EFFICIENT FARMING

Points on Export Trade for Canadian Hog Producers.

Considerable discussion has recently taken place of the advisability of Government grading for Canadian bacon exported to British markets. As Denmark is our keenest competitor in this trade it is of more than usual interest and importance to have a clear knowledge of Danish methods of handling bacon in the British markets. The following specific questions were sent to London and the information in answer to them was supplied by E. M. Denny and Company, a firm recognized as the leading bacon handlers in Great Britain, owning factories in Ireland and Denmark, whose principals were engaged by the British Government throughout the war to organize and handle their bacon supply. The statements, therefore, are most authoritative.

The questions and answers follow:—

1. What are the numbers of Danish co-operative factories and those privately owned?

Ans.—Co-operative, forty-six; privately owned, thirteen.

2. Give the approximate number of hogs handled by each class last year.

Ans.—From April 1st, 1921, to March 31st, 1922, killed and exported —Cooperative, 1,312,016 hogs; private, 192,192 hogs.

3. What is the period ordinarily taken from the time the hog is killed in Denmark until it arrives on the British market, and what part of that period is taken up by the sides in pickle?

Ans.—Time from killing to arrival on British market is twelve to seventeen days, according to the time of the year; the period in pickle ranges from four to six days.

4. Do the Danes use any dressing such as Canadian packers have to in order to preserve the bacon after it comes out of pickle and before it is smoked in Great Britain?

Ans.—There is no preservative used after the bacon comes out of pickle.

5. Where is Danish bacon mainly sold in Great Britain and why is it sold in any particular part?

Ans.—Two-thirds of the Danish bacon consigned to this market is sold in London and district, the other third in the North of England and Scotland. London was probably the first market to appreciate lean, mild-cured bacon of good quality, and to pay a higher price for it. The rest of the country is taking more of this bacon, as the public taste everywhere is for lean, mild cured bacon.

6. Is the Danish bacon sold by consignment or contract, and to what extent do the Danish factories deal through agents in the manner that Canadian packers do?

Ans.—The bacon is consigned to this market and sold by agents. A small quantity is sold by the factories direct at a price f.o.b.

7. How many of the Danish factories sell through a common co-operative agency or selling house in England? Do any Danish factories maintain wholesale or retail stores?

Ans.—There are eighteen co-operative factories which ship to the Danish Bacon Agency. The Danish Bacon Agency is principally owned by the eighteen factories which consign their bacon and through this Danish Bacon Agency do a wholesale trade. There is no factory connected with retail business.

8. Do the Danish co-operative factories compete with one another in the selling of product in England?

Ans.—The Danish co-operative factories compete with one another and with private firms for the trade. Bacon from certain factories sells at a higher price than others on account of the selection and cure being better than others. There is no standard for quality or selection, consequently there is no standard of price other than that determined by preference of the buyer for certain brands.

9. Give a clear statement of the system of inspection that is employed by Danish packers and state to what extent, if any, the Government enters into it as regards inspection in either Denmark or Great Britain?

Ans.—There is no "bacon" inspection in Denmark or in England by the Danish Government. There is the veterinary inspection, the same as you have in Canada. Hogs that are entirely free from tuberculosis are branded with the L. U. R. brand, and can be made into bacon for export, irrespective of whether these hogs make best, second, or third quality bacon. If the hog is certified free from tuberculosis, that is sufficient to permit the bacon from that hog being exported. There is no standard cure or trim for Danish bacon. The L. U. R. brand represents a freedom from tuberculosis; that is all that the Government of Denmark is interested in. If any factory sends out bacon not properly trimmed, which a good many of them do, the fact is brought home to them in the price. The Danes have no representative in England to see about any Government regulations being carried out, because there are none. If the bacon accumulates, shipments from Denmark are stopped by the factories themselves, there is no Government intervention at all; they just stop shipping, as you would stop if your goods were accumulating here, and then the bacon accumulates in Denmark instead of lying about here. Packers cannot stop killing in Denmark any more than you can do in Canada. It is simply a question of where the bacon accumulates.

Problems of Marketing.

"We will never make any considerable progress in marketing till we take the matter in hand and market what we produce. There is a way, but no way can ever succeed as it should till we learn how. Experts may render assistance, but they cannot do the producer's part, and the producer's part is the most important part."—Farm and Ranch.

