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mixed farming. grain and stock, ie place. Fence when strangers 1 of stock eating ou have escaped lunatic asylum ttle poetry cont I really must

iness ewn; lindness Dam. old hymn.) I. BRADSHAW.

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cing for farmers' ink that such a any forceful rehis district the to the fifteenth until the first of owed to run at the year stock here comes a hat such stock once in every

served a good rds were larger t present, but nouncing it one gressive mixed existence prery. Its operaier an all-stock It is practically g in its work at To my mind sidering would rough the year, ny kind to run

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at large at any time. I hear my neighbors say: I haven't sufficient pasture; how am I going to keep my herd ? " And my answer is : fields. You'll have better cattle and cleaner fields." out all those scrubs, then fence your herd in

This is the unvarnished truth, but I fear there are many mixed farmers who are too blind, even to their own interests, to see it. Would it not be better to have, say 20 head of good, well-fed, ideas, and to provide a place where information sleek and profitable cattle where one always may be given and received, we publish each week knew where to find them, than to have say 40 at the head of this department a list of topics, have a marked effect upon the type of injury or 50 ill-bred, ill-natured, profitless brutes that which our readers are invited to discuss. Oppo- that these fungi are able to accomplish. For roam wherever they will

try and the farmers would be benefited. To be- than the subject is scheduled for discussion character of the seed and straw produced. gin with, if everyone's land were fenced in our zig-zag trails would be at once put out of existence in our columns. and straight, good roads would soon appear. The difference between the former, winding care- of the paper is theirs. They are invited to write spores. lessly across untidy farms, and the latter, straight the editor freely expressing their opinion of the to keep down weeds when one has a field fenced. which he or she may think can be profitably One good plowing and a few strokes of the har- discussed, it will be given a place in the order suffers less than a soft, succulent straw. rows is all the labor necessary in summer-fallow-ing. Turn the cattle in on it, and they will interest. Because this potice runs weekly at the clean it and pack it at the same time. They interest. Because this notice runs weekly at the in our Red river soils to produce an abundant make a specialty of cleaning up wild oats and head of the Farm Department does not mean that growth of straw, the quality of the straw propig-weed. Indeed, there are few exceptions in farm questions, only, may be taken up. The the way of weeds that cattle will not eat. If discussions will be spread over every department it is unable to resist. The grain fails to fill and low; sow before a rain and it won't need harrow- of the paper. ing in.

herd law, I am fencing in at least one field a year the second best Two Dollars, paying the latter till my farm is all fenced. It is disheartening to try to have clean fields while all the horses and cattle in the district roam over them all the late fall, winter and early spring. I think the herd law, does great damage in this respect. The golden rule that requires me to love my neighbor as myself, does not, I take it, require me also to with small threshing outfits, driven by steam or over-worked summer-fallowed lands, or upon love my neighbor's cattle; and while I am quite gasoline power? Would a farmer be well ad- lands which have been rather lavishly manured. willing to keep my own at home, I am quite vised in purchasing such a rig? State what gradually cause seed deterioration by internal determined to fence the other fellow's out just uses you make of your power other than threshing, attack, and, even though the new lands were Sask.

John Hubbard.

Herd Law of no Value to Grain Farmer or Stockman

Editor Farmer's Advocate :

In a former letter of mine on the herd law I stated what I thought of it. In my opinion it is a nuisance, and the sooner the law is abolished the better for both wheat grower and stockman. It may be a little hard on the wheat grower, animal matter to the hens during the winter months? of diseased wheat plants internally, and are thus necessitating him going to considerable expense How do you prepare and feed it, and have pre- carried each year to the new crop. No diseased in fencing, but he will be amply paid for his vious results shown it to be satisfactory? fencing in years to come, as fencing is the only way by means of which he can manage to keep up and curing pork or beef on the farm. a farm free from weeds. From a stockman's point of view he has everything to gain in a country like we have, where, as the Scotch emigrant puts it : "Why mon ye are jist tilling wee bit samples o' it." And with all the unoccupied and waste land that will not be occupied for the next 20 years, does it not seem an injustice and a great loss of revenue to a country that a herd law should be introduced which simply means that the cattlemen have to put a limit to their stock, and in some cases



Topics for Discussion

To afford an opportunity for the interchange of sick.

For the best article received on each topic, we In conclusion, I may say that herd law, or no will award a first prize of Three Dollars and for sum for other contributions on the subject previously open to explanation. For instance, received and published in the same issue.

> Articles should not exceed 500 words in length. giving your opinion of either gasoline or steam wholly free from disease, disease-infested seed tractors for general farm work.

November 24.-From your work and observations of the past season what new fact has been is placed on the discussion. Any matter may be to give beneficial results. discussed.

December 8.—Give directions for killing, cutting shrunken and shrivelled seeds.

