

Soils and Crops

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Cheaper Haying and Harvesting. There are three ways in which any farmer can do his haying, harvesting and threshing cheaper. He can use better methods, do away with poor management, and use the right implements or machinery.

To hitch those generalities to hard facts, take the matter of waste labor. Much labor is absolutely wasted in haying, harvesting and threshing. Many farmers believe that at haying time it is necessary to hire a bunch of extra men to get the hay into the barn. This may be true on some farms, but not always. The most successful farmer in our neighborhood never hires extra help at haying time, and he and his fifteen-year-old boy put up fifteen or twenty acres of timothy and clover every year. Sometimes hay-making is saddled on to the end of corn plowing, but that never seems to make any difference. Here's how he manages:

In the morning he cuts down several loads of hay. An hour or so later he goes over the hay with a tedder to "kick" the water out of it. By the middle of the afternoon the hay is ready to load. A hay-loader is hitched behind the wagon, the boy drives, a load is soon put on, and it is put into the barn with a hay-fork. The boy drives the team to the fork, while his father sticks the fork and trips the load in the barn. A little head-work enables them to put up in the afternoon all the hay cut in the morning. When the barn is filled, the same plan is used for cutting and tedding, but hay is drawn to the stack with a sweep-rake and thrown on the stack with a ricker. The boy runs the rake and his father does the stacking. If a stack must be left open at night, it is covered with waterproof duck.

Mowing machines that cut a wider swath will cut the cost of hay-making on some farms. The five-foot cut is a common size, but six, seven or even eight-foot mowers may be used to good advantage if time is any item. For instance, under average conditions, a five-foot mower will cut ten acres in ten hours; a six-foot mower will cut twelve acres; a seven-foot mower, fourteen acres; an eight-foot mower about sixteen acres. More power is required for the wider cuts. Many alfalfa growers are using the eight-foot cut with good success, and make a practice of mowing early in the morning before the dew is off, or even during a light rain. It is not necessary to wait until the dew is off before starting the mower, if the tedder is used. The size of mower used and the time of day it is started are important, especially when hauling is done only in the afternoon. The tedder and rake are big helps in making hay with a small crew.

In harvesting, as in haying, a great deal of labor is often lost. The biggest waste generally comes because the harvester is not put in repair until pulled into the field. Then every bearing must be oiled, the sprocket chains

Poultry

A good ration for young ducklings is a mash made of two parts cornmeal and one part bran, to which is added a sprinkling of grit and five per cent. beef scrap. They should have plenty of green food, such as lawn clippings or vegetables, and given a range where they can gather green food. Give fresh water in dishes deep enough so they can cover their nostrils with water when drinking.

Shade should be provided for ducklings. A lack of protection from the hot sun causes severe losses during the summer. The old ducks can be given a ration of equal parts of bran, cornmeal and boiled vegetables, and ten per cent. beef scrap. The mash is usually given at night and morning. A scratch grain of either cracked corn or wheat and oats can be given at noon. During the laying season a good ration for breeding ducks consists of equal parts of low-grade flour, bran, cornmeal, vegetables and twelve per cent. beef scrap.

A good range is rather essential if ducks are raised at a moderate cost. A small body of water is helpful because of the natural food of ducks, such as grasses and insects which will be found in such a place. Water is not necessary, however, except that it must be supplied abundantly for drinking purposes.

The Dairy

The easiest way to raise a calf is by feeding it whole milk. This probably will produce the best calf, but not necessarily the best dairy cow. Feeding skim-milk to the calf after it has secured a proper start may give as good a cow as the feeding of whole milk, but the process requires greater care.

For the first few days, the calf should run with its mother, after which it should be removed and fed warm fresh whole milk by hand. This should be continued for ten days or two weeks at least. The length of time it should be continued depends upon the vigor of the young animal. From ten to twelve pounds of this

School Fairs and Home Garden Contests Ontario—1922

School fairs have had a wonderful development in Ontario during the past few years. Their popularity does not seem to be waning in the least and it is a particularly encouraging sign to see the deep interest that is

By R. S. Duncan, B.S.A., Director, Agricultural Representative Branch.	Agricultural Representative Branch.		
	1909	1915	1921
Number of School Fairs held	1	234	449
Number of schools included	3	2,291	3,847
Number of children taking part	58	48,386	95,307
Number of home plots	174	116,236	193,545
Number of entries made at the fairs	80	72,860	154,831
Number of children attending fairs	170	84,406	188,728
Total attendance at fairs	250	157,266	343,259

This is truly a phenomenal growth, and it is the desire of the department to extend from time to time this form of education to all the rural schools in the province in order that all school children may enjoy its benefits.

