

# News And Views Of And For Canadian Farmers

## Sprouted Oats For Hen Feed

In purchasing oats, with the intention of sprouting the same to provide green feed for poultry, the poultry man should satisfy himself that the oats will sprout. This kind of grain is sometimes treated with sulphur to make it more attractive, and oats so treated will not sprout. Green food is essential in keeping birds in a healthy condition, and where provision of green vegetables has not been made, sprouted oats are most satisfactory on account of the good keeping quality of the grain and the small amount of space necessary for their storage.

The only requirement in the sprouting of oats is a warm, moist atmosphere, for they will not grow satisfactorily in a temperature below 60 degrees. They will grow to a height of 1 1/2 to 2 inches in ten days if they are kept at a temperature above 70 degrees. A place near the furnace in the cellar is very desirable, providing there is a sufficient amount of light to keep the

oats green. The oats should be soaked for twelve hours in warm water and then spread out in a layer of one-half inch deep on the floor or in a tray or tier of flats which have openings or holes or a 2.16-inch mesh wire bottom, so that the water drains freely. They should be sprouted daily with warm water and allowed to sprout without stirring. They reach their best feeding condition when they are 1 1/2 to 2 inches in height. When oats are being sprouted in a room of low temperature they frequently become mouldy while they are sprouting. To prevent this they may be treated with formalin, using 1 pint of formalin to 30 gallons of water, which may be sprinkled over and thoroughly mixed with 30 bushels of oats. The oats should be covered with a blanket for 24 hours and then stirred until they are dry. They should be kept in sacks which have also been soaked in formalin. Oats thus treated may be held for a long time for sprouting.

## IRON AND APPLES

Overlooking the valley of the North Fork of the Kettle River, a few miles above Grand Forks, B.C., there is a mountain called Volcanic Mountain, in which there is a large percentage of iron. This is passed by the Kettle Valley railway, there are many tons of red dust, consisting largely of iron. A few years ago, Mr. A. D. Morrison, a vineyardist of Grand Forks, who, besides growing Concord and other grapes, grows apples, determined to try an experiment with the dust from Volcanic Mountain, with the object of finding out what effect iron would have on the coloring of apples.

He had two apple trees, of the Wealthy variety, which were of the same age, and apparently similar in all respects. He placed some of the iron dust at the roots of one of the trees, but none at the roots of the other. When his apples ripened in the fall, he found, as he expected, that there was a distinct improvement in the coloring of the apples from the tree which had the iron dust at its roots. He found, also, that the iron had another unexpected and marvelous effect. The apples from the tree with the iron dust at its roots tasted two full months longer than the apples from the other tree.

This discovery was a matter of great importance to Grand Forks; as the orchards of the district now contain nearly two hundred thousand apple trees, and furnished in 1912, according to the report of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, nearly one third of all the apples produced that year in British Columbia. The great beauty of the coloring for which the apples of the district are noted is, without doubt, partly due to the presence of iron, and a greater or less extent, in most of the soil there.

The results of Mr. Morrison's experiment are, however, of equal im-

portance to the apple growers of Ontario, since large quantities of iron filings annually go to waste in this Province, which might be used by them, and there are also immense quantities of scrap-iron, which might be put into such a form that it could be used.

If the use of our waste iron will improve the coloring of our Ontario apples, thus adding greatly to the attractiveness of their appearance, and also add considerably to the length of the time during which they can be used, let it, by all means, be used for this purpose.

## Keep The Best Stock

Owing to the heavy drain upon the live stock of the various warring countries of Europe, they have been forced to go abroad for supplies. The longer the war lasts the greater will be this demand. Moreover, when peace is restored, these countries will require large numbers of the various classes of animals to replenish their studs, herds and flocks. It should be borne in mind, however, that the buyers, who come to this country after the war, will require better animals than have been bought during war time, as they will be used largely for breeding purposes.

With this end in view, the best of the females and particularly the young stock should be kept for breeding purposes. Breeders should endeavor to raise all the live stock possible at this time, in order that the country may be able to supply a large number of the animals that are certain to be needed by the warring countries.

## Canada's Apple Trade

In six months ending September last some 3345,600 worth of apples were imported, largely from the U. S. into Canada; \$48,500 cherries; \$52,200 grapes; \$230,000 peaches; \$178,000 plums, \$220,000 pears. While we imported close to \$350,000 worth of apples, exports are recorded in the same period of only \$99,893, mostly to the United Kingdom.