To What is Deterioration in Wheat Yields Due

fected with from one to three or four definite parasitic fungi which attack after the same manner as the flax-wilt fungi attack and destroy the flax crop on old flax lands, and, therefore, such wheat lands may be said to be "wheatsick " in exactly the same sense that old flax lands have previously been termed "flax-

(3) We have found that various types of fertilizers and chemical substances applied to the soil, and various methods of treating the soil, site each topic is the date of publication of example, by special treatments of such old such an alteration in the law as I suggest would contributions on it and readers are reminded that "wheat-sick" lands we have been able to such an alteration in the law as I suggest would contributions on it and readers are reminded that wheat-sick lands we have been able to heighten the destructive effects of the diseases try for fencing, but such an outlay would be more articles contributed on any of the subjects given upon the crops. In certain other cases we have than offset by the many ways in which the coun- must be in our hands at least ten days earlier been able to greatly modify or improve the

(4) The diseases under consideration may Readers will understand that this department by way of the soil, or through wind-blown

(5) The destruction of the crop so far as reand business-like, with trim fences on either side, need only be seen to be appreciated. Then it is manner in which it is conducted and to suggest ducing the yield of plump seeds is concerned, really surprising to note how much easier it is topics. If any reader has in mind a question seems to be quite closely proportionate to the speed of naturity and to the hardness of the straw; that is to say, a stiff, harsh straw

While there is sufficient fertility available (6)duced is often of such nature that when atin many cases the grains are cut off from the mother plant before even the milk stage is reached.

This disease theory explains many features with regard to reduced yield that were not it accounts for the fact that even new prairie lands when broken now as often fail to produce plump wheat as the old wheat lands. It also November 17 .- Have you had any experience in a large way accounts for the effect seen on sown there continues the trouble.

ADVICE FOR NEXT YEAR'S CROP:

(1) Rotate, thus giving the wheat fungi which most impressed upon you, or what old fact has been are now known to exist, in such defective fields, a chance to die out. Other crops than cereals most thoroughly re-emphasized? No limitation associated with close pasture, are most likely

(2) Sow only plump, properly colored seed. wheat, for some of the chief wheat parasites December 1. - What do you feed to supply which we have been studying infest the kernels grains retain a normal color, shape and size. Therefore, grade the grain so as to eliminate the

(3) Treat all seeds by the formaldehyde method; for the seed from infested wheat crops also carry the spores of the wheat parasites upon the outside of the grain, as in the case of smut, the formaldehyde treatment easily

all such spores. This is one of the explanations

parasites upon uninfected or slightly infected

(4) Avoid so preparing the land as to produce

an excess of available nitrogen or the use of

nitrogen fertilizers in undue amounts immediately

preceding the wheat crop, unless the large avail-

able nitrogen supply is counterbalanced by

phosphates or other mineral fertilizers suited

to hasten maturity, and harden or stiffen the

straw; for wheat on such lands falls an easy

1501

go out of stock keeping altogether ? I am thankful to say that I live in a district that never has had a herd law. I have opposed it for twenty-five years, and have been able to an extent as to deceive one into believing the keep it out so far. We started by fencing our crops and letting our stock run at large, and I do not think you can find an old settler that wants it otherwise. The new man sometimes raises the dust, but after he has tasted of the fruits and found them good he has nothing more to say about it. In conclusion, I would under these heads like to ask these wheat men that are in favor

R. M. DOUGLAS.

Prof. H. L. Bolley, of the North Dakota why treatment for the prevention of smut has Experiment Station, has been carrying on some always shown an increase of crop, even though experiments to determine the cause of deteriora- the grain so treated is known to be free from tion of wheat yields in the Red river valley. smut. This method of handling seed will prevent The results seem to show that the chief cause sowing large quantities of spores of the wheat of deterioration of yield is due to the action of parasitic fungi, causing root rot, wilting and soils.

blighting of the straw and heads, so that on fertile land the yield may be reduced to such soil is worn out for wheat. Further, the experiments seem to furnish a material basis for the belief that proper handling for disease prevention may largely restore the yielding power of such soils without great cost.

Professor Bolley sums up his conclusions prey to the fungi. A crop of corn or flax or nder these heads : millet upon such lands, preceding the wheat

(1) That continuous wheat cropping has, in crop, will be apt to leave the soil condition as to of a herd law: How many of you that have been my belief, been chiefly instrumental in the in- conduce to the formation of a stiffer straw. tarming for ten years in the country can offer pure troduction of wheat parasites into the soil (5) Give the soil thorough cultivation, drainseed, free from all noxious weeds? I have and into the seed, and that these parasites are age and aeration, and yet have the seed bed travelled over a great deal of the West and I carried in various ways from field to field and thoroughly compact. These are conditions which find in the majority of cases where they have especially are transmitted from crop to crop are particularly favorable to the production adopted our system that they have the cleanest by way of the seed. (2) That through the practice of continuous stand well, while the reverse conditions are apt of the wheat plant, conditions which it can

wheating, soils in many cases have become in- to be favorable for the growth of fungi.

'AL SHOW, 1909

Sask.