

News And Views Of And For Canadian Farmers

Rotation And Tillage Methods

The Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station has recently issued Bulletin 155, "Rotations and Tillage Methods in Western Nebraska."

The following subjects are discussed and the yields given for various crops grown under the conditions indicated:

- "Weather Rather Than Tillage Controls Yields."
"Summer Tillage vs. Continuous Cropping."
"Spring Plowing vs. Fall Plowing."

"Corn Stubble vs. Grain Stubble for Simlar Grain."

"Effect of Sorghum on Succeeding Crop."
"Barnyard Manure."
"Green Manure."
"Rotations."

"Alfalfa and Brome Grass."
"Storchum as a Forage Crop."
"Relative Values of Crops Grown."
The following paragraphs are taken from the summary of the bulletin:

The result of eight years of careful experimentation throughout a series of unfavorable years indicates that the common methods of growing crops in this region—the results of thirty years' experiments and observation by intelligent farmers—are founded on sound principles of economic production.

Moisture conditions are so all-powerful in controlling yields that tillage methods, rotations, crop sequences, and soil fertility are all thrown into the background. The changes in weather conditions from season to season and from day to day of each season are so radical and so various that one system of tillage may succeed one year and another system to succeed the next year. However, there are a few rather broad principles that apply to a wide range of conditions covering the medium and also many of the extreme conditions. All of these principles are subject to modification.

THE TIME TO ACT

The old saying has it "there is no time like the present." That this applies with telling force to the selection of good dairy cows will be admitted by every thoughtful dairyman. Selection may be made on the evidence of certain well-known external indications of good milking qualities with special attention paid to the udder, loin, skin, barrel, etc.

DAIRY COWS.

Give Them All the Roughage They Will Clean Up.

In purchasing feed for dairy cattle buy only those rich in protein and mix your own ration. It is not advisable to buy balanced ration feeds, as these are usually too expensive.

There are several rules given by different authorities for the proper feeding of milking cows. No set amounts can be given, however, either for the size of the animal or the breed. They can depend on the individual.

One feeder gives the three following rules, the owned judging for himself which is the most valuable for his cattle.

Feed all the roughage they will clean up and

One pound of grain per day for butterfat they produce each week, or

One pound of grain per day for every three pounds of milk they produce, or

Feed all the grain they will eat without gaining in weight.

Another good rule to follow is to feed all the roughage they will clean up, and

One pound of grain for every four pounds of four per cent. milk, or

One pound of grain per day for every three pounds of five per cent. milk.

Pick a stormy day to look over, fix up, and oil the different sets of harness.

Do Not Sow Weed Seeds

Weeds are one of the greatest sources of worry to the man on the land. They are his greatest enemy, and he must be perpetually at war with them if he is to get the most out of his farm.

Weeds establish competition with other plants for moisture and food, they often shelter and feed injurious insects and fungi, they add impurities to grain and green food, and deteriorate hay.

Some are parasitic, such as dodder in lucerne, while others are poisonous. Some act injuriously on stock, some are milk-tainters, some are detrimental to wool, while some are injurious to farm machinery.

There are occasions when weeds may be useful to the farmer, as for instance, when they provide a protective covering which prevents the wind from blowing the soil away, or the rain from washing the soil away, or when they help to enrich the soil by their decay.

Weeds are often started on a farm through a variety of agencies. They are often brought by the wind, or imported with seed, or brought along by animals, or carried about on implements or on the farmer's boots, or

CHOPPED STUFF

Exercise the stock every day. Keep the stables dry by plenty of litter and ventilation.

Work and beef production is on the increase in British Columbia. A mixture of coal ashes and salt is a great bone producer for young pigs.

All the chickens that will bring in fair returns should be hatched by the end of May.

Exercise the in-foal mare. It is a good thing for her and will make a stronger colt.

Cow testing not only produces better cows, but more interested and better dairymen.

It is a good practise to keep the cows in a box stall a few days before and after calving. This helps to make thicker seedling advisable, particularly on the thin places in the field. It may pay to use as much as 12 pounds per acre on these spots.

Good judgment must also be used as to the time of seeding. Some like to sow real early, say in February of early in March, while others favor late seeding. Observations tend to prove, however, that a happy medium between the very early and the very late seeding gives the best results one year with another.

Late seedings often fail because of dry weather, while if the soil is sown early and nice, warm days come, many of the seeds will sprout and the young plants are then very easily killed by severe weather conditions which follow the warm period.

