News And Views Of And For The Farmers

SWEET CLOVER A RIVAL OF ALFALFA

When an intelligent farmer, after growing alfalfa with good results for forty-seven years, stops raising that crop entirely, people are inclined to be curious. This farmer, William Linton, of Aurora, however, will answer their questions in one sentence:

"I have stopped growing alfalfa because I have found something better."

"That's all right," you say, "but prove it."

Mr. Linton has proved it, not only to his own satisfaction, but to that of his neighbors as well.

That "something" which this well-known farmer has found is sweet clover.

History of the Plant.

It is a rather interesting bit of history that led up to the discovering of this so-called weed. Mr. Linton's son, while walking along the railroad, noticed bees collecting around the plants, and, thinking it would be a good thing for his own bees, secured some seed and sowed it in his pasture. In this pasture were fifteen head of cattle, and when the bee-feed began to come up the stock left the fresh pasture and turned to the sweet clover, and the result was they were so fond of it that it never got a chance to flower.

The father was then persuaded to grow some. "I sowed three-quarters of an acre near the road so people could see it. They saw it all right, and most of them thought me, well to put it mildly, rather foolish.

"Besides sowing fourteen acres and giving three bushels to my son, I sold over $120 worth of seed off that one small field.

"The next year I plowed an acre under in the orchard with splendid results.

Selling the Seed.

"I had no difficulty in disposing of the seed from the thirteen acres. Five and a half loads of clover were threshed out, and I sold the seed for $2,000. In one day the seed man in Toronto took $1,000 worth.

"Next year twenty-five acres were sown, and the seed was sold to over five hundred people. Every province except Prince Edward Island received some. I sent one shipment of over $300 worth to Manitoba."

"Now, just what is sweet clover?" I asked its founder.

"Sweet clover is a legume, and, like all legumes, adds nitrogen to the soil. At the present time the surface-rooting plants are beginning to suffer for want of rain, while sweet clover, with its deep roots, is thriving on an abundant supply far below the reach of the roots of other plants. The root system of sweet clover is enormous. There probably is no field crop plant that will send its roots so deep and so completely fill the ground with them as will sweet clover. This whole root system dies the second year of the plant's life and goes back into decay. If it is true that this system has built up from potash secured from the sub-soil and from nitrogen secured from the air, then their decay must not only add nitrogen but must add potash and other mineral elements as well.

As a Green Manure.

"I ploughed down a piece like that in the orchard last week," Mr. Linton remarked. "We put a heavy chain on the plow and it was not a bad job at all.

"You would be surprised to note the results on the soil the year after. Two years ago we sowed half a field with this clover and oats. The other half was put into oats only. After the crop was harvested we let the clover grow up and plowed it under in the fall. The same grain was sown the next year over the whole field, but where the legume had been plowed under, the oats were from eight inches to a foot higher. This land here is a heavy clay, and bakes very easily, but with a crop of sweet clover turned under it loosens it up like a loam."

"Do you handle this plant similar to the other clover?"

"No, it is rather harder, but after a few years' experience I have found the best time for seeding is in the spring, and preferably on fall wheat or rye, better on the snow in March and without stirring the soil. If sown with an over-crop do so as early as possible; with spring wheat or barley or oats, barley is the best. It is a great mistake in sowing grass seed of any kind with a nurse crop to use too much seed, and trying to raise a full yield of grain. It is folly to smother out your clover, alfalfa or sweet clover, by sowing bushels of oats per acre, thereby expecting a full crop of grain, and at the same time to look for a good catch of your seeds. It is always best, if you use oats as a nurse crop, to use the earliest varieties and sow not over one and a half-bushels to the acre. It may be sown in the spring without a cover crop, and it will grow throughout the season and be pastured in the fall, or a crop of hay may be cut in September or October. We sowed six acres in our corn after the last working, which grew all right, but we do not know yet what the result will be.

"Sweet clover has failed when sowed on fresh plowed land, the failure being due doubtless to not having a compact seed bed. It must have a solid seed bed. It invariably does well on corn ground if not cultivated too deep in the spring. It can be sown broadcast or with the drill, from 12 to 15 pounds to the acre if to be used for seed or pasture, but for hay twenty pounds should be sown.

Hay.

