

Soils and Crops

Address communications to Agronomist, 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto

Money in Geese.
There is good money in geese for a lot of farmers that are now overlooking this opportunity. This is especially true on farms where pasture is abundant. Geese are great foragers and eat more grass, weeds and pasture than any other kind of fowl. This makes them especially attractive in these days of high-priced grain feeds.

It is most important that geese have a good grass range available during the summer, while a pool of water for bathing and recreational purposes is also a desirable feature.

The market for geese is not so general as for chickens. This point should be considered in undertaking the raising of geese, as most of the sales in cities are made around the holidays, although a few will sell the whole year round.

One of the best things about geese is their extreme hardiness. Geese are rugged birds and need shelter only in winter or stormy weather. An open shed or an old barn usually is satisfactory for this purpose. From four to twenty-five geese may be kept on an acre of land, although under most conditions ten is a fair average.

Geese are fed a ration to produce eggs during the latter part of the winter so that the goslings will be hatched by the time there is good grass pasture. The eggs may be hatched by either chickens, geese or incubator. Some breeders prefer to raise the goslings under hens, as geese sometimes become difficult to manage when allowed to hatch and rear their young. The period of incubation varies from twenty-eight to thirty days.

Goslings do not need feed until they are twenty-four or thirty-six hours old, when they can be started on one of the brands of chick feed, along with one feed a day of a mash or dough composed of equal parts of shorts (middlings) and corn meal, with five per cent. of beef scrap added after the goslings are six weeks old. Bread and milk are a good occasional feed for young goslings. Fine grit or sharp sand should also be available. If the goslings are to be fattened the ration should be gradually changed to one-third shorts and two-thirds corn meal by weight, with five per cent. of beef scrap added, while a feed of corn should be given at night as soon as the birds are large enough to handle the whole grain.

Adult geese may be fed for egg production in early spring on a mash of one pound of corn meal, one pound of bran, one pound of middlings or low-grade flour, and eighteen per cent. of beef scrap, which is fed in the morning; equal parts of corn and wheat, or corn alone, is fed at night. Grit and oyster shell should be kept before the geese, especially when they are laying. A constant supply of drinking water should always be available under protection in bad weather, so that the geese can get their feet into the water. Cut clover hay, alfalfa, silage, cabbages, mangel-wurzel beets, or any waste vegetables may be fed during the winter months.

Many breeders pluck the feathers from their live geese at some time prior to molting. Some pick every six weeks during the summer and early fall, while others pick only once or twice a year. Feathers are ripe for picking when the quills appear dry and do not contain blood. About one pound of feathers can be picked from each goose per year. The demand for geese feathers and the practice of plucking geese appear to be decreasing, attention being concentrated on a production of young geese for market. Lots of market poultrymen make a specialty of fattening

and selling the young geese when they are fully feathered.

How I Pick Cows That Win.

Smith, a neighbor up the road, happened to drop in one morning when I was testing milk. He was much interested in the process, and wanted to know all about it.

"That is a Babcock tester. I'm testing milk this morning," I told him. "You see," I explained, "by using this I can find out if my cows are paying for themselves."

"By means of this pipette I measure out a certain amount of each cow's milk. Then I put it into this milk-test bottle and put in with it a definite quantity of commercial sulphuric acid. This acid burns up everything except the fat, and then I whirl them for a few minutes. As the bottles are whirled they straighten out, and the butterfat, being lighter, goes up into the neck of the bottle."

"But how can you tell," he asked, "how much fat there is?"

"You see on each bottle," I showed him one, "there are lines graduated or measured off, so that these lines measure the fat in the bottle."

"But after you find how much fat a cow gives, how do you know if she is paying for herself?"

"If the bottle shows that there is a certain per cent. of fat in her milk, it will also show you just how much butter she makes for you in a year. The way to do is to weigh her milk for a certain period of time, and multiply that by the per cent. of butterfat the Babcock test shows, and add one-sixth for the overrun in making the butter."

"Could you tell for a week or a day?"

"Yes, indeed. Suppose a cow gave 30 pounds of milk a day, or 210 pounds each week. Four per cent. of that would be 8.4 pounds, and one-sixth of that added to it is 9.8 pounds, which means that a cow testing four per cent. would give butterfat to make 9.8 pounds of butter each week."

