

SKUNK FARMING.

If you can furnish me any information on skunk-raising, or tell where it might be had, I would like it. Have a friend starting in that business.

SABLE.

[We are led to believe that skunk-farming is carried on for the fur of the animals, that has a high commercial value. We cannot, however, furnish any information regarding the unsavory business, but will give space to any who wish to discuss it.]

PAGE WIRE FENCING FOR HOOPING SILO.

As I intend building a silo, I would like to ask, through your paper, how "Page wire" would do around the outside of silo, instead of iron rods? If so, how could it be fastened on best to keep it tight?

Wm. J. Johnston, Jr.

[While we cannot speak from experience regarding the suitability of coil spring wire fencing for binding a round stave silo together, we incline to the opinion that it can hardly be depended upon for this purpose, because of outward pressure of the silage while settling, which would cause the fencing material to give sufficiently to open the cracks. Perhaps this could be overcome in some way, and we leave it for ingenious readers to work out.]

FRENCH STALLION AND SHETLAND PONY WANTED.

I am very anxious to know where I can find a first-class French stallion (pure black preferred), and Shetland ponies also. I wish to breed to French stallion, and a few of my neighbors would breed also. I wish also to find some one who raises Shetland ponies, so that I might get one to drive.

Wm. Kennedy.

York Co., Ont.

[Possibly it is a Percheron stallion that Mr. Kennedy wants, or it may be a French Coach or French trotter. There should be a good trade done with any or all of these breeds, if those who have them for sale would make it known in our advertising columns. The demand for Shetland ponies is not confined to Mr. Kennedy. Others will watch our pages and buy when they get a chance.]

THE BEST HAY-CAPS.

Would you kindly inform me if there are hay-caps of any kind manufactured in Canada? Would oiled factory cotton answer? If so, how made; and would they keep safely piled in a heap when not in use?

W. C. W.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

[Not knowing of any firm manufacturing hay-caps in Canada, we inquired of Mr. E. D. Tillson, of Oxford Co., Ont., who has used caps for years, as to the best sort to use. He writes that he has used cotton hay-caps for about twelve years, and is fully convinced that they pay him well. For several years he used oiled cotton, but now uses it just as it comes from the store, and finds it is lighter, cheaper, more durable, and keeps the hay dry through heavy rains. He gets the heaviest twilled sheeting he can buy, 2½ yards wide, and makes each cap 2½ yards square. He hems the raw edges and works a hole in each corner about 1½ inches in diameter. The cotton is made double thickness around these holes, and worked around the edges like button-holes. In order to fasten them to the hay cocks, ash or elm sticks 15 inches long and ¾ of an inch in diameter are used, sharpened at one end and having a square head at the other. Two men go round to put on the caps, drawing them down tight on the cocks and fastening them there by running the wooden pins through the holes and under the hay. They are stored dry in a dry garret, strung on wires so that mice cannot get at them.]

SOW THISTLE ERADICATION.

Please inform me how to kill sow thistle? It is a surface plant and will grow from the smallest piece of root. The seed flies over the country like Canadian thistle.

YOUNG FARMER.

Wellington Co., Ont.

[Sow thistle (*Sonchus arvensis*) is a difficult weed to eradicate when once it gains a firm foothold, as it not only seeds in great profusion, but its rootstocks creep along beneath the surface of the ground and throw up new plants at frequent intervals. These rootstocks, too, can live and grow apart from the parent stem, and start new plants wherever they become covered with soil. The plant has an upright habit of growth, and grows from one to three feet high, or even higher in very rich soil when not crowded. It is sometimes called milk thistle, from the white juice the stems and leaves exude when wounded. The stems and leaves are hairy and bear harmless prickles. The blossoms are yellow, resembling a dandelion in form and color. In order to eradicate this weed, the seeds in the soil must be got to germinate and be killed, and the roots must be smothered out. Shallow cultivation works successfully on both and should be resorted to. The creeping rootstocks running several inches below the surface of the ground must not be disturbed. Shallow plowing and cultivation will clip off and destroy the upright stems and thus prevent seeds forming, and also cut off contact between the air above and the main rootstock below the surface. If this is done successfully for one growing season, the roots will perish. To accomplish this, thorough fall shallow cultivation should be given, followed the next season by summer-fallow or a well-cared-for hoed crop. The writer cleaned a field by fall cultivation, followed by summer-fallow, into which was plowed a heavy growth of buckwheat, and the following year the field was hoed.]