## SAVING A CROP OF BARLEY

J. D. MacGregor, who is visiting the Winter Fair, is more than a raiser of fat cattle—he is an experimenter in new lines of agriculture.

On his farm near Brandon, Man., he has several large wooden silos. These structures have been formerly filled with corn, but this year, owing to the cold, wet weather, this crop in that section of the Dominion proved a failure.

The early frosts slightly damaged many acres of his barley. It was impossible to thresh the barley, and he turned grain, and to save the crop he put it all in the silo. It was "killing two birds with one stone." The silos were going to be empty and the barley was going to spoil, but by a little extra care both "would-be" losses were turned to a profit.

The barley, straw and all, was cut up as fine as possible and blown into the silo together with a good half-inch stream of water under about twenty pounds pressure. A little more difficulty in tramping was experienced than with corn, but the stuff kept well and made quite a good feed as ordinary corn ensilage. Next year Mr. MacGregor is going to mix barley with his corn, and is also going to try some peas in the same manner.

## CHOPPED STUFF

Turkeys are reported to be scarce on the Toronto market.

Snowdrifts make poor protection for valuable machinery. This is the wood harvesting season. Use all the dead trees first.

A short course in agriculture will be conducted by the Ontario Agricultural College from January 11th to 22nd.

Clean the stable windows and let that essential to the perfect health of your stock, sunlight, have a chance to do its work.

Increase the proportion of corn in your chicken feed as the cold weather comes on. Two of corn to one of wheat is a good winter feed.

The past season has been the best in modern times for the breeders of registered Leicester sheep. Nearly 500 rams were sold by auction, and the prices were better than in any previous season.

The reports regarding the root crops are not very encouraging, and suggest that, on the whole, the supply will be under the average. It is to be feared, too, that some of the mangolds have got caught by the frost, which will tend further to aggravate the difficulties to be faced before spring grass is available.

## Joe Martin Resigns Seat

London, Feb. 4.—The St. Pancras Chronicle, Liberal organ for that division, understands that Mr. Joseph Martin has at last resigned his seat in the British House of Commons, and expresses the hope that this is true. The Chronicle says that Mr. Martin has really resigned St. Pancras and ought to be very pleased and set the joy bells ringing, and adds that he will be glad to announce the local charities to which Mr. Martin has consented to hand his Parliamentary allowance for the period during which he has been absent from the country.

hard, \$1.32 5-8; No. 1 Northern, \$1.31 5-8; No. 2, do., \$1.28 5-8; No. 2 hard Montana, \$1.25 3-8 to \$1.30 3-8; May, \$1.31 5-8 to \$1.32 5-8; July, \$1.30 1-4 to \$1.30 5-8. Linseed—Cash, \$2.31 3-4; May, \$2.34 1-4; July, \$2.33 3-4.

## New York

New York, Feb. 4.—Flour—Steady. Rye flour—Quiet. Hay—No. 1, \$1.20; No. 2, \$1.20; No. 3, \$1.05 to \$1.10; shipping, 90c to 95c. Hops—Steady. Hides—Firm. Leather—Firm.

## Liverpool

Liverpool, Feb. 4.—Closing: Wheat, spot steady; No. 1 Manitoba, 14s 1-2d; No. 2 Manitoba, 13s 11d; No. 1 hard winter, 14s; No. 1 Northern, Duluth, 14s 1d. Corn, spot quiet; American mixed, new, 10s 10d. Flour, winter patents, 49s 6d. Hops in London (Pacific coast), 44 to 45.

## GENERAL TRADE

Butter.—Belleville, 34c to 35c per pound; Berlin, 30c to 32c; Chatham, 30c to 35c; Owen Sound, 28c to 30c; Peterboro, 30c to 32c; Port Hope, 35c; St. Thomas, 34c to 35c; Stratford, 30c to 32c; and Woodstock, 33c to 34c.

## Eggs

Belleville, 32c to 36c per dozen; Berlin, 32c to 35c; Chatham, 30c to 40c; Owen Sound, 28c to 30c; Peterboro, 30c to 32c; Port Hope, 35c; St. Thomas, 34c to 35c; Stratford, 30c to 32c; and Woodstock, 33c to 34c per dozen.

## Poultry

Belleville, 15c to 16c per pound; Berlin, 15c to 20c; Owen Sound, 15c to 18c; Peterboro, 15c to 20c; Port Hope, 18c to 22c; St. Thomas, 15c to 18c; Stratford, 16c to 18c; and Woodstock, 15c per pound.

