

FARMING

VOL. XVI.

FEBRUARY 14th, 1899.

No. 24

Agricultural News and Comments

A course of instruction in poultry culture at the Rhode Island College of Agriculture began on Jan. 9th last and will continue for four weeks. The number of applications is about double what can be accommodated.

Careful weighing shows that an ordinary bee, not loaded, weighs the 5 1000 part of a pound, so that it takes 5,000 bees to make a pound. But the loaded bee, when it comes in fresh from the fields and flowers, freighted with honey or beebread, often weighs nearly three times more.

The Umbrian cattle are snow-white, and form a lovely bit of landscape; but cows, as well as oxen, are yoked to the plow, and are never sent to pasture. In fact, there is no pasture land for them, and at sunset peasants are to be seen up in trees stripping off their leaves and filling sacks with them for their stable-fed cattle.

In the test every apple with a worm hole or in the least bit scabby was rejected. The beneficial effect on foliage was most marked, and incidentally good work was accomplished against tent caterpillars and other injurious insects. The formula used was 4 pounds lime, 4 pounds copper sulphate, 40 gallons water, and 4 ounces paris green.

The following is considered a very good formula for curing hams and shoulders: To every 100 lbs. of hams take best coarse salt, 8 lbs.; saltpetre, 2 ozs.; brown sugar, 2 lbs.; water, 4 gals. Mix the above, and pour over the hams after they have lain in the barrel two days. Let the hams remain in the brine six weeks, and then drain several days before smoking.

In Russia the wages of a horse are higher than those of a man. In the Volga district the average pay of a man and horse is about 72 cents per day; of the man alone 34 cents, leaving 38 cents for the horse alone. The women receive from 10c. to 20c. per day. In the central agricultural district the average is: Horse, 23 cents; man, 20 cents; woman, 13 cents. In the southern steppe. Horse, 36 cents; man, 25 cents; woman, 16 cents.

The complaint comes from London, England, that samples of No. 1 hard Manitoba offered for sale there are not up to the standard, and it is suggested that there may have been some mixing at the elevators before shipping. If there is any ground for this complaint it is unnecessary to point out the danger there is in this to the Canadian producer. The question should be investigated in the interest of the Canadian farmer.

Prof. Thos. Shaw, of the University of Minnesota, enumerates the following as among the causes of weakened stamina in purebred stock: Lack of exercise, forcing foods, in-and out breeding and breeding too early. In selecting from registered families, inquiries as to individuality are as important as any other that can be made. Unless the boar individually is what he should be his prepotency, resultant from purity of breeding, may be an actual disadvantage, for it makes him effective in the transmission of weaknesses which farmers want to keep out of their herds.

A farm credit system has been inaugurated in France by which any farmer may borrow money on the security of the produce of his own holding by a warrant or bond payable to bearer, notwithstanding that the said prod-

uce remains in his own barn or storehouse. This does not prevent the producer from selling his produce when he pleases provided he sells for cash on delivery and that he uses such cash to redeem his warrant and retains only any surplus after it is paid. This is a "boom" to small land holders who are plentiful in France.

The beneficial effects of spraying are clearly shown in the report of Wm. Orr, Superintendent of Experiments for 1898. On one orchard the results in perfect fruit were as follows:

	Sprayed clean.	Unsprayed.
Snow apples.....	64 per cent.	1 per cent.
Ben Davis.....	100 per cent.	28 per cent.
Wagner.....	96 per cent.	9 per cent.
Greening.....	88 per cent.	24 per cent.
Spy.....	100 per cent.	36 per cent.

Ergot is a fungus growth, and may often be found on cereals and grasses. If an ergotized plant is examined it will be noticed that some of the seeds are replaced by a small, blackish, and bone-like growth, usually longer and considerably stouter than the normal seeds. These growths are the resting spores or winter seeds, as it were, of the fungus; and they will germinate in spring under favorable conditions exactly as other fungus spores do. The consumption of these growths causes mortification and premature birth. If the ergot is ground up and cooked with the food the effect is not so serious.

Mr. T. J. Dillon, Charlottetown, P.E.I., formerly Dairy Superintendent for the Island, has been on a visit to Ontario during the past few weeks attending the dairymen's meetings. He reports dairying as progressing on the Island. Some 7,000 more boxes of cheese were made in 1898 than in 1897, besides a large quantity of butter. Early in January Mr. Dillon addressed the Vermont Dairymen's Convention at St. Johnsbury on "Cheese-making." A Vermont exchange speaks of his address as follows: "It was conceded to be the best paper on the subject ever given before the association." That such a statement should be made is not at all surprising to those who know Mr. Dillon's work as a dairyman. He is one of the best all-round cheese and butter-makers in Canada.

Canada's Live Stock Interests

Canada's live stock interests are of prime importance. This fact was never more clearly demonstrated than at the various breeders' meetings held in Toronto last week. At no other time, perhaps, in the history of the organizations represented have there been such satisfactory reports of the year's work presented. Every association reported progress, and none more notably than the Dominion Short-horn Breeders' Association, which reported an increase of over 1,200 registrations during the year over the number in 1897. The increase in membership and registrations of pure-bred stock in the other associations is also noteworthy, indicating that Canada's important live stock interests have undoubtedly entered upon a new era of prosperity and development.

One of the important features of the year's work has been that of amalgamation and the bringing of the live stock interests of the various parts of the Dominion under central control. A couple of weeks ago we published in