

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

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### Manitoba Crop Report.

The latest Manitoba crop bulletin, as issued by the Department of Agriculture of that Province, is based on returns received from the regular correspondents of the Department, made under date of August 5th.

As to the condition of the weather from various sources, we give a few answers in brief:—"This has been a hot, dry summer, without a single good rain in June or July."—"Grain has suffered from drouth."—"Late crops light on account of hot weather and no rain," etc. The estimated total yield of wheat is 15,761,868 bushels, being an average of 15.6 bushels per acre.

Estimated yield of oats	12,197,772 bushels.
" " " barley	2,182,520 "
" " " peas	20,000 "
" " " flax	282,487 "
" " " rye	53,071 "

The hay crop, both prairie and cultivated grasses, is light this season. Prairie hay averaged 1.52 tons per acre; cultivated grasses, 1.40 tons per acre. Roots and potatoes are reported fairly good throughout the Province.

### Chatty Stock Letter from the States.

FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.

Best cattle, some 1,650 lb. Shorthorns, sold at \$5.35; best hogs, \$5.90, best Western range cattle, \$4.55; best sheep, \$3.25 to \$3.50.

Prices are 35c. higher on cattle, 45c. higher on hogs, and 50c. higher on sheep, than two weeks ago. All prices are on the up grade.

Receipts at Chicago from Jan. 1, 1894, to date, show a decrease of about 222,000 cattle and 76,000 sheep, and an increase of 890,000 hogs, compared with a year ago.

The decrease in cattle receipts is entirely in Texas and Indian cattle. The number of Texas cattle being marketed is quite small in comparison with a year ago. Owing to the abundance of cotton-seed and corn in Texas this year, and the prospective high prices for feed stuffs elsewhere, thousands of Texas cattle are being shipped back from the Indian Territory to their native State to be fattened.

The European cattle markets appear to be feeling the shortage of good, ripe, corn-fed cattle. A very healthy feature of the American live stock and meat trade is the steady increase in the exportations. The exports of live cattle show a marked increase. No business is done in exporting hogs, but the shipments of hog produce show marked gains over last year.

The move of Swift & Company, in the matter of actively resuming the exportation of live cattle on a larger scale than ever before, is among the numerous favorable signs in the cattle prospect. This company has for a long time been foremost in the exportation of dressed beef, and doubtless it will cut an important figure in the live cattle trade. Liverpool will be the headquarters of a special agent, who is being sent over to sell the cattle.

A live stock salesman of many years' experience remarked that while prime cattle were selling high, thousands of cattle that looked prime to their owners when in the country fell far below grade when brought into competition with cattle from all sections. It is true that many farmers who do not bestir themselves much, think that if their stock is the best in their neighborhood, it ought to be the best anywhere.

The conditions are all favorable for still higher prices for hogs, and the packers who thought prices would be down to \$4.00 by this time feel very much puzzled over the situation. There is unquestionably a shortage of matured hogs in the country, and, with the exalted ideas farmers now have of the value of corn, and after the enormous slaughter of drouth-stricken pigs, it will take some time to replenish the crop.

While fancy 300 to 350 lb. hogs have been selling lately at \$5.80 to \$5.90, inferior heavy hogs have sold a dollar per 100 lbs. lower. A year ago, light hogs were selling at \$6.00 when heavy were at \$5.00, but now the best light are 25c. per 100 lbs. below top-heavy. The only reason this is so is the fact that the great drouth lessened the number of heavy, while at the same time increasing the number of thin, light pigs necessarily put upon the market. Had it not been for this unusual condition, the light hogs would now be at a premium instead of a discount, as the demand for bacon grades is quite strong.

Wheat feeding is still a subject of great interest to farmers, and many of them report more satisfactory results in stock fattening than were obtained by an exclusive corn diet. Wheat of low grade is bought up by country millers and feed men, and the elevator men say they do not expect to get much of the poorer wheat this year, so strong is the demand from feeders. Country millers in some instances are running their mills nights to supply ground feed to consumers.

The sheep market is not so dead and buried as it was, and while wool raisers felt discouraged, there is a much more comfortable feeling among them since Congress has stopped its tariff juggling, and adjourned. On one day recently, a large lot of fat 115 to 120 lb. Western sheep sold at \$3.25, to be exported alive to Glasgow. Best lambs sold at \$4.10 to \$4.15; fat ewes, 137 lbs., sold at \$3; 102 lb. Wyoming muttons sold at \$3; 89 lb. Oregon feeders, at \$2, and scalawag lambs, at \$1.35.