"There cannot be too much real study of the problem of marketing, though there may easily be too much talk about it which lacks foundation of fact. It is evident that the best marketing plan in the world can't benefit the man who has nothing to sell, can't make money for the man whose cost of production is too high, can't sell inferior products at profitable prices. Along with our current study of marketing systems we should study systems of economical production, methods of improving the quality of the products, and the vital matter of putting products in marketable condition."—National Stockman and Farmer.

Plodding mediocrity usually accomplishes more than a variable brilliancy.

Talkers.

"I once read a fine description of a certain family," Natalie remarked. "The writer said that it was a family of noble silences."

Although Natalie was not aware of it, her voice was defensive. She knew that she was not a good talker. There were times when she would have given much to be a good talker, a person who said clever and sparkling things. How stupid just to chatter on endlessly about commonplace doings!

Cousin Lou's head lifted to the alert pose peculiar to her when she was interested in something. "That's fine," she agreed. "The phrase makes such a clear distinction without saying a word! If there are noble silences,—and there certainly are,—then there are also silences that are ignoble. There are not only silences that are cowardly but silences that are lazy and selfish."

Natalie looked startled; she had not supposed that the phrase was double-edged. "I don't see how," she protested.

Cousin Lou apparently was not thinking especially of her young relative. "How silences can be lazy?" she asked. "Oh, yes, indeed, my dear! Heaps of people are silent from laziness; their bodies may be active enough, but their minds slump down in rocking-chairs all day long. Think of a world like ours with its exhaustless beauties and adventures and discoveries, to say nothing of the millions of human beings in it all of whom have the most interesting thing under the sun—human nature. And then think of a mind so lazy that it can go through a day without finding anything worth remarking on!"

Natalie colored. "Oh, it's not that there isn't anything worth talking about," she said; "it's that other people don't care about those things."

"How do you know they don't?"

Natalie's color deepened, but her chin lifted. "I know because of the kind of things they do talk about—whom you saw at the post office and what he said and she said and they said and how Miss Mattie Barber's knee is and what color flowers to put on last year's hat."

"Yet when a novelist writes about those things we find them intensely interesting. Funny, isn't it?"

Natalie looked startled. "I wonder why?" she asked slowly.

"Because of our imagination and of our sympathy and love for folks. You remember Mrs. Browning's description of Euripides with his 'touches of things common till they rose to touch the spheres'?"

Natalie shook her head whimsically. "You're cruel, Cousin Lou; you put No Thoroughfare across all my little secret paths."

"And turn you out on the great trails of endless adventure!" Cousin Lou smiled. "Bon voyage, little girl!"

Vacation Work for Boys.

A boy of high school age was very anxious to earn money during his vacation. His parents objected to his doing inside work, but agreed to give their consent if he could find employment in the open. For years the boy had been spending his Saturdays and vacations in the woods, studying the birds, the flowers and the trees. Knowing something about nature, he decided to be a nature guide. He placed an advertisement in the local paper saying that he was about to form a class of young boys to study nature in the open, the price to be twenty-five cents a lesson.

His first response was very gratifying, and the class grew so rapidly that he soon divided the boys into classes of eight. Each went to the woods once a week to study the birds, the flowers and the trees. He taught the boys all he knew about the different trees and what they are used for. He showed them the danger of many woods becoming barren of flowers through the greed of visitors. He taught them the service that the birds render to mankind by eating insects and the seeds of weed plants. The summer's work gave many of the boys of the town an insight into nature and a love for out-of-door things and paid the young guide a reasonable sum for his services.

Lamb in Canada.

Lamb consumption is probably growing but it is noticeable that our average per capita consumption of 10½ lbs. for both mutton and lamb in Canada is only about one-sixth that of the pork consumption and about one-thirteenth our consumption of all meats. The growth of city life, already a potent factor in changing our bacon demand from the heavy-fat to the lean-tender types, is active in our domestic lamb consumption. Sedentary, indoor life is increasing the consumptive demand for light, delicate meat and the tendency to smaller families is together with improved means of retail marketing, creating every year a growing trade demand for small cuts which can be served fresh.

