

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 agriculture 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 desirable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.

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W. L. B.: Will you please tell me if alfalfa is better than red clover for hog pasture? I have a field of oats black dirt to seed it down. It is heavy sowing the ground. How much seed should I sow to the acre? The ground was mowed last spring and I plowed down clover. How much and what kind of fertilizer should I use?
Answer: Alfalfa contains more of food constituents than does red clover, but it is a little harder to get a stand of alfalfa than of clover. In the Middle West alfalfa is used very extensively as hog pasture and excellent results are obtained. If you wish to seed down I would advise you to sow about 1,000 lbs. of lime per acre, top the plowed ground and harrow it into the soil. Then when you come to sowing the seed, use a pure crop of about a bushel of oats per acre, seeding alfalfa at the rate of 12 to 15 lbs. of good seed per acre. At the same time as you are sowing the oats and alfalfa apply fertilizer, analyzing about 2 per cent. nitrogen, 10 to 12 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 2 per cent. potash at the rate of 250 lbs. to the acre. This should balance up your soil and give you a good catch of clover. Do not attempt to pasture alfalfa this year. Next summer after the alfalfa has made a good start it would be safe to pasture it with hogs. However, do not put on

too many head per acre. The number of course will have to be graded by the growth of alfalfa.
R. B.: I have raised a small amount of Hubam clover seed and would appreciate receiving some information regarding a cheap method of scarifying a small amount of Hubam.
Answer: A good scarifier for sweet clover and alfalfa seed was produced at Ontario Agricultural College, Field Husbandry Department. If you will write them at Guelph they will be able to put you in touch with same.
D. H.: I have a weed in my garden that the County Representative says is horse nettle; others say it is not. It has a white and blue blossom and that forms into a ball of seeds like a small yellow tomato. It has thorns on like rose bushes. I would like to know what is the easiest and quickest way to get rid of it.
Answer: I cannot tell from your description what the weed would be. However, I assume that your Representative has named it correctly. Cultivation, that is, cut down any young weeds that are growing and prevent them from developing along the fence rows. Cut them down with the scythe and burn the rubbish. This will prevent seed from spreading and constant cultivation should clear your field of the pest.

Hog

As a rule the young male colts are castrated when they are about a year old. A few farmers prefer that the operation be postponed until the male is two years of age, since it is claimed that the animals will thereby become more masculine. It may be true that some excess in development is thus gained, but if the colts are allowed to grow too long they will be difficult to handle and the operation is more apt to result fatally, although ordinarily there is little danger from the operation at any time if performed by a competent person, and the subsequent care of the colt is what it should be.
The operation should always be performed by a reliable veterinary surgeon or by someone who can work skilfully. Perhaps the best season of the year for this work is in the spring, say in May after warm weather has arrived. At that time flies have not yet appeared. The method of operation will, of course, vary with the operator.
After the operation has been performed, with proper regard for cleanliness, instruments, etc., the colt should be kept in a clean, roomy stall at night and turned into a pasture field every fair day. It is advisable to feed rather sparingly for two or three days after the operation, though a feed of oats and bran may be given at night and morning. Always allow the animal as much fresh water as he desires.
The colt that is allowed to run in a pasture will take sufficient exercise to prevent the stiffening of parts, but if for any reason it is necessary to keep him stabled, he should be placed in a box stall or else be led about the barnyard for a half hour night and morning. When turned out it is well to bathe the wound with a diluted solution of carbolic acid in order to prevent flies from pestering their eggs in the wound. This care should continue until the wound has entirely healed.

