

FARM MANAGEMENT

Crops for Conditioning Sandy Land

What would you advise me to sow on a piece of sandy land that has been run out, the green crop to be plowed under? Would it be a good idea to sow it to clover alone, or some vetch or cow peas? I want an early crop for I may sow it in good condition for a clover crop next year.—Rev. M. V. B. Lachute, Que.

If the land is very sandy indeed, I would advise the following treatment: Plow with a very shallow furrow, say two and a half or three inches deep. Work thoroughly and sow to wheat, one bushel per acre, as soon as possible say first week in May. Allow to grow until it blooms for a week or ten days, then plow under with three and a half to four in. furrow. Roll harrow and cultivate every day every day or so for a week or two, then seed down with Dwarf Essex rape about eight pounds an acre. Allow to grow all fall, pasture off with swine or calves, or sheep, or dry cows and follow the following with furrow just deep enough to cover the buckwheat when brought up. Give light dressing of barn yard manure if possible after the ploughing. If not available, then a few wood ashes or a light application of some well secured, a catcher would likely be secure, a catcher of clover. Sow clover with light seeding of oats, say one and a half bushels an acre. Sow 12 lbs. red clover and 10 lbs. timothy. Sow early and roll well after sowing, having worked land thoroughly before sowing.—J. H. Grisdale.

Utilizing Manure—Supplementary Forage

As I have derived much benefit from your advice re cows I hope you will not mind giving your opinion on the following matter. I have a good supply of manure left after manuring root land and my idea has been to apply a thin coat on land after seeding to oats and barley, and also seeding down the same place to clover. I should like to know whether any bad results would accrue. If so, what had I best do with it? Have some hay land yet that would benefit by it if not too late to apply. Our clover has nearly all been winter killed, and I would be rather short of roughage for the cows. What would be the best crop to sow to supplement the clover hay? I am pointing in sowing crops according to printed directions issued by you.—H. C. Munro, B. O.

I would advise applying manure on barley rather than on oat crop if grain is wished for. If, however, as you state in the latter part of your letter, the production of a good quantity of forage is an important point, then I would suggest the sowing of a mixture of oats, 100 lbs. peas, 80 lbs., at the rate of three and a half bushels an acre, just before seeding, give a light evenly applied dressing of manure, harrow in and then seed. If seeding could be done later, but be careful to spread very evenly and to give only a light dressing.

Seeding for Permanent Pasture

I have an acre of land from which I cut top of oats and peas (cut green) last year. This year I desire to seed it for pasture for cow or horse. Kindly inform me what you would consider the best thing to seed it to in spring, viz., the kind, and how much of clover to mix with it to produce good pasture. For crop this year I thought of sowing oats cut green for fodder. Would you suggest peas with them or not? The soil is heavy clay.—B. C. C. Richmond, Ont.

Seed down with two pounds alsike clover, two lbs. white cover, four lbs. red clover, six lbs. timothy and 18 lbs. blue grass per acre. This

mixture is suitable where it is intended to leave in pasture for several years. If it is intended to leave in pasture for two or three years only, then the amount of blue grass might be cut in half and the timothy slightly increased.

In preparing the land, care should be taken to have it in perfect tilth before sowing grass seed. If very lumpy or rough it would be well to roll and harrow alternately once or twice before seeding. Sow seed very evenly, which may be best done by thoroughly mixing different kinds of seeds, dividing the whole into two equal parts and going over the whole piece. Sow one half as evenly as possible so as to cover the whole field going lengthwise and the other half of the seed to cover the whole field going crosswise.

Use peas and oats as a nurse crop two and a half bushels an acre, two

bushels oats and one half bushel peas. Watch carefully to see that the crop does not fall and another grass. Cut at first signs of falling.—J. H. Grisdale.

Re-Seeding—Land for Alfalfa

1. I have about 20 acres of pasture that was grub eaten or burnt in spots that you could easily remove in large flakes. Will it be necessary to re-seed this spring, and if so how many bushels will be required, kind of seed, and best time to do the same?

2. Would well drained new ground be a suitable soil for to try alfalfa in? Where can I obtain a culture, the price of the same and amount required to seed a quarter of an acre?—O. M. Bruce Co., Ont.

1. Land in such a condition as described would, I fear, have to be well worked up for a season before any satisfactory catch of grass seed need be looked for.

2. Land to be suitable for alfalfa, must not only be well drained, but must lie so as to insure that water shall never lie on the surface. If the land is sweet, that is, does not turn blue litmus paper red, there is no reason why alfalfa would not do with of course the previously stated condition noted. Culture can be obtained for a small fee of 25c for enough to treat one bushel of seed from the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont.—J. H. Grisdale.

Pigs given away, for clubs of seven new yearly subscriptions. Write Circulation Department, Farm and Dairy, Peterboro.

I am a reader of Farm and Dairy and must say that I like it very much. It is first class in every respect.—S. W. L. Stuart, Selkirk Co., Man.