A Right Beginning for Young Livestock Lovers

Learning Early to Produce What the Consumer Wants

A love of livestock is almost instinctive in the early days of those brought up in the country. That it so often seems to die away as boys and girls grow up is due to lack of encouragement and the absence of direction for an inborn faculty. Properly guided, this early proclivity ought to grow with the years. Nothing would stimulate interest in livestock more than the proper guidance of this instinct towards a definite goal by setting before young people a plainly marked standard of attainment. Perhaps there would be less cause for regret that so many boys and girls "leave the farm" if this fact were better and more widely understood.

One of the safest standards for attainment in livestock, whether for youth or adult, is that breeding and raising stock should be directed towards meeting the market demand of the consumer. In fact, in Canada today the matter of increased production only is not the important problem. It is chiefly the need for increased production in those classes of livestock, beef cattle, hogs, sheep and lambs, which will best supply the after-needs of those who take the animal off the hands of the farmer to prepare it into meat for the consumer.

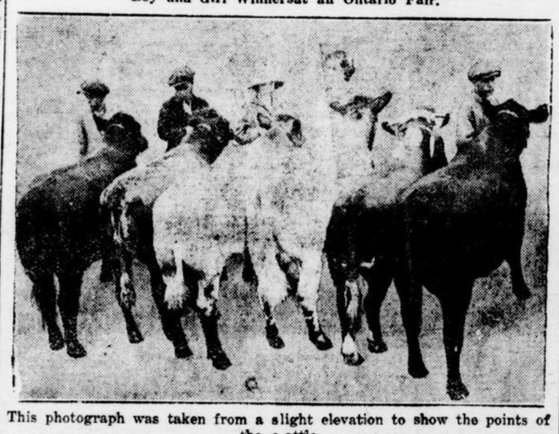
The illustration, taken at the Western Fair, London, Ont., last fall, is an example of well directed effort. It shows the winners in the baby beef classes for boys and girls. This is not the place to tell in detail what the aims and objects are of boys' and girls' livestock clubs, juvenile competitions and junior farmers' movements. There are many agencies for that purpose in existence, in particular the branches of the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, and the idea is growing in popularity in both east and west.

The point, however, in this work which may be properly urged in this article, is that for the general run of farm animals intended for beef, pork, mutton or lamb, the young producers should continually have before them a clear idea of producing for market needs and that prize-winning is only the outward mark of having the market needs in view. These needs may differ slightly from season to season but in any case they are best interpreted by those men through whose instrumentality the farmers' produce is prepared for the consumer. No meat-yielding livestock is good unless in the last resort it fulfills the ultimate demand for meat as set by millions on millions of consumers. Pure-bred animals generally are most likely to yield good market types because, after all, the pure-bred standards of every country are based largely upon the broad demand of that country's markets taken over a series of years.

But pure-breds are not essential to good market types. There are classes of livestock which fall short of show standard that are excellently suited for the market of the day. This fact and the profitableness such livestock offer in supplying the current demand could well be emphasized in boys' and girls' clubs.

Breeding points, methods of feeding and systems of care are all important. Yet, while these may differ widely according to locality, the youthful farmers, boys and girls, will not go far wrong in this early work if the requirements of the consumers' markets are kept steadily before them as the final goal of successful livestock farming.

Boy and Girl Winnersat an Ontario Fair.



This photograph was taken from a slight elevation to show the points of the c attle.

Thirty Years' Successful Farming

In a period when the profession of farming is more or less stagnant, when the tendency in so many countries is from the rural districts to the cities and industrial centres, and the oft-made complaint is that the ardors and deprivations of an agricultural life are not commensurate with its compensations, it is consoling to read the history of a satisfied farmer of thirty years' standing, one of the continent's premier agriculturists, celebrating his seventieth birthday in the tranquil satisfaction of the honors which have come to him in his chosen profession.

Such a man is Samuel Larcombe, of Birtle, Manitoba, who expresses pride in the realization of the signal part he has played in making the possibilities of Western Canada known to the world.

The record of Mr. Larcombe's thirty years of farming is almost phenomenal. In that period, with the products of his Manitoba farm, he has carried off no less than three thousand prizes, including the world's championship for wheat at the Peoria International Fair in 1917 and the sweepstake for the best individual farmer's exhibit as well as the sweepstake for wheat in the dry-farming section at the World's Soil Products exhibition in Kansas in 1918. His Canadian successes constitute an aggregate which gives him an average over his farming years of one hundred prizes per year.

