

# 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.



**C. S.—I have three or four acres of corn stubble, good ground, which I want to sow to buckwheat this season. I would like to know how it would do to sow sweet clover with it. Which would grow the fastest? We sow buckwheat here in June as soon after planting as possible. Would there be a chance to get buckwheat or would the clover beat it out? Would it make good fodder?**

**Answer—**You could sow sweet clover with buckwheat but I am afraid the result would not be satisfactory. The buckwheat makes very rapid growth and would in all probability smother the clover. You would do much better if you would sow the sweet clover in oats or barley. I do not believe the mixture of sweet clover and buckwheat would make satisfactory fodder because both are very coarse in straw, especially the buckwheat. Sweet clover must be cut early if you are going to use it for hay, otherwise it would get very woody.

**A. L.—What means can I take to rid my farm of English sparrows?**

**Answer—**I do not know any practical method of ridding a farm of English sparrows. Cutting down brushwood which surrounds the fields will destroy their nesting places. As a rule they cling pretty closely to barn yards and groves. Crop the ground nearer the barn and woodlots or groves to fodder crops or corn, potatoes and so forth, crops on which the sparrows do not live.

**W. G. S.—We are gardening on twenty acres here, and, of course, we haven't enough manure to cover it. Would it be wise to spread lime on the ground? It is black sand loam. Or would lime and manure do any harm to land? We have a carbide lighting system in the house. Is that stuff good for the land? It's very watery when we charge the plant.**

**Answer—**You could spread lime on your garden ground and use it to good effect for most crops. However, this will not add to the plant food of the soil. Lime corrects sourness but does not add to the plant food. Do not mix lime with manure when you are applying it. The lime from the carbide lighting system should be fairly good. Spread it evenly over the ground and work it in. If you are short of manure get a bag of fertilizer analyzing 4-8-4. This is a fairly rich garden fertilizer and should give you good results.

**A. F.—Can you tell me which is the most profitable hay to sow on light sandy loam? Could you tell me whether Hungarian hay will give a good crop and how to prepare the soil for it? I heard some farmers say that Hungarian hay is similar to alfalfa in harvesting. How many times can it be cut in one season?**

**Answer—**For light sandy loam soil few crops can beat alfalfa. This produces splendid hay and if you can get it well started it will stand for a number of seasons. Hungarian grass is an annual type of millet which makes fairly good hay but you can only cut one crop from it. It certainly is not to be compared with alfalfa.

## Some Do's and Don't's in Setting Fruit Trees.

Don't put manure in the holes when setting trees. Orchardists have given manure a thorough trial and condemn it. If you do use manure, place it on top of the ground around the tree, but be sure to scrape it away before fall. It makes fine mouse nests if you leave it near the tree.

Don't crowd the roots or curve them around the hole. It is far better to cut them off if they are too long.

Don't leave air spaces under the roots; air is fatal to the root growth. Don't allow the trees to lie in the sun while you are digging holes. Dip the roots in water or, better still, in a pail or tub filled with thick muddy water.

If you can possibly spare them, put a few potatoes under each tree around the roots. The rotting potatoes furnish moisture and some plant food. If they grow, let them, but do not attempt to dig the potatoes.

Don't forget to cut back the branches to a length of not over six inches. Cut off all side branches of the peach trees. Do the pruning after you are through setting. Lean the trees a little in the direction of prevailing winds.

Don't put soil around the roots. Save the top soil and put it in the bottom around the roots.

Don't set out dwarf trees in a commercial orchard. They are for the city lot or garden. Don't set out standard trees on the city lot. Dwarf trees take up but little room and bear young.

Don't buy trees just because they are cheap. A cheap tree is a mighty dear tree. Deal only with reputable nurseries.

Don't buy pictures, buy trees. The standard varieties need no fancy pictures.

Don't let the high price of nursery stock prevent you from setting out some trees. A year from now your money will be gone and you will not have the trees.

