

A SEED SELECTION SYSTEM FOR PRACTICAL FARMERS

(Experimental Farms Note)

If the purity and yield of our farm crops are to be maintained at a high standard it is essential that selection be applied regularly from season to season by the grower. The method does not matter so much as long as it eliminates the weak, multiplies the vigorous, and removes all foreign varieties. The following is an outline of a recommended system of selection in which there are two essential factors the seed plot and the multiplying field. This method is simple and efficient and when followed correctly will ensure the maximum of purity and productivity.

The special seed plot is the nursery of the grain field and should be large enough to produce sufficient seed, (after the rejected plants and light grain has been removed) to sow the multiplying field the following season. This field should also be of sufficient size that enough seed will be produced to sow the whole acreage of that particular crop the next year. The size of these plots will vary, depending entirely on the productivity of the soil, climatic conditions and the amount needed for seed. For instance, sowing oats at the rate of two and one half bushels the acre, for twenty acres a multiplying block one and one quarter acres in size would produce sufficient seed, if the soil were reasonably productive, while one tenth of an acre would be large enough for the special seed plot.

In the operation of this work the following points should be emphasized.

1. Secure pure foundation stock. A few pounds of "pedigreed" seed is better than several bushels of an unknown variety. If you do not know where this can be procured, write to your nearest experimental station, agricultural college or to the Dominion Cerealists, Experimental Farm, Ottawa.
2. Establish a seed plot the first season whether you have secured five pounds or twenty five bushels of "pedigreed" seed.
3. Place this plot on the best part of your grain field.
4. Close off every eighth drill and leave a narrow path around the plot so that you may go through and around it without tramping down the plants.
5. "Rogue" carefully, removing all plants showing abnormal height, variation in a shape of head, colour of chaff, etc. If thoroughly rogued three times during the season it will be sufficient, although the best plan is to devote to it a few minutes every day or so.
6. Harvest carefully, and thresh separately, preferably with a flail the first season.
7. Fan thoroughly and hand pick the grain from the seed plot the first season. This can be done in the winter time and will remove any foreign varieties that may have got in during the threshing. One person can easily hand-pick a bushel a day. With careful threshing after the first season, this hand-picking can be avoided except the seed for the seed plot which should be hand picked every year.
8. Sow with this hand-picked seed the second year, first a seed plot, then sow the remainder in a multiplying field. The latter should, of course, receive casual inspection, although, if proper care has been taken, systematic roguing should not be necessary.
9. Examine and harvest the seed plot with the same care as the previous year.
10. Clean the threshing mill thoroughly, first thresh the multiplying plot, then the seed plot.
11. Fan thoroughly the grain from the multiplying plot and use this the next season for seeding your total acreage. This means that in the third year after the system is established, you have three distinct lots of grain, the special seed plot the multiplying plot, and the main field.
12. When growing nothing else but "pedigreed" seed and without a threshing mill of your own, thresh these three lots in this order, first the main crop, next the multiplying field, and last the special seed plot. In this way the chances of mixing are reduced to the minimum.

This system is practical and profitable, guaranteeing pure seed and high yield. Study it carefully, then try it.

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KEEP A PIG

IT WILL HELP KEEP YOU, OR PAY FOR A VICTORY BOND

During the summer of 1917, a number of conferences were held at various points in Canada for the purpose of discussing increased bacon production. Farmers and breeders were everywhere urged to keep and breed extra sows. As a result, the Live Stock Commissioner reports that we may confidently expect the number of hogs to be increased by 25 to 30 per cent during 1918. The first step towards an increase in our bacon supply has thus already been taken.

The next step is to see that these extra pigs are fed and fattened. The feed situation is acute. Many farmers who have been able to breed and winter an extra sow or two will not be in a position to feed to a proper finish all of the extra pigs. There are numerous householders in Canada who could help relieve this situation by keeping one or two pigs, which could be bought at weaning time, fed during the summer largely upon the garden and kitchen refuse, and finished off in the fall upon an increased ration.

There are thousands of people around towns and villages and in small settlements who could, and should, help in this way. It is past the time for 'doing your bit'; it is now time to 'do your utmost'. Do not allow kitchen refuse, or garden weeds and waste to go unused. Feed them to a pig. A properly-cared-for pig is not a menace to public health. What you do in this matter may mean life or death to somebody 'over there.' Decide now and begin to get a place ready to keep a pig.

AGRICULTURAL RELIEF OF THE ALLIES FUND

In February circulars and small envelopes were distributed throughout the Province with a request that consideration be given to the farmers in Belgium, France and Serbia who have lost everything because they lived where the battles have been and are being fought. The fund is to assist these men to re-establish when the war is over.

Dr. James W. Robertson, of Ottawa, is in charge of the work in Canada, and at his request the Provincial Department of Agriculture is urging that New Brunswick maintain her position among the provinces in Canada. This is only preparatory in order to prevent very heavy calls coming at the close of the war.

