

were the red tickets. I noticed a judge standing back watching us so I asked him the reason. He wanted to know if I had seen what the points were given for. Of course I confessed I had not followed them all and told him I would be more careful next time and so I was. Last year I carried off the first prize on rye and oats, and second on wheat. We did not grow either of the other grains last year so I couldn't enter them.

The apple and weed-naming contests were nearly as interesting as the sheaf competition and one had to be well versed on the many different kinds. The contestant who had the greatest number rightly named won the prize. There were thirty kinds of apples and nearly as many pressed weeds, and all the farmers' sons and daughters could enter without paying any fee. A District Representative mixed up the varieties and kept track as each boy or girl tried their luck. I tried in both and was fortunate enough to get first in weed naming. There is always a keen competition for these prizes and as a result great interest is taken in the selections and cultivation of the seeds sown. The young farmer learns how to intelligently adapt himself to all the new problems which confront him and I'm sure there was no prouder moment in my life than when I carried off the red or blue ribbon. It is not the money value alone, but the increased interest you obtain by entering in these competitions. I think every boy should persuade his father to let him enter competitions at the fall fairs.

Northumberland Co., Ont.

HAROLD JAMIESON.

### A Pig Fed Cheaply.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

To begin with I must say that I agree with George Harman, that there is money in pigs, though I do not say that there is more money in pigs than in cows.

Hitherto I have paid little attention to "The Farmer's Advocate," although my father has taken it longer than I can remember, and I might say I am in my sixteenth year, and now I have become interested in your new Department. I thought I would tell you of a little investment I made sometime ago.

About the first of October 1915, one of my father's sows had a litter of eight or nine pigs, but before we could rescue them she had killed all but one. My father didn't know what to do with it so I asked him to give it to me. He consented to do so. Somehow the sow took kindly to it after a short time and I left it with her for about seven weeks. I then weaned it and fed it on the following feed till the latter part of March when I sold it.

46 lbs. shorts.....	\$ .65
130 lbs. oat chop.....	1.40
100 lbs. middlings.....	1.35
Total cost of feed.....	\$3.40

I sold my pig for \$12.00 thus making net gain of \$12.00 minus \$3.40 equals \$8.60. I think this is a fair gain. I have now bought two bags of potatoes at \$1.75 per bag. My potatoes are doing fine.

Perth Co., Ont.

LLOYD S. JOHNSON.

### A Year with Hens.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

In the year 1911-12 my younger brother and I kept chickens on a small scale in the back yard, and the month of August 1913 found us with seventeen four-months-old Barred Plymouth Rock pullets of the Ontario Agricultural College laying strain. At this time the attention of the junior partner was more occupied with the wonders of miniature electric motors than with the feeding of the chickens, so an offer for his share in the seventeen was accepted without much dicker and I started in the business alone.

I had a good, airy, double-boarded chicken house, 8 feet by 10 feet with a 6 foot by 3 foot window in one side, two smaller windows in front, and an opening about two feet square covered with factory cotton in the door. A quantity of straw held to the top of the house by wire netting helped to keep the floor from becoming too damp.

My system of feeding was comparatively simple. Crushed oats, mangolds, water, grit and oyster shell were kept before the hens at all times. In the morning and at night I fed in the litter a grain ration, consisting of two parts of wheat to one of cracked corn, but, on cold winter days I always tried to have for them instead of the grain at night, a hot mash consisting of table-scraps dried off with bran. Once a month in winter I bought five cents' worth of liver, boiled it, and gave them a little at noon each day, while it lasted. The water it was boiled in, with bran made an excellent mash for the night feed.

I gathered the first egg on October 13, and from then on the production steadily increased. In December I was getting from five to eight eggs every day. In January I traded two pullets to a neighbor for a rooster of the same strain and the fifteen left gave from six to ten eggs daily all January and February. In March and April I gathered from nine to fourteen eggs every day. These results were better than I could have obtained from a larger flock as I was able to give the fifteen hens all my attention.

