fitting it for the show-ring will likely be wasted. Hence these pointers:

In all show animals the feet and legs must be well set under the body and perfectly straight. The bones must be strong, clean cut and the joints well defined. The shoulders should be smooth and well knitted, so as to leave no depression behind them which would indicate coarseness or lack of heart girth. The ribs should be long and well arched, so as to insure width of back and depth of body. The loin must be broad and well set well let down, while the hind quarters should be strong, broad and well carried down. The skin and hair must indicate quality and be pliable to the touch, while the carriage must be graceful and easy.

Exercise is a most important factor in conditioning show stock. If not

Dipping Sheep in Fall.

It is true that spring dipping of the farm flock is very important, since this gives all, including the young lambs, a clean bill, but fall dipping is still more important and should never be omitted on any farm.

The benefits of two-fold: First, all vermin and skin troubles can be very largely cured or prevented, which has a marked effect in improving the health and feeding gains of the wool; and second, the quality of the wool is improved and its growth stimulated. Shearing tests have demonstrated that well-dipped sheep will give from one pound to a pound and a half more wool per fleece than if not dipped.

Care should be taken to follow the directions which come with the dip in its preparation, and means taken to see that the whole sheep, with the exception of eyes and nostrils, gets a good application. There is really only one way to dip, and that is by submerging the animal standing on its feet. While for a small flock, as an emergency measure, a molasses vessel with a foot cut off one end may be used, the proper and economical vessel is a vat built about eight inches wide at the bottom, three and a half feet deep and flaring to twenty inches wide, with one end projecting to make an incline up which the sheep may walk after submersion.

A draining platform with tight bottom, which will hold two or three sheep should be arranged that when the sheep is assisted upon it the drip from its wool will not run into the vat but back into the tank. The dip should be made with warm water and allowed to cool to one hundred degrees F. before being used, after which it will cool rapidly.

Any time after September 1 is a good time to dip. A breezy bright day is naturally best, but if for any reason dipping is delayed, further delay waiting for just the right day is inadvisable. Particularly when poison dips are used, the sheep should be kept off the ground affording any pasture until their fleeces have ceased dripping, three or four hours at least, being required.

How to Get the Best Results from School Fairs

BY JEAN-CH. MAGNAN, B.S.A.
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I believe that one of the most useful things the school fairs can accomplish is to make the agricultural profession more popular and better respected among country boys and girls, to train them for their future duties as progressive farmer citizens, and make them realize the benefits that can be got out of farming when it is intelligently done by interested people. The school fair gives the finishing touch to the work of agricultural teaching. It is a community demonstration, where everyone receives a reward for his labor and where all unite in giving mother earth a token of gratitude and respect. This testimonial creates a lasting impression on the mind of the children and corrects any false ideas that they may perhaps have entertained regarding the farmers' calling.

In order to accomplish this purpose it is necessary that the school fair should be successful. As the first agricultural school fair (French section) of the Province of Quebec was held in our district, at St. Casimir (Portneuf) on September 12, 1914, and as we have been successful in organizing each year since an average of six school fairs in the county, I might point to the following as being the main factors of success:—

- (a) Educational propaganda among the parish authorities (school, civil and religious) showing the usefulness and benefits of the fairs, in order to secure their sympathy in the work as well as their active co-operation.
- (b) Making the teachers and school trustees realize that the school fair is the crowning of their agricultural teaching work, and that they will be given the credit for this work by the parish.
- (c) An essential condition for success (probably the chief) is to establish good school-home gardens, of a size proportionate with the age and capacity of the children, to visit them

IN THE ASTER MAN'S GARDEN

The Aster Man lifted a case of asters into the auto truck. "A light shipment to-day," he said. "Where do you ship your asters?" I asked. "Toronto. All my flowers go to Toronto. It's a thunderin' long way from way up here, ain't it? But my asters always stands the trip fine. Some has all kinds of trouble with their asters wiltin' and shivelin' up, but I never do. You see, I manure the ground heavy, and cultivate 'em like corn, and they grow up with strong, thick stems. They stand the grief where weak blossoms would wilt right down.

"The flower business is a funny thing. I look at it as a kind of religion. I don't get to church very often, but I try to make religion out of my aster business. Harry says I'm batty, and probably I am, but I get a good deal out of it just the same. I figger it this way: Here's a big white or purple blossom. It goes to the commission house, then to the retailer, and then to the customer. 'Spizin' it goes to some hospitable, and a sick person gets it. He don't want no droopin', sorry lookin' blossom to look at. He wants one that'll stand up on its pin straight as an soldier, and tell him there's better days a comin'. A flower can do more good than a sermon, sometimes, and a good deal more than some sermons I've heard."

