

Importance of Live Stock.

Last year when the results of the first farm survey, made by the Ontario Department of Agriculture in Caledon Township, Peel County, were published a table was presented to show the beneficial effect of an improved quality of live stock upon the labor income of the farmer. For very many years speakers at live stock meetings, exponents of the various breeds of pure-bred cattle, sheep, swine and horses, and the farm press in general, have been emphasizing the profitableness of live stock on the farm. It has been pointed out that live stock is necessary to maintain the fertility of the soil and to enable the owner to market the products of the field at a greater profit. We have been told that when the crops grown on the farm are sold on the market it is usually possible to sell them at a fairly good price and secure some return for the labor spent in growing them. But if in addition to growing these crops the farmer is able to gather about him a considerable number of live stock and feed much of his grain, it can be marketed through the live stock at a double profit.

Experience has shown in many instances that this is true, and gradually an increasing number of men have been shown that live stock is a very important factor in the economy and profit of the farm. It remained, however, for someone to provide definite and actual proof that live stock is of such importance as has been claimed for it, because, while the experience of the best men is usually indicative of what is actually the best way of doing a thing, there are hundreds of people who will never accept what someone else has found to be valuable in one particular instance. The result of these farm surveys, therefore, is to provide this definite information, since a tabulation and analysis of the figures gathered therein brings together the experience of hundred of farmers, which, according to the law of averages, must tell an absolutely straight and truthful story.

The second year's experience with the farm survey in Ontario brings together an additional quota of information, similar to that gathered in Caledon, but from a different section of the province, namely, the County of Oxford. This County is, of course, primarily a dairy county and one of the very best at that, but so far as the influence of live stock is concerned this makes very little difference, except to show that live stock, with dairy cattle predominating, are profitable as well as where some other kind of stock is found most commonly. The accompanying table is the result of a survey of 437 farms in Oxford County, and shows the influence which live stock of varying quality had upon the labor income of the farm owners, as compared with the influence exerted by crops of varying quality. The labor income referred to here means the amount of money which the farmer had received for one year's work of himself, his wife and daughters, and any boy under fourteen years old, or, in fact, anyone who had worked on the farm without a stipulated wage, and who was not old enough or strong enough to demand a man's wages. It has often been argued that it is more profitable to increase the yield and quality of the crops grown, than to increase the numbers and quality of the live stock on the farm, and while undoubtedly both should be improved wherever possible, this table shows very clearly that it is easier and quicker to make money by improving the live stock than the crops.

All the figures used in this table are relative, with the exception of the number of farms, which is given only for the purpose of showing that there were about the same number of farms in each group, so that it is quite fair to compare them. The live stock index, or the crop index, refers to the relative position of the live stock or crops on any farm, or group of farms, as compared with the average quality of the live stock or crops on all the farms. Thus we find that both crops and live stock are divided into three groups. There were, for instance, fifty farms where both the crops and the live stock were below the average; forty-five farms where the crops were average and the live stock below the average; fifty-seven farms where the live stock was average but the crops below the average, and thirty-nine farms where both were average, while there were forty farms where both were over 110, or more than ten per cent. above the average.

Now then, we have nothing more to do with the number of farms; all we have to do is to compare the labor income which has been adjusted so that it will actually compare with every other labor income mentioned in the table, and the average live stock index of the farms in the same group. Let us start with the farms where the live stock and crops are both below the average, and we find that the adjusted labor income is 47 when the live stock index is 77, or twenty-three per cent. below the average, and the crop index is under 91. When we bring the crops up to the average and the live stock remains the same (77), the labor income jumps to 73, and when we bring the crops above the average while the live stock drops a little lower we find that in this particular case, including thirty-four farms, the labor income drops to 58—but it is still higher, of course, than where the crops were poor. So far we have seen that good crops do improve the labor income, but beginning again in the group where both live stock and crops are poor and looking to the right, we find that if the live stock comes up to the average and the crops remain below the average the labor income jumps to 95, an increase of 38 instead of the 26 which occurred when the crops were brought to the average and the live stock remained poor. If we go farther to the right we find that when the live stock is brought above the average in quality, the labor income rises to 113, a further increase of 18; the crops remaining below the average as before.

The same thing can be worked out by making two different comparisons, in addition to the one we have just completed. We can compare the labor income when the crops are averaged and the live stock improves in quality, with the labor income when the live stock remains average (index 91 to 110) and the crops improve. Then, as a final comparison, we can compare the labor income on the farms where the crop index is over 110, but where the live stock is found to be under average quality, as well as average and more than average, with the three groups to the right, where the live stock is always above the average, but where the crops are variable in quality. This last comparison shows us that improving the crops brings our labor income from 113 to 161, while improving the live stock from 73 per cent. of the average to 131 per cent., brings our labor income from 58 to 161.