Poultry

Two points must be kept in mind if the broilers are to be made to pay well. They must be hatched early and pushed as fast as possible after being hatched. The price for broilers takes a tumble when the ordinary farm crop comes on the market, but as most farm flocks do not mature at broiler weight under about three to four months the well-grown flock in ten weeks will give prime two-pounders and will come in far enough ahead of the price. I have watched the price for a good many years now and not far from the first week in June they start down, though sometimes they do not take the grand drop until the first of July.
To get the broilers in on the best market it pays to fatten, as this will hurry them up some and give that plumpness that commands the best price going and makes for ready sale. They should be penned when they reach a pound and a half and then given all the buttermilk and corn meal they will consume, with some green to keep healthy, and only a small place to exercise in, for they are not to run off the fat now. Corn is the ideal fattening grain and grinding it saves energy and mixing it with a crumbling stage with buttermilk makes it more to their liking, and they should be induced to eat just as much as possible. Any milk will serve if buttermilk is not available, but buttermilk is best.
Milk as a Body Builder.
Man's efficiency depends much on the condition of his health, which in turn depends greatly on the food he eats. From food the body gets the material for development, upkeep and repair. Of the many constituents of food, protein takes first rank in nutritive value. It is found in eggs, meat, cereals, legumes, fish, and in milk and most milk products. All proteins, however, have not the same value; some foods supply protein of greater physiological use than that supplied by other foods. Experiments show that when protein from cereals is the only protein in the diet of growing animals, the body of the animal is able to use only about 30 per cent., but when milk is the only source, the body can take as high as 65 per cent. Furthermore when an animal is fed both cereal and milk protein in combination, it can use all the milk protein and a much higher percentage of the cereal protein than would otherwise be the case. It is easy to translate this into every-day practice. For instance, if we give a child cereal alone, only a small percentage will be used to do its special work in the body, but if we add milk generously, not only will the milk protein be of the greatest value, but a much higher percentage of the protein contained in the cereal will be utilized. This is true of such simple combinations as bread and milk, oatmeal and milk, rice and milk, etc., and although these foods have long ago proved their worth, we have only recently understood the real reason of the importance of the combination. These facts and others calculated to give valuable information on the value of milk as food are brought out by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa in a publication entitled Why and How to Use Milk, which also contains many recipes.

Holdings and Exports of Butter and Cheese.

Statistics furnished in the Dairy News Letter issued by the Dominion Dairy and Cold Storage Branch show that the holdings on April 1 of this year in all Canada were—of creamery butter 2,228,157 lbs., against 2,386,123 on the same date last year; of dairy butter 193,864 lbs., against 455,169 lbs.; of cheese 4,330,400 lbs., against 1,143,252 lbs., and of oleomargarine 164,285 lbs. against 805,360 lbs.
The same News Letter shows that in the first three months of this year the United Kingdom imported from Canada 61,265 cwt. of cheese as compared with 513,831 cwt. from New Zealand. The latter country's export to butter to Great Britain has more than doubled the first three months of this year over the same period of last year. Australia also shows considerable increase in exports both of butter and cheese.

For Home and Country

Nothing Too Good for the Boys and Girls
By R. S. Duncan
My plea—Give the boys and girls a chance! Boys and girls are more valuable than all the farms and live stock in the Province of Ontario. The majority of the boys and girls born on our farms can be developed into good citizens, if given a fair chance during childhood to use their energies wisely directed in doing useful things. Nothing is too good for the boy of today—the farmer of tomorrow.
Objects of School Fairs.
1. To prepare the boy and girl for the farm.
2. To give boys and girls something definite to do and to encourage a friendly rivalry amongst them.
3. To afford an opportunity for boys and girls to use their energy and enthusiasm in a productive and useful way.
All School Fair Work is organized and conducted by the Agricultural Representative. The Department of Agriculture supplies and distributes all seed for the Home Plots. Pupils in all Ontario pay the cost price of eggs but the Department pays cost of distribution.
The Department issues price lists, furnishes tent, poultry coops and other equipment for the School Fair and supplies judges. The local people supply all the prize money, varying from \$60 to \$150 per fair. Trustee boards, township councils, county councils and

Live Stock Prices Reviewed.