For all my winter eggs I found ready sale among the neighbors, selling in all fifty-four and a half dozen. In March the sale of eggs for hatching began and a glance at the receipts for the year will show that this brought in more than twice the revenue that any other sales did. The O. A. C. bred-to-lay Barred Rock has

a reputation for laying that is well known in the province, so I found no difficulty in selling most of the eggs at \$1.50 per setting of fifteen. Two customers took over one hundred eggs each, so I gave them a cheaper rate. The fact that I was able to dispose of them without advertising cut down expenses so that the only cost of selling them was the price of the boxes in which eggs were shipped to customers out of town. Besides selling eggs for hatching I set 74 in an incubator and from these hatched 51 chicks which I put with clucking hens. Of these I raised thirty-nine, of which only eleven were pullets. However, I disposed of the cockerels in July at 50 cents each, and that made a fair profit. About the middle of June I sold my hens and rooster and after July I had the whole yard for the pullets. I sold my six best hens at \$1.25 each and the remainder at \$1.00 each. For my rooster I got \$1.50.

The expenses and receipts are as follows.

#### RECEIPTS.

Sale of winter eggs.....	\$17.67
Sale of eggs for hatching.....	38.94
Six hens at \$1.25.....	7.50
Nine hens at \$1.00.....	9.00
Twenty-eight cockerels at 50c.....	14.00
Rooster.....	1.50
	\$88.61

#### EXPENSES

For brother's share.....	\$ 6.00
Mangolds 4 bushels.....	.50
Grit 20 lbs.....	.20
Oyster shell 20 lbs.....	.10
Roup preventative.....	.25
Lice powder.....	.35
Meat (liver).....	.25
Wheat 840 lbs.....	12.75
Cracked corn 200 lbs.....	2.95
Crushed oats 300 lbs.....	4.25
Chick feed.....	.55
Boxes for shipping eggs.....	1.30
	\$29.45

Receipts.....	\$88.61
Expenses.....	29.45
Gain.....	\$59.16

In August 1913, one year from when I started I had made \$59.16 profit and still had eleven pullets to start the fall with. This made a profit of nearly four dollars per hen, but of course it must be remembered that a larger gain per hen can be made from a flock of fifteen than from a hundred, and that the sale of setting eggs brought in much greater returns than if they had been sold for ordinary purposes.

Halton Co., Ont.

FRED B. HUTT.

[Note.—This excellent essay was forwarded after the date of entry into the competition expired so could not be considered for the special prizes, but we are publishing it and intend to pay for it at a liberal rate. Fred certainly deserves credit for his success with his hens.—EDITOR.]

### How I Grew Prizewinning Turnips.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

During the last few years several of the counties of Nova Scotia have awarded prizes for the best acre of turnips grown by a boy between fifteen and twenty years of age. The prizes offered in these contests are quite liberal, being seventy-five, fifty, thirty and twenty dollars, respectively. This money, however, must be used either for purchasing pure-bred live stock, for underdrainage, for an agricultural education, or in some other way approved of by the committee.

As I had previously won a first prize in the contest, I decided to try again, and went about it in the following way:

Soon after the hay had been hauled from the field selected for the plot, the ground was ploughed, harrowed, and then crushed by means of a heavy plank scraper, and left until spring. As soon as the ground was fit to be worked in the spring, it was harrowed. After this, thirty loads of barn-yard manure were spread on and ploughed in. The plank crusher was next used to grind the lumps, after which the ground was harrowed, then ploughed and crushed, and again harrowed. By this time the soil was in good condition, and after receiving a small amount of Acid Phosphate and Nitrate of Soda, and being rolled, was ready to be drilled. The drills were made and the seed sown on June 18th. As soon as the plants were big enough, they were cultivated, and thinned to about one foot apart in the row. Throughout the summer either the cultivator or the hoes—sometimes both were put to work as soon as the ground began to dry after a rain, in order to keep the surface loose, and so prevent evaporation of moisture from the soil.

Shortly before harvesting, the field was judged,—not only for yield, but also for quality, uniformity, vigor of growth, freedom from disease, stand of crop, cultivation, etc.

In spite of this being a poor year for turnips, the average yield being about two hundred bushels below that of the previous year, I was awarded first prize.

Later, at the Maritime Winter Fair, I won first prize (five dollars) for the best six turnips exhibited by the prize winners from all the counties.

