

# Farm Problems

Any reader of The Guide who wishes an answer to any problem on the farm can have them answered in this column. These questions are valuable to all farmers, and should assist them to a more profitable return for their labors. All questions are answered without charge. Answers by the Correspondence School of Scientific Farming, Winnipeg.

## FLAX OR BARLEY

E.R.S., Lang, Sask.—Would you advise me, through your valuable paper, regarding the following?

1. Is barley as profitable a crop as flax on this very heavy flax land? Flax yields well here, but there seems to be so much danger of its being caught by frost. Then it is such a late crop and so hard to thresh in wet weather that it often has to be left out all winter. Little or no barley is raised here although it seems to do well, for the farmers claim that it is not as profitable as flax.

2. I have about 150 acres of flax, the crop of which was not threshed this fall, and I have thought of putting in barley on this ground next spring. What would you suggest?

Answers.—1. From the description of your land, it does not appear that barley would be as profitable as flax in your locality. A fairly gritty or sandy soil is necessary to secure the best results from barley. We cannot agree with you that flax is a late crop. Very good results may be obtained from flax if your crop is sown early enough. A mistaken idea prevails throughout the length and breadth of the country that flax can be sown as late as the middle of June. If you practice such late seeding you will not get the best results. To secure the greatest success from flax the land should be properly prepared and the seed sown not later than May 15 to 20. If the crop is sown not later than the above mentioned date there is no reason why you should not secure good results in your district from this crop. Flax is, as we all know, one of the best paying crops in Western Canada, and your land is well adapted for it. In sowing flax care must be taken to secure as clean seed as possible and all seed should be treated with a 40 per cent. solution of formaldehyde before sowing to prevent the spread of flax wilt.

2. We should not advise you to sow barley at any rate. You failed to state whether the flax crop had been cut or not. If it was cut and your land is free of perennial weeds it would be best to double disc next spring and sow wheat, using one and a half bushels to the acre, and sowing not later than May 15. Marquis wheat would, we think, perhaps give you the best results, but it is doubtful whether you could secure enough good seed to sow 150 acres without considerable expense. The next best varieties would be either Huron or Preston. If your crop was not cut and your land was very dirty with perennial weeds, it would be best to plow it next spring instead of double discing. Again, if your district is very subject to early frosts it might be advisable for you to prepare about 75 acres of this land early in the spring and sow to wheat, then prepare the remaining 75 acres and sow to oats. Oats is an earlier and hardier crop. A good clay loam is recognized as about the best soil for growing wheat, but in such soil you must not have more than 75 per cent. of saturation.

## CHOPPING FEED

J.K., McConnell, Man.—Would you, through your valuable paper, give me some advice on the following course, which I propose to adopt this winter. I am thinking of buying a cutter and small engine and cutting the hay and straw for the horses to mix with bran and oats. Would you be kind enough to suggest the quantities of feed to be fed to each horse? Should they not have at least one feed of whole hay per day? At present my winter feeding is hay in morning, oat straw at noon and night, and a half gallon of oats at each meal. I turn them out to run on fine days.

Answer.—Your idea of securing a small engine and cutter is a very good one. By feeding horses this way, especially in the winter when you have

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G. F. CHIPMAN, Editor

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THE GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE UNCOLORED NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF THOUGHT AND ACTION and honest opinions thereon, with the object of aiding our people to form correct views upon economic, social and moral questions, so that the growth of society may continually be in the direction of more equitable, kinder and wiser relations between its members, resulting in the wisest possible increase and diffusion of material prosperity, intellectual development, right living, health and happiness.

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time to prepare your mixture properly, you can get much better results.

Regarding the feeding of the horses, you are perfectly right in thinking that they should have a feed of whole hay per day. This should be fed to them in the middle of the day. For horses that are not working during the winter it would be advisable to feed the cut food morning and evening, the amount to be given to each horse varying with the size and weight of the animal. Only feed enough of the bulk or the mixture to each individual horse that he will eat it up cleanly. It is hard to give any hard and fast rule on this matter.

In preparing your mixture, lay first on your mixing floor a layer of cut feed, then a layer of chopped grain, then a layer of cut feed and so on. Sprinkle the entire amount with water and stir it up thoroughly. The water has the effect of making the chop adhere to the straw and consequently the horse will eat a larger portion of the straw than it would otherwise. Chopped oats give better results than whole oats and it would be advisable to use slightly less than half a gallon per head per meal in your mixture. For working horses, of course, you will have to feed a heavier grain ration, and will have to use your own judgment in this matter.



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