The drop that has taken place in the prices of live stock during the past two years is vividly illustrated by the Dominion Live Stock Branch reports of the average prices for the month of April, this year, and in 1921 and 1920. It is not necessary to go any further than Toronto to realize this and, therefore, the prices of that market are referred to, accompanied by the remark that a similar state of affairs was shown in Montreal and elsewhere. In Toronto the average price for good steers in 1920 was \$13.62 as against \$7.70 this year; for hogs, \$12.95 against \$7.51; for cows, \$10.75 against \$5.73; for bulls, \$10.55 against \$4.84; for calves, \$16.45 against \$7.26; for pigs, \$20.15 against \$13.43; for lambs, \$18.65 against \$13.55, and for sheep, \$10.73 against \$6.60.
Should Consume More Vegetables.
The general opinion of those who have studied the diet of the average Canadian family is that we eat too few vegetables. The reason why we should eat more is that vegetables contain minerals which are necessary to build up the body and to keep it running as it should. The important minerals are iron, calcium and phosphorus. They are essential for the growth of teeth, bones, blood and other body tissues. These minerals are, therefore, of peculiar value in childhood and youth when the body is growing, but it must also be added that the adult must have them to keep his body well repaired.

Butterfly.

God told me I was here to play
And so, I do it—day by day.
I must not envy Busy Bee,
Who buzzes pompously by me!
I must not fear, when I am told
The winter will be long and cold.
And I must never, never sigh
Not to be a Butterfly!
God told me I was here to play,
And so, I do it—day by day.
A Little Girl's Essay on Animals.
There are lots of different kinds of animals at the theological gardens. You should be good to animals. Boys are sometimes mean to animals, especially to cats. Boys are dreadfully conceited. Some boys think they are just as good as girls. They think they are lots smarter than girls.
When a boy grows up and you get engaged to him, he is your finance. Boys are horrid. This is all I know about animals.
The successful farmer of the coming years will be the one who can cast in on a variety of products grown under a well-balanced and self-maintained farming system.

Bedtime Stories

God told me I was here to play
And so, I do it—day by day.
I must not envy Busy Bee,
Who buzzes pompously by me!
I must not fear, when I am told
The winter will be long and cold.
And I must never, never sigh
Not to be a Butterfly!
God told me I was here to play,
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Wedding Menus

In the Wedding Cake Hope is the Sweetest of Plums
BY ANNA COYLE
three round cake pans graded in size. This cake will be cut by the bride and will predict the future state of guests through the usual thimble, ring and coin. These trimmings (after thorough cleansing) are mixed into the batter. The largest cake forms the base and the other two are placed on top of it according to size, and the whole is iced with a thick white icing. A little don bride adorns the top of the cake; she is dressed in a robe of satin and wears a veil of tulle.
Bride's Cake Frosting Number One.
Two egg whites, 4 tsp. cold water, 1 tsp. lemon juice, confectioners' sugar. Beat egg whites until stiff and add water. Beat in sufficient confectioners' sugar to form a paste, whip up thoroughly and add flavoring. Spread with a broad-bladed knife. A flexible spatula is the best spreader.
Bride's Cake Frosting Number Two.
One cup sugar, 3 tsp. water, 1 egg white.
Have water in the lower part of a double boiler, boiling. Put sugar, water and unbeaten egg white into top of double boiler and place over the boiling water. Start beating at once and using an egg beater, beat eight minutes while cooking. Flavor with lemon or vanilla extract. Remove from the stove and spread on cake with a knife. For a large cake it will be necessary to double this recipe.
Chicken Patties.
Three tsp. butter, 3 tsp. flour, 2 cups milk, 2 cups cooked chicken (iced), 2 tsp. chopped parsley or pimento, 1/4 tsp. celery salt, salt, pepper.
Melt the butter and stir in the flour. Gradually add scalded milk, stirring constantly. Cook until thickened. Stir in chicken which has been cut in cubes, chopped parsley or pimento, celery salt, salt and pepper. Cook until steaming hot. Serve in toast shells or pie-crust shells.
Pie-Crust Shells.
Make a short pie-crust, roll thin and cut in circles about four inches in diameter. Shape over inverted muffin tins and bake in a moderate oven.
Toast Shells.
Cut slices of bread two inches thick. Cut with a round cutter three inches in diameter and scoop out the centre with a fork, thus making a cavity to hold the patty mixture. Dip these cases in a mixture of slightly beaten egg, diluted with two tablespoons of milk to each egg, and seasoned with salt. Drop in deep fat and fry to a golden brown. Drain on brown paper. Toast shells may be cut heart shaped, if desired.
Orange Baskets.
Twelve oranges, 1 small can sliced pineapple, 2 cups fresh or canned strawberries, 1 cup grape juice.
Cut a triangular slice from each side of the oranges, leaving one-half of the skin intact to form the bottom of the basket. Scoop out the pulp with a hand knife. Fill each basket with a mixture of orange, pineapple and strawberries. To each basket add two tablespoons of the combined fruit juices. Serve cold. Garnish each plate with a sprig of something green.
Says Sam: It's better to have father and son meetings at the church than in the woodshed.
The cheapest and best way to secure an ample supply of vitamins is to use a plentiful supply of vegetables, milk and butter, remembering, however, that milk contains vitamins just in proportion to the vitamin content of the food that the cattle are fed. Consequently, cow's milk during the summer months is much richer with vitamins than in the winter.