"The farming population of the British Empire who have not suffered are being invited to help their unfortunate brethren in allied countries who have lost everything in the common cause. They need seeds, live stock, agricultural machinery, and tools to enable them to resume farming operations."

"Donations have been made of much-needed agricultural implements and tools. The Germans in their retreat during the battle of the Marne gathered field implements in heaps and put bombs under them. They burned farmhouses wantonly as a deliberate part of their policy to leave the war area utterly desolate."

"Recently the Overseas Dominions have been invited to join in the work of relief. Thus the farmers of the whole British Empire will be able to render friendly and much-needed help to the stricken farmers in the regions which have been devastated by the enemy. When the occupied territories of France, Belgium, and Serbia have been cleared of the invaders the task of reconstruction will be too great for the peasants, who have lost everything except the land itself."

"We ought to help our stricken brethren as soon as the enemy is pushed out of their territories. We want to do that for several reasons. The object is humane and we are a humane people. They are our allies, our neighbours, and our friends. We want to help them for the sake of the good name of Canada. It would be a good thing in our international relations, to have it known that the dairymen of Canada gave something, a good thing to have it known that the grain growers gave something, a good thing to have it known that the live-stock men gave something, that our poultrymen and fruit-growers have given something, and above all that our country women have remembered their sisters whose farm homes have to be re-established out of ruins."

We want for Canada a place among the nations, on behalf of our farmers which will be in keeping with what our sons and brothers have done and won on the fields of battle."

Up-to-date less than \$1000.00 has been received by the Treasurer of the Fund, W. R. Reek, Fredericton. Agricultural Societies, if they have not already done so, would do well to consider this as organized bodies. Many perhaps did not receive envelopes, but contributions will be welcome in any form.

Complete lists of subscriptions will be published very shortly.
(This was crowded out last week.)

PREPAREDNESS

When Elsie came home from a neighbour's house munching a chocolate, her mother said reprovingly:

"Now, Elsie, how many times have I told you not to ask Mrs. Grey for chocolates?"

"I didn't ask her for any," replied Elsie calmly, "I know where she keeps them."

—The Youth's Companion.

INCUBATION

(Experimental Farms Note)

The keynote to successful winter egg production is "Early Hatching." It matters not whether the natural or the artificial method of incubation be used, the chicks must be hatched early, if the best results are to be obtained. If it is impossible to secure enough broody hens early in the season to hatch the number of chicks required, purchase an incubator.

In buying a machine, it should be borne in mind that at the most only three hatches can be taken off in the proper hatching period. The incubator, therefore, should be of sufficient capacity to produce at each hatch at least one-third the number of chicks required.

There is a lot of good incubators on the market. Do not be deluded into buying a machine just because it is low in price. The low-priced incubator is very often the most expensive in the end.

The incubator should be placed in a room that is fairly even in temperature, has a good, solid floor, and that can be well ventilated without draughts.

In running an incubator the manufacturer's general directions should be carefully followed, as he is the one that should know best what his machine requires.

At the same time a little variation in the handling will often greatly improve results. Climatic conditions sometimes alter requirements. A machine that does not require added moisture in one locality may in another. A relative humidity of between 50 and 60 inside the egg chamber gives the most satisfactory results; if a machine is not giving these conditions, moisture should be added. This may best be done by placing a tray of wet sand either under the egg tray or above it, depending on how the machine is heated.

In starting the machine run it for several days until it is perfectly regulated before putting in the eggs. The two kinds of thermometer most commonly used are the standing, which should register about 102, and the hanging, which is usually hung and should register 103. If the hatches are slow in coming off, raise the temperature in succeeding hatches, and vice versa.

From the second day until the eggs begin to pip, they should be turned twice a day. They should also be cooled, the length of time for cooling depending on climatic conditions and the temperature at which the machine is being run.

It is advisable to test the eggs twice during the hatch—once about the seventh day when the infertile eggs and "blood rings" should be removed, and again about the fourteenth when all dead germs should be taken out. A little practice will soon teach just what it is safe to take out and what to leave in.

As soon as the eggs begin to pip, which will usually be about the eighteenth day, close up the machine and leave it until the hatch is over. When the temperature rises a degree or two, don't get excited, as the rise is to be expected at this time, and is a good sign. It is due to the heat generated by the chicks struggling to free themselves from the shells. Wait until the hatching is over and the chicks have become thoroughly dried before opening the machine.

BAD YEAR AHEAD IN FOREST FIRES

RANGERS ASK PUBLIC TO HELP THEM KEEP FIRE OUT OF THE WOODS

The danger season for forest fires is near at hand. Rapidly drying soil has left the old grass, brush, leaves, etc., in most perilous condition for starting fires.