Born in a little Devon village and for ten years following the pursuit of market gardener, Mr. Larcombe's experience forms a farther addition to the examples of outstanding success achieved by immigrants from the British Isles, unacquainted with Western conditions. He came to Winnipeg in 1889 and proceeded to Birtle, where even then existed a thriving colony of old country farmers. After a year's experience as hired man with a farmer in the district, he rented a farm which, after five years, he purchased and still occupies.

At a time when everyone was engrossed in wheat he concentrated not so much upon grains as on vegetables. His first local exhibit won three prizes, and in his first ten years of farming he made forty entries and secured 134 awards. From 1905 to 1908 he grew roots, vegetables and grain for the Canadian Pacific Railway for exhibition purposes in other countries, and produced citrons, cucumbers, pumpkins, squash and marrows for the the Dominion Government for the same purpose.

Mr. Larcombe's career as an exhibitor has been one consistent succession of triumphs too lengthy to mention in detail. His international successes have brought considerable renown to Western Canada and widely advertised the wonderful possibilities of intelligent farming with assiduous application. Mr. Larcombe recently celebrated his seventieth birthday on the farm which has been the scene of every one of his achievements. He can look back over his thirty years of agricultural life in Manitoba with supreme satisfaction in the knowledge that in winning renown and prosperity for himself he has pointed the way to thousands of his fellow-countrymen.

The Sunday School Lesson

AUGUST 13

Esther Saves Her People, Esther 4: 10 to 5:3. Golden Text —The righteous cried, and the Lord heard, and delivered them out of their troubles.—Ps. 34:17 (Rev. Ver.)

Lesson Foreword—In preparation for the lesson, the whole Book of Esther should be read. One scholar epitomizes it thus: Esther is the story of a beautiful Jewess of Susa whom Xerxes (Ahaserus) raises from his concubines to be his queen, and who uses her influence over him to save her people from a general massacre which the grand vizier (Haman) has prepared for them by way of avenging an affront from one of the race. The story of Esther has ever been popular with the Jews for it magnifies the importance of the Jewish people, and breathes throughout the traditional pride of their race. It also explains the origin of the feast of Purim, basing it on a signal national triumph. (See ch. 9 and especially vs. 26, 31, 32.)

I. An Urgent Request, 4: 10-17.

Haman, piqued at Mordecai's lack of civility to him persuades the king to issue a decree permitting the slaughter of the Jews. (See ch. 3: 1-15.) The Jews are filled with consternation and Mordecai sits by the palace gate clothed in sackcloth and ashes. When Esther sends out other clothes to him, he refuses to put them on but urges Esther to go to the king and beg that the decree be reversed. Ch. 4: 1-9.

V. 10. **Hatach;** one of the eunuchs of Ahaserus' court and probably a personal attendant upon Esther, the queen. He must have been a trustworthy man to carry such confidential messages between Esther and Mordecai.

V. 11. In order to preserve the dignity of the king and to prevent him from assassination, it was a law of the Persians that no one could approach the king without being summoned. Not even the queen could appear before the king except by summons. It was now thirty days since Ahasuerus had sent for Esther. It would, therefore, be dangerous for Esther to venture, unbidden, into the king's private chambers.

V. 13. **Think not** that thou shalt **escape.** Esther was, of course, a Jewess, a relative of the hated Mordecai; but this was not known at the court. Yet when and if it were finally known, she would perish in the general massacre of her people. So it was just as dangerous for her to remain away as to go in to the king.

V. 14. **Enlargement and deliverance to the Jews from another place.** The Book of Esther nowhere mentions the name of God; this is an instance of how the mention of it is avoided. "Another place" clearly refers to God. If Esther will not plead before the king for her people, then God himself, remembering his ancient promise to Israel will deliver them. **But thou and thy father's house,** etc. If Esther refuses to intercede on behalf of the Jews, she will be visited with a special judgment which will involve all of her family. Eventually the other Jews may escape the decreed massacre, but Esther and her family will not so escape. **Who knoweth,** etc. Remember that Mordecai is urging Esther to appear before the king for Israel's sake. He has urged other pleas, but now he plaeds on very high and unselfish grounds.

