

Farm Crop Queries

CONDUCTED BY PROF. HENRY G. BELL

The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of an acknowledged authority on all subjects pertaining to soils and crops. Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. When writing kindly mention this paper. As space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.



B. A. H.: After plowing under a green manure crop, how long should I wait before planting a crop on the land?

Answer: In plowing under a green manure crop be very careful to work it thoroughly by disking and harrowing, otherwise there is danger of forming a loose mat which will intercept the rise of moisture in the soil. If green crop is plowed in early in spring you should be able to plant a crop from two to three weeks after plowing.

Mrs. W. S.: Can bread be made of winter wheat, and if not what use is it? We have a large supply on hand and are unable to make good bread of it.

Answer: Winter wheat is always weak that is, the gluten in it is of such a nature that it will not stand sufficient expansion so that the bread will rise. That is why you do not get good bread from winter wheat flour. If you will get about one-third to one-half spring wheat of good hard type and have it mixed by the miller in grinding, it will make a flour that will rise satisfactorily. Ontario produces a large amount of winter wheat and this is blended with spring wheat in the making of much of the flour that is used in this province.

C. L.: I would like to know what you would advise a man who has not had any farm experience to do. My wife and I would like to go on a farm. Would it help to join a Club where

Making Over Houses

BY ETHEL MIDDLETON.

In this period of applied thrift, the making over of houses promises to be as popular as the making over of dresses. What if it is not practical to build just now? That is no reason for giving up plans for a more comfortable and attractive home, in which the work can be more easily accomplished. Some women find it as interesting to make over a house as to start with entirely new plans.

Visitors to farming districts are apt to consider the farm wives overconscientious, clinging to the old-fashioned home while their husbands build modern barns and outbuildings. One answer to this criticism is that farm wives are as deeply interested in the proper equipment of barns and outbuildings as are the men, for these buildings form the factories of their life industry. But housewives must also remember that the entire social life of the family clusters around the home. If we are to keep boys and girls satisfied on the farm—and that is evidently what the whole country is begging the farmer to do—the home must be made modern and attractive.

It is all very well to say that the home that was good enough for father and mother is good enough for the young people. But the standard of comfortable country living is changing. For one thing we have the "movables" with which to reckon. They bring to the children modern ideas of what a house should be, and show them what the latest ideas are about interior decorating, comfort and entertainment. The children naturally look for some of these things at home.

More over, we ourselves, want better things for our sons and daughters than custom considered necessary in our days. Improvements to make home life pleasanter and home work easier are not unattainable.

If you were building a new house what would you include in it that is not in the old house? Is it not possible to add some of these things?

First of all what about your kitchen? Do you need another window above the sink, or one which will provide more daylight over the range? Are your cellar stairs in good condition, and well painted so they will not need scrubbing? Have you a good built-in dresser or kitchen cabinet? Is the work-table conveniently placed?

Is the sink equipped with a drain-board? Ash or maple is the best wood for the purpose, and the board should be heavy, well cleated on the under side and well grooved on the upper. It should be made water-resistant by being finished with a wood filler, and then rubbed down with linseed-oil.

Is there a way of arranging a lighted pantry between the kitchen and dining-room for dishes, and a ventilated pantry for cooking and table supplies? Is there a porch or veranda, and have you a wash-room annex? These are all simple conveniences to facilitate the routine work of this part of the house. In many cases, when they are lacking, they can be added without great expense or labor.

Windows were often skimped in the early building. We have since learned that sunlight and ventilation are vital necessities to the well-being of any family. To my mind there is nothing so important in a house as properly placed windows, unless perhaps it is properly built closets. And the two really go together, for whenever possible closets should have windows both for light and ventilation.

Have you considered that adding daylight to a house generally means adding living space. An extension window not only gives more space

The Sunday School Lesson

JANUARY 29.

Elijah in Naboth's Vineyard, 1 Kings 21: 7-10, 16-20.
Golden Text—Num. 32: 23. (Rev. Ver.)

Time—The reign of Ahab, B.C. 876-854.
Place—Jezebel in the plain of Esdraelon.

Connecting Links—At the command of God, Elijah returned from Horeb to the land of Israel (ch. 18: 16) and there he found that Ahab had perpetrated a great injustice on one of his humble subjects. Adjoining Ahab's summer palace in Jezreel was a vineyard belonging to Naboth. Ahab was anxious to secure this vineyard that it might round off his own property. Among the Israelites, however, there was a limit to the free disposal of property, especially if it were a patrimony. See Num. 36: 7. An inheritance was regarded as sacred and inalienable. So when Ahab proposed the purchase of the vineyard, Naboth answered: "The Lord forbid."