An effort is being made by the fire rangers in this province to keep down the forest losses this year to a minimum. They will succeed only if every camper carefully extinguishes his campfire before leaving it, if every smoker refrains from tossing away burnt matches or tobacco in or near a wood, and if settlers in the newly-opened districts guard their land-clearing fires with the utmost care.

Settlers' fires continue to be the very worst source of forest conflagration, although campers and careless smokers are close competitors.

"The fire rangers," says the Canadian Forestry Association, "want every good citizen to regard himself as a deputy ranger from now until November first."

"A Canadian forest was never worth so much as to-day, never gave so many jobs as to-day, never put money into circulation as it does this year."

MORE TROOPS REACH ENGLAND

Ottawa, April 6.—It is officially announced, through the Chief Press Censor's Office, that the following troops have arrived safely in England:

Infantry drafts from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, 1st Central Ontario, 2nd Central Ontario, 1st Quebec, 2nd Quebec, Alberta, Nova Scotia, Eastern Ontario, Western Ontario, New Brunswick; Field Artillery, Siege Artillery, Machine Gun Corps, Imperial recruits, Nursing Sisters, V. A. D. Nurses, Forestry Drafts, Royal Flying Corps officers, 250 Nursing Sisters and V. A. D.'s, 116; other ranks, 4,104.

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES DANDRUFF

GROW SWEDE TURNIP SEED IN 1918

The seed survey conducted by the Seed Branch, Ottawa, indicates a prospective shortage in swede turnip seed for the season of 1918. Present retail prices of swede seed average about \$1.50 per lb. in Canada and \$2.35 per lb. in the United States, and present wholesale prices would be about two-thirds as much.

Farmers who have medium-sized, sound, shapely roots, true to variety, are advised to plant them out early this spring for seed production. Different varieties grown by neighbours should be planted at least half a mile apart to prevent crossing. Any soil which will produce a good crop of turnips is quite suitable. The roots should be set out eighteen inches apart in rows three feet apart, and planted just below the surface of the soil. A location beyond the reach of poultry and sheltered from prevailing winds is most satisfactory.

Growers producing from 50 to 5000 lbs. of swede seed for use in Canada, and whose seed crops and reclaimed seed pass our inspection, will be paid a bonus of 15¢ per pound for the year 1918 only. Application for field inspection should be made before July first, addressed to the Seed Commissioner, Ottawa.

Bulletin No. 22, Growing Field Root, Vegetable, and Flower Seeds in Canada, may be had on application to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

NEWFOUNDLAND CASE DISMISSED

St. John's, Nfld., April 2.—An indictment charging Sir William Reid, former president of the Reid-Newfoundland Railways, with criminal libel was dismissed by the Grand Jury yesterday.

The charge was brought by the Hon. Wm. Coaker, a member of the present Government and president of the Fishermen's Protective Union. Mr. Coaker instituted proceedings against Sir William as the result of the publication of a letter from Sir William to Lord Shaughnessy in Montreal, stating that Coaker had taken part in discussions with political leaders on a plan to bring about confederation of this colony with the Dominion of Canada. Sir William was arrested on the charge on January 12. The jury held to-day that the publication of the letter did not constitute a libel.

Try a Beacon Adv.

PREMIER BOTHA'S MOTION SUSTAINED

London, April 1.—The Cape Town Assembly carried by a vote of 63 to 21 General Botha's motion of the 27th ulto. The minority consisted of the Nationalists. The Opposition leader expressed a sense of satisfaction which all parts of the Empire feel at Premier Botha personally moving the resolution.

FOR FARMERS ONLY

A Handbook for Farmers is a very useful booklet that has just been issued by the Commission of Conservation. It treats of tillage, use of manures, seed selection, clover growing, the farm garden, weeds and insect pests, and other farm topics, in an informative as well as popular manner. The quantity is limited and the booklet will be supplied on request only to bona fide farmers.

Minard's Liniment Cures Burns, Etc.

KING CONSTANTINE'S OFFICERS SHOT

Athens, March 30.—Lieutenants Calamaras and Holliopoulos, who came to Greece recently on a German submarine as agents of former King Constantine, were condemned to death by a court martial and sentence was carried out to-day. Their lawyer, M. Conoulis, also received the death sentence.

The two officers, after receiving instructions at Zurich, Berlin, and Vienna, came to Greece in an enemy submarine from Pola with a letter from former King Constantine and plans to arrange a system of espionage and to establish a naval base. Conoulis was intermediary in the matter. A sister of Lieut. Calamaras was sentenced to life imprisonment and a peasant was given fifteen years for harboring the lieutenants. A royal court-martial has been directed to prosecute Captain Pappariopoulos, former aide-de-camp to King Constantine, who is said to have arranged for the visit of the lieutenants, and Kolidias Capchief, who also aided in their plans.



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