

ADVISORY BOARD OF MANITOBA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES MEETS

The midsummer meeting of the Advisory Board of Manitoba Agricultural Societies was held at Brandon on Wednesday, July 19th. There were present Messrs. A. D. McConnell, Hamiota; S. Larcombe, Birtle; S. J. Holland, Morris; H. M. Dayton, Virden; W. E. Crawford, Elkhorn, and S. T. Newton, Superintendent of Agricultural Societies, Winnipeg.

It was agreed that arrangements be made for the auditing of all books of the local agricultural societies by a provincial auditor.

In connection with the keeping of society accounts it was suggested that the superintendent prepare a uniform set of simple and practical books for the use of agricultural society secretaries.

It was decided that at the annual convention of agricultural societies next winter a feature of the programme should be special addresses for the benefit of society secretaries.

It was decided to request the government that hereafter there should be printed the annual business report of the Agricultural Societies Association, together with addresses delivered at the annual convention.

The prize list of the winter soil products exhibitions was then revised, and the sliding scale of prizes (as outlined in Extension Bulletin No. 3) was recommended for adoption.

The basis upon which the provincial government grants have been paid was discussed. By an arrangement made about three or four years ago between the Association and the Department of Agriculture grants have been paid on the following basis:—Membership grant of dollar for dollar for the first 150 members; above that up to per cent of the amount raised; 50 per cent to match the next \$150, and 25 per cent of all amounts over \$500. At the time when this arrangement was made it was agreed that the Agricultural Societies Act should be amended so as to provide for this basis of governmental support, but in some way the revision was neglected. A resolution was passed thanking the Department of Agriculture for paying the grants on the basis of the agreement and recommending that the Act be amended at the next legislative session.

The delegates took note of the fact that owing to the widespread adoption of autos the light horse classes at the exhibitions had fallen off greatly, and the feeling was expressed that the decadence of this phase of agricultural enterprise should be made up by a new emphasis at some other point,

probably by giving more encouragement to contests in soil products to be shown at the winter exhibitions.

HOW MUCH WOOL DID YOUR SHEEP CLIP?

It is many a year since it made so much difference as to just how much wool one can get from a sheep's back as right now. The war, together with certain other conditions in the world's wool market, have sent wool prices sky-rocketing, and so an added interest attaches to reliable data regarding wool production.

How much wool, in pounds and ounces, will a good farm sheep produce in a year? Ask your neighbors who do not keep sheep, and see how many of them can tell you with an assurance that they are right alongside the mark.

Well, here it is. The Manitoba Agricultural College has a flock composed of three breeds, Oxford, Shropshires and Leicesters, all well known and popular farm breeds in our western provinces. There are 49 sheep in the flock, almost all of them pure bred, although that does not necessarily affect the weight of fleece, for a good grade flock might be made to yield as much wool, though perhaps not so uniform in quality or in weight per sheep. The shearing this year, owing to the coolness of the weather during late May and early June, was delayed until about two weeks later than usual, being done on June 8th, 9th and 10th.

The total weight of wool from 49 sheep was 479 lbs., or an average of 9.77 lbs. per fleece. The three breeds averaged fairly close to the same weight per fleece, the Oxfords producing the largest weight per fleece and the Shropshires the smallest. An interesting fact is that in all the breeds the shearlings gave heavier fleeces than the mature sheep. Here are the results more in detail:

Oxfords:—10 mature pure bred Oxford ewes gave 9.5 lbs. each; 5 shearlings averaged 10.3 lbs. each; 1 ram, 16 lbs.; 1 grade Oxford flock, 11 lbs. Average of Oxford flock, 10.3 lbs. each.

Leicesters:—9 mature ewes, 9 lbs. each; 5 shearlings, 10.2 lbs.; 1 ram, 12 lbs. Average of flock, 9.66 lbs.

Shropshires:—11 mature ewes, 8.92 lbs. each; 2 shearlings, 9 lbs.; 1 ram, 16 lbs. Average for flock, 9.35 lbs.

An interesting fact in connection with the Leicester flock is that one of the best records among the mature sheep was made by an ewe nine years of age. This is an age to which it is not usually deemed profitable to keep sheep.

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