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Farming in Manitoba.

IMPORTANCE OF UTILIZING EVERY HOUR OF TIME DURING THE FIRST YEAR.

Much valuable time is often wasted by the new settler during the first summer, mainly through inexperience. He frequently fails to see the necessity of doing the right thing at the most opportune time.

Usually, as soon as the season for breaking is passed, the natural hay meadows are ready for cutting, and it is a fortunate provision of nature that nearly all parts of the Northwest are, during the first years of settlement, well provided with marsh hay. This marsh hay is of many varieties and of varying quality, but even the poorest makes good fodder if properly cured, and I have seen some of the finer kinds from the western part of Manitoba with a beautiful green color and an aroma equal to that made from the best cultivated grasses. As a rule, the native grasses require very little curing in the swath, and should be bunched within 24 hours of cutting, and cured as much as possible in the coil. This plan preserves both color and flavor, and there is very little danger of mould. In selecting a spot for stacking, low spots should be avoided, so as to lessen the risk of loss during a wet season. The stacks should also be located where it is possible to plow a good wide fire-break around them. Our native hay readily sheds rain, and if the center of the stack is kept well filled and tramped, there is very little danger of loss from wet in the stack. The principal source of loss is from the careless habit of leaving the hay in cocks until rain or surface water has ruined it. Another source of loss is from fire, through neglecting sufficient fire-breaks.

The quantity of hay required per head will vary with the season, but it is wise to put up an abundance, especially as there is a large demand for any surplus, at profitable prices.

Advantage should be taken of every opportunity to prepare outbuildings for the stock, remembering that unless cattle are housed before fall storms commence, they will lose flesh rapidly, and it will be difficult to restore them to their former condition without grain. Where capital is limited, a properly-built log stable is not to be despised, and it can be quickly and cheaply built by one accustomed to an ax, and the settlers from the British Isle will find no difficulty in getting the assistance of a skilled Canadian by the exchange of work.

Another important work which can often be undertaken between breaking and backsetting is the digging of a well. In some parts of Manitoba this is a very easy matter, water being obtainable on nearly any part of the farm at a depth of from 20 to 30 feet, but in other districts the water runs in very narrow veins, and many attempts are made before water is struck. For this reason it is advisable to begin work as early in the year as possible. Where it is possible to obtain a long iron testing rod and a two-inch auger fitted to the end of it, it will greatly facilitate matters.

When there are many young men in the family it will often pay them to hire out in the older settlements during the harvest, as wages are generally good at this time of the year, and it affords an agreeable change, besides the opportunity of gaining a practical knowledge of this important part of Manitoba farm operations. It is always advisable for the new settler to get acquainted with the most improved methods in use

here, for while farming in one sense is the same the world over, there are many details of farm work practiced here that are entirely different from those practiced in older-settled countries.

The ground is generally frozen up here by the 10th of November, and before this time all backsetting and harrowing should be finished, the dwelling and the stables completed, and a portion, at least, of the hay convenient. During the autumn and winter, a good supply of fuel should be secured, materials for fencing, such as rails and posts, cut and drawn home. All building materials required for the coming year should also be prepared and placed convenient to the building site. This is also the proper time to secure and properly clean the seed grain needed for the second year, but I will write more fully on this subject in my next.

S. A. BEDFORD.

Is the Small Creamery Doomed?

A short time ago the "Farmer's Advocate" drew attention to Prof. Ruddick's utterances regarding the creamery business, in which that gentleman said that centralization of creameries was the trend in the dairy business, and that he intimated that two or three creameries at central points could do all the manufacturing in Manitoba of butter intended for export, and do it far more cheaply than is now done. Recent happenings seem to point that the Professor had rightly gauged the situation, inasmuch as we hear that negotiations are on foot to buy up or control several local Manitoba creameries, with a view of closing them after a time and sending the raw material to a city creamery. The bought-up creameries will then, we suppose, be nurseries, as it were, to increase the number of patrons and the raw material, which will later on be diverted to the central manufacturing establishment in Winnipeg, which, we trust, will be so directed as to give the patrons a good return for their milk. It will only be a few years, it is thought, before centralization will have been accomplished. It will be well for farmers and townsmen approached to give aid to start a creamery at a local point, to remember the possibility of the contingency mentioned above, resulting in a year or two in a loss on the plant they may have purchased.

Select the Best Milking Ewes.

