

Seasonable Pointers For Farmers

Rearing of Queen Bees Needs Considerable Care

This Operation Should Commence Immediately—The Hopkins or Case Method Gives Very Good Results.

Those who intend to rear their own queens and who have not already done so should commence immediately. A method which gives very good results is the Hopkins or Case method. To rear queens by this method select a comb in which there has not been brood reared and place it in the colony which you intend to use as a breeder. The queen heading this colony should possess qualities which you are trying to secure in your apary, such as gentleness, honey-gathering ability, pureness as exhibited by evenness of color and prolificacy. The comb is allowed to remain in the center of the brood nest in the queen mother's colony four days. At the end of this time there will be hatching eggs and day-old larvae in the comb. Remove the comb and using a sharp stick destroy every alternate row of cells, both horizontally and vertically, across the comb, in this way leaving cells surrounded on all sides by torn down cells. The best cell-building colony is one which has shown signs of superseding or one that is under the swarming impulse. If you have such a colony in the yard, so much the better, but if not, a good strong colony for cell-building purposes. Remove the queen and unsealed brood replacing frames, remove with frames of emerging brood, unless disease is present in the apary, in which case frames should not be moved from hive to hive. Now, place over the top-bars of the cell-building colony, an empty Hoffman frame. Over this empty frame lay the comb containing day-old larvae, which has been previously prepared, according to directions, with the prepared side down over the empty frame. This place a burlap sack or piece of canvas and over the canvas place a cloth tray or a half-inch plank, shavings to conserve the heat. Then place the cover on top. If directions have been followed accurately and there is a

honey-flow on, five days later the queen cells will be sealed and queens will commence to emerge seven days after that or on the twelfth day after the frame containing day-old larvae was prepared.

The Stock in the Apary. If the stock in the apary is pure it will simplify matters to requeen the colony with right queen cells, taken from cell-building colonies and placed in cell protectors in the colony to be re-queened, immediately after removing the old queen. When placing the cell in the cell protector, be sure to push the cell down to the tip of the cell protector or else bees in the colony may enter the cell protector at the tip and chew down the cell from the sides. If the stock in the yard is not pure it will be better to requeen with a queen which can be easily made by partitioning a ten frame hive into four parts, or an eight frame hive into three parts, giving entrances in each direction. In each partition place a comb with emerging brood with bees, and one comb partly full of honey. If possible, these nuclei should be by themselves and have access only to those drones, with which it is desirable to mate. If this is not possible, trapping the drones from undesirable stock will help. If there is not time enough available to use nuclei, for mating the queens, there is much to be gained by requeening with ripe cells instead of allowing the old queens in the colony to hold over another year. The reasons for this are:

1. A queen introduced during July or August is seldom superseded, preceding the next major honey flow.
2. Colonies requeened at this time are only half as likely to swarm next year as colonies headed by an old queen.
3. The introduction of a young queen at this time results in the building up of the colony during the late summer and fall flow with young bees which assist greatly in wintering.

Good Friend of Farmer Is the Bumble Bee

One of Its Most Useful Functions Is To Fertilize Red Clover—This Insect Has an Interesting Life History.

Have you ever been guilty of taking the life of one of these valuable insects? Many boys in days gone by, before agriculture was taught in our rural schools, considered it splendid sport to disturb the home of the bumble-bee. They would approach cautiously, armed with weapons and kill the bee by one by one as they came out to defend their homes, and then help themselves to the scanty supply of honey they procured from the dirty-looking cells. Little did those boys know that they were killing some of their best friends, decreasing the financial returns of the farm, and hence depriving themselves of many necessities and luxuries that they might have enjoyed.

Of course, we all agree that the bumble-bee does not produce much honey, and what it does is of little value, but it is of priceless value in another respect—without the bumble-bee we can get no red clover seed.

The Process of Fertilization. Now, let us examine a clover seed. It is composed of many long, narrow flowers, crowded together, and having stamens which bear pollen before the pistils in their own foret are ready to receive it. It is therefore necessary that the pollen should be carried to other flowers, where the pistils are more advanced condition, for if the pollen does not reach the pistil, no seeds are developed. The flowers are so narrow and deep that the wind cannot blow the pollen about as it does from some flowers, and few insects have tongues long enough to reach the bottom. The honey bee, in search of nectar, can slip it from the shorter white clover before it, but cannot do so from the red. Many other insects find the same difficulty that their tongues are too short. But the bumble-bee has longer tongues that reach to the bottom of the flowers, and enable them to lap up the sweet nectar they contain. While doing this some of the pollen dust in one flower sticks to the tongue and head of the bee, and is carried to another, where it gets rubbed off on the pistil. Thus fertilization is accomplished, and clover seed is produced by the aid of the bumble-bee.