In accordance with the rules of the contest, I kept an account of the cost of raising, which I give below:

Ploughing, 11 hours at 40c.....	\$ 4.40
Harrowing, 8 hours at 40c.....	3.20
Work done with crusher, 3 hours at 40c.....	1.20
Hauling manure, 15 hours at 30c.....	4.50
Spreading manure, 1 day at \$1.50.....	1.50
Rolling and sowing fertilizer, 25c.....	.25
Drilling and sowing, 3 hours at 40c. and 2 hours at 15 cents.....	1.50
Cultivating, 7 hours at 30c.....	2.10
Thinning, almost 3 days at \$1.50.....	4.50
Hoeing, 2 days at \$1.50.....	3.00
Pulling turnips, 4 days at \$1.50.....	6.00
Carting, 1 day at \$3.00.....	3.00
One-half value of 30 loads of manure at \$1, (\$30).....	15.00
Two-and-one-half pounds Rennies Perfection seed.....	1.00
One half value of six cwt. Acid Phosphate at 85c., (\$5.10).....	2.55
One-half value of 1½ cwt. Nitrate of Soda, at \$2.00, (\$3.00).....	1.50

Total cost of raising 975 bushels,—cost per bushel, about 5.6 cents.....\$55.10

Only one-half the value of manure was charged to the crop of turnips, the remaining half being left in the soil.

So, besides having nearly a thousand bushels of turnips at small expense, and eighty dollars, the soil was left in good condition for the next crop.

N.S.

JOHN A. SEMPLE.

### Producing Pork at \$6.60 Per Cwt.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I beg to give you our experience with a bunch of hogs during the winter of 1915-16. We had two litters, one of ten—a Tamworth-Berkshire cross—and the other of eleven from Yorkshire get. We prefer Berkshire sows, as they are of a quiet nature and are easily kept, and when bred to a Tamworth boar produce good, thrifty pigs.

After the young pigs were born the old sows were allowed to ramble through the pasture field and orchard, being fed twice daily with mixed barley and oat chop, which was well moistened. They had access to a creek at all times for drink and wallow. At the end of eight weeks the little ones were weaned and put into a pen, fed mangels once a day and mixed chop twice. For some time we had three pens framed into one, allowing all the young pigs to run from pen to pen; this we think gave them plenty of exercise, as we had not a crippled pig in the lot. When the pigs were about four months old we separated them, putting seven in one pen and fourteen in the other two pens. The lot of fourteen, I may here remark, did fully as well as the lot of seven. We fed them oat and barley chop twice a day and mangels first thing in the morning or at noon. They always had all the pure water they wanted to drink, generally before the chop was fed, and the chop was just slightly moistened. I think that much better than giving pigs sloppy feed.

The accompanying figures show cost, receipts and profits. I am valuing the young pigs at \$3.00 each, but they did not cost us that much:

#### COST.

21 pigs at \$3.00 each.....	\$ 63.00
210 bushels barley at 60 cents.....	126.00
130 bushels oats at 40 cents.....	52.00
200 bushels mangels at 10 cents.....	20.00
Chopping 140 bags at 5 cents.....	7.00
Labor going to mill 14 trips at 50 cents.....	7.00

\$275.00

The by-products paid for labor of feeding.

#### RECEIPTS.

Returns at 6 months and 11 days—21 hogs at 198½ lbs. each, 4,170 lbs at 10 cents.....	\$417.00
Total cost.....	275.00

Profit.....\$142.00

This was \$6.76 per hog profit, or 94 cents per bushel for oats and barley; or \$1.00 per bushel for barley and 85 cents for oats. Cost of production \$6.60 per cwt.

Durham Co., Ont.

W. G. BICKLE.

### Competition Winners Announced.

It is with pleasure that we publish the winners of the competition announced in these columns in the issue of June 22, articles for which were to be mailed to this office on or before July 22. The last of the essays are published in this issue, and the competition has been a decided success, for beginning with the issue of July 6, in which three essays were published, there have been from three to five published each week up to and including this issue. In all 37 essays were sent in and the writers should be congratulated, for every one was considered of sufficient value to publish, and all have appeared. This is a great start for the new department. Competitors among the older men never saw all their essays published. We wish to compliment the boys and young men who entered. The essays were brim full of facts and figures from practical experience, and all those not receiving prizes will be paid for liberally. One boy failed to mail his essay until July 28, so it could