"It does not sprout from the root like alfalfa, but from the stem, therefore it should not be cut close to the ground. The hay should be cut when there is no dew on it, for it is a very succulent plant, and is more difficult to cure than alfalfa, and care must be used in properly curing it if the most is to be got out of it for feeding. The manner advisable is to let it wilt, then rake into windrows, to remain for a day, then put into cock to cure. Do not let it get too dry, as the leaves become very brittle, and in the handling much of the best is lost. It must not be allowed to reach the woody stage before cutting, because in such stage its feeding value is seriously impaired, if not lost. It is just as necessary to understand its nature and habits as it is necessary to know that of other crops, and so know how to handle them. It should be cut the second year at the time it begins to form bloom buds, about the middle of June in this latitude. When the hay is properly cured I have found my stock as anxious to eat it as the best alfalfa hay.

"I usually saved the second crop for seed. In harvesting, after trying the binder, I went back to the old self-rake reaper. The best method I have found is to cut it about ten to twelve inches high, so that the crop rests on the stubble, and should it rain it soon dries.

"In hauling it in I use a canvas to cover the waggon box and pack so as to save all the seed.

"I thresh with the ordinary grain thresher, and then put it through the regular huller or clover mill.

How to Handle.

"The plan I usually follow," Mr. Linton continued, "is briefly this: I cut the grain at the usual time, the straw with the clover in it making excellent feed. Then I pasture the clover till fairly late, till about the end of October. The next year I take two cuttings, one for hay and one for seed, let it grow up, and plow it under.

"Sweet clover will grow almost anywhere. On heavy clay to blow sand it thrives equally well. It is an easy starter, a prolific grower, and an abundant seeder. It defies drought, will thrive on wet lands, and grows in a very wide range of climates. There is one thing that it must have, however, and that is lime.

Some Experiments.

"There are many new things I would like to learn about this plant: Whether it is better plowed under or left to rot as a mulch? Just when is the best time to cut it? Could you use it in a silo? I am experimenting with all these questions except the latter."

Here is an opportunity for the Agricultural College. The Government supplies it with the money to carry on experiments for the benefit of the farmers. Up till a few years ago the college staff condemned sweet clover as a weed. Do they still hold this view?

It was a farmer who found this new clover, and it is the farmers who are carrying on the work of introducing and experimenting with it.—Gordon Furrow.

Friend Of The Farmer.

After devoting a little study to the life and habits of the skunk, farmers are realizing that the animal is really one of their best friends. Judged by its climbing ability the skunk is not up to the mark but climbing is not the only test of merit. Insect pests disappear before the skunk and the farmer loses much yearly from insect pests. Army worms and wheat-head worms cause heavy losses to grain every year and the skunk makes short work of every one of these worms. White grubs in a corn field mean loss to the farmer. Little holes bored in the ground beside the corn stalks show that the skunk has been hunting the white grubs and helping the farmer where he cannot help himself.

The skunk loves grasshoppers — and the farmer does not; strawberries are possible because the skunk keeps the roots free from grubs; May beetles and June bugs come from the white grubs and are short-lived if skunks are around. Cut worms, crickets, sphinx moths, sweet potato beetles, Colorado potato bugs, field mice and rats are tit-bits for the skunk. Nothing equals the skunk as a rat exterminator about barns. Tomato worms can not flourish with skunks around.

Like Tray, the skunk has been found in bad company; a few have caught chickens and have had the good taste to like them and to keep on liking them. Because of that all skunks are condemned. Then often take the blame for injury done by minks and weasels. These are expert climbers but a skunk kills only what is found on the ground. He does clean out a beehive on short notice, but it can be elevated beyond his reach.

With The Chickens.

A healthy pullet will not prolong the moulting period beyond six weeks, but an old hen may take three of four months to change her feathers.

Reduce the rations of the birds to hasten the moult.

A dust bath of ashes, plus a handful of sulphur, will help to banish parasites.

If fattening chickens are kept too long they go back and nothing will make them as good again.

Kill the fattened chickens at home —a journey reduces the weight of live ones.

Remember that the bigger the turkey the better the price per pound.

Learn to pluck clean and use the shaping board.

Get rid of the mongrels.

Spray The Cows.

