

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
Winnipeg, Man.

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with the question, and trust that good results may follow.

"We have had several public union meetings with the Women's Institute, at which we have been favored with the presence of prominent speakers."

Mustard Successfully Sprayed.

One of the most tedious weeds to eradicate is wild mustard. One never knows when he is through with it, as the seeds lie in the ground so long. Fortunately, it can be conquered. It never gives trouble in a well-cultivated hoe-crop, nor is it a pest in meadows. Grain is the crop in which it flourishes, and in grain it can be prevented from seeding by spraying with copper sulphate (bluestone), or iron sulphate (copperas). Bluestone is used at the rate of 10 pounds per 40-gallon barrel of water; iron sulphate at about 80 pounds. At prevailing prices in Canada, the copper sulphate, while dearer per pound, is cheaper per barrel, considering the smaller quantity required. However, the iron-sulphate solution is undeniably effective. For some years, the Botanical Department of the Ontario Agricultural College has been testing the efficiency of both iron and copper sulphate to destroy mustard, and last year, in order to further demonstrate the efficiency of iron sulphate, and to test a broadcast sprayer for this work, an experiment was conducted on the farm of John Hohenadel, in Puslinch Township, Wellington County. A standard potato sprayer, with a special broadcast attachment, was used to apply the solution, which was of the strength above noted. In all, eight acres were sprayed. The mustard was exceedingly thick, making it almost impossible to see the oat crop in which it was growing. The results may be judged from the following letter by the proprietor of the farm, as quoted in the annual report of S. W. McCready, the Professor of Botany:

"The experiment in spraying mustard was a great success; the results were most satisfactory. In my opinion, the treatment is very effective, killing every plant, no matter how thick they stood. It did not injure the oat crop in the least."

Small Holdings.

Another year's working of the Small Holdings Act in Britain is disclosed by the report of the Board of Agriculture. The commissioners seem, on the whole, to be satisfied with the progress made, though they admit that conditions are not entirely satisfactory. Still, there is much dissatisfaction amongst the people at the slow progress made in acquiring land, and the supineness of some of the county councils. In the sixty administrative counties of England and Wales, four have acquired one-fifth of the land, so that the remaining fifty-six have not shown much energy. Norfolk has the best record, with 6,231 acres, and West Surrey the worst, with a meagre 36 acres.

During the three years' working of the act, 256,134 acres have been asked for by 17,595 approved applicants, and 89,253 acres have been acquired to satisfy 9,035 of the applicants. These figures do not show a rapid rate of progress when three years have been needed to supply only 9,035 applicants. This generation will not see much percentage of agricultural land in small holdings at this rate. Some county councils are undoubtedly opposed to any scheme which will interfere with large estates, and the Board of Agriculture have not as yet done much to overcome this opposition, which they have the power to do under the act.

Not many applicants wish to purchase—only 1.8 per cent. expressed such a desire in 1910. Although many councils are slow in acquiring land, a feature of the times is the large number of estates on the market. In nearly every county sales are advertised, and not for years has so much land changed hands. The revival in agriculture is generally given the credit for the great demand, and landlords are taking advantage of the higher prices for agricultural lands, and disposing of their holdings.

HORSES.

100 Foals Without Loss.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

For thirty years I have raised from two to five foals each year. In all, over 100 have been born on my farm. They have been foaled any time from the first of April to the end of June, and I have never lost one at birth. The earlier born foals are harder and stronger in the fall, and better able to withstand our severe winters. This is not saying the later born foals do not do well. The abundance of grass in June makes an ideal condition for both mare and foal. Taken on the whole, the early foal makes a better showing at one year old.

I would like to impress on those who are starting to raise foals that good care of the mare during the winter months and up to the time of foaling is essential, if we are to expect a strong, healthy foal. Exercise and light work is most beneficial, but heavy pulls, backing of loads, insecure footing and rough handling are responsible for an annual loss of both mares and foals. If the mare is not being worked, she should be out every day, and all day, except in very severe and stormy weather.

Know when the mare is due to foal; watch her closely, and, when foaling is imminent, remove her to a large, airy, well-ventilated box stall which has been well cleaned out and disinfected with a solution of creolin or carbolic, and comfortably bedded. Then, see her every half hour, both night and day, until she foals. It pays, even though you must sit up nights to do it. It is to this I attribute my own success, which my neighbors call "luck." Many a foal is saved, and the mare, also, by being on the spot and ready to render assistance at the right moment.