In a Toronto hospital a doctor and two nurses were dressing a little girl. "Run over with a truck loaded with bananas," said the doctor. "Spine's fractured in two places. Nothing ahead for the little miss but the pearly gates, I guess." And then he added, "she will be happier there than here, by the looks of her clothes. Make her as comfortable as you can," he said to the head nurse.

Little Minnie was carried out into the ward, and put into one of the white cots, just a speck of humanity in the rows on rows of white beds. Something hurt awfully—oh, it was in her back, oh, she couldn't stand it. The doctor had left a knife sticking in her back, so he had. The nurse took hold of the thin arm that wavered and jerked with the pain, and pricked it. And that hurt too. Minnie fell asleep.

When she awoke an angel was bending over her. And such an angel! She wore such a beautiful dress and such a pearl necklace! And she had such a soft, sweet voice. "Poor little dear," she was saying. "You look tired. But you will be all right pretty soon, won't you? And you are going to stay here and do everything the nurse says, aren't you? Here is a flower I brought for you, and yours to keep." She put a big white lily-stem in Minnie's hand. Minnie heard her go to the next cot and say something to the little girl there, and then to the next till she disappeared down the long line of white beds.

Minnie looked at her flower. She had never seen one like that before, except in store windows. Once the mission down near Market street had taken the children out to the park for an afternoon, and they had picked dandelions. But that was a long time ago. And once, a crate of flowers had broken open in front of a commission house, and a man came out and swore, and swept the broken ones into the gutter. Minnie had picked one of the flowers up, and taken it home to her mother. But this flower was hers, and the angel said she could keep it.

Minnie wondered if angels were always dressed like this one was, and if they always carried such big bunches of flowers. She didn't know that angels came into hospitals. She thought they stayed up in heaven, where the Sunday school teacher said, and played harps and things like that.

When the night nurses came on duty one said, "Well, I see our good friend Mrs. Graham has been here to-day with asters for everybody. What do you suppose those asters cost her, every week? Isn't she a wonderful woman? She always speaks to each patient and she never seems to say the same thing twice." "If all the rich people were like her," said another nurse, "I shouldn't begrudge them the money."

That night a little girl in charity ward II had rather a hard time of it. She cried out that somebody was running over her, and kept saying, "there it comes, there it comes." The nurse kept cold cloths on her head.

"I guess there won't be more than a couple of shipments more," said the Aster Man, as he finished fixing a crate of his flowers. "Had one light frost already. That fixes 'em. But it's been a good year, and I've never seen the blossoms better. There's a good bunch, right there. Say, wouldn't it be interestin' to follow them flowers and see where they go to? Harry up, Harry, with your buzz wagon. Less'n an hour to ketch the one o'clock train."

With the harvest so much earlier than usual, farmers and their families should have an opportunity for a few days' vacation.

The one-crop farmer will understand the condition in which several Latin-American countries find themselves—Cuba with its sugar, Ecuador with its cacao, Guatemala and Colombia with their coffee and Chile with its nitrate. Having all your eggs in one basket is all right if you can protect the basket.

Bedtime Stories

A Wise Song Sparrow.

Scientists tell us that animals are not capable of thought; but, when I consider a song sparrow that last year nested near my home, I am inclined to doubt the learned professors. This song sparrow was either late starting housekeeping, or it was her second brood; however, the little brown songster was determined that her August babies would not come to sorrow through accidents caused by bad boys, stray cats or other enemies. So for her home she selected a spot where at a moment's notice she could summon hundreds of soldiers all armed with bayonets to protect her nest. In other words, the wise bird built in a honeysuckle vine above a big hornet's nest.

Did the bird that planned this well-protected home know of the vicious instincts of the hornets when repel-

ling marauders? Well, I leave that to you, but this warning which I received from a boy may throw some light on the subject:

"There's a bird's nest in that vine," said the little fellow, "and I was trying to see the eggs when he rolled up his sleeve to show me the hornets' me. You had better stay away from that nest."

Did this song sparrow raise her babies? Indeed, yes. I watched the three little birds learning to fly.

To a Hero.

We may not know how fared your soul before.

Occasion came to try it by this test, perchance, it used on lofty wings to soar:

Again, it may have dwelt in lowly nest.

We do not know if bygone knightly strain impelled you then, or blood of humble clod.

Defied the dread adventure to attain The cross of honor or the peace of God.

We see but this, that when the moment came You raised on high, then drained, the solemn cup—

The gall of death; that, touched by valor's flame,

The kindled spirit burned the body up.

—OSCAR C. A. CHILD.

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Preparing Bees for Winter.