A sudden falling off in the milk supply at this time of year is often caused by flies. Cows must be contented, if they give their full yield, and if they have to fight all day they are sure to show the results of their annoyance at milking time.

The best way to fight flies is with a spray pump and some suitable preparation. A carbolic acid or kerosene solution is effective, and is not difficult to apply to cattle. It is often safer to buy some good preparation than to try to mix it yourself. There is some danger that the carbolic acid or coal tar solutions may be made so strong that the cattle will be burned, or so weak that they will not be effective against the flies.

Warning to Poets.

We beg to announce that the poem entitled "War" sent to this department by George Warrington Witherup has been referred to the grand jury Mr. Witherup's attempt to assault us with the couplet—

—no more we pluck the raisin
In the Valley of the Aisne,

we regard as simply felonious and pacifists though we be decline to remain non-resistants in the face of such an outrage—N. Y. Times.

KINGSTON MARKETS

Kingston, July 24.

Meats.		
Beef, local carcases, lb. ....$	11	12
Beef, hinds, lb. ..	13	14
Beef, cuts, lb....	15	25
Beef, western, by carcase, lb. ...	13	14
Hogs, live, cwt. ..	..	9 75
Hogs, dressed, lb. .	..	14
Lamb, spring, by carcase, lb.	..	13
Mutton, lb.	..	13
Veal, by carcase, quarter, lb. ..	08	14
Fish.		
Bloaters, doz.	..	40
Cod, steak, lb. ...	..	12½
Eels, lb.	..	10
Haddock, fresh, lb.	..	12½
Haddock, frozen, lb	08	12
Halibut, fresh, lb.	..	20
Herring, fresh salt water, doz. ...	..	50
Mackerel	..	15
Pickerel, lb.	..	15
Kippers, doz. ...		60
Perch, lb.	..	05
Pike, lb.	..	12½
Rock-fish, lb.	..	05
Salmon, Saguenay, lb.	..	30
Suckers, lb.	..	05
Trout, salmon. lb.	..	15
White fish, lb. ..	12½	15
Poultry.		
Chickens, dressed lb.	..	20
Chickens, live, lb.	..	15
Ducks, lb.	12	15
Hens, dressed, lb.	..	15
Hens, live, lb. ...	..	10
Turkeys, lb.	18	20
Dairy Products.		
Butter, creamery lb.	..	35
Butter, prints, lb.	..	32
Butter, rolls lb ..	..	32
Cheese, old, lb. ..	..	18
Cheese, new, lb. ..	..	20
Eggs, fresh, doz. .	..	25
Fruit.		
Apricots, doz.	..	15
Bananas, doz.	..	20
Cantelope	15	20
Cherries, basket .	..	80
Cucumbers, each .	..	05
Figs, lb.	..	15
Lemons, Messina, doz.	..	20
Peaches, doz.	..	30
Plums, doz.	..	15
Nuts mixed, lb. ..	..	20
Oranges, doz.	20	60
Tomatoes, lb.	..	10
Raspberries, red .	..	15
Raspberries, blue .	13	15
Watermelon, each	40	60
Vegetables.		
Beets, bush. .....$	..	50
Cabbage, new, lb..	..	10
Celery, bunch ...	..	15
Lettuce, bunch, doz.	..	50
Onions, green, bunches, doz. .	..	50
Potatoes, bush. ..	..	50
Parsnips, bush. ...	..	75
Rhubarb, bunch ..	..	10
Turnips, bag	..	75
Grain.		
Barley, bush. ....$	..	1 00
Bran, ton	..	27 00
Buckwheat, bush. .	..	1.15
Corn, yellow feed, bush.	..	95
Corn, cracked cwt.	..	1 80
Corn, meal, cwt. ..	..	2 45
Flour, cwt.	3 65	3 85
Hay, baled, ton ..	..	19 00
Hay, loose	17 00	19 00
Oats, local bush. .	..	70
Oats, Man., bush..	..	75
Straw, baled, ton..	..	9 00
Straw, loose, ton .	..	9 00
Wheat, bush.	..	1 45
Hides.		
Beef hides, cured, per lb.		14c
Beef, hides, green, lb.		12c
Heavy bulls, lb.		8c
Veals, green, lb.		12c
Deacons, each		90c
Tallow rendered in cakes		5c
Kips or grassers, lb.		8c
Calf skins, per lb.		15c
Lamb and shearling, each ..		25c
Sheep skins, each, up to		$2.00
Horse hides, each, up to		$3.50

SELL BROILERS NOW.

