

# 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 District Quebec Dairywomen's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein, Ayrshire, and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

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## FARM AND DAIRY

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### WEEDS AND THE CARELESS FARMER

How long is the careless farmer, indifferent to weeds, to be allowed to carry on his business in a locality? Until he dies? If that be the policy then weeds, like the poor, will always be with us. One way to rouse him to action is to put him and his place to shame by everyone else in the locality getting their houses in order and then showing up his work by contrast. Competition of any kind is a great stimulus to get people to do their best. In the days of the prize farm competitions this fact was forcibly brought out.

It should be pointed out and continually rubbed into the careless farmer that he is a menace to his community in allowing at least certain kinds of weeds to mature their seeds. Better that the few should suffer through chaffing, than that all should

have their labors increased and their sorrows multiplied by the invasion of foreign weeds or the scattering of the seeds of those already present in a locality.

The careless farmer without intending it, may cause almost irreparable loss to his neighbors by simply neglecting to look after the weeds of a noxious character on his farm. For instance he may have fostered, by his system of rotation in cropping and his method of cultivation, a large number of perennial Sow Thistles. He may have allowed them to grow and mature their seeds, so that they are scattered by the wind hither and thither over a large constituency. Would it be unreasonable to have the weed law of the Province of Ontario so amended that the careless farmer will be forced to prevent at least this weed from going to seed in his crops?

### THE KITCHEN GARDEN

It is common for us to neglect to supply ourselves with a sufficient variety of raw fruit and vegetables. In these latter days of shortage of help and the rush for the "almighty" dollar, the family garden has been sorely neglected. Few seem to realize the value of a well kept garden. The carefully planned garden properly managed will provide a large proportion of the family diet at a very nominal cost. In addition it will do much towards insuring health.

To have a garden where while it must be planned early. Do not wait until the spring time comes. Procure catalogues from one or more of the well-known seed firms now and make the purchase of the seeds from one of these reliable sources rather than delay this matter until spring when you must take anything that the country grocer may offer. Much of the neglect and the unfruitfulness of the kitchen garden in recent years may be attributed to the lack of the proper selection of seeds from a reliable seed house.

### PREPARE FOR A BETTER PRODUCT

We often wonder if the dairyman who attempts to supply either milk or cream to his factory or creamery throughout the summer without a supply of ice ever figures out what it costs to do without it. The milk returned and the decreased price received for the product, from uncooled milk, which must of necessity be inferior to that from properly cooled milk form a large item with many. One owes it as his duty to himself and to his neighbor to put in ice. A small quantity of over-ripe or tainted milk will taint the whole vatful when added to it. In this way the loss resulting from milk delivered in bad condition has to be borne by all. It is not enough that one stores ice on his own farm, others should be induced to store ice, and to make use of it, that all the product of the factory may be made to grade the best that is possible.

The maker has sometimes been censured for an inferior product. He cannot, however, be held responsible for the cut on the price of the product when he does not receive the raw ma-

terial in the best condition, except that, in which case the loss would fall where it belonged—on the man who sent the milk. The season for storing ice is now at hand. It is for you to say whether you will store ice that will aid you in furnishing a first quality of milk to your factory this coming summer from which your maker can make goods that will grade finest.

### UNDERDRAINAGE PROFITABLE

The advantage of a thorough system of underdraining has long been well known to our progressive farmers. In many sections farms have been thoroughly underdrained for the past 30 years during which time the investments in connection with this work have not ceased to pay dividends all the way from 30 per cent. to 100 per cent. yearly. Notwithstanding all that is known as to the profitability of underdraining, thousands of underdrained acres throughout Ontario year by year fail to produce the crops they might. The expense of installing this work is considerable and hence many hesitate to make the necessary outlay. Few expenditures if any, on our farms will bring such large returns as those invested in properly laid underdrains. Those farmers that have land in need of draining should not hesitate to drain them at the earliest possible date.

The evidence of all who have underdrained their farms is to the effect that the expenditure has been returned, in the increased crops obtained, in from one to three years. Should the land to be drained be level and the outlet difficult to find, assistance can be had from the Physics Department of the Ontario Agricultural College which will lay out and plan the whole work at a cost which is practically nothing, being only the transportation expenses of the man sent out from the department. Investments in drains this coming season are practically sure to return at least 30 per cent. interest in the extra returns from the first crop from the land drained. With the possibilities of underdraining and other improvements on our farms before us, we need not look elsewhere for profitable investments for spare capital.

A case instanced by President Creelman, of the Ontario Agricultural College, at the recent Western Ontario Dairywomen's convention, where a field that could not be worked early owing to dampness had at the expenditure of \$14.50 been underdrained, enabling the farmer to get his crop in six weeks earlier, should be enough to convince one of the advisability of draining.

### KEEP ACCOUNTS

Some system of book-keeping is an essential on the farm. True, many have succeeded without keeping books. It will be found, however, that a large percentage of the unsuccessful, keep no books and in a measure it accounts for their failure.

A Dundas Co., Ont., dairyman, while discussing this matter recently, said to a representative of Farm and Dairy that it cost him so much to live he

was afraid to keep accounts; he would rather not know how much he spent. Few, we trust, are built on that plan.

A very simple system of accounting transactions will answer all requirements of the average farmer. The cost is practically nothing, the satisfaction great. As each year goes by one knows just where he stands with his business when proper accounts are kept. No modern business is ever attempted without some system of book-keeping. How can a farmer hope to succeed in his business transactions without keeping accounts?

### EQUIPMENT OF SUGAR CAMPS

In earlier days maple sugar and syrup were classed as necessities. Today they rank as luxuries. In former times haphazard methods of manufacturing these products answered very well. Now, if one would make sugar and syrup of the highest grade, old time methods must be abandoned. In many cases the equipment of sugar makers is inferior, and the buckets are often rusty, as are also the pans.

The demand for high-class maple products far exceeds the supply. If one is to be in the business at all he should make a "silt-edged" product. To this, requires the installing of first-class utensils and modern means of handling the sap. Covers for the buckets that will not blow off are one of the commonest lacks in the average sugar camp, yet those who have them vouch for their value in keeping twigs and other dirt out of the buckets and in shedding rain water.

The sugar making season will soon be here. It will be well to order supplies early and make such installations of equipment as we deem advisable before the season opens.

It stands without argument that there is money as well as a good living in farming. Nevertheless, the article, "Two Sample Canadian Boys," appearing on another page is refreshing evidence of what it is possible for even younger men to make in farming. It is a deplorable fact that the education given in our high schools tends rather to shop-keeping, clerkships, stenography, etc., rather than to work upon the farm. As Mr. Cumberland points out, good work is being done in connection with the agricultural departments now located in six of the high schools of Ontario. This work of establishing agriculture in the high schools should be extended as rapidly as possible until it includes at least one high school in each county of the province.

Do not disgust the boy with farming in the beginning by telling him that he does not need anything but his board and clothes now, because he will have "it all" when you are gone. Five dollars when a boy is ten years old is more to him than five thousands and will be when you are dead and gone and he has the farm.

Every day farmers are running the risk of being defrauded, when they could be certain of escaping that danger, even though it is remote, by complying with the terms of our guarantee printed on this page.