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Battle Creek, Mich

About the Farm

Corn as a Manitoba Crop

By Allan Campbell

per cent (or thereabouts) crop was the result. The above conditions are not normal, but abnormal, and cannot be

Perhaps it is somewhat harder to talk looked upon as the rule by which to set corn to the Manitoba farmers to-day than our farming operations. It is unfortive was a few years ago, as the past two or unate that these bad years came successthree years have not been, what might be ively, as any pessimism that the first called, corn years. However, we must failure created, was strengthened by the give this crop its due and look into the next; this would be specially so in the case facts of the case before we pass judgment of farmers who had built silos. Neverupon it. In the Brandon district for theless, there have been some fine crops instance, last year the rainfall was only of fodder corn harvested in Manitoba 5.85 inches, the driest period for over especially in the successive years of 1911, twenty-five years, and of course the 1912, 1913, and 1914. In the latter year growth was poor generally. The year we had an exceptionally hot July with a before that, the frost came and caught mean temperature of 70. F. According the corn in August, and to cut it then to the law of averages, it is likely that the and there became a necessity, and a fifty owners of the silos of Manitoba will look

Fine specimen from a Manitoba herd.

upon them as a very good investment in future years, and with the increase of the milk flow subsequent to the use of corn will become advocates of corn as an ideal winter feed.

Among the best varieties of fodder corn are Northwestern Dent, Longfellow and Minnesota No. 13. The effect of corn coupled with the method of cultivation between the rows is most beneficial to the land and the following crop on the corn land will help to advocate its adoption. To get the cleanest effect on the land the corn should be sown in hills; this will give the necessary room for cultivating at right angles and thus the weeds that escape the cultivator will be reduced to a minimum.

A corn harvester could be used as a community concern for a limited area, and those who have no silo can leave it in the stook and draw it in as required for feed. The dry corn stalks, though not as luscious as the real silage, still exercise a great fascination over cattle and are eaten with considerable relish.

Another great point to be considered is this; the cultivation given the crop during the summer constitutes part of next year's work of preparing the land, for the field of corn stubble may be looked upon as a summerfallow, given a stroke of the harrows and the grain drill put to work right away without any further preparation.

Protect Fowls from Cold Winds

Fowls will endure quite low temperatures without especial discomfort, but exposure to cold, raw winds will cause much suffering, even though the actual temperature, as indicated by the thermometer, may be comparatively mild. Protection from wind is a really important detail in securing fowl comfort. In exposed locations it is worth while to put up windbreaks of loose boards, burlap, corn stalks, or any convenient and inexpensive material at hand. Either do this, or keep the fowls indoors. There is little advantage at best in letting them run out after cold weather sets in, and none at all if they are exposed to uncomfortable conditions. Better supply plenty of floor litter to promote exercise and keep them in all the time unless they can be well protected when outside. If they can have access to barn, shed, straw stack or something similar, however, it may prove desirable to let them out.



Even the calf does his bit.

The Science of Breeding

In spite of the great advances that have been made by breeders of late years in the science of breeding, there are still many things either but little understood by them or totally beyond their compre-hension. It requires years of experience in order to learn even what may be called the minor points, and it is little wonder that so many novices, who lack the determination to persevere and succeed, fall out of the ranks from time to time, because they find the breeding problems too hard to solve, so far as bringing success to themselves is concerned. It is an exceedingly discouraging matter to the breeder who has, apparently, taken every precaution to ensure success, by providing himself with the best animals and best care available, to find that, owing to his ignorance of some subtle law of nature, the young stock from his so carefully selected animals do not come up to his high ideal of what they should be. And what baffles him most is that these laws do not seem to work uniformly year after year.

For instance, a cow bred to a bull one season throws a calf that is, in all respects, perfect. The next season, when bred to the same bull, her produce is only secondrate, showing, perhaps, one or more particularly weak points. Where the animal has been badly fed the second year, of course, the explanation would be simple,

