

THE SETTLER'S TWELVE COMMANDMENTS (Revised)

Wheat Raising in a Nutshell:

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- (1) Break the land two or three inches deep—as shallow as possible, and yet cut all the grass. Turn the sod over flat so that the grass will decay quickly.
- (2) Break before the end of June, and, if possible, by the middle of that month. **THIS IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT**, as late breaking does not produce profitable crops.
- (3) The earliest breaking should be back-set during the late summer, after the sod has rotted. In back-setting, the sod is simply put back into its original position, the grassy side up, and about one to two inches of earth brought up with the plow to cover it. Disc and harrow, or pack and harrow thoroughly immediately after back-setting.
- (4) Frequently, the newcomer does not arrive until late in June. In the case of breaking done late in June, or in July, **FLOW DEEP**—say, four inches or more—and **DO NOT BACK-SET**. Pack the land, and after sod has partly decayed, disc it thoroughly and then harrow.
- (5) It is sometimes impossible to back-set Extra Heavy Land. In this case, the land should be treated as per **FOURTH** commandment, whether it be early or late breaking.
- (6) In Spring, harrow and sow as soon as the frost is out of the ground sufficiently to allow the seeder to go down the proper depth. Follow the seeder with a land packer, and the packer with a harrow.
- (7) **DEPTH TO SOW**: Scrape back the surface of the ground with the hand so as to ascertain the depth of the moisture from the surface. Adjust the seeder so that it will sow into the moisture,—not above it, nor deep into it; but just in the top of it.
- (8) **SOW THE BEST THOROUGHLY CLEANED SEED OBTAINABLE** and nothing else. Pay for the **BEST**—and get it.
- (9) After harvesting the first crop, the land should either be plowed, packed and well harrowed in the Fall; or, where the soil is clean, the stubble may be burned off in the Spring, the land disced without plowing, and a second crop sown, as per **SIXTH** Commandment.
- (10) Summer fallowing should start after the **SECOND** crop is taken off. Plow the summer fallow as soon as possible after seeding the other land you are cropping. **NEVER** leave this plowing till after June. Experience has proven that one early plowing is better than two. Weeds absorb much moisture: Keep down weeds by cultivation, and so conserve the moisture in your summer fallow. In the Spring following put in your crop as per **SIXTH** Commandment.
- (11) After cutting the first crop from summer fallow, where the land is clean, allow it to lie until the following Spring—then, simply burn off the stubble, disc up the surface, and put in second crop as per **SIXTH** Commandment. Summer fallow land **EVERY THIRD YEAR**.

To clean land foul with couch grass, French weed, mustard, wild oats or other noxious weeds, burn off stubble early in Spring, and double-disc and pack. Then let land lie for three weeks and disc and harrow, thereafter seeding heavy to barley.

- (12) Sow a bushel and-a-half of wheat on new breaking and on summer fallow, and a bushel and-a-quarter on stubble. Before seeding, all seed should be treated for Smut.

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