

## INTERESTING AGRICULTURAL FEATURES FOR OUR COUNTRY READERS

## GENERAL

## SEED OATS

Westmorland County Farmer Prefers Seed Grown on P. E. Island.

I think, if wheat is properly cleaned, and the small grain screened out, the farmer can sow his own grain longer than the better yields than imported on the same field; and if the home-grown seed is clean, which in all cases it should be, there is no danger of introducing new weed seeds. In my opinion, if a change is required, we must get the best results from Prince Edward Island seed.

White Russian seems to be the best yielder on all kinds of soil, but some who have dry, sandy soil have found success with Red Fife, and as it gives better quality flour, some will grow it at the sacrifice of a few bushels, as we take our wheat to mill and receive a better price for it. My only trial of new varieties was with Preston, but as I did not get flour of good quality, I stopped buying the miller, and grew Fife.

A good roller mill in our vicinity is a great incentive to grow better wheat, as one is repaid for cleaning by receiving better flour.

In writing of seed wheat, I may say that treating them plays a very important part, as nothing is so disagreeable as black, mouldy flour. In the west, we use the pickler, but here, where only a few acres are sown to wheat, a cask filled with vitriol and water is a very good substitute. Although formaldehyde is said to be the best, I never saw much about after vitriol (bluestone).

White Russian oats are the all-around oats for this country, although some grow black oats, as they claim they are best for horses, but the Banner gives the best yields. Some of my neighbors grow a few of the larger-kernelled oats for exhibition purposes, but all say they would not pass for Banner for their main crop. Seed oats are almost all secured on Prince Edward Island, as they seem to give more satisfaction.

Prince Edward Island clover seed is the best we can get, and comes higher in price than Ontario seed.

Right here a question arises for Westmorland farmers. If they can Prince Edward Island can grow better seed than Ontario, why can't we, with the same climate and almost as good soil, grow better seed without any timothy; then, next year, let the children pull timothy, and try to get seed from their main crop. Seed oats are almost all secured on Prince Edward Island, as they seem to give more satisfaction.

While we can grow almost all kinds of crops, our roots and potatoes are not good. No wonder, have I seen as good potatoes as are grown along the shores of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, but in Quebec and Ontario, they are large crops, almost entirely free from scab. The McIntyre is the favorite for southern export. The beauty of this potato is that it always sells at good prices.

summer, when other potatoes get soft and strong. The Silver Dollar is the best yielder, though the deep eyes make it less desirable for a table potato. The old Early Rose is still my favorite early potato, though I have tried the Early Ohio, Early Sunrise, Green Mountain and Stray Beauty. A neighbor has grown one kind of potato (a large, deep-eyed red) for upwards of thirty years, and it has never run out. Only the best potatoes were chosen for seed every year, and he always has an enormous crop. Potatoes do not seem to run out in our soil. As experience has taught me that there is no need to buy better than local potatoes, and they chop for fattening turkeys and hogs, the potato holds a high place in my estimation; and when it sells for 50 cents a bushel, as now, the farmer may well take notice about his crop. We found Carman No. 1 a very poor quality potato, as it was so wet. A new variety was developed a few years ago from seed, and is now popularly very fast. It is known as Tommie T. from the man who started it.

In the selection of garden seed, it has always been my rule to seed to seed, man, but now I believe it is best to grow all the seed it is possible for myself; so, in the fall, I choose the best of the pumpkins, beans, etc., and put in cellar, without trimming; then I have lots of seed that I know come from good mother plants.

We in Westmorland know very little about seed corn, as we do not grow much. It is chiefly grown by farmers who have large dairy herds, and feed to cows, and pastures are short. It is seldom ripened here, as our springs are too late, summer damp and cool, and it takes more labor than the average farmer has time to give his crop. Though some think their corn patch an absolute necessity, the wet seasons of late, when pasture is good and corn is poor, is making the corn less every year.

To sum up the situation, I believe New Brunswick farmers should grow more seed of their own, and put the money they spend in buying imported seed into labor of cleaning, growing and gathering seed from their main crop. Seed corns are almost all secured on Prince Edward Island, as they seem to give more satisfaction.

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I may say that grain brought here from Ontario and sown will produce a very inferior crop the first year, but will improve as the grain becomes acclimated. I cannot see much advantage in introducing too many new varieties. We have now as good as can be had, and by proper cleaning and hand selection of the best of the varieties now grown, the quality can be kept up to a high standard. Personally, I have done little or no hand-selecting of grain, but a person only has to visit our annual seed fair to see distinct improvement from hand selection. Like begets like in the animal kingdom; so, also, in the vegetable.

To my mind, tillage plays a most important part in regard to the yield of a crop. It is said that tillage is manure. Moisture is also manure, or, rather, a conveyor of food or fertilizer in the soil. With a root or corn crop on good rich soil, without sufficient tillage, we will have an unsatisfactory crop. On the other hand, the same crop, on quite inferior soil, with proper tillage, yields a full crop, particularly a dry season. The land on which potatoes, turnips, etc., are grown needs the surface soil stirred frequently, until the plants are large enough to prevent the hot sun from drying the surface soil. With grain crops, the conditions for tillage are quite different. It is highly important to have a deep, well-cultivated seed bed before seeding, and in seeding, we should have an aim, either to produce a fair crop of grain and secure a good catch of clover for a good crop of hay the next year, or to seed heavy grain, thus producing a better yield, at the expense of the clover crop the following year, it being mulched by the thick grain, and the plants that do get a start being too weak and puny to stand the long summer drought. I find the disk harrow an excellent implement on the farm to work up a good seed bed, but I find the tendency is to use only two horses on it; this machine needs three horses, with a 100-pound man on it, to seed heavy grain, and it will do its work right. For those who plow their fields in lands, I find this harrow excellent for leveling back ends of lands and dead furrows. For leveling, I prefer the in-trow style.

