

The Ontario Agricultural Gazette

The Official Bulletin of the Dominion Cattle, Sheep, and Swine Breeders' Associations, and of the Farmers' Institute System of the Province of Ontario.

THE DOMINION CATTLE, SHEEP, AND SWINE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Annual Membership Fees:—Cattle Breeders', \$1; Sheep Breeders', \$1; Swine Breeders', \$2.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Each member receives a free copy of each publication issued by the Association to which he belongs, during the year in which he is a member. In the case of the Swine Breeders' Association this includes a copy of the Swine Record.

A member of the Swine Breeders' Association is allowed to register pigs at 50c. per head; non-members are charged \$1.00 per head.

A member of the Sheep Breeders' Association is allowed to register sheep at 50c. per head, while non-members are charged \$1.00.

The names and addresses of each member, and the stock he has for sale, are published once a month. Over 20,000 copies of this directory are issued monthly. Copies are sent to each Agricultural College, each Experiment Station in Canada and the United States, also to prominent breeders and probable buyers resident in Canada, the United States and elsewhere.

A member of an Association will only be allowed to advertise stock corresponding to the Association to which he belongs; that is, to advertise cattle he must be a member of the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association, to advertise sheep, he must be a member of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association, and to advertise swine he must be a member of the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association.

The list of cattle, sheep, and swine for sale will be published in the third issue of each month. Members having stock for sale, in order that they may be included in the Gazette, are required to notify the undersigned by letter on or before the 15th of each month, of the number, breed, age, and sex of the animals. Should a member fail to do this his name will not appear in that issue. The data will be published in the most condensed form.

F. W. Hodson, Secretary.
Parliament Buildings Toronto, Ont.

YORKSHIRES FOR SALE.

The following list of Yorkshire swine was, by accident, omitted from the last list published:

J. E. Brethour, Burford, Ont., has for sale one stock boar; twenty-five sows, four to six months; 100 spring pigs.

We try very hard not to make mistakes but they do occur sometimes in spite of the greatest care.

Members are urgently requested to notify the Secretary immediately whenever they notice an error; we will then do all in our power to put matters right.

The car load of stock advertised to leave for the West on April 1st, started at Guelph on March 30th, and was at Brampton on March 31st, and Myrtle on April 1st.

Another car will leave about the middle of April. The following gentlemen have spoken for space:

Henry Arkell, Arkell—six sheep.

Walter Nichol, Plattsville—one heifer.

R. G. Steacy, Brockville—two heifers.

Geo. Green, Fairview—one pig for W. Kitson, Burnbank.

S. Coxworth, Whitby—two pigs.

D. Fraser & Sons, Emerson, Man. one bull from H. & W. Smith, Hay; and one from Jacob Shibley, Harrow-smith.

Mrs. Joan G. Field, Winnipeg—one bull.

There is still space in this car for a few more animals; space can be procured by corresponding with F. W. Hodson, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Farmers' Institute Department.

Reports concerning the work of the Farmers' Institutes in Ontario will be published weekly under this head; also papers prepared for this department by Institute workers. Secretaries and officers having announcements to make are invited to send full particulars to the Superintendent.

SECURING A CATCH OF CLOVER.

By ADAM BEATTY.

Great care should be taken that clean seed be secured. If absolutely clean seed can not be had, get some as nearly clean as can be found. I have three patches of wild morning glory or bind-weed on my place that undoubtedly sprang from seed sown along with grass seed which I expect it will take me years to get rid of.

Weeds grown from seed sown with grain may be checked the first fall and perhaps killed while the plant is young and weak, but weeds which have sprung from seed sown along with grass seed get at least two seasons' growth before they can be checked. The amount of clover seed to sow will depend a good deal on the nature of the soil. On damp, light soils perhaps five or six lbs. per acre is sufficient, but on the average loam possibly seven or eight lbs. would not be too much. Clover should be sown as early in the spring as possible. If seeded with fall wheat, it is better sown before the frost is out of the ground, so that it may get the advantage of the first growing weather. A month's start is very important, I might almost say, all-important, to young clover. We all know how damp the ground is on the surface during the early spring months, the very time when clover needs it there. When its roots are six inches to a foot or more in length the clover is quite indifferent to surface moisture.

