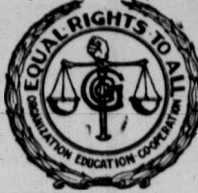


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SEASONABLE REMINDERS

Cutting has generally started and reports regarding weather conditions are favorable on the whole. It is to be hoped that this will continue to be the case, but, should wet weather intervene, it is well to be prepared so that as much grain as possible may be cut before frosts damage it. In some districts in the south this year the fields have been very wet, and several devices have been made use of to keep the binders going when under ordinary circumstances the bull wheel would completely clog up.

In slippery land the attachment of a binder engine will take a lot of the work off the bull wheel and allow of the binder being drawn along without constantly digging it out of the mud. But, if very wet, binders may be set on stone boats or floats and dragged around in that manner, the small binder engine being used of course to drive the moving parts.

A handy device to skid the binder along is to run the bull wheel up into a slush scraper. This will slide over the ground reasonably well, and fairly good time can be made.

After cutting, the question of the value of stacking arises. Does it pay to stack grain? According to leading authorities, it does. Prof. Bedford, deputy minister of agriculture for Mani-

toba, considers that, if properly done, stacking wheat adds a grade to its quality. If the arrival of the threshing machine is at all delayed it should pay to stack. The usual way is to build four stacks, either round or square ones, in a setting, leaving enough room between them for the self feeder of the separator. In this way the set can be made in almost any direction to suit the wind.

Stacks should not be made too large. About twelve feet wide is sufficient. There are different methods followed in commencing to build stacks. The most common is to build up a stook in the middle and then radiate the sheaves out from it, placing the heads in the first layer on the bands of the sheaves already set down. When the stack is wide enough, place another round of sheaves on the outside, breaking the joints between the former ones, and then work from the outside into the centre, placing the butts of the sheaves on the band of those below. Do not stand too close to the edge of the stack, three sheaves in is close enough. Always keep the centre well filled. Put all loose bundles in the centre. Keep the stack coming up with a slight overhang for eight or nine feet and then commence to draw it in. Have the sheaves thrown well in on the stack from the loads. Leave the outer edges untramped and the centre as solid as possible. Quite often a sharp pointed stake about six or eight feet long is used to secure the top sheaves.

No stacks should be threshed immediately after they have been put up. Time enough must be given for the grain to sweat. Tough grain should not be threshed. If bad weather intervenes stacks will be ready to thresh long before the grain in the stooks is fit. Stacking will add a grade to the grain, and if threshing is delayed for any reason grain in stacks will suffer little or no damage from weather when that in the stooks may be very badly damaged.

When the various crops ripen, observant farmers select the best specimens from each and carefully save them for seed the next year. Perhaps it is a little late to suggest head selection in the grain crops, but the best potatoes can yet be set aside for next year's seed. Experiments at Ottawa have clearly shown that best yields can only be obtained from seed potatoes which have been taken from the best hills in the field. If you have not already done so, mark the hills showing the most vigorous and disease resistant tops and then, when digging, observe whether these hills have a good number of smooth, uniform, even sized tubers, and if so, put these away for seed. Always select hills containing a good number of desirable tubers and save these carefully out of reach of frost for use for seed.

If the horses are hot coming into the stable from cutting, give them just a mouthful of water. It will allay their thirst and give them a better appetite for their hay and grain.

—E. J. T.

The Stovall Bill, prohibiting the sale of alcoholic liquor in Georgia, was passed by the State Senate on August 3, the vote being 35 to 3.

WINTER RYE

Winter or fall rye has proven to be hardy in most districts in Manitoba. It is also a comparatively profitable crop to grow on the average farm. When used for seed production it will yield from twelve to thirty-five bushels per acre depending on the condition of the land, or when grown for green fodder or pasture it has proven to be one of the best annual crops that can be used for this purpose. It is, however, as a weed control crop that it is of greatest value. For annual weeds, such as wild oats, it is exceptionally valuable because it is sown late in the season and any wild oats that germinate in the crop are killed by the fall frosts, then it ripens so early the next spring that it is cut before the wild oats mature. The land could then be plowed and a third growth of wild oats killed before another grain crop is sown. If used on land infested with perennial weeds, such as sow thistle, it will also give good results. For these weeds it is well to sow this rye only on a well worked summerfallow. Any thistles that start in the fall will be killed to the ground with the frosts and the following spring rye makes such an early, rank growth that it smothers some of the weeds out. It is also ripe before many of the thistles are in blossom and thus prevents them from seeding. After the rye crop is taken off it can be plowed and cultivated and many weeds killed in this manner. Where winter annual weeds, such as stink weed are bad and must be kept under control, winter rye should not be sown because the winter annual crop of stink weed will grow and produce a heavy crop of

seed before the winter rye is harvested.

Where winter rye is sown on dirty land, best results will be obtained on summerfallow. The summer cultivation will have killed some of the weeds and put the soil in ideal condition to produce a good crop. Fair crops may be obtained by sowing on fall plowed stubble land, but the difficulty is to get the previous crop off in time to sow the rye.

Time and Rate of Seed

When sown for grain production the seed should be sown about the first week in September at the rate of one bushel to one and a half bushels per acre. For fall pasture the seeding should be done about August 20 to September 15, putting on from one and a half to two bushels of seed per acre. The seed should be sown with a grain drill, depositing the seed between two and three inches below the surface. If sown shallower there is danger of the stock injuring the roots by tramping, so that it would likely winter kill.

The field is usually ready for pasture about the last week in September or the first week in October. If it is to be used as spring pasture, care should be exercised not to graze it too closely in the fall. If this precaution is taken it can be pastured in the spring shortly after the frost is out of the ground. If it makes good growth while being pastured and the stock taken off as soon as the perennial pastures are ready, a small crop of grain may then be harvested. This will usually be ready to harvest about the last week in July.—T. J. Harrison, Manitoba Agricultural College.

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