The Sunday School Lesson

Jeremiah Cast Into Prison, Jer. 38: 4-13. Golden Text—Be not afraid because of them; for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord.—Jer. 1: 8. (Rev. Ver.)
Lesson Foreword.—It is necessary to understand the historical background of this lesson. The Babylonians had carried Jehoiachin, king of Judah, and many of his nobles into exile in B.C. 597 and had set up his uncle, Zedekiah, to rule as king of Judah under them. A strong national party in Judah urged Zedekiah to revolt against the Babylonians but Jeremiah strongly advised against it. Zedekiah, however, after a time did renounce his allegiance to Babylon and revolted. The Babylonian army came up against Jerusalem throughout the siege, but during a lull in the operations, he attempted to leave the city for the desert in Anathoth. He was arrested by the king's eunuchs and taken to the guard, and made provision for his maintenance.
I. Jeremiah Imprisoned, 4-6.
V. 4. The princes; for their names see v. 1. They were military officers and civil officials of high standing. The king; Zedekiah. Let this man be put to death. The request of the princes is intelligible. They had heard of the fall of Jerusalem, and on the authority of God's Spirit, that the defence of the city was useless (1-3); such an announcement tended to weaken the fighting spirit of the garrison. So if the city was to be defended to the last extremity, the prophet of disaster must be effectually silenced.
V. 5. He is in your hand. The king yielded to their request by delivering Jeremiah over to them; they were, in fact, the proper officials of justice to execute the king's order. The king, however, did not explicitly permit them to inflict the death penalty. For the king, against you. The king would doubtless have released Jeremiah had he been able. But the king does not appear to have been a strong character; he was the tool of his princes. He also seems to have had a secret regard for Jeremiah and had consulted him while he was in prison, 37: 20.
V. 6. The princes were afraid to kill Jeremiah outright, since he was the king's prophet. So they hit on another plan and cast him into a dungeon to die of starvation and neglect. The dungeon, in reality a cistern attached to the house of one of the princes. Each ground cistern in which water was stored for use during the dry season. This cistern had no water in it, but its bottom was slime and mire. Joseph was thrown into a pit by his Pharaoh (Gen. 37: 24), and again by Pharaoh's (Gen. 40: 15). Often the means of the prisoners were confined in a pit rather than the common prison. (See Gen. 37: 24.)
II. Hearing for Jeremiah, 7-9.
V. 7. Ebed-melech; an Ethiopian and, therefore, a negro. He was, in all likelihood, the chief of the king's personal servants and in charge of the royal harem. "It is very striking that the only one who intervenes to save Jeremiah from the king's death, the prince designed for the gate, an Ethiopian eunuch" (Peake). The gate of Benjamin; was the gate on the north side of the city which led into Benjamin territory, ch. 37: 13. The king was there directing the defence of the city and during his absence, from the palace, and without his knowledge, the princes had committed Jeremiah to the dungeon.
V. 8. Ebed-melech went forth; from