Broilers or early spring chickens weighing about one and one-half to two pounds live weight, are in demand.

Here, according to officials of the Wisconsin Poultry Association, are some points to consider in the feeding and selling of broilers.

The top of the selling season is in early July.

Milk-fed broilers command the best uniform prices and are worth it. Keep clean, fresh buttermilk or skim milk constantly before the fowls intended for market. Feed a wet mash of corn meal, bran, and middlings at least twice daily.

It doesn't pay the average Wisconsin farmer to keep broilers closely confined for fattening. An open range is better.

The American breeds make the best broilers. Use only early hatched stock for broilers. If a good fair price cannot be obtained, hold the fowls a few weeks and sell as roasters when about four to four and one-half pounds in weight.

Ship fowls in strong, roomy crates Watch the market closely and ship in dozen lots if possible.

Farmers, These Are For You.

Farmer's Advocate.

What's the use of weed-growing on land worth $100 per acre?

A paddock for the bull will mean more and stronger calves.

The stock farm's equipment is not complete unless a silo is there.

Summer silage and soiling crops will soon be getting in their best work.

If you cannot keep the summer-fallow clean during the summer sow buckwheat now.

All signs point to very high priced meat. The man who has held on to his breeding stock will win.

Have you spudded out the last Canada thistle from the grain field and uprooted the last dock from the meadow?

A clean farm, with good, comfortable buildings and well-kept grounds is more to be desired than much money in the bank.

Free range on cultivated soil for chicks improves the flock. The corn field, after the corn is growing well, is just the place.

Spudding thistles is rather tedious work. Nevertheless, it makes clean fields, and clean fields are a first step towards good farming.

Only the farmer who has had to put up with city life, can fully appreciate the farm in June, or, for that matter, in any other month.

When The Hogs—

Refuse to eat, or fail to come to the feeding;

Huddle together in nests or pens.

Are stiff, gummy-eyed, and red-skinned;

Are constipated and then have scours.

Have a temperature of above 104 degrees;

And die after ailing a few days—

They have cholera, and all hogs on the place which are in health should be sold. All carcasses should be burned, with all rubbish about the lots and sties. The pens should be cleaned and disinfected. The hogs should be given clean, dry sleeping quarters and kept out of mud and filth. They should be quarantined to prevent the spread of the disease to other farms. A competent verterinarian should be called in at once to give the serum treatment. The above is recommended by the Veterinary Department of the Wisconsin Experiment Station.

Midsummer.

Keep on cultivating and watering and make the latter heavy.

In sowing lettuce this late in the year choose a shaded place.

Rake up and destroy tops of early potatoes as soon as the digging is done.

Bagging grapes ensures early fruit of best quality.

Cucumbers should be protected from squash bugs and blight. Use slacked lime and tobacco dust for the purpose.

Cut cabbages instead of pulling them and so get a growth of shoots that are tender and delicious.

Set eggs for late chickens. If hatched in August they will do well before cold weather.

Spray the henhouse with coal oil to kill lice and mites.

Provide shade for chickens that are on range.

SOME VERY INTERESTING NOTES

Don't use a scrub boar.

Get the binder fixed up.

Give cows six to eight weeks' rest between lactation periods.

Feed little or no corn to the brood sow.

Roxtail is the greatest enemy of alfalfa.

Feed heifers liberally and milk regularly.

Hogs, beef and sheep prices are all remaining high.

Raspberries made their first appearance on the market here last week.

Raise only the calves from the cows with the large production of milk.

Keep the pullets growing. It is the early maturing hen that makes the winter layer.

Things are looking greener after last week's rain, but it was just three weeks too late.

The fall wheat in many sections will soon be ready to cut. There should be a fair yield of both straw and grain.

Sour cherries are now quite plentiful on the Toronto market, and prices accordingly are rather low.

To find the number of tons of hay in a barn multiply the length, width and height of the mow in feet and divide the result by 400.

