

Re-Seeding Pasture—Alfalfa

Will you kindly advise me in regard to the following: I have a flat spring corner in my field that the grass is getting nearly bound out, and I want to plow it up and seed it down again. What is the best way to treat it, also what kind of grass would you stock with, the soil is mostly black (or mucky)?

Do you think alfalfa could be grown down in this province? Several around here have tried it, and they do not seem to get it started. I should like to try a small piece next spring. Will you kindly tell me how to prepare the land, whether broken up or old plowed.—F.L.B., Stanstead Co., Que.

Your best plan would be to let the field run through this summer till about August, then plow with a rather shallow furrow, roll two or three times,

a year-old, I would prefer the latter, since you are a year ahead to determine his value. Yearlings and two-year-olds are only an experiment at best as successful dairy sires, and if you prefer to be certain of success you must use the aged and tried sires, which, alas, is too seldom done for the best interest of dairy breeders; although not that good results cannot be obtained from young sires.

The best cow I ever raised was the first calf from a yearling sire, and it out of a two-year-old heifer. Both sires and dam were vigorous, vigorous animals, and so was their calf, or she could never have produced as she did. And yet so-called authorities and college professors tell us that calves from two-year-old heifers are not worth raising. From close observation I can give stacks of positive proof that offspring of vigorous heifers and young cows are much preferable to the offspring of these same animals when past their prime.—H. Bollert, Pres. H.-F. Breeders' Assoc., Oxford Co., Ont.

Suitable Farm Power

M. E. Mayhew, Hastings Co., Ont.

All things considered, where electricity is not available, the gasoline engine gives the best satisfaction as a farm power. We have a 5 H. P. gasoline engine. From our experience I am convinced that a 5 H. P. engine is about the right size where it is to be used as a power of general utility to answer all purposes. One can use a larger engine to advantage when grinding grain or when filling the silo with a blower. On the other hand, however, for running the smaller machines, the larger power resolves itself into a waste of fuel and power.

Those of us engaged in dairying possibly require some special power more than do farmers engaged in other lines of farming. The purposes to which the dairyman can put power are many and varied. He may grind his own grain; not that he can do it so very much cheaper at home, but it is a matter of convenience. Several different mixtures of grain may be required, one for horses, one for milch cows, one for fattening cattle or pigs, calves, hens, etc., and these mixtures to be compounded in various quantities, in which case the chopping can be handled more satisfactorily at home than if taken to the nearby, or more generally distant, grist mill.

A suitable power comes in most advantageous for filling the silo and most up-to-date dairymen have silos. Now-a-days in view of the scarcity of help that prevails, we farmers need

the fence that's strong all through. Every wire in our heavy farm fence is No. 9 hard steel, with uniform strength and lasting qualities in each strand. A fence with any small or soft wire in it is not lived. A chain is no stronger than the weakest link. Then PEERLESS Fence made from English wire is rust-proof—that withstands more than double the endurance of other makes.

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Cutting a Heavy Swath of Alfalfa

The illustration shows a mower at work in a field of alfalfa on the prize winning farm owned and managed by Mr. F. Bird, of Peterboro Co., Ont.

disc harrow two or three times, performing these operations alternately, and harrow at intervals until about the middle of October, when you might re-plow or, better still, rib up as if preparing for roots. Apply manure on this ribbed land during fall, winter or spring, at the rate of about 15 tons an acre, then the next spring, as early as possible, break down, mix the manure with the surface soil and sow to mangels. This will give you the best returns from your land and put it in best shape for again seedling down.

The next year you might seed down to timothy and red top, sowing about eight lbs. timothy and 10 lbs. red top an acre, as well as about three lbs. alsike and five lbs. red clover. This will seem a heavy seeding, but you will find it an exceedingly profitable one.

As to alfalfa on the land in question, may say that it would be quite unsuitable. Alfalfa must have a deeply drained soil. Alfalfa will, however, do fairly well in many parts of Quebec, provided the proper soil conditions maintain.

The best plan is to sow after a crop of roots, potatoes or corn. To give the crop the best chance possible you should not use a cover crop but sow it alone about the end of June.—J. H. G.

Are Young Dairy Sires Desirable

Is it in the interests of the best dairying to use a Holstein bull that is not yet two years old? You will be very glad of the opinions of a high class practical man on this point, as in this neighborhood farmers seem to think that one year and a half is a sufficient age.—E. E. M., York Co., Ont.

My observation and experience, during nearly 30 years close study has long since led me to the conclusion that, individuality is a much more important factor, than age. I would prefer a 15-months-old bull, if he possessed strong individuality and vigorous constitution to a weakling even if he were three or four years old. Of course, judgment must be exercised in not overtaxing the young sire.

I am now, in my own herd, using two sires, six and ten years old, but am not prepared to say that their calves now are any stronger than those which they sired as year-olds.

The value of a dairy sire can only be judged by the performance of his heifers when they come to produce milk, and he will then necessarily be four-years-old. Since, in my experience, a two-year-old is no better than

A General Utility Farm Power

The 5 H. P. gasoline engine illustrated is at work on the farm owned by Mr. E. Mayhew, Hastings Co., Ont., who gives in the adjoining article his opinion of gasoline engines.

to be as independent of help as possible. When we have our own cut we can run it with less help and at such times as help is available, or when we feel disposed to go ahead with the work. Our 5 H. P. engine is used to fill the silo, and it does the work very satisfactorily. We use 36 feet of carriers on our cutting box.

A line shaft in the barn enables us to run numerous machines from the power obtained from our engine. Our ensilage cutter in the winter is used for cutting dry feed. Our pulper, fanning mill, corundum stone, cream separator and circular saw are all run

from this line shaft. Other machines, such as the corn sheller, grinder, lathe, and it may be the churn and butter worker, might also be driven from this shaft.

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