

## FARM MANAGEMENT

### Harvesting the Alsike Crop

*By Gardening Ontario Co., Ont.*  
We cut our alsike the first half of July. When one-third of the heads can be stripped off between the finger and the thumb is the best stage for cutting. We use a scissor blade attached to the cutting bar with a false bottom, which saves the seed that shells. The bundles of alsike are allowed to dry well, but are not stirred, as the seeds shell out readily. In hauling the wagon rack is covered with cotton. Threshing should be done the next day after hauling if possible.

In case it rains on the alsike in the field we do not throw it about to hasten drying, as we would a forage crop. A bushel of seed to the acre would be lost with a little rough handling. It may be turned over, but very gently.

### Secret of Good Crops—Few Weeds

Underdraining offers a solution to the problem of keeping down weeds and securing heavy yields from crops. The point is well illustrated in the following letter received by Farm and Dairy last week from Mr. N. G. Summerville, of the D. H. Burrell & Co., Brockville, Ont.:

"A few days ago I visited at Lieut.-Col. Stafford's farm in the vicinity of Len, Ont., and while there was very much interested in a six acre field of fall wheat. Two stalks of this wheat pulled by the writer measured 5 ft. in length.

Mr. Stafford, who is an ex-warden of the county and one of the prominent farmers in his section, has always been a strong advocate of underdraining. These six acres are tile-drained, and well summer-fallowed last season, plowed four times, and raked and harrowed as often as was necessary, manured with 12 loads to the acre, and sowed on the first day of September. At the time the writer visited Mr. Stafford's there was every indication that he would have an average yield of 50 bushels an acre, but best of all the mustard and scutch grass were completely killed.

The writer's note on this is a very striking example of killing bad weeds by summer fallowing and proper cultivation.

This season Mr. Stafford is summer-fallowing 10 acres, and he is satisfied that by so doing he can completely eradicate the mustard and other noxious weeds. The example in this case is very striking, and Mr. Stafford would be willing to furnish information to any one of his method of cultivation and underdraining.

"What has been done by Mr. Stafford on this six acre field in killing mustard, etc., and increasing the production of the soil can be done by any farmers in his section and by following his methods they would be well repaid for their labors."

### Management of the Alfalfa Field

Information for the management of the alfalfa field after it has been seeded is given by O. O. Chubb, agronomist at the Ontario Agricultural Experiment Station in the following condensed form:

When weather conditions are very unfavorable the young plants may die. When this occurs resort to the same land the following spring or fall, as the case may be. Do not let one unsuccessful trial discourage you.

If the leaves turn yellow or rust badly, or if severely attacked by insects, or if weeds grow rank and shade the young plants, it should be clipped. Clip whenever the plants begin to

blossom even during the first year.

Use a spring-tooth harrow, a renovator or a disc harrow in the spring just before a growth starts or just after a crop is removed when the soil becomes hard and compact or very weedy. When a disc is used set nearly straight and weight down so that it will run the desired depth.

Manure will always give good returns and especially on poor land and when the plants are doing poorly.

Do not pasture late in the fall or during the winter. Most alfalfa growers claim better results when the crop is grown for hay than when the field is pastured.

Do not pasture at all during the



The Way Alfalfa Grows in Peterboro Co.

The alfalfa here illustrated is on the farm of W. G. Sanderson, Peterboro Co. The photo was taken on May 24th, and was then almost ready for its first cutting. This is a crop the value of which Peterboro county farmers are just beginning to appreciate.—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

first three years, or until the alfalfa becomes thoroughly established.

The alfalfa crop should be cut whenever five or 10 per cent. of the plants are in blossom. A better method of telling when to mow is to watch the base of the plant and cut whenever the little buds show that a new growth is started.

Allow the plants to wilt but not to become too dry in the swath, then rake and cure in the window or in bunches.

Stack or put in the barn when cured, which will be about one week

after mowing, depending upon the weather conditions.

When a seed crop is desired, the first crop should be removed and then the plants allowed to go to seed. The production of seed depends very largely upon the weather conditions and upon the thickness of the plants. The seed crop may be mowed and raked the same as the hay crop, and most of the seed can be saved by an ordinary threshing machine.

Feed this valuable hay to good stock; you cannot afford to sell it.

### Ventilation of a Cow Stable

Editor, Farm and Dairy,—I think that it was in Farm and Dairy that I read recently about giving ventilation through the fodder stored above the cattle over an open ceiling. I consider this a great mistake. It will destroy the quality of the fodder. The ceiling in my stable is double boarded with heavy tar paper between.

I have just built a new cow stable 40 by 40 feet, with nine and a half feet between the cement floor and the ceilings. I put in a number of windows 3½ by 6 feet, opening from the side for ventilation in warm spring days. Besides ventilation through the hay chute, 4½ by 4½ feet, and other ventilators.—W. A. Oswald, Bromes Co., Que.

### Harrowing vs. Prayers for Rain

"If I were to come onto your farm and set 750 teams to work for a week hauling water onto a quarter section at the rate of four tons a day, I would then only put on as much water as evaporates in a week when there is a good moisture content in the soil." Such is the very striking illustration used by President Worst of the North Dakota agricultural college of the great amount of water lost by evaporation.

A thorough harrowing will stop this evaporation and save the moisture for the crop.

A cow must produce about 4,000 lbs. of milk and 160 lbs. of butter fat to pay for her feed and labor; this is the dead line. 5,000 lbs. of milk, \$10 profit; 8,000 lbs. of milk, \$40 profit—four times as much. Ten cows averaging 8,000 lbs. of milk are as profitable as 40 cows producing 5,000 lbs. The cost of keep increases but \$35 a cow, from 2,000 to 10,000 lbs. of milk given, yet the income increases \$115, over three times as rapidly.—Prof. W. J. Fraser, University of Illinois.

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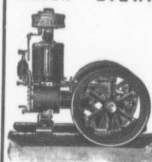
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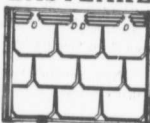
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