"How much ought a cow to give in a year to be profitable?" he inquired.

"It is estimated by the best authorities that a cow should give at least 250 pounds of butterfat each year, and 6,000 pounds of milk."

"Then by weighing the milk every milking one can tell at the end of the year what a cow does," he remarked.

"But one cannot test every day."

"No, that is not necessary, though of course it would be better. If the milk is saved out for testing morning and night for one day, then tested once a month, and the average taken for the milking period of the cow; that ought to give a fairly accurate estimate."

"Did you ever find that any of your cows were better or worse than you supposed?" he wanted to know.

"Do you remember that cow that I bought of Williams? She was supposed to be a pure-blood, and could have been registered. I expected great results from her in the butter-making line, as she came from a butter-making breed. After keeping her for a year and testing her milk each month and weighing it each day, I figured all she gave me was 4,000 pounds of milk and 195 pounds of butterfat."

"Then there is old Brindle, a grade cow. I had an idea she wasn't good. But I thought I'd try her for a year and see. I was surprised. She produced over 6,500 pounds of milk and 350 pounds of butterfat. That was nothing wonderful, but it shows that one cannot guess. Every dairyman that has used a Babcock tester can tell you of similar surprises."

Sheep Notes

While our experience has proved that there is no more profitable class of live stock, yet many flocks of sheep are kept without proper returns. This is because of lack of up-to-date methods in breeding and care. It is wrong to think that as the main purpose of sheep on agricultural lands is that of scavenger it is therefore useless to invest in well-bred animals, as any common sheep will eat weeds and other waste.

Sheep will consume and turn into gold the weeds, sprouts, and other such things on the farm that are worse than useless and which other animals would refuse to eat, but they will pay still better if fed good rations. Furthermore, as a factor in maintaining and restoring soil fertility the sheep stands in a class by itself. This is better recognized in European countries, particularly in England, where on certain high-priced lands the landlord often stipulates that a certain number of sheep shall be kept by his tenants in order to maintain the fertility of the soil.

Of course the breeding of the flock is a big factor in success or failure. It is important to select types of sheep best adapted to profit. If you start with grades, only use purebred sires of a particular breed. Do not select a ram from one breed one year and expect improvement to follow, for it will not. However, the standard of

a flock can be raised very rapidly by using good sires each year and culling out the inferior ewe lambs.

For best results, lambs should be taught to eat grain as early as possible. Corn and oil cake in "pea" form make a very good ration. The lambs should be fed grain in a "creep," that is, an enclosure into which the lambs may pass, but whose entrances are not large enough to admit the ewe. The first six months of the lamb's life are the most important, and even though they may have access to abundant pasture, whatever one may give them in the way of grain feed will be well repaid by increased thrift and growth.

To Treat Oats for Smut.
There are three steps in treating oats for smut: 1. Mix one pint of formaldehyde in ten gallons of water. 2. Sprinkle the ten gallons of liquid over forty bushels of oats, shoveling the oats so that the solution is evenly distributed. 3. Sack the oats when they are thoroughly mixed and sow the next morning.

Two men in three hours can treat and sack enough oats for forty acres. Formaldehyde can be secured at any drug store. The total cost for an acre is not more than five or six cents.

For Moths.—A few drops of your favorite perfume dropped on small pieces of pumice stone and laid among clothes will drive moths away and give a delicate odor to your garments.



Are You Giving All Your Profits To Your Help?

In the past many farmers have been less well-off than their hired help. Such a condition is unbearable and can only be overcome by modern methods—reduction of labor and increased production. The dairy end of your farm can be made to pay much bigger profits if you install

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SPHON MEDICAL COMPANY, Goshen, Ind., U.S.A.

Spohn's Distemper Compound

Many horses suffer from indigestion, colic or other stomach ailments in springtime, just when we cannot afford to lay them up, but it is largely our own fault. If a person used to sitting at a desk is given a job pitching hay without any preparation, what will be the result? It is exactly the same with our horses.