Don't let your axe prevent you from setting out an orchard. You are never too old to set trees. Father set apple trees when he was past sixty and lived to eat many an apple from them.

## Being Kitchen Slavey.

About three years ago the good wife was sick in bed for two weeks and I was the kitchen slave.

Say, I tell you, I got so tired of lugging water, filling and cleaning lamps, wearing off my knuckles on the washboard, that I said to myself, "never again."

I had to have an engine to run my cream separator, so I got a kerosene one at \$100. A belt-driven washing machine cost me \$41. That paid for itself in twenty washdays.

I had soft water in the bathroom, but no hard water. I bought a tank from a junk pile for \$2 and piped the water from the windmill to it.

I laid an iron sink, \$1, on the floor of the back room and a short piece of hose connected to the washing machine carried off the water. This ran near the roots of my raspberry plants and in the dry weather was a blessing to them.

I had the house wired. I bought a second-hand generator for \$50, batteries for \$65, and now have electric lights in the house, hen house, barn and hog pen. Incidentally, a contented wife.—R. L. Beckwith.

A strong social spirit can be maintained in a community only when each member of that community contributes his part to its social activities.

## Fertilizers for Gardens.

Fertilizers give great results in the garden. No garden is so rich that a careful use of the right fertilizers will not make better vegetables and more of them. I have seen gardens so rich in nitrogen that all kinds of plants made a rank growth, but many failed to produce good crops because of a lack of other soil elements. Wood ashes, ground phosphate rock, and ground bone are the common natural fertilizers for balancing where manure or green crops are used freely. Lime is not a fertilizer but is valuable to sweeten the soil and give the plants a chance to get the plant food in an available form.

Garden soils will be sure to get sour if kept manured for this tends to make them sour, and a soil to do its best should be more or less alkaline. Potash is not often needed, but phosphorus is commonly deficient, and bone-meal is one of the best fertilizers to use for phosphorus, as it is very rich in it, and also contains much lime and some nitrogen.

The best way to use bone-meal is to spread a narrow strip of it out a little from the row on each side and stir it into the soil. Barely cover the soil of these two or three-inch strips with a dusting of the bone-meal as a heavy application is not needed and more may be given later if it is thought best. It is perfectly safe and becomes available slowly, so lasts for a long time. One application is enough for quick-growing plants, but crops growing all summer will be benefited by a second. A light sprinkling of nitrate of soda when planting starts the plants off quickly as it is ready to use at once before much soil nitrogen becomes available.

My experience has proven to me that some cows are more susceptible to loss of appetite than others. Cows of this type should be gradually eliminated from the herd. However, the dairyman should learn to recognize the approach of this trouble and be continuously on the alert to avoid such conditions that would likely cause it. It is a great deal easier and more profitable to avert loss of appetite among members of the herd than to correct the trouble after it once occurs.

The ration should have as much variety as possible. Change of feed stimulates appetite and encourages the cows to increase production. Clean sweet roughage and grain should be fed and nothing else. I find that wheat bran in the ration is a wonderful appetite stimulant and keeps the digestive system in active working condition. I like to change my roughage feed as often as possible. Salt is essential and should be kept constantly before the cows, either in the yard or stable.

## The Sunday School Lesson

APRIL 15.

**Joseph, the Preserver of His People. Lesson Passage: Gen. 30: 22-24; 37: 2 to 50; 26. Golden Text — Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.—Exod. 20: 12.**

**LESSON FOREWORD—**Among the patriarchs Joseph stands perhaps only second to Abraham as regards the level of high moral personality. In today's lesson we may observe two of his outstanding traits. First, there is his magnanimous forgiveness. All the more remarkable does his forgiveness appear when viewed against the moral background of his own generation. His was an age which, on the whole, believed in retaliation, rather than forgiveness. "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" was its usual practice. Second, his conception of providence, in which he unites the actions and fortunes of men with God's directing and controlling hand. To recognize that God makes even the sins of men serve his purposes with-out thereby lessening their moral responsibility was the solid achievement of Joseph's faith.