To get the full value out of green manuring see that the stuff plowed under is really green. The riper and woodier it is the less suitable.

There are too many poor cream separators in this country. Let a pail a skim milk stand over night and see the cream on it in the morning.

Your cows should be bred only to a pure-bred registered bull, whose family has a large butter-fat record.

With blueberries selling at sixteen cents a box, it might not be a bad idea to cultivate this fruit.

All garden stuff owing to the recent dry weather, will be scarce this year. Early cabbages and potatoes suffered severely.

Have you the barn cleaned out ready for the grain? In some sections the harvest will be in this month.

Do not cut the lawn any more this season. Give the grass a chance to grow up and go to seed. This will make a thicker turf next year.

Silage is economical. On the same acreage two cattle may be fed where one could be if it were in pasture. There is little or no waste in feeding it.

Calves never thrive when subject to intense heat and flies—house them comfortably during the day in a cool, darkened stable, but do not neglect to keep them clean.

There are over 300 Farmers' Clubs in Ontario.

It will pay to build a silo this year, as rough feed is going to be scarce.

Keep the chicks growing. Early laying pullets are valuable.

Spray your potatoes to kill the bugs and the blight.

Keep the seed pods off the rhubarb or it will become tough.

Milk your cows regularly, and weigh the output from each animal daily.

Give your bull exercise by supplying him with a run.

It is time the Canadian thistles be spudded out of the grain.

The price of beef is rising. The man who kept his breeding stock is the one who will make the money.

The United States apple crop this year will be about 60 per cent. of that of last season.

To get white cauliflower tie the leaves over the head as soon as the head is formed.

Experiments conducted at the University of Wisconsin have proven that silage in summer has about the same feeding value as soiling crops.

To break up a clucker set her in a box with a wire floor and hang her up in a place where the air blows underneath.

Breed heifers to drop their first calves at 24 to 50 months of age. Give cows six to eight weeks' rest between lactation periods.

It is not too late to plant melons, cucumbers or pumpkins, but only the early varieties should be sown.

Mill feeds can usually be purchased cheaper in the summer. Buy your winter supply now.

Disinfectants In The Stable.

The use of disinfectants in the stable is happily becoming much more common on the average farm than in former years. This practice should become still more general. In fact, the emergency medicine chest on every farm should be supplied with a suitable disinfectant which will serve either as a germicide or an insecticide. One of the standard coal tar dips and disinfectants is most suitable for this purpose for the reason that these preparations are standardized and must be up to the Government requirements. This is a guarantee that these preparations will give the same results in use at all times, which fact, in addition to their convenience and safety, makes them peculiarly adapted to fill the need for which they are specially manufactured.

Too often the use of such disinfectants is limited to the combating of insect pests. If the sheep are infested with ticks or the hogs or other stock with lice, the average farmer worthy of the name will take steps to eradicate them by using a suitable insecticide. The chances are that the same disinfectant may be quite as profitably used on the same farm as a germicide, but the farmer is far less apt to use it, as the need does not appeal to him until the time for effective disinfection has passed.

Many a valuable colt might have been saved had the dam's stall been suitably disinfected before she foaled, thus forestalling the dreaded navel infection. Many a calf might be started more thriftily on the road to baby beef by proper disinfection of pens and stables. And besides the saving of loss from the spreading of infectious diseases among the live stock the use of a disinfectant will generally prevent the serious infection of wounds in accident and emergency cases and is an invaluable safeguard in performing the minor surgery incident to the conduct of every farm.

In fact, there are so many uses for an efficient and cheap disinfectant about the stable, that no farmer can afford to be without some such preparation, especially during the hot summer season, when germ life abounds.—Michigan Farmer.

New Kind of Stone.

Charles M. Schwab, the United States "Steel King," who has placed the Bethlehem Steel Works at the disposal of France, is by no means above a joke, a characteristic which dates from his early school days.

It is recorded that one day his school-master asked the scholars to bring specimens of various stones to the class in geology for him to describe them to them.

Young Schwab, thinking to have a joke at the expense of the teacher, brought half a brick and laid it with an air of mock innocence among the other specimens.

The master took up the specimens one by one. "This," he said, "is a piece of feldspar from the cross-roads. This is a piece of marl from the meadow. This is a piece of argillaceous sandstone from the quarry. And this"—he paused, and his voice changed ominously—"is a piece of impertinence from Charles Schwab!"