A gradual change of feed must be made along with some light work, which tends to strengthen their muscles, also their digestive tract. We have never had any trouble with our horses in the spring, and I would like to tell how we manage our horses to get what we consider good results.

We keep our horses in about the same feed the year around, not overly fat, nor poor. When they are kept this way the collars always fit, and if your collars are good ones and fit good you need not worry about sore shoulders in the spring. We never use sweat-pads on our regular team, they are a nuisance and a damage to the horse's neck, no matter how well you may fit them on your team. They absorb the sweat, gather the shedding hair and form it into lumps which are continually causing sores. After a hard day's work they are soaked with moisture which never dries all the time they are used.

How many have worn rubbers that hold the moisture from one day to the other, and always keep your feet cold and damp? Well, it's the same with sweat pads. If you haven't the best of harnesses give them a good collar and bridle to wear at least. These are the two things that either give them comfort or pain.

Next, look to their feet. See that they are in good condition. If your team cannot go without shoes, watch that they are not left on too long, thus causing the foot to grow crooked and probably break the hoof. We do not shoe our horses at all unless there is hauling on the road to be done. All we do is to trim their feet occasionally to keep them from becoming ragged. Personally, I do not like shod horses for plowing or other work on a soft field; many times in turning around at the ends or getting into a soft spot the horses step on each other, sometimes cutting their legs or feet quite severely.

The first few days of plowing should not be rushed. Let them take it easy. Give them their "wind" often. Plowing is hard work and it takes a few days for the team to get the "hang" of it.

To Make Cut Glass Sparkle.
To keep my cut glass in sparkling condition I wash it in warm—never hot—soapsuds. I use a brush to wash the glass with, then rinse it in bluing water of the same temperature, and polish. The bluing water seems to keep the cut glass sparkling like diamonds.

The Welfare of the Home

A Little Lecture About Fresh Air and Rest.

By Ida M. Alexander, M.D.

All women who work in the house need to get the fresh air habit. If you have not time to go out in the fresh air, open window and door and let the fresh air in to you. What if it is winter and twenty below, we need the fresh air. The fresh-air kitchen is a fine cure for headaches, or better still, a preventive of headaches. If you have ever suffered from a headache, begin the fresh-air kitchen as a preventive. It is absolutely certain to get results where there is no organic trouble. What is a fresh-air kitchen? What but a kitchen where fresh air keeps blowing through.

The men and women who are getting ten thousand a year plus are those who can plan things out, and then make the plans so very clear to the others that they can carry them out. More than that, they can really enjoy carrying out the big plan because it is presented to them in such an inspiring way. There are not enough men and women earning these large salaries just because there are not enough people with this power known as executive ability.

Some women have it, and I never knew a farm woman with executive ability to be overworked, for she planned out all the household jobs so that everyone from the eight-year-old to Mr. Farmer himself had a share and each one did it as his share of the fun. Nobody was overworked, and they all had a good time pulling together. When the children went to school and took their lunches with them, each child put up his own, but the mother knew that each was getting enough of the right kind of food. She knew also that the bedrooms were tidy and the beds made when they left for school. If a soldier can take care of his own bed, when he is Canada's boy, why can't he do the same for himself while he is mother's boy?

I want you, dear readers, to keep your health, and just as if I had been talking with each of you personally, I can hear one after the other say: "The advice is all right IF we could only follow it." But this is the one thing that I insist upon: you can follow it. The busiest of farm women have come to me and when I planned the day so that there should be time for rest, time for meals, time for fresh air and sunshine, they were able to do it. They got their health back without actually having to get sick—and the husband and the children were much happier because mother was not so cross as she had been.

People can always do what they will do. Now won't you sit down in your most comfortable rocking chair and think through yesterday. When you have done this, tell me truly: did you do your work only or did you dip in and do some of your husband's work and some of the children's work and some of the unnecessary work? Did you do anything that you could have left undone and yet not hurt your health nor that of any member of the family?

The mother's love is such that she enjoys "doing everything she can" for her children. She loves to do it, but she lets her mother-love make her the children's slave rather than their companion. I know by personal experience how the grown-up remembers the times when mother was not too tired to play. It is not the thousands of hours that she spent in cooking meals that we remember, but the afternoon when she gave a "tea-party" to the little girls that were quilting a doll's quilt, and sat down to play with them just like another child.