As very little seed corn is used here, and as we are exporters, rather than importers, of seed grain, principally oats, the question of securing supplies of seed grain does not trouble us; but with regard to timothy, which is raised here, we are not so sure. The best way of securing seed is through our local institutions clubbing together and ordering from some reliable seed firm. I can say that just here, before the war, a 100-pound man on it, to seed heavy grain, and it will do its work right. For those who plow their fields in lands, I find this harrow excellent for leveling back ends of lands and dead furrows. For leveling, I prefer the in-trow style.

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and seeded out to hay. Hay is cut one or two years, pasture and the same, and then again over again. But some have a different rotation from this already given, as follows: Sod, oats, roots (manured), wheat, clover, and instead of pasturing the second crop of clover, plow it under for manure, adding humus to the soil; then oats or some grain crop again. But I would not, under any circumstances, take more than two crops of oats in succession from the same field, and unless the field is intended for roots the following year, I would rather seed oats on soil, unless I could top-dress with manure for the second crop of oats, either to top dress the second crop of oats, or manure for roots. The question might here be asked, "On which do you prefer to grow your root crop, on sod or stubble?" I prefer a stubble field every time. While I admit potatoes will grow as well, and perhaps better, on sod, turnips will not, and the extra labor in cultivation and keeping the sod field clean, especially if there is much grass or weeds in it, will not pay for the extra potatoes grown. And I am convinced that repeated experience, that turnips do much better on stubble than on sod, and turnips the second year on the same land. C. C. Craig, Prince Edward Island, in Farmers' Advocate.

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Select as many of the best hens as will be necessary to furnish the required number of eggs, remembering that not all of their eggs can be used for hatching, as some may be mis-shapen and will have to be discarded. This selection should be made as early as possible in order that the hens may become accustomed to their place in the flock, and that they may be able to handle the breeding flocks in the right manner. It is better to limit the number to 10 or 12, as one vigorous cock to each pen, is sufficient to insure fertility, and there is no fighting. If desired, the cocks may be changed frequently with good results. If the hens have been accustomed to unrestricted range do not put them in too small a yard, but give them plenty of room—if possible a yard where there is a grass or clover sod. See that the quarters are kept clean, and that the water is always fresh. A good water supply will quickly say the hens' vitality and unit them for breeders, so it is necessary to keep a close watch on roots and nests.

The matter of feed must also be given close attention. While the hens must have an abundance, it must not be of a highly fattening nature, for over fat hens will not lay well and their eggs are apt to be infertile or mis-shapen. Their food at this time should be rich in protein and relatively low in carbohydrates. Corn may form one-third to one-half of the grain ration of the smaller, more active breeds, while for the Anatians not more than one-fourth of the grain should be corn. The remainder should be wheat and oats. Feed generously of beef scrap. They contain more than 30 per cent of protein and are one of the best egg makers. Even also is a valuable part of the laying hen's ration and should be fed freely. My plan is to keep the dried meat scraps and lard in hoppers where the hens can help themselves. When the weather is cold a warm mash of one part by weight of bran and two parts beef scrap is fed once a day, but must be fed sparingly to breeders. Give them plenty of charcoal, shell, grit, and clean, fresh water.

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The matter of feed must also be given close attention. While the hens must have an abundance, it must not be of a highly fattening nature, for over fat hens will not lay well and their eggs are apt to be infertile or mis-shapen. Their food at this time should be rich in protein and relatively low in carbohydrates. Corn may form one-third to one-half of the grain ration of the smaller, more active breeds, while for the Anatians not more than one-fourth of the grain should be corn. The remainder should be wheat and oats. Feed generously of beef scrap. They contain more than 30 per cent of protein and are one of the best egg makers. Even also is a valuable part of the laying hen's ration and should be fed freely. My plan is to keep the dried meat scraps and lard in hoppers where the hens can help themselves. When the weather is cold a warm mash of one part by weight of bran and two parts beef scrap is fed once a day, but must be fed sparingly to breeders. Give them plenty of charcoal, shell, grit, and clean, fresh water.

Many chick troubles may be avoided by giving more thought to the care and selection of the breeding stock. Chicks from vigorous parents will be stronger and better able to withstand adverse conditions, will grow more rapidly and give better results in every way than chicks from poor stock.

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retain moisture, and adds to its friability as does nothing else.

Organic matter in barnyard manure performs another important function—it sets free some of the broken-up plant food that fattens nature, for over fat hens will not lay well and their eggs are apt to be infertile or mis-shapen. Their food at this time should be rich in protein and relatively low in carbohydrates. Corn may form one-third to one-half of the grain ration of the smaller, more active breeds, while for the Anatians not more than one-fourth of the grain should be corn. The remainder should be wheat and oats. Feed generously of beef scrap. They contain more than 30 per cent of protein and are one of the best egg makers. Even also is a valuable part of the laying hen's ration and should be fed freely. My plan is to keep the dried meat scraps and lard in hoppers where the hens can help themselves. When the weather is cold a warm mash of one part by weight of bran and two parts beef scrap is fed once a day, but must be fed sparingly to breeders. Give them plenty of charcoal, shell, grit, and clean, fresh water.

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## POULTRY BREEDING POULTRY

## How to Select and Care for the Stock.

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