I. A Wicked Plan, 7-10.
V. 7. Dost thou now govern? "Are you such a weakling that one of your years shall be for a foreign principality,—Tyre—not understanding the sturdy independence of the Israelites, believed in a despotism which did not consider the subject's rights. Arise and denounce his satisfaction, he had refused to eat. See v. 4. I will give thee, etc. Evil is resourceful. All have been a weak man, completely under the dominion of his queen, who was a sort of Lady Macbeth."

V. 8. Jezebel took the matter in her own hands and wrote letters, probably from Samaria, the capital, rather than from Jezreel, sealed with her seal. The seal was a ring with a precious stone on which was engraved a figure or inscription. Documents of state were stamped with the king's seal to attest that they were official. In the New Testament (Eph. 1: 13) the Holy Spirit is said to be sealed with the seal of God. The elders and nobles, all of whom were of noble birth, were invited to witness the trial.

V. 9. Proclaim a fast. A fast was a religious usage, a spontaneous expression of grief or self-abasement, and as such frequently a mark of repentance for wrong-doing. See Jonah 3: 5-9. Jezebel proposed that the Jezreelites should assume a mimic solemnity and mourn over the wrong done by one of their number, Naboth. Thus she degraded a religious custom to an evil purpose. Naboth on high; not in the seat of honor, but in the prison's cell to make his shame conspicuous.

V. 10. Two men. According to Jewish law there had to be two witnesses to a crime before a man could be condemned to capital punishment. See Deut. 17: 4 and 19: 15. So of Bethel; a Hebrew slang phrase denoting "good-for-nothing fellows" or "worthless scoundrels" and hence "with no character to lose and easily bribed for an evil purpose. Thou didst . . . denounce both divine and royal authority and hence acted as if thou wert a god. The Hebrew court of justice was usually held in the open square by the gate of the city; a condemned man was led thence outside the city limits for execution and burial. Stone him; the method prescribed by Jewish law for capital punishment.

V. 11. Well Merited Rebuke, 16-20. V. 16. When Ahab heard, He and Jezebel were in Samaria when the murder took place in Jezreel; there was something despicable and cowardly in allowing others to work out with Naboth out of the way there was nothing to hinder him from satisfying

a word: "Protein." But let me give the history of these two groups of pigs. They were all started July 29 at an average weight of fifty pounds each. One lot was given shelled corn and salt, self-fed, with blue-grass forage. The second bunch got exactly the same ration, but with the addition of tankage, self-fed.

The result was apparent in the condition of the lots and of the pigs. The "non-rooters" had been balanced; the protein that they required had been supplied in the tankage. Content and happy they had been busy putting on flesh. The others, denied a necessary element in their feed, had rooted all over the lot for worms in an unsuccessful effort to balance their own ration.

Mr. Evard believes that just here lies the secret of keeping hogs from rooting. He used tankage in this case to supply the protein, but any other high-protein feed would show the same results.

The Way I Feed Mares in Foal
I feed good hay, free from clover weeds, and mix one bushel of whole corn to two bushels of oats, and feed according to size of horse and work she is doing. I always keep her at work until two months before foaling, then I ease off on her and work her half a day, two or three times a week. During the last two weeks I turn her out during the day and put her up at night. I have never lost a mare or colt.—E. I.

Necessarily, the proportion of farmers will decrease. Not so many are needed relatively, for a man's power to produce has been multiplied.

LOOK TO THE EAST

A little while ago a friend was talking with me about ideals and work, when he pulled out of his pocket a bit of manuscript written by Bishop Davies, and said: "There, in six paragraphs you will find more good stuff than you will find in many a big book. It is one of the finest condensed sermons I ever read. I've lost count of the number of times I have read and reread this sermon. Each time I find something new and worth while in it."

Now, just because I feel it ought to have wider circulation, because I am sure it will help you and every one else who reads it, and particularly because it makes such a splendid sermon for the New Year of 1922, I want to reprint it here:

"In Solomon's temple there was a great brazen laver standing on twelve brazen oxen, with their faces outward; three looking toward the north, and three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east, and three looking toward the west, and these were four ways to face your job. You can look at it toward the north, which stands for all that is cold and hard, for struggle and strife. It will appear to you a long fruitless winter; a discouraging, hopeless struggle, a weary, disheartening, monotonous grind.