### Draining the New York State Treasury.

Some time ago the New York State authorities set out upon a cow slaughtering campaign (to which a halt was afterwards called) on the strength of the tuberculin test for tuberculosis. Among other herds inspected was that on the Pittsford Farms, where about 90 Jerseys were found infected, according to the Board of Health expert, and slaughtered. Mrs. Estelle F. Hawley has now entered a claim for damages against the State for \$32,277, the itemized account being as follows:

Value of cattle killed (89)	\$19,915
Value of cattle condemned, but not killed	1,200
Expense of keeping, Dec. 8 to July 1	1,400
Value of 50 animals injected with tuberculin	1,200
Keeping 72 cattle from Dec. 8 to Dec. 29	300
Do. from Dec. 8 to Feb. 24	262
Damages sustained by destruction of dairy business	3,000
Do. cattle trade	5,000
Total	\$32,277

Though not the largest item, perhaps the most interesting is a claim for \$1,200 on fifty animals injected with tuberculin and pronounced free from the disease. It is claimed that "by reason of said injection of tuberculin the animals depreciated in value to one-fourth of their original worth." Other claims for less amounts are also pending.

### Feeding Off Rape.

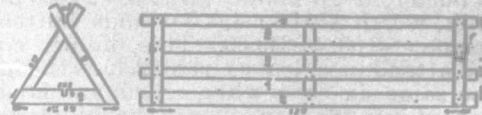
To farmers who have just commenced growing rape—and there are many of them—we wish to point out some of the methods of feeding it off, and also some of the dangers attending its use.

The crop is more especially grown for feeding sheep; but fattening cattle, pigs and even milk cows do very well on it. When sheep are to feed on rape they should not be turned into it when hungry, and always when the rape is free from external moisture. Tagging should always precede rape feeding, as purging often results at the commencement. If there is no grass pasture within easy access, the sheep should remain in the rape field constantly, so that they never become hungry and take an over-feed, which is very apt to cause derangement of the animals. When it is at all convenient, the sheep should have access to a grass pasture, on which they will feed alternately with the rape, thus keeping them in the best sort of thriving condition. A small feed of bran and oats, given in the morning, is never lost, especially when the sheep have no grass run, as the very succulent nature of rape is often too laxative for best results. It is not well to turn stock on rape until the plant has almost assumed its full growth, which will be in about six or seven weeks after sowing, in a good growing season. When rape is grown in drills, sheep may have access to the whole field, and will do no harm from tramping, but when it has been sown broadcast, some sort of portable fence should be used, so that a fresh piece can be given them every few days. Sheep are very fond of a change of feed, which can be given by the hurdling method.

Pasturing rape has its dangers. Scouring, as has already been spoken of, is quite frequent in the early stages of feeding. This, however, may be lessened to a great extent, and perhaps hindered, by having a constant supply of salt in the rape field. Bloating may in some instances be induced, especially in windy weather, which may prove fatal, if not soon relieved. For sheep, a block of wood fastened in the mouth, by strings passing over the head, generally gives early relief. A drench of salt and water has been found efficacious with sheep and cattle, but in bad cases, with cattle, puncturing the left side of the animal about a span of the hand in front of and a little below the point of the hip bone generally gives instant relief. The trocar and canula should be used, if at command, otherwise a tube of some sort, e. g., a large goose quill inserted into the incision will answer very well. Animals that bloat once are more subject to it than before, and should be watched more carefully in the future. Cattle, in no case, should be fed exclusively on rape, but when in connection with pasture will do very well. On the approach of cold weather cattle should be fed in sheds or stables at night, and returned to the rape in the morning, after it has become thawed and moderately dry. It is just questionable if there is any profit in pasturing rape after the stalks have been made brittle with hard frost.

Special care should be exercised when pasturing valuable pure-bred sheep on rape, as one or two fatalities with such stock may take the entire profit from the rape crop. There is always more danger with fat sheep than with those in poorer condition, not only from death by inflammation caused by derangement of the bowels, but from becoming cast on their backs between the drills, when death will soon result. If a flock is carefully observed two or three times a day, there need be no fear of loss from rape feeding.

Some authorities advocate hurdling the sheep while feeding on rape, claiming that the ground will be more evenly manured in such a case, and the advantage of a frequent change of field is also an important consideration. For this purpose we give the accompanying illustration.



A HANDY SHEEP HURDLE.

The accompanying cut shows the plan of a convenient, portable hurdle fence, which has been in use on the Ontario College Farm for a number of years. The material used at the College Farm for manufacturing the hurdles for a number of years has been the remains of old straight-board fences, which are from year to year giving way for a more modern structure. The sound boards, which are usually about eight inches wide, are ripped by means of a circular saw, and are put together as shown in illustration. It is well to have the lower piece in the panel about six inches wide; all others will do four inches. Panels do very well about twelve feet long and three feet two inches high. The standing pieces, which are placed across the fence, into which the panels fit, are four feet high and three feet four inches wide at the base. The ends of the panels fit into notches in the end pieces. It is the most easily constructed and ported fence we have seen. Under ordinary conditions the fence will stand sufficiently solid just placed on the ground, but if exposed to winds or unruly stock, such as hogs, there should be stakes driven into the ground beside the standing pieces, which should be nailed to them. To hold hogs, stakes may be necessary at every panel, but in no other case will they require to be nearer than every three or four rods.