V. 16. A very deep chord among Esther's heart-strings has been touched and now vibrates with noble response. She resolved with calm determination and with her eyes opened clearly upon the grave dangers, to enter, unsummoned, the inner chamber of the king. She requested that all the Jews in Susa should lend her their spiritual support. They were to fast for three days; this general abasement would be accompanied, no doubt, with prayers for the success of her mission.

II. Esther Finds Favor, 5: 1-3.

V. 1. **Esther put on,** etc. The queen arrayed herself in her finest garments so as to enhance her beauty and charms in the eyes of the king. **The inner court of the king's house.** In 1884-6 Dieulafoy excavated the ruins of the palace of Artaxerxes in Susa. He describes the palace as standing in the midst of a garden or "paradise," surrounded with a fortified wall. In one section of the royal residence was the harem, or "house of the women"; in another section was the throne-room, surrounded with an open space that may have been used as a garden.

V. 2. **The king held out . . the golden sceptre.** The golden sceptre appears in the monuments as "a long tapering rod with a headlike ornament at one end and a loop at the other." Josephus says: "The king sat with a golden sceptre in his hand; and when he wished to save any one who came uncalled, he held it out to him; and he that touched it was safe."

V. 3. **Even . . to the half of the kingdom.** See Mark 6: 23. This has been described as "the exaggeration born of Oriental politeness." It was not meant to be taken too literally, any more than the offer of a merchant in an Eastern bazaar who says to the prospective purchaser, "O take it for nothing."

Application.

The Sin of Silence. It is sadly true; it is as prophetic and faithful a word to us in our circumstances and time as to queen Esther. "If thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time," some one else will speak the brave, timely word, which brings deliverance, and thy abject coward spirit will shrink, and wither and "perish." Of course, there are times when silence is golden—it may be kindly, and the result of self-restraint and calm strength. And every man knows in his heart whether duty commands silence or speech.

Consider the importance of the present, of to-day, in the matter of personal relation to God. The Scriptures certainly stress this. "Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To-day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts . . Exhort one another daily, while it is called To-day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin," Heb. 3: 7, 13. "He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation," 2 Cor. 6: 2.

There are considerations that may be presented to the minds of a class of young people, emphasizing this—if ever this matter is decided it will be on some "to-day"; it is wise then that it be this day; all experience shows that the early teens is a more hopeful time for religious choice than a later time; it is God's will, it is duty, that it be now, if the decision has not been made before.

Treatment for Blackhead in Turkeys.

Blackhead has formerly been considered incurable but lately the ipecac treatment has given success in many cases. To prevent blackhead give a teaspoonful of powdered ipecac to each twenty turkeys twice a week. This is given in a moist mash. When a turkey is sick with blackhead give ten drops of fluid extract of ipecac three times per day for three days. Then give it twice a day for two days and follow with a dose a day for three days.

Where blackhead causes severe losses it has usually been considered best to discontinue raising turkeys until the soil becomes free from the disease.

Why is it that every person thinks he can stir the fire better than the one who holds the poker?

We tried it. Advised by some wise person, we hung a wet sheet in the bedroom for the purpose of cooling the atmosphere during the reign of a recent "solar wave." The mercury went down the eight of one degree; that was all. Nothing in it.

Don't use your milking machine for a vacuum cleaner. As the machine is carried from one cow to another there is a possibility of the teat-cups dragging on the barn floor. When this happens and the vacuum is not shut off, the milking-machine draws dirt from the floor into the milk-pail.

Bedtime Stories

Ragged Robin.

(The Legend of a Flower.)

Wee Robin Red in ruddy coat was known in fairyland—well known and loved the best of all the airy, fairy band. He took three winks within a rose; he bathed in dewdrops fair; he swung head down from cobwebs bright and climbed a rainbow stair. He darted here, he scrambled there, he twinkled in and out; such trifling things as fairy clothes he never thought about.

One day, when Robin's velvet coat was fringed around with tatters, the fairies said the careless elf must learn to heed such matters.

Wherever Robin went he heard, "Where goest, Ragged Robin?" From every tongue there came the word, "What doest, Ragged Robin?"

Wee Robin hung his golden head, then slipped off quietly and flung his much betattered coat as far as he could see.

Upon a flowerless plant it lay, a splash of ruddy bloom, and there it lies to this far day and lights the wood's gray gloom.

Military service will never get the world ahead nor give as good training to young men as service on farms, in mines, at sea, or in lumber camps. All these combine adventure with creative, not destructive work.