"Or you can look at your work toward the south, which suggests to us verdant, luxuriance and ease. Then it will be to you simply a means to provide you with pleasure and comfort, and luxury, and wealth, and ultimately with leisure.

"Again, you can face your business toward the west, the quarter of the beautiful and glowing sunset, but also the quarter whence the shadows come and where the day dies. The time for accomplishment is so short one can hardly expect to realize all that one has planned. Is it worth while to take so much trouble for a harvest we ourselves can never reap? Let us eat, drink and be merry, for to-morrow we die.

"Or, you can look at your job toward the east, toward the sunrise, the dawn, the coming day. Then it will seem to you full of hope, of wonderful possibilities, of progressive usefulness.

"It matters infinitely how we face our work. This last way is the Christian way. Look at life with the hope of the Hereafter! Build with faith in your God! No good, faithful work is ever wholly lost.

"Believe in the future of your business, and your country, and yourself. Believe that life goes on! Take God at His word! Have the faith that will make the world whole! Look east and catch the gleam of the Sun of righteousness, rising with healing in his wings!"

Many notable instances of early rises among although strangely enough, the habit seems to be a favor.

Short Sleeper
Many notable instances of early rises among although strangely enough, the habit seems to be a favor.

What are you going to be doing in the morning with most of us trying to get up with the sun and the same may be said of those who, when in the throes of a sleep problem, find two or three napoleons stay up in the night, a gift possessed by George, who is said to be sleeping almost all the time.

The Easter Job.
What are you going to be doing in the morning with most of us trying to get up with the sun and the same may be said of those who, when in the throes of a sleep problem, find two or three napoleons stay up in the night, a gift possessed by George, who is said to be sleeping almost all the time.

No matter how low
No matter how low he have sunk morally, the something absolutely less within him, something which has never smothered and can never the divinity within him which will ultimately awakened and will win its own in splendor power.

Sheep Notes

Three things contribute to a high percentage of twin lambs, according to tests conducted by Government experts. These three things are: Early weaning of the ewe, early mating, and good gains during the breeding season. The ram has little influence on the number of twin lambs produced.

Flushing, which means extra feeding of ewes at breeding time, resulted in an average increase of 18.1 per cent in number of lambs dropped. Ewes getting in lamb first, dropped a higher percentage of twins than ewes getting in lamb later. To obtain the highest percentage of twins, ewes should gain at least seven pounds a head during the breeding season, the tests indicated.

The tests did not bear out the supposition that the proportion of twin lambs can be increased by selecting as breeders rams and ewes born as twins. Selection should be made on the basis of average yields of different strains, instead; not on the basis of individuals.

Butchering Recipes.

To prevent molding, all stuffed sausages that are to be kept for weeks or months, should be dipped in melted paraffin. This also keeps them from getting too dry.

Sausage in brine: Stuffed sausages may be kept for several months if placed in a mild brine for four or five days (seven parts saturated brine and three parts water). Rinse and smoke for from six to eight hours. Hang in a dry airy place.

Country sausage recipe: Use eighty-five pounds lean pork, fifteen of beef, from one and one-half to two pounds of salt, four ounces of black pepper, one ounce of sweet marjoram. Cut the meat into small pieces and sprinkle seasoning over it, then grind finely. Put away in a cool place for from twenty-four to thirty-six hours, then add a little water, stuff into cleaned hog casings and smoke in a very cool smoke until a dark mahogany color is obtained.

To make Bologna ham, take sixty pounds of lean beef chopped fine with four pounds of salt and one-half pound of saltpetre. Allow the mixture to stand twenty-four hours in a cool place. Add thirty pounds of fresh lean pork and ten pounds of fat pork, four ounces black pepper, three ounces mace, five pounds cereal, and ten pounds water. Mix thoroughly and grind so that the pork will be only of medium fineness. Stuff into cloth or beef casings. Smoke in a nice red color. Cook one-half hour, then immerse in cold water for five minutes and hang up.