When clover is to be sown with spring grain, then the field to be seeded down should be sown first, if possible. Clover seed needs a fine seed bed. Such small seed has no chance amongst clods. Land worked up fine will stay moist a much longer time than if left in a rough, lumpy condition. I would like to emphasize this point. Make the ground fine. The clover plant is like every other plant in the world in one respect at least—it must have moisture. From the time the seed is in the ground to the end of its existence it never ceases to need moisture. It is very important to give clover a good start. The first ten days or two weeks is generally the testing time as to what the catch is to be. The clover sometimes dies off later on, but generally speaking, if it comes up well we may be tolerably certain of a good catch. Why is this? I think it is because the conditions favorable to the seed sprouting and coming up will continue to be favorable to its after growth. If we prepare the soil with that sole end in view, other conditions being favorable, we may safely assume we have done our part towards securing a good catch. The seed should be covered. It is not enough to throw the seed on the

ground. It should be worked into the ground. A seed lying exposed to the sun and wind will stand a poor chance in a time of drouth. It is better also to cover it as soon after the ground is first worked up as possible. Thin sowing of the grain with which clover is seeded is a help towards securing a good catch. I noticed in a late number of *Farmers' Advocate* a correspondent speaks of such a crop as a nurse crop. The latter is in no sense a nurse or help to young clover. It would grow much better if sown alone. In fact, if the soil were very badly worn out, I am inclined to think it would be profitable to adopt that plan. The ground should be harrowed smooth after being plowed in the fall, and the seed sown towards the end of March on the frozen ground. I am persuaded this is the surest way to obtain a good catch of clover on worn out land. If any one doubts this let him examine a crop of fall wheat that has been winter killed in spots, and he will find the clover and weeds will be thick and rank where the wheat is thin, and where the wheat is very thick and heavy the clover will be correspondingly weak and puny. If you were to ask the ladies why they prefer a south window in which to set their house plants they would very quickly tell you the plants need the sun. They will live in a north window, but they won't grow and thrive and bloom unless placed where they can get the sunshine. A thick, heavy crop of grain not only shades the clover from the sun, but it robs it of much needed nutriment and moisture, especially in a dry spell. In the struggle for existence the stronger prevails, the weaker goes to the wall.

Lastly and chiefly, the ground should have a plentiful supply of humus or vegetable matter in order to insure a good catch every time. Occasionally we have springs so favorable for growth that a good catch is almost a matter of course in every field where seed has been thrown; but these are exceptional seasons and we need not expect them often. We must prepare our land for the most unfavorable seasons in order to be safe. If we could get the land back to the condition it was in when the woods were first cut away, we need have no fear then. It has been said of new land, "Just tickle it with a hoe and it will laugh itself into a crop." New land is easier to plow than land that has been cropped for some time, easier to cultivate, a single stroke with the harrow is as effective on it as two doubles on old land, and then the growth that is in it, anything from a clover to a pumpkin will start from the word go and get there every time. I think the main point is to supply an abundance of humus to the soil. How can we get back this condition? I think the simplest way would be to seed down often. Instead of cropping a field with grain for five or ten years, then seeding down, and for fear of not getting a good catch again, keeping the field in hay for five or ten years more, we should seed down with clover or timothy every three or four years, and plow under a field of clover and timothy sod every three or four years or

often. Then we would soon see the land becoming mellow, friable, and easily worked; soon there would be no difficulty in getting a fine mould on top. Clover would then catch without any difficulty and go straight ahead.

PROF. DEAN AT PETERBORO.

Prof. H. H. Dean, of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, addressed a dairy meeting at the Central Smith factory, near Peterboro, last week on the butter fat system of paying for milk for cheesemaking. The interest in this system seems to be reviving in some sections. There is no reason, whatever, why all milk supplied either for cheese or buttermaking purposes should not be paid for according to quality. The patrons of the above factory will in future pay for milk according to its quality as shown by the Babcock test, and by adding two per cent. to the fat readings.

Prof. Dean reports that the dairymen seem to realize fully the cheese situation, and in many sections are anxious to adopt some method by which it would not be necessary to begin making cheese till well on in May. The difficulty which presents itself is that many factories have not as yet put in plant for making butter, and therefore are not in a position to utilize the milk of the patrons to advantage till the cows are on the grass. Unless the patrons are willing in such cases to keep the milk at home, the factories are compelled to open up much earlier than they would otherwise do.

THE EFFECT SPRAYING HAS ON BEES.

Editor of FARMING:

SIR,—In your issue of March 22nd I read R. F. Holtermann's article under the above heading, and which is very good. But he omitted to state that an Act of Parliament has been passed which prevents fruit trees being sprayed while in bloom, and I think this a good opportunity to let farmers and others know of this being the case; also that some experts claim that young bees dying in the combs before being hatched will cause foul brood to start. Again, spraying after the bloom is nearly all off or faded is better, because the egg is laid at this time by the moth miller which develops into the apple-worm.

Hoping you can afford space for the above in FARMING, I remain, a friend to honey bees,

JAMES R. BRILAMV.

Black Bank, Ont.

TO KEEP HEWS FROM SETTING.

Mrs. Joseph Yuill puts them in a covered box with slats across the bottom and raises the box up from the ground so that there is a current of air underneath the bird.

Mr. W. R. Graham has another plan, which is endorsed by Mr. T. A. Duff. He says: We have three different houses. I usually hold a couple of male birds over from season to season and keep them by themselves. I move the hen to another house, and if she still persists in setting, I put her in with a male bird.

Keep a good rasp in the horse stable. It is very handy for keeping the horse's hoofs in good shape.