Ancestry Of The Hen.

Darwin believed that our domestic fowls are descended from the jungle fowls of India. As other authorities have sometimes disputed his view, the statement of Charles William Beebe, curator of ornithology, at the New York zoological park, is especially interesting: "After studying all four species of feral Gallus in their native haunts as well as many examples of natural and artificial hybridizing and reviewing the evidence from all points of view I can find no reason to attribute the ancestry of all varieties of our domestic fowls to other than the red jungle fowl in India."

Truth is stranger than fiction because there's less on the market.

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A KRUPP GUN HERE.

Captured German Gun To Be Exhibited At The Fair.

Toronto, July 23.—Some idea of the dimensions and destructive power of the captured German gun which the British War Office is loaning to the fair as part of the war trophy exhibit, may be gleaned from the fact that for purposes of crating a box 16 feet long, 9 feet high an a box 16 feet long, 9 feet high and 8 feet wide was required. This is just about the dimensions of the modern sized room of the average dwelling.

The Exhibition's representative in England in sending along the information that the gun is now on its way to Toronto writes that "of the hundreds of guns in possession of the British this is the only one that is complete." When unlimbered, he says, "it will take up one whole side of your exhibit." The terrible Krupp engine of destruction will be shown complete with carriage, timbers, wheels, breach block, sights, covers, ammunition wagons, cases, poles, etc.

After that awful three days fight at Ypres on April 22nd, 23rd and 24th, the 48th Highlanders of Toronto had only one drum left and the head of that was riddled with bullets and shrapnel. The shot torn skin has been received at the Exhibition offices and is a most interesting relic. Traced in pencil and ink is a complete record of the movements of the Kilted Regiment from the time they first went into training at Long Branch until the bloody engagement at Ypres, St. Julien and Langemarck, the continuity of the story being interrupted here and there by great ugly holes where the shrapnel and other death-dealing missles went through.

An old bachelor says matrimony is the cemetery in which love is buried.

THE REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY.

General view of the plants where a strike threatens to tie up the manufacturing of huge quantities of munitions ordered by the Allies.

HIS DEATH SUSPICIOUS.

Canadian Prisoner in Germany May Have Been Ill-treated.

Ottawa, July 24.—Mystery enshrouds the circumstances of the death of Pte. A. Wright, of the 10th Battalion, who figures in the casualty lists. His name was received by the Militia Department as one who died while a prisoner of war in Germany after being "struck on back of head with iron." The cable announcing the casualty gave no particulars as to what sort of iron it was and under what circumstances it caused the prisoner's death, but further particulars are expected. On the face of it it looks like a case of possible ill treatment of a prisoner, but it is not probable if such were actually the case the suspicious wording of the notification of death would have been allowed to go through.

Old age pensions were first proposed in the British Parliament in 1772.

The New York Fruit Store.

Red Cherries, 11 quart baskets 75c
Black Sweet Cherries, 11 quart baskets $1.50
Cantaloupes ..... 10c and 15c each
Watermelons ..... 75c each
Grape Fruit ..... 3 for 25c and 4 for 25c
Tomatoes ..... 10c a lb.
Goods delivered to all parts of the city.

Phone 1405

Every Woman Can Have Beautiful Abundant Lustrous Hair

The clever women of Canada have learned that Parisian Sage possesses the peculiar power to turn dull, lifeless-looking hair into lustrous, fascinating hair.

And that is why a head of dull appearing hair is a rarity nowadays, for why should any woman neglect the opportunity to make her hair beautiful when it adds so greatly to her charms?

Parisian Sage not only beautifies the hair, but it makes hair grow abundantly, stops it from falling out, and removes every trace of dandruff.

It is the ideal hair dressing for the whole family, because it is not sticky or greasy, and possesses a refreshing and invigorating quality not found in ordinary hair preparations.

It makes the scalp feel splendid the minute you put it on the head. Sold by druggists everywhere for 50c. a large bottle.

For aches, pains, rheumatism, etc., try Parisian Mustard Cerate. Its effect is wonderful. Use in place of mustard plasters, poultices or hot applications. Will not blister. 25c. a tube.