In any event, it hardly pays to expose the seed to the extremes of early and late seeding. From the 1st to the 15th of March the soil is usually supplied with sufficient moisture and the ground is in the right condition for the seed to work downward to the proper depth to take root, while the action of the soil is usually early and nice, warm days come, many of the seeds will sprout and the young plants are then very easily killed by severe weather conditions which follow the warm period.

Have the incubators set up and aired. Better set a new thermometer, and compare with the old ones, to see that they are correctly registering. Drifts are the result of winds. Break the winds by a row of evergreens and you have solved the winter good roads problem.

There need be no fear of low markets this season. Production will not be as heavy as it was last year, and good prices should prevail for everything the farmer can produce.

Farmers are unquestionably entering upon a very momentous year. There are difficulties ahead even greater than the difficulties now experienced, and it will need all the farmer's native shrewdness to make the most of his land with labor and transport deficiencies.—English Exchange.

THE FARM HOME

There are very few words in the English language as dear as the words home—mother, home and heaven. Not enough farmers pay as much attention to making the farm a real home as they ought. Not only the "house," but the whole farm should be looked upon as "home," and plans should be so laid as to bring the various fields constituting the homestead under such management as to not only make them profitable in a financial point of view, but pleasing and attractive to look upon. If in cultivated crops take such good care of them as to draw one's attention as they pass, and if in grass, have the surface smooth and lawn-like after being mown. Let the fence corners be neatly mown, with no hedgerows left along them; plant some trees, shrubbery and flowers about the buildings, and allow no broken-down waggons or old implements standing about. Keep the farm live stock in that condition that you will not feel ashamed to own it, but on the contrary, be a little proud that it belongs to you, when you exhibit it to your friends. All of these things help to make up the sum total of a real farm home. The orchard and garden also come in as great aids towards making the farm house the most desirable place on earth, for when we write about the home, it is hardly possible to think of any other but the farm house, because it is nearer to Nature and the things that make life so charming in the country. Year by year add something to make the home more dear.—E. H. Dow, in The Weekly Sun.

The Latest Market Reports

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Montreal, Feb. 11.—Butcher steers, best, \$7 to \$7.50; good, \$6.50 to \$7; fair, \$6 to \$6.50; medium, \$5.75 to \$6; and rough, \$5.50; Butcher bulls, best, \$6 to \$6.50; medium, \$5.50 to \$6; canning bulls, \$4.25 to \$5.50.

Butcher cows, best \$6.50; good, \$6; fair, \$5.50; and rough, \$4.50 to \$5.25; canners, \$3.25 to \$3.75; milking cows, \$6 to \$8.

Sheep, 5c to 7c lb., and lambs, 8c to 9 1/2c lb.

Hogs, select, \$10.25 to \$10.75; roughs and mixed lots, \$9.50 to \$10.15; common, \$9.25; and rough, \$7.75 to \$8.00; all weighed off cars, \$7.75; Calves, milk fed, 8c to 9 1/2c per pound, and grass fed, 4 1/2c to 5 1/2c lb.

GRAIN QUOTATIONS.

Toronto, Feb. 11.—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 northern new crop, \$1.23 1/4, in store at Port William; No. 2, \$1.20 1/4; No. 3, \$1.18.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 43 1/2c, in store at Port William; No. 3, 40 1/2c; extra No. 1 feed, 40 1/2c; No. 1 feed, 39 1/2c.

American corn—No. 3, new, 81 1/2c.

Canadian Corn—Feed, 74c to 75c.

New York.

Flour—Market unsettled; spring patents, \$6.50 to \$6.90; winter patents, \$6.20 to \$6.65; winter straights, \$6.10 to \$6.55; Kansas straights, \$6.25 to \$6.59.

Rye flour—Market dull; fair to good, \$5.60 to \$5.75; choice to fancy, \$5.80 to \$5.95.

Buckwheat flour—Market dull; \$2.75 per 100 pounds.

Buckwheat—Market quiet; Japanese, \$1.88; mixed and silver hull, \$1.85.

Chicago.

Wheat—Feb. 11.—Wheat—No. 2 red, \$1.25 to \$1.30; No. 2 hard, nominal; No. 3 hard, \$1.25 1/2 to \$1.28.

Corn—No. 2 yellow, nominal; No. 4 yellow, 71 1/2c to 73 1/2c; No. 4 white, 71 1/2c to 73 1/2c.