And don't think, Little Mother, that I never remember the father and his duty. One of the saddest things connected with my stay overseas was the stories the boys used to tell me about their home folks. No, the stories were not sad. The lad was only showing me the pictures of mother, father, sisters and brothers. The sad part of it was that though they could always tell me about Mother, they were too often strangely silent about Father.

If I were to judge the fathers by the things that our boys did not say, I should say that nine fathers out of every ten were failures. After the boys were able to take care of themselves, their fathers did not mean anything to them. * * * nothing that they could put into words.

On the other hand one father told me, "every Saturday afternoon belongs to my boy no matter how much work I have to do." I never happened to meet that man's son, but I know that he could talk to me for hours about his "dad" if he had a chance. But this was an exception, judging by what the boys in khaki told me.

Let us look over our work carefully and let "dad" do his share, and Mother do only her share. Then Mother will have time to keep well, and being well, will be happy, and being happy, will make everybody about her happy, too.

How to Get the Most Out of Your Perennial Garden

Many people have the erroneous idea that when hardy perennials are once established they require no further attention, but I have found that, although they are easy to grow, in order to give the greatest satisfaction, each variety must be treated in the way best suited to develop its flowers and growth. I have found that some plants, such as dicentra, lilies, peonies, yuccas, and so on, require several years to get established and come into their full beauty. Usually, the longer these plants are left undisturbed the better results will be obtained. I have discovered that most of the late summer and autumn blooming varieties should be divided and reset each spring. Among these are asters, boltonias, golden glow, lychins, pinks, sweetwills, and so forth. The crown from which the original plant grew dies down, and many new plants grow up from it, which will give better results if divided and reset.

I find that tulips and hyacinths do much better if dug up and reset every three or four years, but the other fall-planted bulbs will give just as good results if not reset until they become crowded. It is, however, a mistake to think that large clumps will give more satisfaction than a small thrifty clump.

In my years of experience in growing flowers I have found no class more attractive than hardy perennials, and none adapted better to all conditions. A good garden soil, well enriched with fertilizer, is the greatest requisite. The plants are best transplanted in early spring, just as they are beginning to send out shoots after their rest; but I have had excellent success with many in setting them over in the autumn. Irises, lilies, and other early-spring flowering bulbs are best set out in the fall. Never move plants when the ground is wet and soggy, or the weather unfavorable. I find that if each plant is given plenty of room to develop it will do much better, as most perennials grow and spread rapidly. Take care not to put too many flowers which bloom at the same time in the same place; try also to blend the colors so they will harmonize. A careful study of the varieties to be planted will usually result in a satisfactory arrangement.

During the summer I keep the soil stirred constantly around the plants, so as to let the air have free circulation. I give them a mulch of light material, which is of great benefit, and helps to retain the moisture during the hot, dry days, and also helps to keep down the weeds. I always

stake and tie all the taller-growing species securely, and if the supports are given when the plants are still small they will look more natural and give better results. By removing old flower stems, faded flowers, and seed pods, many varieties such as aquilegias, gypsophilas, hollyhocks, larkspurs, sweet rocket, and others, will bloom almost throughout the season. The removal of these will also improve the appearance of the border, and will keep the garden looking neat and tidy at all times.

When frost has killed all the soft growth I always cover my border with leaves or other litter. Do not cover too soon; for a little frost is beneficial to the plants. The protection should not be too heavy, or it will smother the plants, or induce them to come into premature growth in the spring. On the approach of warm weather I remove the covering gradually in order to harden the growth which the plants have made. Two or three days is usually sufficient for this.

Every year I grow more fond of hardy flowers. They get to be like old friends, coming back season after season to greet me, and surprise me, too; for, like people, you forget sometimes how fine they really are, and that makes the pleasure of meeting them again all the greater. Perennials require such little care that I often wonder why more people do not raise them. I believe they would cultivate them more if they knew them, and if they would only try them out and see how much fun there is in having them.