THE SPIRIT OF ROMANCE

Romance is fiction, so Webster says. So, then, it must be the stuff dreams, the pleasant dreams, are made of. Dreams, day dreams, if you please, are essential to life, for they are a part of our hopes and ambitions. They help to take the drabness out of life. They are more prevalent with those just starting in life than with those who are nearly through it.
It is with the youth that these dreams, this spirit of romance, runs rampant and where it should be guided to good purposes. The reading of desperate and wild west stories develops an abnormal sense of romance and often an attempt to make it true. For those so affected a cultivation of a new interest in worth-while things will get the mind back into proper channels.
In girls, this spirit must especially be guarded, for in them feminine feeling of defence and caution must be developed. The reading of overdrawn love stories may tempt them to take ventures into the great unknown, which experience might prove dangerous.
While this spirit of romance should be guided, it should not be crushed, as that may also lead to disastrous results. But rather it should be cultivated in such a way that youth's venture into life and the great unknown future can be made with as few regrets as possible. Nothing will help as much in this respect as the real companionship of broadminded parents. The romance of the young seldom goes wrong when the parents and children are pals.
Free Seed-Testing Service.
As most crop-growers are aware, some of the failures in securing satisfactory crops are due to the planting of seed having poor vitality. This is particularly true with corn, which is one of the most easily damaged seeds. The testing of corn and other seed before planting is well worth while because of the assurance it gives that a good crop stand will be obtained.
The testing of farm seeds is not a difficult matter and may be done by planting one hundred or two hundred grains in a flower pot or box of soil, which should be kept moist, but not wet, and in a sunny window for a week or so at about the temperature of a living room. If, however, one lacks confidence in his ability to test the vitality of seed in this way, advantage may be taken of the service provided by the Seed Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. This Branch has well equipped laboratories at the central office at Ottawa, as well as in Toronto, Winnipeg, and Calgary. These laboratories are maintained primarily for dealing with seeds handled in commerce. During April each year when they are running at full capacity on commercial work, a charge of fifty cents per test is made. At other times tests for farmers and seed merchants will in future be made without charge. That is to say, from the first day of May until the end of January of the succeeding year, free service in testing will be provided. The service is not unlimited, however, as only ten samples from any one person or firm can be taken care of under this arrangement. This service will be of great value following the harvest in cases where the crop has been subjected to wet weather, has ripened unevenly, or has experienced low temperatures during the ripening period, conditions which tend to reduce seed vitality.

Farm Power Notes.

When you take off a tire from the rim, notice whether the rim is rusted. If rust is present, scrape it off, paint with special rim paint, and dry out before replacing the tire.
When you have a puncture at night and the flashlight plays out, take the battery apart and place the bottom cell on top. Then you will have light enough to finish the work and go on your way.
No more grimy hands from working on the tractor or auto. If, before starting the job, you rub the hands, especially under and around the fingers, with cold cream, Vaseline is good, but cold cream is better. After oiling the excess and go ahead with the job. When through, soap and hot water will make the hands white. When a boot is placed in an auto, damaged section, commonly called a blow-out, a piece of discarded inner-tube should be cut the exact length of boot and placed between the boot and outer casing. This will prevent the boot from creeping out of place and also cause it to wear much longer, thus adding considerably to the length of service.
We generate our own current for light and power with a small plant located in the cellar. We think it is our plant a little over a year, and it has cost us about \$7 per fuel and lubricating oil to generate sufficient current for our use. We have lights, including the barn, dwelling-house, garage, milk-house, pig pen, and all have good, bright steady light that never goes out.

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