The first cut of red clover gives a small return of seed, because the bumble-bees which fertilize the blossoms are less numerous during the early part of the summer than later. For this reason, as a rule, the first growth is cut for hay or pasture, and the second growth left for seed. By cutting or pasturing the first crop the weeds are checked, and the second growth is cleaner.

New Zealand's Discovery. In New Zealand, in the early days of settlement, the farmers procured their supply of various seeds from Great Britain. Red clover was among those

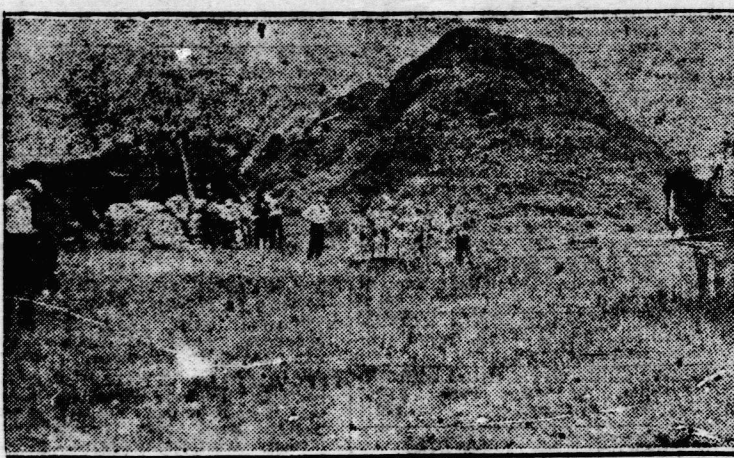
which were introduced into New Zealand in 1868, was introduced into Canada some years later, and is now grown principally in Essex and Kent counties, but has extended at intervals along the shore counties as far as Prince Edward Island. Its growth in quantity varies greatly. In 1911 and 1913, 13,000,000 pounds of White Burley were grown in Canada; in 1914, 1915 and 1916, 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 pounds only; in 1917, 15,000,000 pounds, and in 1920, 20,000,000 pounds. The duty on importations is responsible for the great increase in the last few years of home-produced tobacco. There are three varieties of White Burley grown in this country, namely, Broadleaf White Burley, that does not grow well on heavy land; Stanley White Burley that is recommended for dark, heavier soils, and John's Resistant Burley, which is best to sow on "diseased" land; that is, land not free from root-rot. White Burley is used for both chewing and smoking. The annual crop in North America, including Canada, is 350,000,000 to 400,000,000 pounds. Kentucky being the principal seat of its growth, it finds a market in Europe, as well as in Canada and the United States, but while in the last-mentioned country the acreage devoted to White Burley is from three to four hundred thousand acres, in Canada only about twenty thousand acres are covered. Mr. Freeman in his bulletin tells all about its cultivation and preparation for the market.

Perhaps you want a domestic in a hurry. Then use The London Advertiser's classified columns and you will be quickly supplied, because everybody reads The London Advertiser.

SUMMER COMPLAINTS KILL LITTLE ONES

At the first sign of illness during the hot weather give the little ones Baby's Own Tablets or in a few hours he may be beyond aid. These Tablets will prevent summer complaints if given occasionally to the well child and will promptly relieve these troubles if they come on suddenly. Baby's Own Tablets should always be kept in every home where there are growing children. There is no other medicine as good and the mother has the guarantee of a government analyst that they are absolutely safe. The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 50 cents a box from The Dr. Williams Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont.

THRESHING THE GOLDEN WHEAT IN HURON



The above picture represents a threshing at the farm of John Joynt, M.P.P., near Whitechurch, Huron County. This crop of wheat covered 105 acres, and is of very fine quality. It was threshed on the field with a similar outfit to that which is used out west. The strawstack shown in the illustration resembles a small mountain, and the yield of grain will average about 30 bushels to the acre. At the threshing Mr. Joynt was assisted by his sons-in-law, R. Johnston, warden of Bruce County, and Rev. J. W. Lillie, of Detroit. Messrs. Howson & Howson have purchased the wheat from Mr. Joynt, and expect to have almost 2,800 bushels. The wheat was delivered at the mill a week or so earlier than usual.