During the past season, the Ontario Department of Agriculture, through the Agricultural Representatives, distributed to the boys and girls enrolled in the School Fair movement the following quantities of seeds and eggs:

Potatoes	1,039 bags
Oats, barley and wheat	252 bush.
Peas and corn (sweet and field)	24,100 pkgs.
Beets, carrots, onions and parsnips	42,000 "
Mangels and turnips	12,800 "
Asters, phlox, sweet peas and cosmos	30,750 "
Eggs, bred-to-lay Barred Plymouth Rock	10,852

Each School Fair is carried on by a board of directors composed of representatives from the school, the Agricultural Representative, acting as manager. In most cases the Representative is assisted by a local committee representing the teachers, trustees and parents, and where we have an active committee all pulling together, there is no weak link in the chain.

One of the greatest handicaps to better work is the annual change of teachers, but this is gradually being overcome because many teachers have had more or less experience with school fairs even before they graduate from the Normal schools.

It is very gratifying to report that the quality of the exhibits is improving from year to year. The pupils are gradually learning that it does not pay to bring anything but "good stuff" to the fair. The judges are requested to point out by comparison the difference between the exhibits awarded first prize and those awarded second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth prizes. Besides giving reasons for their placements, the judges try to point out to the exhibitors and others the desirable type, what constitutes quality in the various classes called for on the prize list, and to offer hints or suggestions as to the preparation of exhibits.

It does not take an expert thresherman to run a small threshing machine. The thing to do is to follow instructions in the manufacturer's book. Each man who has a share in a small thresher should have a copy of the book, and not make adjustments unwisely.

Finally, watch the straw-stack. Often more than one man's profits go into the stack because a poor separator, or a good one improperly adjusted. See that the threshing machine is equipped to put all the grain into the grain wagon, and only the straw and chaff in the stack.

milk should be fed per day, in three feeds at first, but this number may later be reduced to two.

The skim-milk is then introduced gradually and a period of about two weeks should be required before the calf is placed entirely upon its new feed. The skim-milk should be sweet and warm when fed. Cold sour milk is the greatest cause of scours. Continue the skim-milk for at least five months and it may be fed for six or seven months, depending upon the supply. As soon as the calf is old enough to eat substitute feeds they should be given.

What Trees to Plant. For Ontario conditions the following tree-planting guide is offered as regards selection of trees to suit local soil and moisture conditions:

Good sandy loams—Sugar maple, black walnut, pin oak, white ash, red oak.

Good medium loams—White ash, white elm, sugar maple, black locust, black walnut, butternut, soft or silver maple, white oak, native plane, Oriental plane, native basswood, Norway maple, red oak.

Good clay loams—Soft or silver maple, white elm, white ash.

Low-lying wet soils—Soft maple, pin oak, native basswood, white elm, native plane.

Swampy conditions—Native willows and native poplars, pin oak, if condition is not too bad.

Missing. "Children" said the Sunday school teacher, "this picture illustrates today's lesson: Lot was warned to take his wife and daughters and flee out of Sodom. Here are Lot and his daughters, with his wife just behind them; and there is Sodom in the background. Now, has any girl or boy a question to ask before we take the study of the lesson? Well, Susie?"

"Pleathe, thir," lisped the youngest in the class, "where ith the fea?"

Some conception of the magnitude of the canning industry in British Columbia may be obtained from the fact that 10,000 tons of Welsh tins have just been received for the season's trade.

SMOKE OLD CHUM

The Tobacco of Quality

1/2 LB. TINS

and in packages

thus able to thoroughly enjoy spending a little money earned by the exercise of their own skill. These early lessons in finance should stand them in good stead.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

A Good Set of Rules. Here is a set of rules which every girl would do well to follow:

- Be brave. Courage is the noblest of all gifts.
- Be silent while your elders are speaking, and otherwise show them deference.
- Obedience is the first duty of every girl.
- Be clean. Both yourself and the place you live in.
- Be the friend of all harmless wild life. Conserve the woods and flowers and especially be ready to fight wild fire in forest or town.
- Word of honor is sacred.
- Play fair. Foul play is treachery.
- Be reverent.
- Be kind. Do at least one act of unselfish service every day.
- Be helpful. Do your share of the work.
- Be joyful. Seek the joy of being alive.

During Vacation Days.

You will doubtless have an opportunity during vacation days to scatter seeds of kindness while on your vacation by showing your interest in all animal life. Interest others in this cause of mercy, justice and kindness to every living creature.

Protect dogs and cats from ill-treatment. Give them food and water and a comfortable place to sleep.

Discourage nest-robbing boys among your companions.

Horses and cows will enjoy better health and do better work if they are groomed every day.

It is cruel to carry fowls with their heads downward and their feet tied together.

Fish should be killed as soon as taken out of the water by a sharp blow on the back of the head. Such fish keep better and are better to eat.

Honor and humility belong together. The vain girl, who thinks always of herself, misses the path of leadership.

Parents as Educators

Hungry Children—By Lydia Lion Roberts

A mother was looking over a box of old photographs and her little boy was an interested watcher by her side. As one picture came into view the boy exclaimed, "Whenever I see a picture of Auntie Gertrude it makes me feel hungry." Afterwards he explained that it was because she brought him so many good things to eat.