**I. A Noble Forgiveness, 3-8.**

V. 3. This touching scene took place in Joseph's house—perhaps in the audience chamber. (See ch. 44:14.) Judah has been interceding passionately for Benjamin (44: 18-34) and Joseph could no longer restrain his pent-up feelings. *I am Joseph.* There is a sublime simplicity in this brief disclosure. In Hebrew there are but two words—"I" and "Joseph." They were troubled; conscience-stricken that the brother whom they had sought to kill should be the powerful ruler.

V. 5. *Be not grieved.* Joseph uttered not a word of anger or revenge. He sought to soothe his brothers' troubled consciences. *God did send me.* He recognized a providential purpose in his life. His brothers, in selling him into Egypt had been the unconscious instruments of God.

V. 6. *The famine.* In Palestine famines were frequent because the fertility of the soil is almost entirely dependent upon the rainfall. In Egypt, however, not only is there remarkable fertility but, as Warren says, it is not directly dependent on rainfall, the annual flooding of the Nile inundating nearly the whole land and making the cultivation of the soil, as a general rule, a yearly certainty. Sometimes, though rarely, the Nile failed to overflow and a famine ensued. One of the Ptolemies had to import grain from Syria and Phoenicia because of a famine in Egypt. *Eating; plowing.* See Isa. 30: 24. "The oxen and the young asses that eat the ground."

V. 7. *To preserve you a posterity;* leave you descendants. Had it not been for Joseph's timely aid, the whole house of Jacob might have perished with famine.

V. 8. *A father to Pharaoh.* This was perhaps an official title of the chief administrator under the king. Joseph had become a sort of vizier in Pharaoh's court. Aliens of capacity and fidelity were sometimes elevated to the most responsible positions in the state by Eastern monarchs.

**II. A Bountiful Provision, 9-15.**

V. 9. *Haste ye.* Joseph bade them haste because he longed to see his father and because, if they delayed, his father might meanwhile perish through the famine.

V. 10. *The land of Goshen.* Goshen, one of the names of lower Egypt, comprised the territory lying to the east of the Nile delta. Situated on the frontiers of the desert, it was frequently invaded by hungry nomads. It was an excellent pasture region, and since Jacob and his family were shepherds and not agriculturists, it would admirably suit their tastes and pursuits.

V. 11. *There will I nourish thee.* A Hebrew slave rising to the highest position in Egypt, drawing his family after him, and supporting them with public property entrusted to his care,

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The carnauba, or wax palm, has many commercial uses, but its chief value is its production of wax for making phonograph records. The best quality comes from the tenderest leaves. They are cut at three different periods during the wax season, which extends from September to March. It takes about two thousand leaves to make twenty-five to thirty pounds of wax. The leaves are dried in the sun and when thoroughly withered are beaten with hammers to remove the wax. The raw product is melted in boiling water and strained to remove foreign matter.

### A Mystery.

I can't imagine why I feel As badly as I do 'Most every day at nine o'clock! From then till half past two, I'm hardly able to sit up! But when I'm glad to say, I'm always better when the time Has come for us to play!

Desire health, learn how to get it, and then keep on doing the things which will keep you from getting sick. This is the way to begin building a healthy community.

Nature will soon appear in her spring clothes. As Nature's dress-maker, the farmer should use every effort, for his own interest, to see that her clothes are not too scanty.



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## BUILDERS NOT WRECKERS

There are two things which every farmer should keep in mind, particularly if he plans on staying in the farming business. One of these is to make a living, and the other is to so handle his land that it will be more easy to supply his wants in years to come than it is now.

There are too many farmers who feel that the immediate present is the all-important time. They mortgage the future by taking fertility from their land to a point where the soil becomes exhausted. Farmers should definitely plan some sure and economic way of building soil instead of wrecking it. This plan should also pay its way as it goes.

