

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL

Start haying early.

A little shade in the pasture field is almost invaluable just now.

More hay is left until past its best stage for cutting than is cut before it has reached its greatest value.

A fair crop of well-cured hay often has more feeding value than a big crop carelessly handled and only half cured.

Keep the watering troughs well supplied with fresh water this hot weather. It means dollars to the stock owner.

Is the casein test to gain prominence in the dairy world? Read what Prof. Dean is saying about it in this paper.

It is not always the man with the greatest opportunities that makes the best success. The thinking worker gains the prize.

It often is advisable to cultivate potatoes rather deeply. Do not be afraid to let the cultivator teeth go in the ground.

A shortage of live stock in the United Kingdom is now reported. What will prices be if this disease keeps on spreading?

The potato crop is growing in favor. If best results are to be obtained spraying thoroughly for bugs and blight must be carried out.

Importers will read with a great deal of pleasure that the embargo is being removed from British cattle and sheep coming to this country.

Take in the excursion to the Agricultural College, and do not go to grumble and find fault, but go to learn something and you will not be disappointed.

If any able-bodied summer boarders are lounging around the farm, get a pitchfork or a hoe and see how quickly their vacation will end and they will return to their office chairs.

A little co-operation at haying time may get this heavy crop off in shorter time and with greater ease. Make arrangements with your neighbor, and solve the scarcity of labor problem.

If you have anything to say say it, and take the full credit and responsibility for it, but do not wait until someone else makes a statement and then circulate it, getting the credit yourself but hiding behind the other's name if anything is stirred up.

The Senate was busy towards the close of the session. The members did not take long to give the Farmers Bank Aid Bill the hoist, and after a little manoeuvring, which was mainly bluff, against the C. N. R. Aid Bill, they passed it by a substantial majority.

Keep right after the weeds in the corn field. If there are no weeds cultivate anyway, and watch the corn respond. A few showers, hot weather, and frequent cultivation make the crop. The grower has complete control of the last named, and by it he may control to a considerable extent the moisture from the showers.

### When to Cut Hay.

It is nearing the 20th of June, between which time and July 1st a good many Ontario farmers plan to commence haying. The season has been a little later than it ordinarily is, but no doubt much of the clover is already in bloom, and the haying season is upon us once more. We wish to impress the importance of early cutting upon our readers. When the clover is nearly all in bloom is the time to get the men out and rush the work as fast as possible, that too much of it has not browned before cutting is finished. The hay crop is a far more important crop than most people realize. Its place cannot be filled by any other of our crops. It is a cheap substitute for grains and millfeed, is almost indispensable where horses, cattle and sheep are kept, is almost half a crop rotation, and should be cut at the season of the year when it will provide the most feed. Early-cut hay contains a great deal more protein than ripe hay, is more palatable, more digestible and thus of greater feeding value than the ripe, woody, fibrous stalks so often harvested late in the season. Implements and machines have been devised to make haying one of the pleasantest summer occupations on the farm. Much of the drudgery formerly associated with haying has vanished, and the work may be rushed and finished at a much earlier season than formerly. There is, therefore, very little excuse for allowing hay to stand in the field until it has very nearly ripened seed. Elsewhere in this issue will be found a lengthy article discussing time of cutting, methods of curing and housing the crop. Read it over carefully, and if you have any practical suggestions give our readers the benefit. But remember to cut alfalfa when the first of the bloom appears, red clover just at the time it reaches full bloom or immediately after, and timothy not later than the time the second blossom falls.

### A Loss to be Avoided.

Most of the barnyards have been cleaned out once more, and the bottoms of many present a very uneven, rough appearance with here and there little water runs which have been cut by the excess of rain water which fell on the manure either direct or from the eaves of the barn buildings. Every drop of this water which has been allowed to seep through the manure pile and run off has carried with it considerable of the fertilizing strength of the manure, and this run-off has been lost completely as far as crop production is concerned. Did you ever observe the rank growth of any crop which happens to grow along one of these runs in the fields adjacent to the farmyard? Everyone has. This is sufficient evidence that plant food is carried away by this surface water. Most of it gets away altogether, and is not even held for the use of the crops growing along the runs. This is a loss which should be, as far as possible, stopped, as it is poor business to produce the plant food so much needed by growing crops, and then let it slip away with surplus water and be lost to the farm and its crops. If time permits would it not be good policy to level up the yard, perhaps cement it, and place it into such a condition that less of the best fertilizer made on the farm is lost? At least the manure from now on should be kept well piled, away from the eaves, and if possible under cover. Are you willing that this loss should go on? If not now is the time to remedy it.

### Can You Afford It?

The expression is frequently heard, "I can't afford it," referring to better methods on the farm, due to the use of more up-to-date machinery and an all-round higher class of farming. The farmer sits down and reads of the successes of others, and often all his inspiration to do better turns to skepticism and criticism, and he generally winds up with the remark, "It is all very well for rich men but the common, every-day farmer cannot afford such equipment or such methods." What he says is often true in part, but he should not allow the valuable lessons to be learned from the operations recorded to be lost sight of. If the other fellow has made a success there must be something worthy of imitation in his methods. It is not necessary to incorporate all his principles, but they may be studied and modified to meet the conditions on the farm upon which they are to be worked out. The average farmer should watch carefully the doings of his neighbors who farm on a large scale, or better, get returns on a large scale, and from their successes and failures he should be greatly aided in developing his own undertaking. The moneyed farmer is not always to be laughed at. He often introduces business principles and common sense methods far in advance of those of his neighbors, and he is generally willing and glad to let the general farming public into his successes. Few, indeed, are they who can afford to let an opportunity slip to improve their chances of winning at the game of agriculture. No farmer can afford to farm without system. No farmer can afford to do without implements and machinery which will help him make a profit on his work, and, at the same time, yield good dividends on the money invested in them. Neither can any man afford to let his land grow to weeds and worthless herbage because wages are high. In short, no man can afford to neglect his farm and not make the most out of it. Modifications of large farming operations or of intensive agriculture are applicable to the general farm. Few can afford to miss the opportunities awaiting development on their own farms. Do not miss applying anything that is good on your own fifty, one-hundred or two-hundred acres. You can't afford to do without the profit-making equipment and methods.

### Where the Blame Rests.

Of one thing we are certain, that all the blame which is placed upon the weather and the soil for the poor crops and low profits which some make is not always well placed. Man cannot control the weather, but he can manage even the poorest soil and make the weather help him to a great extent in producing profitable crops. For instance, corn may be planted on rather a poor field where unless frequent cultivation is given it will not yield more than half a crop, yet if this land is cultivated weekly until the crop is too large to permit of further cultivation, the crop may be much heavier than the neighbor's neglected corn on the best of soil. We have seen an excellent crop of potatoes produced on a light field which could not be made grow good oats or barley, and who has not seen wet, worthless acres reclaimed and placed in profitable cultivation by underdrainage. As a general thing, if some good crops are not produced the blame rests with the manner of working the land, and not with the land itself or with the weather which is given us. True, losses frequently occur