Summer sausage: Use twenty-five pounds of cured beef, free from sinews; fifteen pounds of pork trimmings; from four to six ounces of white pepper; one ounce of whole black pepper; one ounce of whole mustard-seed. This recipe can be made up in cold weather only. All the meat is put through a grinder and spices are added. (No salt is needed, for the beef is salty enough). Mix all thoroughly, until evenly seasoned. Spread it out in a cool place and leave for forty hours, then stuff into clean hog

Protect the Winter Birds

During the stormy months of January, February and March the brave birds who remain to do service for you, perish when the ground and trees are snow and ice covered. Obeying the instincts of nature they remain to do their duty, even at the cost of their little lives. It is no uncommon occurrence after a severe storm to go about the countryside and see many lifeless bodies of these feathered friends lying about on the ground, or buried beneath the snow. We should not permit this to be the case, but provide some shelter for them, as well as food. As long as their bodies are kept warm with food they can combat old man winter's cold blasts quite well. They need plenty of bird houses and other places to crawl into, away from the raging winds and snow.

None of us are so poor in material things that we cannot spare the trimmings of meat, raw or cooked meat bones, as well as suet for the birds. Either mutton or beef suet will provide food and nourishment, and sunflower seed heads, which are about nearly every farmer, are relished by almost every winter bird. The writer also brings in the apples, which cling to the branches in the fall, thaws them out, and places them with the other food in the feeding shelf. The birds fairly scream with delight for the dessert which the apples apparently are. Can we deny these bird friends so little?

When these winter birds remain to search out the eggs of insects, and the dormant forms of insect life from the crevices of bark, so that they will not have a chance to hatch out in the

spring, we should certainly respond by placing out the simple food that they require to save their lives. Cracked corn and oats can be placed in a sheltered spot. Short boards covered up on ends, tepee fashion, and then covered with cornstalks make a very good feeding station for the ground-feeding species.

The winter birds may come to your farm and pick up the weed seeds which the summer birds had to leave. They often join the barnyard fowl at feeding time, and also come to your doorstep for the crumbs and other food you may throw out. All of the winter birds are sociable and friendly, and pleasant company for gray winter days. They will appreciate a raw meat bone to pick at, as well as suet, and the crumbs that the children of the house may have picked up and stored away.



The City of Not At All

"To-morrow I'll do it," says Bennie; "I will buy and bye," says Seta; "Not now—pretty soon," says Jennie; "In a minute," says little Beth. Oh, dear little people, remember that true as the stars in the sky, The little streets of To-morrow, Pretty Soon, Bye and Bye, Lead one and all, As straight, they say, As the King's highway, To the city of Not At All.

Why Do Hogs Root?
Seeking an answer to that question, together with about 750 other swine breeders, I called on two groups of pigs at an Experiment Station one day. The pigs were part of those in the station feeding tests.

There were two pigs altogether—just ordinary pigs—divided into two families of five each. Their adjoining lots were sown to blue-grass. One lot was tumbled and torn. There was scarcely a square foot of unturned turf. The other was smooth and practically untouched. But the difference extended further than to the lots themselves—it extended to the pigs. The "rooters" tipped the scales at an average weight of 109 pounds. They were a shifty, discontented looking bunch of porkers. The "non-rooters" weighed only 171 pounds each.

I wasn't the only one who turned to Mr. Evard, in charge of swine feeding, with a question. He answered in a

word: "Protein." But let me give the history of these two groups of pigs. They were all started July 29 at an average weight of fifty pounds each. One lot was given shelled corn and salt, self-fed, with blue-grass forage. The second bunch got exactly the same ration, but with the addition of tankage, self-fed.

The result was apparent in the condition of the lots and of the pigs. The "non-rooters" had been balanced; the protein that they required had been supplied in the tankage. Content and happy they had been busy putting on flesh. The others, denied a necessary element in their feed, had rooted all over the lot for worms in an unsuccessful effort to balance their own ration.

Mr. Evard believes that just here lies the secret of keeping hogs from rooting. He used tankage in this case to supply the protein, but any other high-protein feed would show the same results.

The Way I Feed Mares in Foal
I feed good hay, free from clover weeds, and mix one bushel of whole corn to two bushels of oats, and feed according to size of horse and work she is doing. I always keep her at work until two months before foaling, then I ease off on her and work her half a day, two or three times a week. During the last two weeks I turn her out during the day and put her up at night. I have never lost a mare or colt.—E. I.

Necessarily, the proportion of farmers will decrease. Not so many are needed relatively, for a man's power to produce has been multiplied.

What are you going to be doing in the morning with most of us trying to get up with the sun and the same may be said of those who, when in the throes of a sleep problem, find two or three napoleons stay up in the night, a gift possessed by George, who is said to be sleeping almost all the time.