SHEEP DIPPING

A GREAT BENEFIT TO STOCK RAISERS

Any Time After September 1 Is Best Time To Perform Operation.

If sheep raisers only realized the benefits and satisfaction from dipping their sheep, no compulsory law would be required to make them enthusiastic and persistent in the practice of dipping. The benefits are two-fold; first, all vermin and skin troubles can be largely cured or prevented, which has a marked effect in improving the health and feeding gains of the flock; and, second, the quality of the wool is improved and its growth stimulated. Shearing tests have demonstrated that well-dipped sheep will give from a pound to a pound and a half more wool per fleece than if not dipped.

While the spring dipping after shearing with an arsenical dip is very important to give the flock, including the younger lambs, a clean bill, the autumn dipping is still more important and should never be omitted. Care should be taken to follow the directions which come with the dip in its preparation, and means taken to see that the whole sheep, with the exception of eyes and nostrils, gets a good application. There is really only one way to dip, and that is by submersion in a tank sufficiently deep to cover the animal standing on its feet. While for a small flock, as an emergency measure, a molasses hogshead with a foot cut off one end may be used, the proper and economical vessel is a vat built about 8 inches wide at the bottom, 24 feet deep and flaring to 20 inches wide, with one end projecting to make an incline, up which the sheep may be hoisted by means of a pulley and rope. A draining platform with tight bottom which will hold two or three sheep should be so arranged that the sheep may be hoisted out upon it the drip from its wool will run into the tank back into the vat. The dip should be made with water and allowed to cool to 100 degrees Fahrenheit before being used, after which it will cool rapidly.

Any time after September 1 is a good time to dip. A breezy day is naturally best, but, for any reason, dipping is delayed further delay waiting for the right day is inadvisable. Particularly when poison dips are used, the sheep should be kept off ground until they are dry. Good average results have been obtained from the Sheep and Goats Division, Live Stock Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

W. W. HUBBARD, Superintendent, Experimental Station, Fredericton, N.B.

SAVE YOUR FEED CORN

Every farmer who has good corn fit for seed should save as much of it as possible.

Farmers who have the chance to go into the fields to select their own seed should do so as soon as it is fully matured, so that the time that corn is ready to cut is a very good time to do it. This gives one the chance to select the most mature ears from stalks showing vigor and growth. Good average results have been obtained from the Sheep and Goats Division, Live Stock Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Where a whole crop is being picked for seed this fall it should be picked over at the time of husking. All immature ears and all ill-formed ears should be culled out, as well as ears that show a decided lack in breeding, poorly filled tips, and wide furrows between the rows.

Every farmer should endeavor to get his seed corn on the cob in the fall before the hard December frosts set in, or from some one who specially dries it.

SEALS AGAIN MULTIPLYING. For sealing in Alaskan and British Columbian waters, which suffered for many years because of decimation of the herds through indiscriminate killing, has returned, and thousands of animals are expected to be taken this year.

Off the west coast of Vancouver Island alone Indians are expected to capture 2,000 of the fur-bearing mammals, and the total catch for the year may reach 100,000, it is estimated. Last year the waters along the Washington coast produced 1,200 skins.

The story of the Alaskan fur herd is an interesting one. When the United States acquired Alaska from Russia, the herd was estimated at 2,500,000. Then, through pelagic sealing, with its indiscriminate slaughter and attendant waste of life, as well as through lack of international understanding on the question of conservation, the seals all but disappeared, the industry fell off, and their capture became illegal.

The decline of the seal herd was pitiable. Shot at sea under this method five or more bodies were lost for each one recovered. There also was great waste due to starvation of pups on the shore. Under such conditions the great herd rapidly dwindled until in 1911 there were but approximately 125,000.

Of profits, tendencies, the seals, multiplied rapidly after the closed seasons were instituted for their protection.

MAKE INCREASE OF BEE COLONIES AFTER MAIN FLOW

Several Methods May Be Successfully Used in Manipulating the Hives.

The most economical time to make increase is at the close of the main honey-flow. There is no definite time which can be set for this event, as in any one locality the honey-flow is of different duration in different seasons, due to weather conditions, but the experienced beekeeper can judge very closely when the honey-flow is beginning to stop, and he should have his queens reared and ready to make increase by that time.

One method which works very nicely is as follows: Apparatus necessary is a hive-body containing dry, drawn combs, a cover, bottom and some sort of queen excluder.

