

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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FARM AND DAIRY is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Manitoba, Eastern and Western Ontario, and Bedford Districts, Quebec, Dairymen's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein, Kyrieh, and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

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WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

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The paid subscribers to Farm and Dairy exceed 7,000. The circulation of each issue, including copies of the paper sent subscribers who are not strictly in arrears, and sample copies, varies from 8,000 to 12,000 copies. No subscriptions are accepted at less than the full subscription rates. Thus our mailing lists do not contain any dead circulation.

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY EXPENDITURES

One of the most interesting features of the report of the agricultural societies of Ontario for 1909 is the statement showing the receipts and expenses of the various Societies. While a great majority of the societies spend vastly more for agricultural purposes than for special attractions, it is discouraging to notice that such is not the case will all. The East Elgin Society spent \$1450.00 for special attractions and \$1302 in prize money; the Grenville Society \$1013 for special attractions and \$1007 for prize money; the West Huron Society \$844 for special attractions and \$705 for prize money; the Brockville Society \$1993 for special attractions and \$2034 for prize money. In the case of such Societies one is almost justified in asking whether they are intended mainly to assist acrobats, balloon ascensions and to encourage horse racing or to advance the cause of agriculture.

In contrast to such societies it is

gratifying to notice the good work being done by a few, such as the Halton Society, which gave \$1156 in prize money and \$83 for special attractions; the Drumbo Society with \$1054 for prize money and nothing for special attractions, and the Northern Renfrew Society with \$1388 in prize money and \$42 for special attractions.

COBBOURG HORSE SHOW

The horse breeding interests of the counties of Durham and Northumberland as well as the other counties in the central portion of Eastern Ontario are deriving no little benefit from the Cobourg Annual Summer Horse Show. A most commendable feature of this exhibition is that it offers special prizes for the best horses in local counties. Such tends to bring out the best farm teams and the best driving and harness horses in these counties and gives the farmer and the amateur horseman a chance. Were such prizes not offered, ordinary breeders in these local districts would receive little encouragement. The big, moneyed exhibitors from a distance, with their well bred and perfectly trained animals, would give the average horseman little chance of winning.

When classed in their proper place, the large exhibitors, with their highly bred, well trained horses, are of paramount value to a show. Besides being a great attraction, they serve to show the possibilities of the business, and in this way tend to raise the ideals and the standards of the average horse breeders.

KEEP ONLY THE GOOD COWS

Cessation of demand for a good cow is not within measurable distance, her place is too well established in the daily economy of the civilized world. The supply of this demand is being studied by too few men in Canada. The vital importance of the good cow to the average dairy farmer is a question that has not up to the present had enough publicity or study. The average factory patron is the one man of all farmers who can afford only to keep the good cow. His time can be well enough occupied on the farm without the additional pleasure of feeding the average or poor cow that continues to absorb, and take in, and consume, without giving out that which can be turned into a satisfactory profit.

Such remarks as the following, from a dairy farmer near Peterboro significantly indicate of what advantage the cow testing associations really are: "Although we knew in a general way that some cows were low milkers, yet we never realized it until it was brought home to us by weighing and sampling. We are discarding but for the scales showing them up. Many farmers near, on account of such object lessons, are getting rid of their poor cows and buying good milkers and pure bred bulls."

Our factory patrons all over Canada need to realize that time is saved when time is spent in weighing and sampling so as to rid themselves of the

poor cow. Definite knowledge of individual performance paves the way for keeping only the good cow; acquire that knowledge by means of individual cow records.

COMPETITION CLOSE IN EASTERN ONTARIO

A number of the competitors in the dairy farms competition in districts Nos. 1 and 2 are very close according to the score allotted to them on the first inspection. Farm and Dairy in a letter recently to hand from the judge, Mr. R. K. Ness, learns that he cannot say just where a number of the competitors in Eastern Ontario will be placed. They are so close together in the score that the result of the next judging trip is likely to change their position considerably.