Oats—No. 3 white, 47 1/2c to 48 1/2c; standard, 50c to 50 1/2c.

Rye—No. 2, \$1.15.

Beas At Montreal.

The Montreal market for beans is unchanged. The first and second pickers are selling at \$3.90 to \$4.15; the third and fourth pickers are quoted at \$3.75 to \$3.80 and \$3.60 to \$3.70 per bushel.

Honey At Montreal.

Honey at Montreal is firmer this week, showing a half-cent advance. Quotations are: White, extracted, 12c to 12 1/2c per pound; brown, extracted 10c to 11c; buckwheat honey 8c to 9c.

Apples At Montreal.

The market is reported as being quiet and unchanged. No. 3 apples being quoted at \$1.50 to \$2, as to quality, the better qualities being quoted at \$2.25 to \$2.50.

American Horse Markets.

Considerable animation has pervaded horse market circles in Chicago during the past week. Buyers have been on the ground after an absence of months. The south was a free buyer of light reject stuff from the army inspectors at \$50 to \$67.50, and eastern farm dealers have taken a better class of rejects at \$80 to \$120.

Kingston Markets

Kingston, Feb. 12th. Meats: Beef, local carcasses, 08 09; Beef, hinds, lb., 10 11; Beef, cuts, lb., 15 23; Beef, western, by carcass, lb., 11 12; Hogs, dressed, cwt., 14.00; Lamb, spring, by carcass, lb., 17 17; Mutton, carcass, lb., 10 10; Veal, by carcass, lb., 08 14; Veal by qtr., lb., 08 14.

Fish

Bloaters, doz., 50; Clupeos, lb., 15; Cod, steak, lb., 12 1/2; Fillets, lb., 15; Haddock, fresh, lb., 12 1/2; Haddock, frozen, lb., 15 20; Herring, fresh salt water, doz., 50; Kippers, doz., 40; Mackerel, 40; Oysters, qt., 50; Oysters, shell, doz., 30; Pickered, lb., 10; Perch, lb., 10; Pike, lb., 10 12 1/2; Rock-fish, lb., 25; Tom-cods, 25; Trout, salmon, lb., 15; White fish, lb., 15; Suckers, lb., 05.

Produce At Toronto.

Toronto, Feb. 11.—Butter—The receipts of butter moderate with choice qualities firm. Fresh dairy, 27c to 30c; inferior, 23c to 25c; creamery prints, 34c to 36c; solids, 32c to 34c.

Eggs—Storage, 28c to 29c per dozen; sets, 31c to 32c; new-laid, 33c to 35c; case laying, rollers, at \$6.

Honey—Prices, in 10 to 60 lb. tins, 12c to 12 1/2c; comb, No. 1, \$3; No. 2, \$2.40.

Poultry—Spring chickens, 17c to

Fruit.

Bananas, doz., 20; Dates, lb., 10; Grapefruit, doz., 05 10; Grapes, Malaga, lb., 20; Figs, lb., 20; Lemons, Messina, doz., 20; Nuts, mixed, lb., 20; Oranges, doz., 20; Rhubarb, bunch, 10; Spy apples, bbl., \$ 5 00 \$ 5 50; Tomatoes, lb., 20.

Poultry.

Ducks, lb., 20; Chickens, live, lb., 15; Chickens, bro., 20; Hens, dressed, lb., 10; Turkeys, lb., 22 25.

Dairy Products

Butter, rolls lb., 32; Butter, dairy, 33 35; Butter, creamery, 35 40; Cheese, lb., 22; Eggs, cooking, doz., 35; Eggs, fresh, doz., 35 40.

Vegetables.

Beets, bush., \$5.00; Cabbage, doz., 40 50; Celery, bunch, 05 10; Potatoes, bag, 2 10; Parsnips, bush., 1 40; Onions, bush., 60 75; Turnips, bag, 50 60.

Furs and Hides.

Below are the ruling market prices for hides, skins and raw 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., 14c; Sheep skins, fresh, \$2.50; Veal skins, lb., 1.00; Deacons, \$1.00; Tallow, rendered, lb., 25c; Beeswax, clear, lb., 6c; Ginseng, wild, lb., \$7.00; Muskrats, spring, 40c; Foxes, No. 1, red, \$3.00; Raccoon, No. 1, prime, large, \$2.50; Skunk, top, 50c to \$2.00; Mink, 50c to \$3.00.