If the navel cord does not break off at once at birth, tie it with a piece of cord an inch from the belly, and cut it one inch from where it is tied. Dress immediately with Monsell's solution of iron, and three times a day until the cord drops off. A solution of carbolic acid is equally good as a dressing. Monsell's solution will also cure leaking of the navel, should it be caused by an accidental rubbing off of the cord, leaving it raw underneath. Apply with a feather four or five times a day. I have had only one case of joint-ill, when my stables and surroundings were flooded, and it was impossible to carry out the above precautions.

The mare should on no account get chilled. Blanket her at once after foaling, even before she rises. If she has been fed on soft feed for two weeks or so before foaling, there will usually be no trouble with the foal's bowels or kidneys.

Watch the foal closely, and should constipation occur, give one tablespoonful of castor oil. Feed the mare bran mashes for three days, and keep her warm, quiet and comfortable, and free from drafts. If both mare and foal are well the fourth day, I consider a critical period safely passed. I prefer to let the mare and foal run together. Both are the better for it. But if we must work the mares, the foals are left loose in the box stalls, and a little of the milk taken from the mares at noon and night before the foals are let to them.

I never work a mare inside of two weeks after foaling. In three weeks or a month the foal will begin to eat oats from his dam's box, and may be encouraged to eat by leaving oats for him while the mare is at work. He will not eat more than is good for him, and as he becomes accustomed to his dam's absence, let him run in a paddock where he will get exercise and grass, but still leaving him access to the box stall. Two or more foals do better together; they like company.

When weaning time comes, if we can induce the foals to drink cow's milk, we give it to them, and sheaf oats cut a little green and hung up around the stall. They will nibble the tops of these, and it is quite safe to give them all they will eat. This, with pure water and some skim milk, seems to be just what is needed to keep them up in flesh and sleek-looking. If you can, have a paddock with plenty of grass for them to run in. They need exercise to develop bone and muscle. Keep a watchful eye on the foals, and be quick to detect anything amiss with them. Find the cause at once, and remedy it. A well-developed heavy-draft yearling should weigh from 1,100 to 1,200 pounds, or even more, according to the size of dam and sire.

Man. SAM WOOLLAND.

Shires in the West.

The Canadian West promises to be an interesting battle-ground for the draft breeds of horses. For years Clydesdales reigned supreme. Then came our American cousins as settlers, and they brought their horse friend, the Percheron. This French breed has grown in favor of recent years, until now rings at the big shows contain almost as many of them as of Clydesdales. Suffolks and Belgians also have their supporters, and as the years roll by, these breeds gain in strength in different communities.

For years the query at our big shows has been, "What's the matter with Shire horses that they are not in prominence out here?" Generally speaking, the reply has been that this country does not want hairy-legged horses. But the show held at Calgary recently delighted the Englishman who knows draft horses. The aged stallion class for Shires comprised half a score. They were big fellows, with good underpinning. In fact, they were so good that few guessed they were other than Clydesdales. Albertans had not been accustomed to see such a string representing the Shire breed.—Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal.

LIVE STOCK.

Sheep Washing and Shearing.

As the old fashion of washing sheep in a river or creek before shearing is yet generally in vogue, a warm day in the latter part of May should be chosen for the purpose. The sheep should be quietly driven to the washing place to avoid overheating. An enclosure of rails or hurdles should be provided close to the water for convenience of catching, and the sheep quietly caught and carefully handled in getting them into the river and while in the water. The practice of forcing the timid animals to jump from the bank into the water is cruel and dangerous. The writer recalls more than one instance of a sheep dying in the hands of the washer as a result of such practice. It is cruel to plunge the head of the sheep under water. The head should be supported by one hand, while the other is used in squeezing the soaking wool to expel the dirt, or the head may rest in the curve of one arm, while both hands are used to squeeze the wool. When sufficiently washed, the sheep should be quietly led out of the water, instead of being forced to swim out, and should be held for a minute at the border to get breath before being turned loose. Apart from the humanity of the act, which should appeal to all, it pays to handle the animals gently and kindly.

If possible, avoid driving the sheep home on a dusty road after washing, as the rising dust will adhere to the damp wool and minify the object of the washing. Shearing should be delayed for about a week after washing, in order to allow the natural oil of the skin to work into the wool, which greatly facilitates the comfort in shearing, and adds to the weight and keeping quality of the fleece. Shearing may be done on a barn floor or a temporary plank platform. The operation of shearing is simple. Set the sheep upon its rump, with the back resting against the knees