There is such a wide range of color and form, and a succession can be easily arranged that will give you blooms from early spring until frosts chill all plant life. They are prolific too. By that I mean they divide and multiply, especially irises and peonies, so that you can keep enlarging your collection with no additional expense once you get started and have lots to give to friends besides.

Do not be impatient with them. Remember that it takes several years for them to get established and to do their best. Care taken in cultivation, fertilization, and winter protection will get plants that will repay you with abundant bloom.—L. C. A.

Don't stop to argue the right of way with a skunk.

Every day lost on strike decreases the supply of the necessities of life. Can't we find a method of settling industrial disputes?

COURTESY AND CONSIDERATION

"The greater man, the greater courtesy."

In every home opportunities should be taken for the little children to practice consideration and care for something weaker than themselves. The cherishing instinct, both in the individual and the family, needs cultivation and direction. It is manifested in the love of little girls for their dolls and in the devotion of boys to their pets. If this quality of nurture is not exercised or properly directed, it withers; for affections must be exercised if they are to develop. We often see spoiled children in Canadian families, where all their desires are gratified without an effort on their own part and they are given no opportunity to serve. Many a mother virtually makes a slave of herself for her children, humoring every whim, and relieving them of all care, trouble and responsibility, only to find when they are grown that they are utterly selfish and inconsiderate.

Unfortunately, too, is the only child or the youngest member of the family, who is overindulged, with no more dependent member of the household to call forth his tender feelings. Herein lies one great value of the kindergarten, where children are given opportunities to help those younger than themselves.

For the child without companions in the home, the parents should provide occasions that require service or sacrifice for others. Arrange to have his friends come frequently to play with your little one, and share his joys, suggesting that the little guests must have the best.

Adaptability is gained through companionship with one's equals. From association with boys, little girls learn something of fair play, and become acquainted with the sturdier virtues; while, from girls, the boys learn to have a chivalrous attitude toward womanhood.

The instinct of nurture is developed through the care of a garden or pets, for a child must exercise thought and put it into practice, in order to obtain results. Then, too, generosity and respect are stimulated by sharing the fruits of his care. A little bouquet for mother, a head of lettuce for a neighbor, an extra kitten for a playmate.

If pets have young, the child's mother should call attention to the care of the mother for her little ones, and her courage and self-sacrifice whenever the young are endangered. A child should be taught to take entire charge of his pets, to weed and care for his garden, if he is to receive the full benefit in character-development and achieve the self-respect which comes from responsibilities accepted.

Then, too, good manners which spring from consideration are as essential to the happiness of the world as are good morals, and good manners should be examples of both to their children. How often virtuous people make us unhappy by their lack of tact! Courtesy and graciousness smooth out the rough places of life. A tiny boy of 3 can raise his hat and one of 5 can rise at table and push mother's chair into place. When older people enter a room, children should rise; in fact, they should be taught to practice all the little daily civilities. But courteous manners are taught slowly, "for precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little." Many a man of good character has greatly limited his usefulness by his lack of "polish," because his mother, either from stupidity or overindulgence, neglected his social training!

At this momentous time, it is especially important that all means possible be employed to foster the instinct of caring for the weak and dependent.

It would be well if more children were made to feel responsible for some child of less favored circumstances. It is astonishing how boys and girls will rise to the occasion when responsibility is placed upon them. In 1913 my 11-year-old niece, who lived in London, had a "good-child" in another city, to whom she wrote a monthly letter, and sent little gifts at Christmas-time and other holidays.

At the present time the millions of little Allied orphans should make a strong appeal to the childhood of Canada. Correspondence between them would not only teach our children consideration for others and develop their familiarity with a foreign language, but it would also help cement the friendship of Canada with her Allies and greatly promote the cause of Internationalism.

Recipes for Making Soap.

Cold process: One can of lye dissolved in two quarts of water. Add then to five pounds of grease, being careful that the grease has not been overheated. Stir thoroughly and slowly until soap is produced.

Hard soap: One can of lye in four quarts of water. Add this solution to six pounds of grease or tallow. Boil slowly and stir up until soap is produced.

Soft soap: One can of lye in three gallons of water. Add this to five pounds of grease or tallow. Boil, stirring slowly, until soap is produced.

Some of the kettles of Greenleaf are half a mile in thickness.