Good Roads in Colonial Days

"One day through the primeval wood
A calf walked home, as good calves should,
But left a trail all bent askew,
A crooked trail, as all calves do.
Since then three hundred years have fled
And I assume the calf is dead,
But still he left behind his trail
And thereby hangs my moral tale.
The trail was taken up next day
By a lone dog that passed that way,
And then a wise bell-wether sheep
Pursued the trail o'er vale and steep
And led his flock behind him, too,
As good bell-wethers always do.
And since that day, o'er hill and glade
Through those old woods, a path was made.
And many men wound in and out
And bent and turned and dodged about
And uttered words of righteous wrath
Because 'twas such a crooked path.
But still they followed, do not laugh,
The first migrations of that calf,
And through the winding woodway stalked
Because he wobbled when he walked."

WHY THE SEED GREW

In the first place, the seed grew because in it was the germ of life. It was a good seed. A dead seed simply will not produce a plant under any circumstances whatsoever.

Then it was placed in the right surroundings. The seed will not grow if planted on a cake of ice, or a hot stove, or in a dry room. The gardener knows these things and he works faithfully to get the seed in close contact with the soil so it will have moisture, air and the right temperature. He provides these ends by first preparing a fine seed-bed and then by taking precautions to have the seed come in the very closest contact with the soil. Watch him and you will see him tramp the earth firmly over the row after the seed has been drilled in. This he does to get the right contact between the seed and the earth.

A good many folks are not growing because they have lost contact with the world. Rural folks being separated from their fellow-beings to a greater extent than urban people, are more likely to suffer in this respect. The farmer should set about to keep himself in contact with those persons and agencies who will contribute to his growth. He should keep in touch with his neighbors, his banker, and other business men, with his county representative, his agricultural college and experiment station. And this contact with the world in general will furnish conditions for the development of the various talents with which he may be possessed.

WANDERING ORGANS

Almost all of the organs within the abdominal cavity are normally more or less movable and at best have rather weak supports; for them to become displaced therefore is not rare, though it is much less common than a person who knows how lightly they are supported would suppose.

If we went on all fours the abdominal wall would support our internal organs; or at least, if they did fall, they could not fall far. But, since we stand or sit most of the time, the only things which usually hold the contents of the abdomen in place are the abdominal muscles, which are always more or less tense, and the folds of membrane that stretch between the viscera and the back wall of the abdomen. Those membrane folds are strong but, if always pulled, are bound to yield sometime. It is the weakening of those supports that results in the organs' falling. The intestines are the most movable of the internal organs.

The symptoms of fallen or of displaced abdominal organs are not always pronounced; usually signs of indigestion are present—a feeling of heaviness after eating, pain in the upper part of the abdomen and in the back, nausea and sometimes vomiting and flatulence. Persons who have fallen organs are usually thin and nervous and sallow; they are inclined to have headaches and are easily fatigued. The abdomen is flat above and projects over the pelvic bone. The back is curved; the body is bent forward and the head is bent back.

The organs that are most commonly displaced are the large intestine, the stomach, the right kidney and often the liver; the left kidney and the spleen are better supported.

To prevent organs from falling is easier than to cure them when they have fallen. Children who are delicate should be watched with care, especially when they are developing; they should have plenty of nutritious and fattening food and should be given proper exercises to strengthen the abdominal and other muscles; they should live as much as possible in the open air. A tendency to be constipated should be corrected.

Any person whose internal organs are wholly unsupported should wear a properly fitted abdominal support and should lie down as much as possible. The bowels must be regulated, and the food, though it should be fattening, should not be too bulky. The abdominal muscles must be strengthened by massage and also by postural exercises. If that treatment is faithfully followed it will often bring relief and may even cure.

Investments, like charity, should begin at home.

"Physic," says an old surgeon, "is the art of amusing the patient while Nature cures the disease."

Experience goes a great way in this world, but nothing except native ability answers for a man with a June bug up his trousers' leg.

Remember that the strawberry is a shallow-rooted plant and therefore needs frequent shallow cultivation; a two-inch dirt mulch is ideal.

Now is the time to make strenuous warfare on the weeds. Once they produce seed the damage is done and their mission is filled.

The man knew what he was talking about when he said that an oil can is a better tool than a monkey-wrench, for the amateur on the gas-engine or tractor.

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