This indicates that the competition is a close one. Those who manage to make the most improvement between now and the late fall when the farms will next be judged, will be likely to be benefitted thereby and to improve their standing in the final score.

ASSISTANCE IN UNDERDRAINING

If there has been any doubt about the beneficial results of underdraining, the present remarkable season should be convincing. Many have been anxious to put in tile, but owing to difficulties presented and not being sure of the best method of doing the work, they have been deterred from making these needed improvements. The assistance available from the Physics Department of the Ontario Agricultural College, or from any of the eleven branch offices of the Ontario Department of Agriculture in the respective counties in which they are located, has removed this difficulty so far as Ontario farmers are concerned.

Lack of funds has also kept many from installing underdrains. It should be encouraging to such to learn that they can borrow money for drainage purposes from the Government through the municipal councils at the nominal rate of 4 per cent, the loan to be repaid in 20 years in the installment plan. As Prof. Wm. H. Day points out elsewhere in this issue, a man can afford to underdrain and borrow \$1.84 if he can get back \$15 to \$25. All evidence, and there is much of it available from those who have had years of experience with underdrains, points to the fact that underdrains are immensely profitable. It is hoped that those whose farms are in need of underdrainage will serve their best interests by making such improvements and thereby reap the advantage that underdrains will give.

SEEING THE FAIR

Fairs are looked upon by sort of national holidays which are most acceptable after the steady work of summer. To attend them has become an annual event for many people. The larger fairs have become resorts of combined pleasure and business.

The greatest benefit from a one day or two day visit to a large fair is derived only when some definite plan is followed. Persons interested principally in stock or in machinery should

make that their first object of the visit. Our large fairs afford grand opportunities for making comparisons between animals of the same breed. This opportunity is available when they are in the show ring. Only the expert can carry in his mind from one farm to another, the points of an animal in order to make comparison between animals of nearly equal merit. The fair, therefore, is the stockman's opportunity.

Special business that takes one to the fair having been attended to, a general visit to all sections will be in order. Take as much pleasure out of the fair as possible, but remember that it is a mistake to overdo it and tire oneself. Many places at fairs are provided where one can have a quiet rest. At the Canadian National, Farm and Dairy as usual will have a tent on the ground to which our many friends are cordially invited.

ENORMOUS LOSS FROM WEEDS

If we could see in figures the enormous loss that is annually sustained through growing weeds, we would be more willing, than many of us are, to spend time and money in better cultivation. The loss is not only in the decreased yield of hay, grain, corn or roots, but in the extra labor weeds entail in handling the crop. It takes more power to cut grain where weeds abound, more time to bind more labor in stooking, more time to dry the grain, more labor in hauling to the barn, more storage room, more threshing, not to mention the inferior quality of the straw when mixed with weeds. There is no compensation for this extra labor and outlay.

Arms so overrun with weeds that they yield little or no profit to their owners, are not uncommon. Where labor is scarce and hard to get it might be found profitable to concentrate the labor on fewer acres and get more of the land sowed to grass. Weeds that are common in our grain crops are seldom troublesome in hay or pasture fields. The right kind of cows will make profitable use of all the hay and pasture produced.

The practice of turning stock on newly seeded meadows immediately after harvest, should be avoided if at all possible. New clover and grass plants are greatly weakened by being eaten off. Especially is this true with alfalfa. Not only are the plants injured by close cropping and tramping, but the breaking down of the stubble results in loss in that there is nothing left to hold the snow in winter, which is very desirable. A covering of snow not infrequently makes all the difference between success and failure in wintering a freshly seeded field.

While recently in Lake Huron district, a few miles from Goderich, an editorial representative of Farm and Dairy was shown a field of alfalfa on Mr. Philip Rundle's farm that had been mown for 16 years. This field is still in good shape, there being at the time of observation a second growth fully 20 inches in height.

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