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## A DISCUSSION OF THAT OLD STANDBY—THE FALL WHEAT CROP

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**Facts in Connection With Several Phases of the Subject of the Fall Wheat Crop are Set Forth in This Article Which will Prove interesting and Valuable in Assisting Farm and Dairy Readers Who Grow Fall Wheat to Decide How Much Wheat to Grow and How to Grow It.**

I RECENTLY received a bulletin giving the cost of growing crops in the state of Nebraska. From it I learned that it costs the Nebraskan farmer 54.9 cents. to produce a bushel of wheat. I presume that this cost is for spring wheat. The figures are interesting and they may be welcomed by some Farm and Dairy readers who are now figuring as to how much fall wheat they had better sow.

### COST OF GROWING WHEAT

Year	1909	1910	Average
Number of replies	139	150	289
Net cost and taxes (or rent)	\$4,463	\$5,090	\$4,770
Planting	1,373	1,572	1,472
Harrowing	285	279	282
Disking	443	404	423
Seed	1,861	1,342	1,401
Sowing	453	308	421
Harvesting	2,155	2,110	2,233
Interest and depreciation on machinery	505	675	595
Miscellaneous	727	734	731
Total cost per acre	\$13.067	\$13.311	\$12.189
Yield per acre	32.9 bus.	21.6 bus.	32.2 bus.
Cost per bushel	32.7 cents	57 cents	54.9 cents

Our conditions being different from what they are in Nebraska, these figures are of value to us merely in setting forth how we must figure when we set about to consider whether or not it pays to grow a certain crop.

It is generally held that the day of wheat growing in Ontario is a thing of the past. The statement is true in a sense, but I saw by a report recently issued by the Commission of Conservation that in 1910 Ontario produced 17,805,000 bushels of wheat. It is evident therefore that the crop is still of considerable importance and worthy of a little discussion.

While fall wheat is perhaps not the most profitable crop we throughout Western Ontario can grow, I am convinced that it is advisable on many farms to grow the crop notwithstanding; although it is advisable to grow it only in limited acreages.

A few acres of fall wheat fits in well with the general system of farming as practised in our district. We sow fall wheat after barley, sometimes after oats or on a clover sod plowed after haying. On rare occasions we find it on the old-fashioned summer-fallow. The crop is seeded at a time when other farm work is not overly pressing, and with our fast working plows and the wide machinery so generally used, we put it in at much less expense than we used to in the olden days. The crop is then no further trouble, save for seeding to clover, until harvest time, which comes on early after haying and the wheat is out of the way before the spring grains are ripe. It is therefore apparent that the crop fits in well with our farm work, and this is an important consideration in these days of scarce and high-priced labor.

### OTHER ADVANTAGES OF WHEAT

It must not be overlooked that the crop is one of the best with which to seed down both with timothy and red clover. It also is usually very productive of straw, which is undoubtedly valuable around the farm as bedding and in increasing the supply of manure. We run the risk of winter-killing, it is true. But even should it winter-kill, we have lost only our seed, since the land is in good tilth and with little cultivation

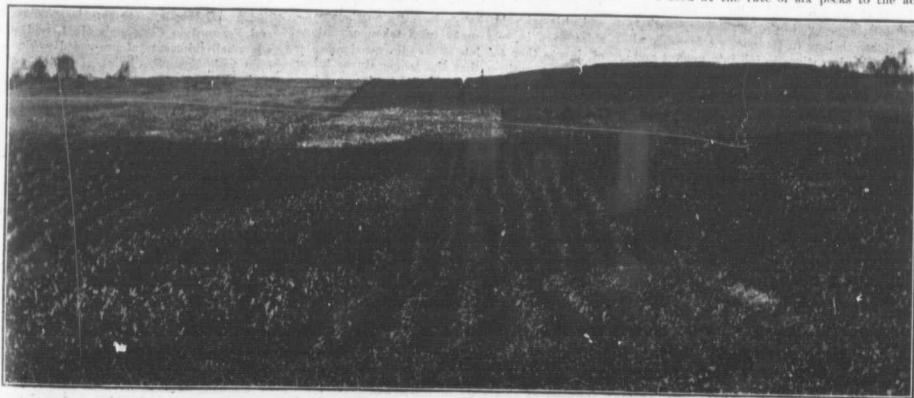
can be reseeded to a spring crop. There is always a ready cash market for wheat, though at times we consider the price too low; for those various reasons, probably this latter is one of the greater, wheat continues to be and is deservedly popular.

How much wheat to sow this fall is not a question for one man to decide for another. On 150 acres I usually sow from 25 to 30 to wheat and find that area about right. The price of wheat at the time of sowing is to many a consideration. It has nothing to do, however, with the price our wheat will bring next fall, although it has been my observation that when the price is low it is usually an ideal time to seed more than usual to wheat, since the average man proceeds on exactly the opposite tact.

### SOIL PREPARATIONS FOR WHEAT

In preparing the soil for wheat I like to have it plowed as early as possible and worked down thoroughly so as to start the thistles and any weed seeds, such as false flax and ches, which are troublesome in the wheat crop. The earlier the land is plowed and the more cultivation it can be given the better will be the moisture supply and the better will be the germination of the wheat after it is sown. I like to seed it in ordinary years about from the 5th to the 10th of September. If the soil is in good condition and the moisture supply is right I would not mind sowing somewhat later, and if the Hessian fly is likely to be troublesome (i.e., if it has been troublesome this year), then it is well to sow later, even as late as the 25th of September, in which case we can miss the fly. I have read that it is well to trap the fly on strips of wheat sown in the field about the last week of August. These strips may be plowed under after the middle of September, in which case the "fly" already in the plants will perish.

I seed at the rate of six pecks to the acre; if



Where Some of the "Problems of the Greater Ontario Settler are Being Solved for Him

The Government Experimental Farm at Monteth in New Ontario, a portion of which is here shown, is designed to find out for the benefit of settlers what crops and varieties of crops are best suited to conditions in that country. It is doing this and more, since the excellent crops raised on this farm have shown the great possibilities of agriculture in the Great Clay Belt and the desirability of New Ontario as a field for settlement.

—Courtesy Cobalt Nugget.