The importance of breeding from ewes which are known to belong to a good milking strain of sheep cannot be overestimated. The lamb which has for dam the heaviest-milking ewe in the flock is, as a rule, the first ready for the market when the time comes for disposing of the first fruits of the flock. Ewes, like cows, differ very largely both as regards the amount and the quality of the milk which they yield. During the early stages of their growth, lambs depend almost entirely for their sustenance upon the milk which they obtain from their dams, and it will be almost invariably found that the heaviest and plumpest lambs in the flock are those whose mothers are the heaviest milkers.

To Make Box Measures.

A box 24 inches long by 16 inches wide, and 28 inches deep, will contain a barrel or three bushels.

A box 24 inches long by 16 inches wide, and 14 inches deep, will contain half a barrel.

A box 16 inches square and 8 2 1/2 inches deep, will contain one bushel.

A box 16 inches by 8 2 1/2 inches square, and 8 inches deep, will contain one peck.

A box 8 inches by 8 inches square, and 14 1/2 inches deep, will contain one gallon.

A box 7 inches by 4 inches square, and 14 1/2 inches deep, will contain one quart.

A box 4 feet long, 2 feet 5 inches wide, and 2 feet 8 inches deep, will contain one ton of coal.

Assiniboia Horticultural Society.

The first annual flower show of the Assiniboia Horticultural Society will be held in Regina on Thursday, August 21st, and is open to all amateurs in the district. Exhibits will be divided into two classes—house plants and cut flowers. In the first class cash prizes aggregating \$51 will be distributed; in the second class the prizes will amount to \$41.50 in cash. There are 17 sections in class one, and 18 sections in class two. The rules require that all exhibits must have been the property of the exhibitor for 30 days prior to the 21st of August, 1902. Entries close on Wednesday, August 20th, and exhibits must be on the ground not later than ten o'clock on the morning of the exhibition. An entrance fee of 10 cents will be charged for each section. Full particulars may be obtained from Mr. W. B. Pocklington, Honorary Secretary, Regina.

An Egg-eating-proof Nest.

I have noticed several inquiries in the columns of your paper asking how to prevent hens from eating their eggs. As there have been several methods explained and articles written on the subject and different plans of hens' nests given, I will endeavor to describe a nest which has been worked successfully with our hens.

Take a ten-inch board, any length, measure 22 inches from the end and draw a line square across the board. Cut a six-inch slant on the end of the board, then cut a four-inch slant in the opposite direction to the six-inch slant, starting at the 22-inch mark. This gives you a board with a 12-inch and a 22-inch edge. Place this piece on the board from which you have just cut it, placing the four-inch slant to the end where it came off, and cut another board the same shape (and as many as you please); these pieces form the sides of the nests. Then take a two-inch strip, 12 inches long, and nail on to the 12-inch edge, two inches from the four-inch slant, having the sides of the nest 11 inches apart. Also on the 22-inch edge nail two-inch strip square across from the two-inch strip on the 12-inch edges, then nail a 4-inch strip six inches higher up, then nail a 12-inch board on the six-inch slant. This forms the roof of the nest, and is too steep for the hens to stand on. Then take a piece of an old sack, about 14 inches square, and tack it to the two 2-inch strips stated above, so that there will be a lap on both the sides of the nest, having it a little slack, then take pieces of lath and nail them on the sides of the nest and the two 2-inch pieces in front and behind, having the canvas between, punch a small hole in the center, cut the canvas one and one-half inches in four opposite directions, making four corners; this makes a hole big enough for the egg to drop through. Then take another piece of canvas, 14x18 inches, and nail it on the four-inch slant, leaving a space of two inches below the two-inch strip that the former canvas is nailed to (to put your hand in to take out the eggs), and bringing it up at the back of the 2-inch piece, nail it securely, the same as the top canvas. The hen, when laying, as a rule, drops the egg in the center of the nest, but in case she does not, the canvas being slack, the egg will roll to the center, dropping through the hole onto the lower canvas, which is on a slant, causing the egg to roll to the back, out of the reach of the hen.

J. S. LITTLE.

Woodworth Municipality, Man.

After the Storm the Sun Shines.

The late snowstorm, though it may have been a disappointment to farmers who were counting on an early seedtime, and though it was an inconvenience and cause of discomfort to many people, especially to newcomers to the country, will doubtless be found to bring a compensation, as the supply of moisture it brought with it will probably tell for good on the coming crop, and now that brighter days are in sight, the work of seed-sowing will go on briskly, and we may hope for a repetition of last year's returns in the harvest yield.