We take good care to provide food and protection for ourselves and our livestock in winter but too often the bees, which need them just as much for their survival and comfort, are neglected. Thousands of colonies die every winter and many more are laid off weakened for want of timely care in the fall. Every colony saved will produce, at a low estimate, ten dollars' worth of honey the next year, if well managed.

Three things need special attention in preparing bees for winter: Protection, Strength and Stores.

Protection—The beekeeper should decide early whether he will winter his bees outside or in a cellar. Roughly speaking, in British Columbia, Southern Ontario and the Annapolis Valley, N.S., outside wintering is advisable. For the rest of Canada use a well insulated cellar, deep in well drained ground. Much, however, depends on whether one has a good cellar or a yard well sheltered from winds for outside wintering. Bees have been wintered outside successfully as far north as Hailybury, Ont., and at Lethbridge, Alta. The cellar should be fairly dry, with a steady temperature not exceeding 50 degrees or less than 40 degrees.

For outside wintering place the hive in a case with packing between. For packing use planer shavings or well dried leaves, moss, etc. Cases may be made to take one, two, or four hives each. There should be 2 1/2 to 4 inches of packing at the sides and beneath and a cushion on top 6 to 8 inches thick. Cases in which the floor section is separated and has sides extending above the entrance holes save labor in packing. In the four-colony case the hive sections may be hooked together. Have the cases made in time to pack the hives at the middle of September. On the Pacific coast, where the winters are mild and damp, the side and bottom packing should be omitted and the roof should be well ventilated.

Strength and young queens—Unite all weak colonies in September so that each hive will contain enough bees to cover at least the equivalent of 8 Langstroth frames; enough bees to crowd on ten frames is better. See that each colony has a young fertile queen, if possible not later than the end of July, so that many young bees will be raised in August.

Stores—A sufficient supply of wholesome stores is most important. Feed sugar syrup (two parts refined sugar to one of water) during September (first week in October in Southern Ontario) to bring the weight of stores of each colony up to 40 pounds. A ten-frame Langstroth hive, without the cover, should weigh between 70 and 80 pounds. In places where the honey gathered is not perfectly wholesome for winter, at least ten pounds of the stores should consist of sugar syrup. Where it is likely the honey is decidedly unwholesome or will granulate hard in the combs in winter, at least half of the stores should be sugar syrup. If necessary remove outside combs of honey and place empty combs in the middle of the hive. The following stores have been found unwholesome: honey gathered in certain marshy places in the Mari-

time Provinces, from aster near Lake Erie, in Manitoba when there is a short crop in a dry summer, dandelion honey and honey containing honey dew or fruit juice. The best honey is that from alfalfa and white clover. Honey from alfalfa and from sweet clover is inclined to granulate too hard in cold regions. Ordinary ten-pound honey tins with small holes punched in the lid will do for feeding. Feed rapidly. Preferably pack the hives in the cases before feeding.

A Grandfather Plants Trees for Profit.

An elderly farmer some years ago walked into the office of a Canadian forest engineer and said, "I have sixteen acres on my farm that will not grow anything but trees and I have come to you to tell me what kind I should plant to get the best results."

"Let me first ask you," replied the engineer, "are you planting these trees for pleasure or profit?"

"For profit."

"How old are you?"

"Seventy-four next birthday."

"Then it is my duty to tell you that there is no species of trees which will grow quickly enough to return a profit in your lifetime."

"Yes there is, and you can help me to find the right kind."

"How do you make that out?"

"I have a good farm, and each part is devoted to the use to which it is best adapted—meadow, pasture, arable land, garden—but right in the middle is that eyesore of sixteen acres. That sixteen acres grew good timber when my father settled on the land, and no doubt, it will grow good timber again. I have not many years to live and I want to put my property in the best possible shape for my heirs. At present the sixteen acres is a blot that will injure the sale of the farm, but if it were covered with a growth of the best sorts of trees for the locality, even if it were only four years old, it would complete the farm and increase its value."

The forest engineer admitted the argument was sound and advised as to the best kinds of trees to plant and how to plant them. The old farmer before he died had the satisfaction of knowing that the farm had been increased in value by the young trees.

Now Is the Time To

Fill the silo.

Send your boy or girl to college.

Co-operate with your neighbor.

Fight Hessian fly.

Take a vacation, if you haven't done so.

Farmers deserve vacations, the same as other folks.

Kill every rat—use cats, dogs, traps, poisons; in fact, anything and everything that will rout the rats.

Pick seed-corn from the field as soon as the kernels are well dented.

Put a bathroom in the house.

Rancid bacon: A satisfactory treatment for rancid meat is to put the meat into skimmed milk; there should be no butterfat in the milk. Soak the meat in milk for twelve hours, change the milk and let stand for twelve hours. By this time the meat is fit to eat.

Ontario Archives

TORONTO