

## Farm Problems

Any reader of The Guide who wishes an answer to any problem on the farm can have them answered in this column. These questions are valuable to all farmers, and should assist them to a more profitable return for their labors. All questions are answered without charge. Answers by the Correspondence School of Scientific Farming, Winnipeg.

## FEEDING VALUE OF SEEDS

E. W. M., Rapid City, Man.—Will you please tell me through the columns of The Guide if there is any feeding value for stock and hogs in boiled seeds comprising chiefly of buckwheat, lamb's quarters, mustard and cockle? Is there any danger in feeding these seeds to stock?

Answer.—There is really no very great feeding value in these seeds. Experiments have been performed with feeds such as you mentioned at Brandon and other Experimental Farms and the results have shown that, while cattle and hogs will eat it to a certain extent, yet they always go off on their feed if they are given any considerable amount of this mixture. Hogs appear to make by far the best results when fed with feed such as the above. Cattle do not care much for it and while they will eat a certain quantity, will not do well unless other grain is fed with it. Cockle in large quantities is considered very poisonous, and cases are known where death of stock has occurred after feeding a mixture in which there was a large percentage of cockle seeds. Poultry are perhaps the most susceptible to injury from cockle, in fact a very small amount will poison a chicken a few hours after eating. It would, therefore, be advisable for you to use grain with cockle seed in with discretion.

## ANALYSING THE SOIL

F. T., Mill Creek, Man.—Would you give me some information on the proper method of obtaining an analysis for several samples of soil taken from different parts of the farm? Where could I obtain an analysis? How should the sample be taken? How packed and shipped? What would be the probable cost for an analysis for sodium carbonate and sodium sulphate, the amount of lime present and the proportion of the chief elements as nitrogen, potash and phosphorous?

Answer.—The best way in which to get an analysis made is to get it done at one of the Government Agricultural Institutions. Most of the work is done at the present time at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, where it will be done free of charge. In choosing your soil, all surface accumulations of decayed leaves, etc., should be removed and the soils of uniform thickness, from the surface to the desired depth should be taken. To eliminate varieties in soil select samples from five or six places in the field and remove several pounds of soil taken up to the depth of six inches, or to the change between the surface and the sub-soil, in cases where such change occurs between the depth of six and twelve inches. In no case is a sample to be taken to a greater depth. A separate sample below the depth of twelve inches is to be taken if required. If the surface soil extends to a depth of less than six inches, a separate sample of the surface should be taken besides the one to the depth of six inches. Your samples, which should amount to from four to five pounds, could then be placed in a bag, such as a small flour bag, or any that is closely woven and strong. The sample could then be shipped by express to the place where the analysis was to be done.

## HARVESTING ROOTS

A. K., Souris, Man.—Would you mind telling me through the columns of your valuable paper the best method to harvest mangles and sugar beets, and the easiest way of topping same? I have had some serious discussions on this subject and would like to have your advice.

Ans.—Mangles and sugar beets should be pulled as soon as possible after they are ripe in the fall as they are liable to be injured by frost. The best method that can be recommended is to pull by hand and to break the tops off by twisting. The mangle or beet should be grasped by the top and pulled out of the ground, then a sudden jerk should be given and the tops will break right off. This is better than cutting off the tops as the root will bleed and be more subject to be injured by frost. The use of the plow cannot be recommended in digging mangles and beets as it does not give as good results as hand pulling. The plow is used more for carrots and smaller deeper rooted root crops.



**COUNT THE DOTS**  
**\$100.**  
**GIVEN AWAY**

**TO THE PERSONS COUNTING THE DOTS IN THIS HAND, and many other prizes according to the Simple Conditions of the Contest (which will be sent).**

This is a chance for clever persons to WIN CASH and other PRIZES with a little effort. COUNT THE DOTS IN THE HAND and write the number that you count on a sheet of paper or post card and mail to us and we will let you know at once if you are a winner. AN EXTRA PRIZE of \$10.00 will be given for the nearest correct count.

MENTION  
THIS PAPER

DOMINION PREMIUM CO.,  
214 St. James Street, - Montreal, P. C.

## WINNIPEG BUYS AMERICAN CEMENT

The public agitation against the alleged "combine" prices of the Canada Cement company, commonly known as the "Cement Merger," and the investigation made by the city council at the primary instigation of Mayor-Elect Waugh into the whole question of cement prices and supply has borne its first fruit. On Friday the board of control formally accepted the tender of the Lehigh Portland Cement Co., of Chicago, for 25,000 barrels of cement to be delivered as required for city work during 1912. The tender of the Lehigh company, the lowest of five submitted, will give Winnipeg its cement supply for this year at a net price of 60 cents per 100 pounds laid down in Winnipeg, the company paying the duty of 12½ cents per 100 pounds. This means a saving of 14 cents per barrel of 350 pounds, on the price paid during the past year to the Canada Cement company for Canadian cement supplied through W. F. Lee, who is the agent of the Canadian cement merger in city business, and who was the only Canadian to tender.

The actual price which the city will pay the Lehigh Portland Cement company, of Chicago, for its supply next year may be considerably less than the price submitted, as the company has agreed that if there is any reduction in duty or any revision of freight rates, the city will be given the benefit of every cent of reduction. This, it is understood, will include the rebate of two cents per barrel on sacks returned to the United States, which it is expected can be collected, and if this is done will increase the saving over last year's prices to 16 cents per barrel.

## Combine's Price

Last year the city secured its whole supply of cement from W. F. Lee at \$2.24 per barrel of 350 pounds, excluding sacks. Mr. Lee's present tender was at \$2.14.27 per barrel, as against the price of \$2.10 of the Lehigh company.

By accepting the American tender the city will save \$3,500 and in addition the Canadian government will collect \$15,000 in duty.

# HAVE YOU GRAIN FIT FOR SEED?

This Company has acquired a limited amount of elevator storage at Paddington (St. Boniface) to clean wheat, oats and flax for seed, and sell at a reasonable price to farmers. If you have grain suitable for this purpose, kindly send samples to our Sample Department, advising as to what price you would expect for such grain at your station.

We can also clean a limited quantity of any very dirty or mixed grain, except a mixture of wheat and barley. It would be necessary to send us samples of this class of grain before shipment. Send samples of not less than two pounds.

**The Grain Growers' Grain Company Limited**  
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

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