FARM BOOKKEEPING.

I noticed your article in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE of May 15th, page 333, referring to farm bookkeeping, and was much pleased with it. I should be glad if you would give a good system of farm bookkeeping in your valuable paper, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. When at school I never had a chance to take up bookkeeping, and since starting to farm I have tried to keep books in my own simple way, and would not think for a moment of giving it up, imperfect as it is. I should advise every farmer to keep books. I wish the FARMER'S ADVOCATE every success.

Dufferin Co., Ont. S. McCLINTON.
[See FARMER'S ADVOCATE, June 1st issue, page 365.]

WORM-SEED MUSTARD (*Erysimum*).

I enclose you a specimen of weed that has come up in my meadow. I have never seen anything like it before. Is it likely to give trouble in future?

Prince Edward Co.

SUBSCRIBER.

[This plant, about fourteen inches high, and having small, inconspicuous yellow flowers, is a member of the Cruciferae or mustard family. It is known to botanists as *Erysimum cheiranthoides*, and popularly known as worm-seed mustard. It frequently comes up in the late summer or fall, lives through the winter, and comes on again in spring, flowering in May and seeding in June. It is not looked upon as a bad weed. As the plants do not live more than one year, or after they have seeded, the aim should be to cultivate infested areas in fall, spring and summer, so as to prevent the plant seeding.]

REDROOT (*Lithospermum arvense*).

Will you please give me the correct name and any other information concerning the enclosed weed in the next issue of your journal? It is known here by the name "redroot."

C. H. F.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

[The specimen received is known to science as *Lithospermum arvense*, and popularly called red-root, wheat thief, groomwell, etc. It grows from 12 to 16 inches high, generally branching if standing separate from other plants. Its flowers are small and white. The leaves are bright green, rather rough; the root is of a reddish color. It is a troublesome weed, that frequently seeds in the summer, comes up in the fall, and matures the following season, most frequently infesting fall wheat and meadows. The seeds have much vitality, so that thorough methods are needed to eradicate it. Give thorough fall cultivation and summer-fallow, or grow a hoed crop the following season. It may even require two seasons of careful cultivation to clean a badly-infested field, as it is not only necessary to prevent growing plants from seeding, but all the seeds in the ground must be brought near the surface, so as to germinate and be destroyed.]

BREACH OF WARRANTY—SALE OF HORSE.

We receive the ADVOCATE very regular, and think it a wonderful paper. This paper would be cheap at five dollars, as there is even many times this amount to be received by carefully studying all that it contains. 1. We bought a horse, fifteen years of age. Is sore on front; he seldom stands on all four feet at once. After driving some distance he becomes lame. We have had him bare-footed, also with shoes on, and he is the same. Do you call this horse sound? If not, could you tell us what the trouble is?

2. There is a man here that keeps horses for sale, and we went to him Friday, May 17th, to get a horse. Picked out one, which he said was all straight and sound, with good wind, and not a thing wrong with him, and he said that if there was anything wrong with the horse, to bring him back and he would refund the money. He also said that the horse was nine years old. It has been proven to me that he is fifteen years old, and he is in the condition I have just stated. We took him back one day last week, about Thursday, and not being able to get the man we bought him from, we brought him back. So to-night we took him back, but could not find the man yet, so we tied the horse to a wagon in the yard and came home. We paid \$25 in cash and gave a note for \$45, due in three months, so let us know exactly what to do?

Huntingdon Co., Que.

[1. While the data given is rather scant on which to diagnose the case, the lameness would seem to arise from an injured muscle or tendon, rather than chronic trouble with joint. The horse would now, doubtless, be classed as unsound, though, if the cause of lameness were the former, he might have been sound when you purchased him.

2. We assume, however, that the animal was at the time you purchased him in the unsound condition described, although you do not state such to have been the case, and do not say what time elapsed before you discovered the defects complained of. And we think you were entitled to take the dealer at his word—as you did—and return the horse to him and look to him for a refund of the money paid and a delivery up of the note. Of course, the note may have got into the hands of an innocent third party for value, and in such case you would be liable to him. In any case, though, we consider that you have a right of action against the horse dealer for damages for breach of warranty. You should see him again without delay and demand return of your money and note, and if same are not promptly forthcoming, then instruct a solicitor to bring an action such as above suggested.]

GROUNDSEL (*Senecio vulgaris*)—SHEPHERD'S-PURSE (*Capsella Bursa-pastoris*).