## Potatoes

Belleville, \$1.30 to \$1.35 per bushel; Berlin, \$1.50 to \$1.75; Chatham, \$1.35 to \$1.40; Owen Sound, \$1.15; Peterboro, \$1.25; St. Thomas, \$1.35 to \$1.50; Stratford, \$1.50 to \$1.75; and Woodstock, \$1.25 per bushel.

## Wheat

Belleville, \$1.07 to \$1.10 per bushel; Berlin, \$1.10; Chatham, \$1.05 to \$1.10; Owen Sound, \$1.10; Peterboro, \$1.05; Port Hope, 90c to

## COST OF PRODUCING MILK

The cost of producing milk obviously depends a great deal on the milking capacity of the cows used. Comparison between two farms, the best and eight of the poorer cows in an Ontario dairy record centre shows that there was a difference in profit per cow of \$24.56. The eight high yielding cows giving an average profit of \$57.21 while the poorer cows returned a profit of only \$32.65 per head. The milk in each case was valued at \$1.15 per hundred pounds. The difference would no doubt have been very much reduced had the feeding been the same for all the animals. Those that yielded the higher profit were much better fed than the others. The average cost of their feed for the milking period being \$43.96 per head, while the food received by the less profitable animals was valued at \$23.33 per head. Calculating from the standpoint of cost of the milk and protection against disease, yields made only 32 cents profit on a hundred pounds of milk while the higher yielding cows made 54 cents profit from an equal amount of milk.

This information and a great deal more of equal value is contained in the recently issued annual report of the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

## Feeding Hens By Lamplight

I have made a little advance in poultry feeding for winter eggs with Plymouth Rock hens that has not been told before, that I know of, writes James R. Bellamy, Kleckow, Sask., on the North West Farmer.

One cause of failure to get winter eggs is the shortness of time that hens have for feeding in December and January. I have tried warming the houses and saw artificial heat tried with poor success. Now, I have taught my hens to feed by lamplight, both night and morning, in a cold house that freezes the eggs. This proves that the length of feeding time is the cause. I am getting a good supply of eggs since December 10th.

## DAIRY PROSPECTS

After the war is over there may possibly be a temporary drop in the prices for dairy products, especially during the reconstruction period, but the hope is expressed that should prices decline for the time being, they may not to any extent influence milk producers to decrease their herds, but to continue to make dairying a permanent feature of their farming operations. Past and present conditions prove that there is no other line of agriculture which will, for a period of years, pay better than dairy farming.—Western Dairyman.

## Kingston Markets

Kingston, Feb. 5th.

Meats  
Beef, local carcasses, lb. 08 09  
Beef, hinds, lb. 10 11  
Beef, steaks, lb. 15 23  
Beef, western, heavy carcass, lb. 11 12  
Hogs, live, cwt. 9.50  
Hogs, dressed, cwt. 13.50  
Lamb, spring, by carcass, lb. 3  
Mutton, carcass, lb. 17  
Veal, carcass, lb. 10  
Veal by qtr., lb. 08 14

Fish  
Bloaters, doz. 50  
Microcos, lb. 15  
Cod, 2 1/2%  
Fllets, lb. 15  
Finnan haddie, lb. 12 1/2%  
Eels, lb. 10  
Haddock, fresh, lb. 12 1/2%  
Halibut, fresh, lb. 15 20  
Haddock, frozen, lb. 08 12  
Herring, fresh salt water, doz. 50  
Kippers, doz. 50  
Mackerel 15  
Oysters, qt. 50 60  
Oysters, shell, doz. 30  
Pickrel, lb. 10  
Pike, lb. 05  
Rock-fish, lb. 05  
Tom-cods, lb. 07  
Trout, salmon, lb. 15  
White fish, lb. 15  
Sardines, lb. 05  
Salmon 15 25

Fruit  
Bananas, doz. 20  
Dates, lb. 10  
Grapefruit, each 05 10  
Grapes, Malaga, lb. 20  
Figs, lb. 20  
Lemons, Messina, 30  
Lima beans, lb. 20  
Oranges, doz. 20 40  
Rhubarb, bunch 15  
Spay apples, bbl. \$ 5 00 \$ 5 50  
Tomatoes, lb. 40

Poultry  
Ducks, lb. 20  
Chickens, live, lb. 15  
Chickens, bro., lb. 20  
Hens, dressed, lb. 15

## MATE UP PENS NOW

Now is the time to mate up the breeding pens for hatching eggs. Make the final culling, retaining only the strongest, thriftiest individuals.