During the heat of the day when the field bees are flying, remove the colony from the stand and place it at one end of the hive-body, leaving the drawn combs and queen in the center of the body. The field bees will release the queen and enable her to build up a brood nest. In this way the bees are kept free from insects at moulting times, what I term the "feather house" is liable to attack the growing feathers, and the feathers will appear especially in the tail—with streaks of white on the wings.

Lastly, many birds' constitutions are weakened by the strain upon their system by the growth of new feathers, and if the queen is given at such a time, will frequently be found with hard and dry casings confining the feathers and preventing proper development. A teaspoonful of flour of sulphur to each half-dozen mixed in the soft food twice or three times a week is always advisable in warm weather during the moulting season, and on alternate days, if as much carbonate of iron as will lie on a dime and the same quantity of castor sugar be given to each in the meal, a richer, glossier color will be the result. Do not ruin your young stock for the sake of saving a little extra expenditure or yourself a little extra trouble.

YOUNG PIGS BEFORE WEANING

When the pigs are born, the attention should be on hand to see that everything goes well. If the pigs are strong and the sow lies quiet, it is better not to interfere. Sows that have been properly fed and given sufficient exercise seldom have difficulty in farrowing. If the pigs seem somewhat weak or if the sow is very restless it is safer to place the pigs in a well-bedded box or basket to keep them out of the way until all are born. If the pen is chilly a bottle of hot water placed in the bottom of the basket and covered with a blanket, with another blanket over the top of the basket will help keep up the vitality of the pigs.

The pigs should be placed to the test as soon as possible. The weaker the pigs, or the colder the pen, the more important an early drink of the mother's milk becomes. If a piglet is not unduly protracted, and if the pigs are

come ordinarily from disease, wintering, etc.

In sections of the country where the honey-flow does not come until August it is possible to split the colony during fruit bloom, and make each half strong enough to gather surplus by the time the main honey-flow comes.

YOUNG SHOW CHICKENS

The early breeder will have specimens showing, or about to show, their adult plumage. Such a time is often the critical period of a bird's future, whether it becomes a good show specimen, merely a breeder, or whether through neglect in management the owner considers it a waste of oil only for the pot.

The chief causes—which all arise from the neglect or inability of the owner to provide against them—are three-fold in number, viz.: Want of shade, insects, and the lack of assistance whilst moulting.

With reference to the first, if show specimens (and one cannot afford to have a show specimen till after they have moulted into their adult plumage) are allowed to run out in the sun and rain their plumage quickly becomes "water-soaked"; that is, faded, patchy, dull instead of glossy, yellow instead of white. If the young stock and the old too, are not kept free from insects at moulting times, what I term the "feather house" is liable to attack the growing feathers, and the feathers will appear especially in the tail—with streaks of white on the wings.

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The adult insects commence to emerge from the soil in late June and early July, and continue to emerge for about seven weeks. They are blackish (two or three), a little smaller than house-flies. The abdomen of the female is crossed by four white bands and that of the male by three. The wings have conspicuous dark markings. Several days after emergence the female begins egg-laying. By means of a sharp, slanting ovipositor she inserts her eggs beneath the skin of the apple. The eggs hatch in five to six days, and the larvae or maggots derived from them tunnel their way here and there through the flesh of the apple, leaving behind them trails of dead brown tissue. The larvae mature when the fruit is ripe, by which time it has usually fallen. The larvae then leave the apples, enter the soil and change to the pupal stage, in which stage the winter is passed. Most of the pupae transform to flies the following summer. However, a certain percentage of them remain in the soil

strong, lively, and comfortable, they may wait for their first drink until all are born, but in such cases the attendant must use his judgment.

As soon as the sow appears to have settled down quietly it is best to put the little pigs with her and leave them together. It is well not to interfere except when it is absolutely necessary. By the time the pigs are three weeks old they will have learned to eat. If at all possible, it is a good plan to give them access to another pen in which is kept a small trough. Here they can be fed a little skim milk with a very little middlings stirred into it. The quantity of middlings can be increased gradually as the pigs grow older. If they can be taught to nibble at sugar beets or mangels during this time so much the better. A small amount of soaked whole corn, or almost any other grain, scattered on the floor of the pen, will cause them to take exercise while hunting for it. If it is not possible to provide an extra pen, the sow may be shut out of the pen while the pigs are being fed. Many people simply allow their young pigs to eat with the sow, but this is a bad plan. 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