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FARMS AND FARMING

The Pure-Bred Ram v. The Scrub.

We hear from all sides and directed to all classes of stock "Swat the scrub sire." It is acknowledged by all that the sire from a pure family bred for years for milk, beef, mutton, eggs, or whatever is desired, will so impress his good qualities on his progeny that they will be far superior to the offspring of the scrub sire.

At the Missouri Agricultural College tests were made of the relative merits of a pure bred mutton ram and a scrub ram when used on range ewes. Two lots of seventeen range ewes identically alike were used in the experiment with the following striking results:

- (1) The lambs from the pure-bred mutton ram at 3 months of age, weighed $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. more on the average than did those sired by the scrub ram at 4 months of age.
- (2) The lambs from the mutton sire sold at \$7.35 per hundred lbs.—those from the scrub sire sold for \$4.50 per hundred.
- (3) The quality of the wool of the offspring from the pure-bred sire was noticeably better than that from the stock sired by the scrub ram.

Figures talk for themselves. It is needless to say which is the more profitable ram.

* * *

The Value of the Summer Pasture.

A small field of summer pasture is very valuable. If the ordinary pastures are short during July and August, the summer pasture field will provide the necessary forage. If they are good, then the summer mixture may be cut for hay or allowed to ripen. Moreover it is an excellent crop with which to seed down to clover and timothy.

In Ontario, the Commission of Conservation conducted many experiments on its Illustration Farms. It was found that oats and vetches gave best results, wheat, oats and barley next, and oats and peas last. Altogether five acres were sown, but the crop grew so luxuriantly that only half of the field was used for pasturage, the remainder yielding six loads of hay. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres pastured, however, provided the main pasturage for 12 cows during July and most of August, and caused an increase of 35 pounds per day in milk yield which held up for more than a month. This field, further, enabled the farmer to save for hay another 5-acre field for hay, which yielded 10 tons.

The following mixtures have given good results at Guelph:—

- Oats, wheat and barley, one bushel each.
- Oats and barley, $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels each.
- Oats and peas, 2 bushels of oats to 1 bushel of peas.
- Oats and vetches, 2 bushels of oats to 1 bushel of vetches.

In Saskatchewan, the most commonly used mixture is peas and oats, for 1-2 to 1 bushel of the former to 2 bushels of oats. The heavier and richer the land, the less peas should be used. Arthur peas and Banner, Victory and Abundance oats mix well together. The Department of Agriculture, Saskatchewan, further recommend the following mixture which is claimed to be a very yielder: Peas 60, oats 34, millet 2, and rape 2. The rape should be omitted if the pasturage is desired for dairy cattle.—C.A.G.

Fruit Growing and Diversified Farming.

The Kelowna district in British Columbia was early recognised as valuable for fruit growing, and until 1914 fruit growing was practically the only type of farming practised. Live stock was comparatively scarce. Prices for fruit fell and farmers began to realise that the special one-crop business was not entirely lucrative. Practically all food products such as bacon, eggs, butter and milk were shipped in from outside, and the farmers began to see that something was wrong. Keeping livestock seemed to offer a part solution, and the dairy cow, being the most economical producer of foodstuff and especially those needed in the household, attracted considerable attention.

Accordingly a movement was set on foot to establish a creamery. The business men of the city realising that whatever would benefit the farmer would also benefit them gave their assistance. Farmers promised to buy cows if a creamery was established. A meeting was held and with the assistance of the Provincial Dairy Department the Committee located a building which could be equipped and converted into a creamery for approximately \$1,600. Stocks to the value of \$1,750 were placed on the market to be paid for by instalments, the banks taking care of unpaid balances. A competent butter-maker was obtained, and the work started. At first cream came in very slowly, but at the end of the month the cream checks came in and the ready cash looked good compared with the old system of getting a year's crop of fruit paid for in one block. Things went on slowly, but surely, and the profits, though small at first, were used to increase and improve the plant. To-day, only five years from the start, the Kelowna creamery is the most up-to-date plant in the Province, with a yearly output exceeding 100,000 pounds of butter, and besides which it supplies Kelowna and the surrounding towns with all their ice-cream supply. Modern Pasteurizing equipment and scientific management is producing butter of the finest quality which has secured high awards in the Provincial and Alberta Dairy Exhibition.

The future of this district is assured for alfalfa, and corn grow to perfection, and the demand for first-class dairy produce exceeds the supply. Silos are springing up each year and the improvement going on in the dairy herds is truly remarkable. In 1916 several carload lots of heavy producing cows were introduced into the district and obtained ready sales. Many excellent sires have been procured both privately and co-operatively, and in 1918 a Holstein Breeders' Association was formed.

Thus in five years the community has built up one of the best creameries in British Columbia, and the spirit of co-operation is increasing prosperity and contentment in the homes to a marked degree.—"B.C. Farmer."

* * *

Financial Sensation, 153783, a yearling Jersey bull, was recently sold for \$60,000. One half interest was purchased by the Grey-stone Jersey Farm, Quebec, West Chester, Pa, and the remainder retained by Waterloo Jersey Farm, Waterloo, Iowa. The half interest sold brought \$5,000 more than has every been paid for any Jersey bull, and this animal is the second highest-priced bull of any breed.

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