See that these layers are receiving a good laying ration, supplying plenty of protein, green feed and oyster shell. This is the time to feed the surplus vegetables that are stored away in the cellar. A cabbage head suspended by strings, a couple of feet from the floor will be relished by the hens. Be sure you are giving them plenty of exercise. Whole grain should be fed in a ten-inch litter.

Clean up the incubator and get it in running order. It might be advisable to run a trial batch before the season opens.

There is always some new equipment such as brooders and feed hoppers, and this is the time to order all such supplies.

Have you considered any addition to your poultry yard? A small trial with ducks, geese, turkeys, capons or pigeons may prove profitable.

## For The Poultry Raiser

When the fowls get off the roost in the morning they should have a small feed; it may be a wet mash moistened, not sloppy. If dry mash is used exclusively, a sufficient number of hoppers should be used to allow all fowls to feed for an hour, then close the hoppers until noon when they should remain open the rest of the day.

Scratch food should be scattered in the litter in the morning, sufficient to keep the fowls working until about 3 p.m., in winter and 6 p.m. in summer, when the night food of wheat or cracked corn should be given, as much as they will eat up clean.

Water: As the egg contains a large quantity of water, and the process of manufacturing the egg goes on day and night, water is just as necessary as grain, and when poultry pays, water must be supplied. The poultry raiser who boasts that he does not water his fowls when it snows or is ground but lets them eat snow or pick at the frozen water, cannot boast of large egg production, and therefore cannot make poultry pay.

The egg shell must not contain sufficient quantity of lime to supply a business hen with shell matter. Lime must be supplied in some form. Crushed oyster shell is the best. If that cannot be had, old plaster, slaked lime or sifted coal ashes will help, and when fed from a hopper it is surprising how much they will eat.

While supplying the necessary material for the hen to produce the egg, we must supply the necessary material to sustain the fowl, supply a new coat of feathers and keep her in healthy condition.

The more food a laying hen can digest, the greater will be the egg production. The hen's teeth must be looked after—grit being the only teeth that fowls have. Unless proper grit is always supplied, the health of the fowls will be affected. A very important detail which is often overlooked is supplying granulated charcoal; it helps digestion, purifies the

blood, absorbs impurities and prevents bowel trouble to a great extent.—Woman's World for February.

## The Wintering Of Idle Horses

At this time of the year practically all the heavy work on most farms has been finished, and with the approach of winter horses are more or less idle. Some idle horses give no return in labor performed, the feeding should be as economical as possible, and proper care should be taken of the animals in order that they may be in the best possible condition for work in the early spring.

Horses should not be confined to the barn during the winter on a liberal supply of grain. It is far better to "rough" them through the cold months. They should be given the run of the yard or lot during the day. This should be provided with a protected shed one that is thoroughly dry and well provided with bedding. While nature does her part and protects the horse with a heavy coat of hair during the cold months, the shed is necessary in order to afford the necessary shelter and protection against rains, snow and cold winds. Winter winds come mostly from the north and northwest, and the shed should be so situated and constructed as to give the

proper protection from this quarter. In the feeding of idle horses the high-priced feeds should be avoided in order to keep them in proper condition at the lowest cost. It has been found that idle horses do very well on a winter feed consisting of all the hay, oat straw, cornstalks, or sorghums they will consume, so that little grain is necessary. Idleness also permits of a more thorough mastication of the feed, thus ensuring proper digestion.

From six to eight weeks before the Spring work is started the horse should be put at light work and started on a small grain ration in order that they may be in proper condition for the work required of them. The grain ration may then be gradually increased until the regular allowance has been reached for the working season.

Growing colts require considerable protein. They should be so fed as to secure proper development and at a minimum cost. Rough feed, such as clean, mixed hay, alfalfa, or clover, may be fed along with a mixture of bran, oats and corn.—St. Paul Farmer.

## TEST YOUR COWS

It is sometimes given as an excuse for not joining cow-testing associations and keeping milk records that the root and bad cows in a herd are known already, and that it would be only a waste of money and time to provide the necessary outfit, and go to the trouble of weighing the milk and taking the composite samples weekly. Experience has shown, however, that it is almost impossible for the most careful milker to estimate even approximately the milk yield of any cow in a herd, and it is frequently found—when milk records are kept—that there is a difference of as much as one thousand pounds per year between the yields of two cows which were considered equally good milkers by the owner. When this is the case with regard to the quantity of milk, it will be easily understood that the question of quality is much more difficult to decide by observation, as one cow which is considered "very good" may produce a large amount of milk with a low butter-fat test, while another cow producing less, but richer, milk may be the more profitable animal, and this difference can only be ascertained by keeping systematic milk records.