Mr. George Nixon, a Middlesex County, Ont., farmer, left at our office a bunch each of shepherd's-purse and groundsel, two weeds that were growing luxuriantly and forming abundance of seed at the beginning of June. The former resembles sow thistle in form and color of stalk and leaves, and also has a yellow blossom resembling a dandelion. It grows about 18 inches high, flowers all summer, and produces and scatters its seeds in a manner similar to a dandelion or thistle. It differs from a sow thistle, however, in having a watery, instead of a milky, juice in the stems and leaves. It has smooth, round branches; its roots are of annual duration, woody and fibrous. It infests waste places, and is not liable to give trouble in well cultivated fields.

Shepherd's-purse is a very common weed, that comes among the first in spring, but is not considered troublesome, as it is easily crowded out. It belongs to the natural order Cruciferae, which includes mustards, cresses, etc. It grows up to two feet high in rich ground, producing heart-shaped seed-pods, on slender stems, on the upper portion of the branches. Its flowers are small and white, and the leaves long, smooth, and clasping the stem. Either of the above weeds will come up in the fall, and during the following summer produce seed and die.

MANURING FOR POTATOES AND CORN—BEST VARIETIES OF CARROTS FOR HORSES—SPRAYING FOR MUSTARD.

1. What is the best method of applying manure to potato ground before planting, and what is the best time to plant?

2. What variety of carrots is best to grow for horses, and when should the seed be sown?

3. I plowed down a good crop of clover and timothy in my corn ground. Will it answer well to apply manure as a top dressing and cultivate it in?

4. Twelve acres of my spring grain is too badly infested with wild mustard to hand-pull. What is your judgment about spraying to destroy this weed? What machine is best to use, and what will it cost to spray twelve acres?

THOS. DARY.

Elgin Co., Ont.

[1. Well-rotted manure, evenly spread on and plowed down about four or five inches, is the most popular method. Potatoes may be planted from May 12th till June 10th with good results.

2. Half-long White and Danver's Orange are good varieties of carrots for stock, as they yield well and are fairly easily harvested. They should have been sown before May 10th for a good crop.

3. Yes.
4. Coppersulphate, ten pounds (costing about eight cents per pound), dissolved in fifty gallons of water, will kill all the mustard on an acre if applied evenly by a modern sprayer before the plants are more than six inches high. As the mustard gets larger, stronger spray is necessary. If a heavy rain follows the spraying within twenty-four hours, the operation must be repeated. The Spramotor Co., London, Ont., make special machinery for this work.]

MALLOW (*Malva rotundifolia*)—TO PRESERVE HORSE MANURE.

I have purchased a small place, and it is overrun with a weed which I call marsh mallow. I send you a small plant of it? How can I kill it?

2. I am getting manure from a stable of four horses all summer. I have to take it away every week. Which is the best way to keep it till fall? Shall I keep it level on the top, and had I better put water on it, say once a week? If it is not kept moist it will burn.

JOHN HOLBORN.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

[We find the weed is a member of the mallow family, known as *Malva rotundifolia*, or round-leaved mallow. While it may be growing quite thick at present, it will not be found difficult to eradicate by such cultivation as any garden or field would require to grow good crops. It would be well to prevent, as far as possible, this year's plants forming seed, either by cultivating the ground or by spudding or hoeing off the plants beneath the surface of the ground. Give the soil good fall cultivation, and next year cultivate well in spring and grow a hoed crop, such as roots, potatoes or corn, keeping the ground clean; and in following years give good ordinary culture, such as all land growing crops should have.

2. Regarding the horse manure, we would recommend levelling and tramping each week's supply, also throwing on a few shovels of gypsum (land plaster), and a layer of black soil or loamy earth. We would also recommend pouring on water at least once a week, and oftener if found necessary. This may seem a lot of work, but horse manure by itself is very liable to fire-fang and thus become useless, and we believe the plan outlined will keep it in good condition. It should be plowed under as early in the fall as possible.]

Illustration Weed Killing.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture, following up the idea of the travelling dairy and travelling spraying of orchards, is having wild mustard fields in various parts of the Province sprayed with copper sulphate. The Assistant Biologist of the Guelph College, Mr. M. W. Doherty, B. S. A., who conducted the trials in mustard-spraying at the College in 1899 and 1900, has charge of the work, and will have visited a number of "yellow" neighborhoods before the end of June, spraying the mustard in the presence of farmers, who can witness the operation and watch the results during the following weeks.