The Aunt referred to was a very busy woman, yet she always managed to find time to slip a gingerbread man or a popcorn ball, or a surprise package into her bag for the children where she visited. Another, child never forgot a basket trimmed with colored tissue paper, holding some baked cookies, that her aunt brought to her after she had been sick.

Food plays an important part in a child's life and a mother may teach by it as well as by other things. All children love surprises, and little faces brighten on stormy days when a raisin cake baked in their own little pan appears, or a lunch-box dinner is placed on the playroom table with dainty sandwiches and fruit, and maybe a bit of candy or a few nuts.

Any little boy or girl likes to learn to cook when mother is cooking and though that is not an especially good time for mother in one way, yet in another way it is the best time, for children are happy when busy and learn quickly when interested.

When mother makes bread the little tot should have a ball of dough and a raisin or a bit of jam to make a biscuit. If the child has dishes big enough, and this is important, for there should be a small pan or unbreakable dish to do the cooking in, the work can be done exactly as mother does it and therefrom come the first lessons in cooking.

Education Broadens and Refines.

A certain successful business man, who was wealthy, and who might have had a great deal of enjoyment out of life because he had money enough to secure many things worth while, and who was also able to spend his time as he wished, said something like this: "When I was young my whole ambition was to be successful. I sacrificed my own comfort and concentrated all my energies on my business, thinking that when I had realized success I would be able to ease up, to enjoy life. Now, I find nothing interests me but my business. I can find no rest, no pleasure in anything else. I have tried to cultivate a liking for music. I am too old. I have tried to enjoy pictures but cannot bring myself to appreciate this form of art. My whole life is business and it is, I now see, a narrow one."

This man in youth had neglected to cultivate broad interests. He had grown in height, or intensity. He was successful in one thing. But he had not grown in breadth, and only saw his mistake when it was too late.

Attendance at school and college helps make a man more valuable. Education has a money value. But that is not all. A man who would "have life, and have it abundantly," should cultivate many interests in life. And this is something that education does. It develops a man's powers for the enjoyment of life. It roots in his mind the capacity for growth along different lines.

For years I dally passed buildings of many kinds, but did not see them. One winter I went to school in the evening and learned something about the "History of Architecture. Immediately a new world of enjoyment opened to my surprised eyes, and now I see things to which I was blind previously.

Your capacity for the enjoyment of life is like a circle about you. Education widens the circle, pushes the circumference further away so that you have more room for enjoyment. It also sharpens your vision so that the quality of the pleasure of life is refined.

Education brings us more capacity for joy in life.

Flax Development.

Flax growing for fibre is developing in Canada. During the last few years, experiments have been carried on by the Dominion Experimental Farms to determine which districts in this country are suitable for flax fibre culture. It has been proven, says the interim report for 1920-21 of the officer in charge of the Division of Economic Fibre Production, Mr. B. J. Hutchinson, that the fibre obtained from the flax grown on the experimental farms in the western part of British Columbia, in Ontario, the valley of the St. Lawrence, and the Maritime Provinces, is of first class quality and compares favorably with the best grades of Irish and Belgian fibres.

What is more, the results of the spinning tests show that Canadian fibre is suitable for the manufacture of the finest linen damasks. The Division has only been in existence six years, but despite the fact that in 1920 the flax building, equipment and records were destroyed by fire, it has continued and even extended its efforts.

An evidence of the result is found in the fact that in the year reported upon the increase in acreage had been thirty-two to one compared with the year 1916. The Division has also been able by diligent testing of newly invented pulling, deseeding or scutching machines to furnish reliable information relative to the effectiveness of such articles. Investigation has proven that while water-bound coats not subject to extra hard frosts are most suitable for flax cultivation, still it can be grown successfully with profit in Northern Ontario. The variety tests conducted at thirteen Dominion Experimental Stations, besides the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa, show that while the varieties designated Novely and Premost do well, the kind known as Longstem is best adapted for fibre production in Canada.

Experiments to ascertain the suitability of the fibre for binder twine have not so far proven encouraging, but they are being continued. Retting, scutching and fertilizing experiments are also being carried on. In 1919 a grading system was established so that purchasers can now buy by merely signifying the grade required. Fibre seed is inspected and graded for export, and quite a quantity has been shipped to Ireland. Cablegrams are received weekly from the Irish Department of Agriculture outlining the conditions of the markets in Europe, and the information is supplied to flax growers, spinners, and anyone interested in the production of flax for textiles.

Swat the fly before she raises a big family.

It is not cowardly to avoid unnecessary risks.

Amsterdam is cut by canals into ninety islands connected by 300 bridges.

Line-sulphur glue is easier to make and to apply than self-boiled lime-sulphur, and it is said to get brown rot and seal and to color the fruit just as well. Ask the County Representative about it.