The difficulty of procuring labor for work, it will be easily understood, is also given as an excuse for not testing cows, but when it is considered that weighing the milk and taking composite samples for a herd of ten or twelve cows would not occupy the time of one person for more than about twenty minutes per week, it will be seen that the advantages derived from cow-testing more than compensate for any little trouble involved in keeping the records, especially as the work can generally be carried out by the person who milks the animals.

Give beef cattle, particularly, all the exercise and fresh air possible.

Every now and then a scare over trichinosis from eating infected pork is started. Thorough cooking is the surest prevention, but now it has been found that freezing the pork for twenty days at a temperature of five degrees destroys the parasites, remarks Rural New Yorker.

Freeze The Pork.

Below are the ruling market prices for hides, skins and new furs. These prices represent the full value of the articles quoted, and have been approved as correct by John McKay, Ltd., for dealers:

Horse hides, No. 1 \$4.00  
Beef hides, trimmed, lb. 1.4c  
Sheep skins, fresh \$2.50  
Veal skins, lb. 2.50  
Deacons \$1.00  
Tallow, rendered, lb. 6c  
Beeswax, clear, lb. 25c  
Ginseng, wild, lb. \$7.00  
Musk, spring 46c  
Foxes, No. 1 red \$2.50  
Raccoon, No. 1, prime large \$7.00  
Skunk \$5.00 to \$2.00  
Mink \$5.00 to \$3.00

Exercise and plenty of rough food is necessary for the development of all young farm animals. A little attention now will make for profit after awhile.

Clean up the seed grain with the fanning mill, then hand pick it. The latter job may be a hard one, but it pays.

At a meeting of the Belleville School Board P. J. Wims was appointed representative of the Board to the Public School Board.

## The Latest Market Reports

### LIVE STOCK PRICES

Toronto, Feb. 4.—Export cattle, choice \$2.55 to \$3.00; butchers' choice, \$2.00 to \$2.50; medium \$1.50 to \$2.00; common \$1.00 to \$1.50; butchers' cows, choice \$6 to \$6.50; medium \$5.25 to \$5.75; canners \$3.25 to \$4.00; butchers' hogs, choice \$6.50 to \$7.00; stockers, choice \$6 to \$6.25; light \$5.50 to \$6; milkers, choice, each, \$60 to \$100; springers, \$60 to \$100; sheep, ewes, \$7 to \$8.50; bucks and culs, \$6 to \$7; lambs, \$10 to \$12; hogs, fed and watered, \$10; calves, \$5.50 to \$10.75.

Chicago, Feb. 4.—Wheat showed some renewal of strength as a result of Liverpool advices that were more bullish than had been expected. Argentine shipments to Europe, although increased, were said to be disappointing as to volume, whereas import needs especially in Great Britain, seemed to be on the increase. Buying here, however, was light and the announcement of fresh embargoes against the Philadelphia and Baltimore had an unsettling effect. Opening prices which varied from unchanged figures to 1/2 higher with May at 133 to 132 1/2 and July at 124 1/2 to 124, were followed by a moderate general advance, and then a sharp setback, but not of a lasting sort.

Winnipeg, Feb. 4.—Wheat closed 1-2c to 5-8c higher after a steady day with a narrow margin of fluctuations. May was \$1.29 5-8 at the close and July \$1.28 3-4.

Chicago Live Stock. Chicago, Feb. 4.—Cattle—Receipts 6,000; market steady; native beef steers, \$6.40 to \$6.90; cows and heifers, \$3.20 to \$3.25; calves, \$5 to \$11.25.

Buffalo Live Stock. Buffalo, Feb. 4.—Cattle—Receipts, 100 head; steady: Veals—Receipts, 50 head; active and steady; \$4 to \$12. Hogs—Receipts, 3,200 head; active; heavy, \$8.35 to \$8.50; mixed, \$8.50 to \$8.65; yorkers, \$7.75 to \$8.65; pigs, \$7 to \$7.50; roughs, \$7.25 to \$7.40; stags, \$5 to \$5.75.

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