

FARM MANAGEMENT

Spreading Manure in Winter

Do you consider it advisable to spread manure on top of the snow during the winter months? This practice has become quite common in our neighborhood, but I do not consider it wise. I have noticed that the water that drains away from the fields where the manure is so spread is very much discolored. Surely a lot of fertility is lost in this manner.—A. B. Ontario Co., Ont.

The discoloration of the drainage water of fields in which manure has been spread has led many to believe that such water carries away much plant food. Actual chemical analysis of such water, however, does not show any appreciable amount of fertilizing ingredients in it.

In most cases we consider it advisable to spread the manure on top of the snow each day, and the experience of many practical and successful farmers bears out our assertion that this is the best method of handling manure. It might not be advisable, however, on steep, hill-sides where much of it might be washed off with the snow.

Fertilizer for Corn

Does it pay to use commercial fertilizer for corn, and if so, what kind do you consider best?—D. A. Dundas Co., Ont.

Commercial fertilizer is not usually advisable or profitable for growing corn in Eastern Ontario, or for that matter in any part of Ontario. It is just possible, however, that where soil is in very good tilth, and it is desired to have an extraordinary yield that the application of, say, 100 lbs. or even 150 lbs. of nitrate of soda per acre, applied at about the same time that the corn was planted might have a beneficial effect, or might even prove profitable.

If the corn were being grown for grain, then the addition of, say, 250 or 300 lbs. of basic slag or acid treated ground phosphate rock might prove of some value, but is not likely to prove profitable.—J. H. G.

Field Crops in Canada

The total area for Canada in potatoes, turnips and other roots, fodder corn, hay and clover and sugar beets this year, according to the Dominion Report, was 8,965,679 acres, with a total productive value of \$219,129,000. This is \$1,679,000 more than last year. There is a decrease of \$3,120,000 in hay and clover.

The largest increase is shown in potatoes, which is nearly \$6,000,000 more than last year, although the product is less by 8,000,000 bushels,—the average selling price being 60¢ a bush., compared with 45¢ a year ago. The value of this year's product of hay and clover and fodder corn is \$189,065,000, which is less than last year's value by \$2,608,000. Potatoes, turnips and other roots and sugar beets have a value of \$60,064,000 being more than last year's value by \$4,287,000.

The quality of all the crops this year is 90 per cent and over excepting sugar beet, which is 86 per cent, and last year all crops excepting potatoes, turnips and other roots were over 90.

The values of all root and fodder crops this year by provinces were \$5,754,000 in Prince Edward Island, \$12,228,000 in Nova Scotia, \$12,696,000 in New Brunswick, \$73,315,000 in Quebec, \$98,467,000 in Ontario, \$5,583,000 in Manitoba, \$3,790,000 in Saskatchewan and \$6,396,000 in Alberta.

The area sown to fall wheat this season is 1,067,300 acres, being 797,200 acres in Ontario and 300,700 acres in Alberta. This is 2.93 per cent less than a year ago.

The per cent of fall plowing completed ranges from 73.57 in Ontario

to 90.40 in Prince Edward Island for the Eastern Provinces, and from 18.73 in Alberta to 34.12 in Manitoba for the Western Provinces, which is less than the average of last year at the same date. For summer fallowing the average in all the provinces is well over 90 per cent, for each of the three years, 1909-11.

The Case for Fall Calves

A. D. Wilson, Manitoba

Have the cows come fresh in the fall. If this practice were followed generally, at least 50 lbs. of butterfat per year would be added to the average product per cow.

Having cows freshen at this time brings the heaviest milking during the winter, when one has the most time. It brings the care of the calves in the winter; it allows the feeding of the skim-milk to the calves in the winter.



The Whose Belt is Extending

The wheat belt in Canada is wide as well as long. No. 1 hard wheat has been brought to maturity several hundred miles north of Edmonton. Our illustration gives an idea of the growth that is made in the Peace River District. This district was once spoken of as the "Frozen North."

while they need it; and to the young during the early summer, when it means so much to them.

Calves dropped in the fall are ready for grass as soon as it comes in the spring.

Cows freshening in the fall will, if well cared for, give a good full of milk in the winter; and when the grass comes, a good full during the early summer, and most of them will be dry during harvest and fall work when there is plenty to do without a lot of milking.

The average price of butter-fat will also be higher, because of a larger portion of it being produced during the winter, when prices are invariably higher than in summer.

2 Nova Scotia Crop Report

A summary of the crop report recently issued by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, shows that on the whole, crops in Nova Scotia have been below the average this year. Hay is only 90 per cent of an average; oats, 89 per cent; wheat, 90 per cent; barley, 89 per cent; buckwheat, 60 per cent; forage crops, 93 per cent; potatoes, 94 per cent; and root crops, 100 per cent.

All kinds of live stock, with the exception of sheep, show an increase in numbers. On account of the dry weather there has been a decrease in the amount of milk produced of about 10 per cent.

Apples are a record crop and are reported at 360 to 400 per cent in comparison with the year 1910. The crop is estimated at 1,500,000 barrels from the Annapolis Valley alone.

A Note of Appreciation

Editor, Farm and Dairy.—Please find enclosed postal note for \$1 to pay my subscription to Farm and Dairy for another year. I cannot do without Farm and Dairy. I would try to get a club of subscribers for you but I do not feel able to travel as I am now over 80 years old.

Farm and Dairy is doing a great deal to induce farmers to obtain more profit from their cows by better feeding and testing of each individual cow. There is much left, however, to be done in that line yet; also to get farmers to take better care of their milk or cream to be manufactured into cheese or butter. Most of us seem to think that if the manufacturer will only take the milk that that is enough.

You certainly did your part in trying to get wider markets for us farmers. I think that the racial and religious question had much to do with the way the vote went.—N. Darby, Sheppard Co., Que.

Harness Pointers

It would be well to thoroughly overhaul the harness two or three times a year, and have any breakages attended to at once.

Brown harness is more durable than black. The former leather is in its natural state, except for tanning, while the black had been subjected to certain chemicals in dyeing it, which remove much of the natural grease and leave the leather hard and dry. Oil should be applied, but will not fully restore the flexibility and wear-resisting qualities. To clean black harness it should be taken to pieces and washed with warm water and soft soap, using a brush and plenty of "dub" grease.

Hang the harness up to let the water drain off (not in the sun), and when dry apply on the inside of the various straps and parts a thin coating of neatsfoot oil. On the outside use some prepared harness-dressing. Apply lightly with a sponge and a brilliant and glossy appearance will result.

For dry or wagon harness refined neatsfoot oil is a most useful preservative. In all cases the harness must be well washed and dried before the oil or dressing is applied.

On no account allow the oil to remain on the surface of the leather or it will pick up the dust and make a thick greasy coating on the outside of the harness. Just put on sufficient to penetrate.

A Fake.—The latest scheme out for taking money out of farmers is the "Footie Soil Testing Outfit." This outfit is being offered for \$10, and along with it "The Story of the Soil," by Cyril G. Hopkins. Professor Hopkins has nothing to do with this combination offer and, having tested the Footie Soil Testing Outfit in his laboratories, pronounces it a fake.

MORE MILK—How to Get It

If you feed your cows merely to keep them alive, they will produce as much milk as they can. But, if you want more milk than cows, bran, hay, or ensilage will produce, then there's only one feed worth considering. It's called "FARMER BRAND."

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