

# FARM AND DAIRY

## & RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada.

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham.

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### Value of Top Dressing

R. Lorne Crummy, Leeds Co., Ont.

WONDER how many farmers fully realize the value of top dressing with barnyard manure? Fertilizers other than manure, no doubt, are all right; we never used any, but our neighbors have and always were satisfied with results. We always used manure and never found it anything but a success. It seems to me if a farmer puts out plenty of manure he is sure of a good crop. To apply it to the land so as to obtain the best results is the next point. We recently purchased a manure spreader, and right here let me say we are certain that if any are sceptical about this piece of machinery and feel like doubting what the agents have to say about its good qualities, just let the doubt-crappers borrow a machine from some neighbor on a day and spread a few loads of manure on their meadow, and await results. He will then get a spreader of his own, and wonder how he got along without one so long. The spreader scatters the manure so evenly and distributes it to each separate rootlet so thoroughly that the manure is at once assimilated by the soil, and immediately nourishes the grass, thus promoting an extraordinarily rapid growth.

With anyone who has any notion of purchasing a machine could come and see our orchard where I went down between the rows of the crop and the manure last fall with the spreader. See the value of top dressing, especially when put on properly. I think the grass is twice as high wherever the spreader went as it is alongside. I can stand

note just where I took a curve from one row to another; I can follow the track everywhere. I prefer flat top-dressing, for if the spring is several inches deep the manure will not do as much good. Last year I top-dressed a meadow; and as hardly any rain fell from then until hay was cut, the manure was there hard and dry in hay, and was not at all dissolved. But a meadow I top-dressed last fall is just pushing right ahead, far ahead of meadows which should be as good. If the spring is wet, I would think spring top-dressing might be all right; but at any cost get manure out where it will be of benefit to the land and don't keep it hoarded up when it means money lost. My advice to readers is to get top-dressing and do it with a spreader.

is the truth. I would like Farm and Dairy to watch it and see how it turns out."—Alex. Sanderson, Peterboro Co., Ont.

A couple of days after this letter was received one of the editors of Farm and Dairy drove out from Peterboro to see Mr. Sanderson's sweet clover. There was no denying that this is a year of drought. Everywhere the fields were scorched. Even the corn seemed to have stopped growing. We found Mr. Sanderson scuffling in the corn field, "trying to keep it alive," as he put it. He led us out to a field from which a crop of barley had recently been taken. One-half of the field had been seeded to alsike clover, eight pounds of seed to the acre, the other part had been seeded with white sweet clover, 12 pounds to the acre. One could tell at a glance where the one seeding ended and the other began. There



A Handy Device When Harvesting the Clover Seed

This clover harvesting device is home-made. Two hoes are drilled in the cutter bar of the mower and a flat, broad table attached upon which the clover is raised back and off into windrows as shown in the illustration.

was little alsike to be seen, and if the dry weather continues, there will be practically no stand at all. The sweet clover, with no better moisture or soil conditions, showed an excellent stand. We noticed that a field of grain on a side hill at some distance also appeared green.

"That, too," said Mr. Sanderson, "is seeded to sweet clover. It had made a rank growth before we cut the grain and the butts of the barley sheaves are full of sweet clover. Altogether I sowed 150 lbs. of this new crop this spring.

"Our stock eat sweet clover and they are glad to get it," continued Mr. Sanderson. "It may be a weed when it is out of its place. All plants are. But I believe there is a place for sweet clover on our farms, where it will not be a weed. If it will grow in these dry years when all other crops seem to be a failure it will be a decided advantage to the farmer. I don't like notoriety, but if my experiment is a success I would like others to know about it."

### Home-Grown Clover Seed

F. C. Nynnick, B.S.A., Ottawa.

UNDER normal conditions the second crop of clover should be cut for seed when the heads have turned dark brown and when most of the seeds are in the stiff dough stage. It is not advisable to cut the clover when the seeds are soft, expecting them to ripen after the cutting, as light, shrivelled seed is likely to result. Give the seed a chance to fill properly, even if a few ripe heads are lost. This loss may be materially reduced by cutting either early in the morning or late in the evening; there will be little shattering when by reason of the dew, the straw is less brittle.

#### CUTTING WITH A BINDER.

If the clover is tall enough it can be cut very conveniently with the binder. The cord should be removed, and the trip and the boards that hold the back sheaf, should be slackened or removed to allow the clover a free course to the ground. In this way, the clover will be laid in a light windrow out of the road of the horses on the next round, and in good shape for drying. When ready, it can be gathered easily with the barley fork. The old-fashioned reaper is sometimes used, or, if the crop is short, the mower will be suitable. A flat, board table may be attached to the back of the cutter bar, after having a couple of holes drilled in it. The clover is kept back from the bar and raked off into windrows by the man following the machine.

#### CONDITION AT THRESHING.

The clover must be thoroughly dry before threshing; if threshed in the field, it should be left until the dew is gone; the same course should be followed if it is to be hauled into the barn to be threshed later on. If a clover huller is available, the threshing is a simple matter. If, however, there is no huller in the neighborhood, grain threshers may be used, some of which have a clover attachment.

If necessary, the ordinary machine can be adjusted to do fairly clean work. First, the clover should be run through, as in grain threshing, to separate the heads from the stalks and hull part of the seed. Next, fasten a piece of sheet iron in firmly, directly behind the cylinder, to close up all of the back except eight or nine inches at the left end, and close the front, except a foot at the right end. Close, also, any openings in the concaves. The object is to make the short material pass from one end of the cylinder to the other in order to remove the seed. The chaff can be put through again if necessary,

### A Sweet Clover Experiment

WILL you come out to my farm on the Che-Mone Road? I have a field of white sweet clover to show you that will do your heart good to see in this year of severe drought. What we want to find out