An agricultural expert makes, in this connection, the following suggestions:

1. Conserve rigidly all animal manures, solid and liquid.
2. Supplement them with phosphate fertilizers.
3. In short rotations use nitro-clover, and in long rotations add nitrogenous fertilizers on the hay crop.
4. Use high analysis fertilizers on the cash crop.
5. Lime when and as much as necessary.

We believe that thousands of Ontario farmers could adopt this program to their advantage.

## Distributing Real Wealth.

We would have less troubles with prices, wages, strikes, unions, cost of living, and similar problems, if we could only get two or three simple economic facts through the heads of more people.

The first is that money is not wealth, and is to be desired only because it is exchangeable for real wealth. Wealth is sugar, shoes, autos, seeds, soap, straw hats, automobiles, amber beads, books, bread, buttons, clocks, cornets, candy, corn, cod-liver oil, and all the other things we eat, wear, or enjoy.

The second fact is that the wealthiest nation is the one that produces and consumes the largest quantities of all these things.

The third is that the happiest nation is the one that produces much wealth, and consumes it as evenly as possible among all classes.

The real trouble at the bottom of most social unrest is the feeling that a small number of individuals at the top of the social ladder do none of the producing, and an outrageously large part of the consuming. This is true. But too many people jump to the wrong conclusion that the remedy is to produce less. To have wealth to be distributed, it must first be produced. After that comes the problem of distributing it as evenly as possible, according to what each individual has contributed toward producing it.

## Canada's Meat Packing Industry

Judged by the value of annual production the slaughtering and meat packing industry of Canada is the Dominion's second most important manufacturing activity. According to Government statistics covering a survey of the industry in the year 1921, there were then 54 slaughtering and meat packing establishments in operation in Canada which had a total production value of \$153,136,259. Of the 54 plants, 6 were located in Prince Edward Island, 3 in Nova Scotia, 6 in New Brunswick, 17 in Quebec, 29 in Ontario 7 in Manitoba, 2 in Saskatchewan, 7 in Alberta and 6 in British Columbia.

The total amount invested in all Canadian plants was \$58,459,555, and 9,928 employees were engaged at wages and salaries totalling \$13,547,778. The cost of animals slaughtered and materials used totalled \$113,389,835 and the total expenditure amounted to \$138,129,570. The capital invested in the 16 plants of the Maritime Provinces was \$568,063 and had a production value of \$1,926,144. Quebec plants were capitalized at \$7,595,428 and produced goods to the extent of \$20,255,231. Ontario capitalization in the industry was \$34,421,821 with a production value of \$94,732,180. The Prairie Provinces' plants were capitalized at \$12,600,445 and had an annual production of \$28,360,362.

Among the chief products of the industry in 1921 were meats sold fresh to the extent of \$62,674,353; cured meats to the value of \$53,636,627; lard and lard compound, \$11,751,806; cooked meats, \$8,006,333; sausage, fresh and cured, \$4,274,777; canned meats, \$1,451,856; hides, \$2,827,309; oleo and other oils, \$1,075,292. Other products of lesser value were tallow, oleomargarine, essences, animal tanks, age, bones, raw and ground, complete fertilizers, skins, glue wool and hair.

In the Canadian slaughtering and meat packing industry, imports amount annually to about half the value of exports. In the year under survey the former amounted to \$18,821,126 and the latter to \$39,157,370. The principal items of import were: fresh, chilled and frozen pork to the value of \$5,248,518; cattle hides \$2,073,443; bacon and hams \$1,547,419; and lard \$1,234,979. The export of bacon and hams was easily the principal item of the outgoing trade, accounting for \$25,613,062. Beef, fresh, chilled and frozen, accounted for an export value of \$4,057,958. Cattle hides exported had a value of \$2,270,079. Mutton and lamb exported had a value of \$1,748,845.