Prize Farms Competition

FARM AND DAIRY, Peterboro, Ont., the only farm and dairy paper published in Canada, has arranged for the holding of a great competition throughout Ontario during 1909, 1910 and 1911, to decide which are the best dairy farms and dairy farmers in the Province. During 1910 and 1911 a portion of Quebec may be included in the competition.

60 GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS

Ontario, excepting New Ontario, will be divided into four districts. This year (1909), five gold and ten silver medals and handsome diplomas will be offered for the best farms in each district. The districts will be approximately as follows:

DISTRICT No. 1.—That portion of Eastern Ontario lying east of a line extending North of Kingston.

DISTRICT No. 2.—The counties in Eastern Ontario between Kingston and Yonge St., Toronto.

DISTRICT No. 3.—Western Ontario, North of a line running from Hamilton to Goderich.

DISTRICT No. 4.—Western Ontario, South of a line running from Hamilton to Goderich.

These districts are subject to revision after the entries have all been received, to facilitate the judging of the farms.

JUDGING THE FARMS, THE POINTS OFFERED

The farms will be judged twice; once in July and once in December. All departments of the farm will be included in the competition. One thousand points will be offered, subdivided as follows:

House 150; view, plan, finish and approaches, 25; lawns, 15; garden and orchard, 35; interior arrangement, 30; sanitation, 20; education, 25; total 180.

Farm buildings 150; view, provision and size, 25; location, 25; condition, 20; neatness, 20; convenience, 25; light and ventilation, 25; yard, 10; total 150.

Live Stock 300; view, number, 40; quality and condition, 40; breeding and methods of breeding, 40; feeding, 20; poultry, 15; horses, 30; swine, 15; total 200.

Crops 200; view, yield and condition, 75; freedom from weeds, 75; suitability, 50; total 200.

Farm Management 150; view, arrangement of fields, 20; rotation, 25; ice and water, 20; fences, ditches, roads, etc., 20; workmanship, 25; preservation of manure, 20; book-keeping and records, 20; total 150.

Machinery 75; view, supply, 25; repair, 25; housing, 15; character, 10; total 75.

Permanent improvements, 75; total 75.

Grand total, 1,000.

The farms in each district scoring the highest number of points will be awarded the prizes. During 1910 and 1911 the prize winning farms this year will be allowed to compete in a final competition to decide the best ten dairy farms in the Province.

THE RULES

1. Farms must contain at least 90 acres. The whole farm must be entered. Swamp, stony or poor land cannot be entered but the judges will have power to leave out the use of their discretion they so decide.

2. Farmers with 90 acres of land must have ten cows, 200 acres of land, 15 cows; 300 acres of land, 25 cows; and over 300 acres, 25 cows. The competitors must be sending the milk or cream of that number of cows at least, to a cheese factory or creamery, or to the city, or making it into butter or cheese.

3. Only practical farmers will be allowed to compete. If necessary, competitors will be required to furnish proof that their chief occupation is farming, and that they have been engaged in farming principally, for at least five years previous to the competition.

4. To assist in defraying the expense of the competition there will be an entry fee of \$2.00. Competitors will be expected to join either the Eastern or Western Ontario Dairyman's Associations.

5. Entries must be sent to H. B. Cowan, Farm and Dairy, Peterboro, Ont., with the entry fees, on or before June 15th, 1909.

6. Successful competitors will be required, when asked to do so by the judges, to furnish essays on the two features of their farm work that may be called for. These, however, will not be counted in the awarding of prizes.

7. The committee of management reserves the right to refuse the entry or entries of farms, the acceptance of which it may deem would be unfair, owing to special conditions, to other competitors. These rules may be extended or amended if the committee deems such action to be in the best interests of the competition.

CONTRIBUTORS

The holding of this competition has been materially assisted by a contribution of \$250, that the committee of management has received from Dr. J. W. Robertson, principal of Macdonald College, Quebec, and by one of \$150, received from the Eastern Ontario Dairyman's Association. Other similar contributions will be appreciated.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The following well known farmers and dairymen have kindly consented to assist Farm and Dairy by acting on the Committee of Management that is by charge of the Competition: Chairman, Henry Gillespie, Manitowish, Ont., and George A. Gillespie, Peterboro, Ont., representing the Eastern Ontario Dairyman's Association; D. A. Dempsey, Stratford, Ont., and S. R. Wallace, Burgessville, Ont., representing the Western Ontario Dairyman's Association; W. W. Ballantyne, Stratford, Ont., President Dominion Ayrshire Cattle Breeders' Association; B. Malloy, Belleville, Ont., President Canadian H. Frisian Cattle Breeders' Association; W. P. Bull, Millgrove, Ont., President Jersey Cattle Club; D. C. Platt, Millgrove, Ont., President Dominion Swine Breeders' Association; Simpson Bennis, Toronto, Ont., gold medal farmer; George McKenzie, Peterboro, Ont., prize dairy farmer; R. F. Hicks, Newtonbrook; Gordon Gooderham, York Mills, Ont., and W. G. Ellis, Toronto, Ont.

For further particulars, entry forms, etc., write the Secretary of the Committee, or

FARM AND DAIRY,
- Peterboro, Ont.