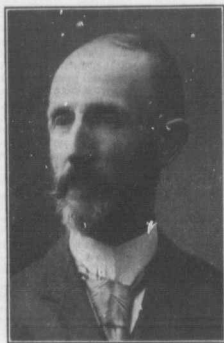


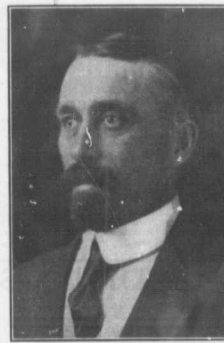
Victor Begg, Moose Creek.



E. Terrill, Wooler



D. Duncan, Don



J. W. Richardson, Caledonia

The Four Men who Stood at the Top of the List for their Respective Districts in the Dairy Farms Competition Conducted by Farm and Dairy

The extended scores of the first eight prize winners in each district were published in Farm and Dairy Jan. 31. The farms owned by these men and a number of others in each of the four districts will compete again this year to determine the best dairy farms in the province. Next year another competition will be held. Those who are likely to compete should begin to make preparations now.

their scope extended it would be to the advantage of the students returning to their life work on their farms. If the raising of cattle, horses, swine and poultry is worthy of attention surely so is an animal like the sheep, which produces both feed and clothing.

The Ontario Sheep Breeder's Association should go into the matter earnestly and take up, not only the matter concerning flocks at the Ontario Agricultural College but should look into the possibilities of having breeding and feeding, at least feeding operations, carried on at such institutions as Asylums where patients could with beneficial results be occupied in tending and caring for flocks.

Care and Management of Breeding Swine

D. D. Gray, Farm Foreman, C.E.F., Ottawa

The present condition of the hog industry with such high prices for pork makes most farmers start to do a little thinking and many are wanting to get back into the business again.

Perhaps it is a good thing for the hog industry that these conditions prevail as a great many were keeping hogs without counting the cost, or giving them the intelligent consideration that is necessary to the successful carrying on of any business. It is only on one part of the great hog industry that I wish to decant that of the care and management of the breeding stock.

BOAR

Always use a pure bred boar of whatever breed is liked best. Pure bred sires are more impressive as they have been bred for generations with a certain aim in view and litters from such sires will closely resemble each other in size and conformation. But remember that all pure bred animals are not necessarily good animals. Many pedigreed pigs now in use should have been castrated in their early days. The very fact of their being pure bred makes them all the worse as they will leave their mark on all their get and especially if bred to cross or grade sows. So have nothing to do with pure bred scrubs, see to it that whatever boar is used comes from good stock and is of good size for his age.

He will usually be able to serve when five or six months old but should not be required to do so before he is eight months old and then should be used sparingly. At this age he should not get more than one sow a day or perhaps occasionally two at most. Old boars may be got to serve two or three sows a day, with good results, if properly handled and fed. To insure the boar keeping in good service condition he

should have a chance to run about in a roomy pen or yard for exercise. Although he should be well fed he should not get too bulky a ration at this time and should be closely watched that he eat up clean whatever he gets at each time of feeding.

SOW

In picking out the sows to be kept as breeders do not be satisfied merely with the proper type desired but see that she has made good gains up to say seven or eight months of age.

At the Central Experimental Farm this year we had them go from an average of .80 lbs. or four-fifths of a pound per day up to 1.78 lbs. or one and three-quarter lbs. per day of a gain live weight at about seven months of age. See also that the young sow has at least 12 well placed teats and that she is out of a large litter. She should not be bred to farrow under a year old and better 14 or 15 months.

A short time before the mating season or before the time intended to breed the sows, they should receive a little extra attention, especially should this practice be followed with old sows. They should be so fed that they will be gaining in flesh and in good heart when being bred, this to insure large litters. After the sows have been bred it is of the utmost importance that they get a chance to take some exercise. If in the summer let them out on pasture or if in winter they should have the run of a large yard.

FEED FOR SOWS

The feed should consist of bone and muscle forming material such as bran, shorts and oats, with pasture on good food in summer, and roots and clover hay or chaff in winter.

Last winter we fed a bunch of 27 old sows at the Central Experimental Farm from November 1st up to March 13th a period of 130 days, on a meal mixture of bran and shorts in the proportion of two of bran to one of shorts. The sows received an average of about two and a half lbs. of this meal mixture 10 lbs. of roots and half pound clover hay a day. This ration costs on an average of four cents a day per sow for the total period of four and a half months.

Young sows however must be fed a more liberal meal ration to keep them in a good growthy condition.

One-fourth of an acre planted in small fruits and properly cared for will supply an average family throughout the season, but the land must be fairly rich and kept in good condition by cultivation.

How to Get No. 1 Seed

E. D. Eddy, B.S.A., Seed Branch, Ottawa

There is a wide difference between the seed of No. 1 and the seed of second quality. In fact second rate seed may be so badly contaminated with noxious weed seeds that it is dangerous to sow it on reasonably clean land. It is therefore essential that farmers wishing to sow clean seed should purchase guaranteed No. 1 goods and use every precaution to see that the guarantee is carried out. This is comparatively simple if you go about it in the right way. Do not go to your local dealer, who may or may not know good seed when he sees it, and ask for clover seed and take whatever he may give you. Go to him early in the season and place your order for guaranteed No. 1 seed.

To make sure that the seed delivered is up to standard, take a sample of each lot and send it to the seed laboratory at Ottawa for purity test. You will be sent a report giving the grade of the seed and the nature and quantity of the impurities. Then, if it is not up to standard, you can return it and demand something that will meet your requirements. The seed laboratory is always open to do work of this nature for farmers, but as yet the great bulk of the samples received come from seedsmen.

At present there are not many wholesalers who put out seeds marked No. 1. It is mostly sent out under brands, which mean nothing so far as the law is concerned. Seedsmen hesitate to mark their goods No. 1 so long as they can sell them without, as there is much danger of violating the Act when only the "Government standard," as the prohibition line has been named by the trade, has to be conformed to. In fact, they often find it more profitable to export the No. 1 seed so long as Canadian farmers will buy what they call Government standard, which, if sown at the rate of 10 pounds an acre of red clover, may give you weeds to the extent of 15,000 an acre. However, some seedsmen are now sending out seeds marked No. 1 and others will do so as soon as there is a sufficient demand from retail dealers, and that demand can only be created when farmers refuse to be satisfied with anything else.

We have two silos. Ten acres of good corn will fill them. With the alfalfa and ensilage we will have a fine lot of the best as well as the cheapest feed obtainable for our cattle as well as a little of it for our horses.—Geo. Martin, Farm Manager, House of Refuge, Waterloo Co., Ont.