Here then we have nine groups of farms, each of them with from thirty to over fifty farms, where the live stock is shown to have a much greater influence on the labor income than the improvement in crops alone. This table can be examined in any way possible with the same results. It is also easy to see, however, that it is profitable to increase both live stock and crops, and the best and the poorest groups in this table show a difference in average labor income as between 161 and 47.

Influence of Live Stock on Labor Income.

Crop Index	No. farms	Live Stock Index Under 91			Live Stock Index 91-110			Live Stock Index Over 110		
		No. Farms	Adjusted Labor Income	Live Stock Index	No. Farms	Adjusted Labor Income	Live Stock Index	No. Farms	Adjusted Labor Income	Live Stock Index
Under 91	No. farms.....	50			57			37		
	Adjusted labor income.....		47			95			113	
	Live stock index.....			77			100			127
91-110	No. farms.....	45			39			35		
	Adjusted labor income.....		73			112			154	
	Live stock index.....			77			100			128
Over 110	No. farms.....	34			32			40		
	Adjusted labor income.....		58			108			161	
	Live stock index.....			73			99			131

Co-Operative Marketing of Wool.

The high price of wool and mutton for the past two or three years has been an incentive for farmers to take a new interest in sheep husbandry. New flocks have been started and established flocks have been increased in size. There is no class of animals kept on the farm that will get along with such inexpensive buildings as will sheep. True, they require quarters that are dry, both above and below, and which are free from drafts. They do not want it warm. It does not require much labor to look after a flock of sheep. However, they need a certain amount of care and attention and regular feed and water. The price of wool set a new record in 1918. As to what the price will be this coming spring the future only will reveal. While it cannot be expected that the price will be as high as in 1918, those in a position to fully understand the situation cannot see how wool will go very low for years to come. While the army contracts are reduced, there is the civilian population to cater to. The stocks of woolen goods are low; thus there should be a demand for woolen fabric by civilians, and this will aid in keeping the price at a reasonable level.

R. W. Wade, Secretary of the Ontario Sheep Breeders' Association, stated at the Experimental Union, recently held, that the sheep population for Canada is 2,000,000; for the United States, 50,000,000, and for the Argentine 80,000,000. The wool clip from these countries would be nearly in the same proportion. A large portion of Argentine wool and the bulk of our coarse wool is marketed in the United States. This indicates how important the American market is when regulating the wool prices. The following table, given by Mr. Wade, gives the grades of Ontario wool, the American fixed prices for scoured wool in 1918, average per cent. shrinkage, price in the grease of Ontario wool at Boston, selling price of Ontario wool, and the net price to Ontario wool growers:

Grades of Ontario wool	American fixed price on scoured basis	Estimated average per cent. shrink of Ont. wool	American price per pound at Boston for Ont. grades	Selling price obtained by Ont. wool growers	Net price to Ont. wool growers with 3 1/2% selling charges deducted
Medium Combing	\$1.40	47%	74.2 c.	76 1/4 c.	74c.
Medium Clothing	1.37	46 1/2%	73.29c.	73 1/4 c.	71c.
Low Medium Combing	1.28	44 1/2%	71.04c.	73 1/2 c.	71c.
Low Combing	1.17	44%	65.52c.	67 c.	65c.
Coarse Combing	1.07	44 1/4%	59.65c.	60 3/4 c.	59c.

From this table the comparison between price of scoured wool and wool in the grease will be noted. These prices were obtained by the Ontario Sheep Breeders' Association working through the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, Ltd. There are some who contend that they received higher prices than those paid by the Association. This may be true, but what would the price of Ontario wool have been had there been no central marketing organization? The Association has helped the grower and will continue to help him. While the 1919 price will, no doubt, be considerably lower than that of 1918, those who deal through the organization can be assured that they will get the very highest price that the market will pay, and that their wool will be handled efficiently at the minimum expense. It is but reasonable that manufacturers will pay the best price when they can buy the different grades in quantity. While the war was on there was an unprecedented demand for these goods. When things return to normal and the supply more nearly equals the demand, those dealing in wool will buy where they can purchase the best quality in quantity. The co-operative marketing plan was a success in war time, it will be an even greater success in times of peace.

The wool is sold according to grade; thus the man with the highest grade of wool receives the highest price. This is an incentive for the greatest care being

taken in handling the sheep. While breed influences the grade of wool, the care which the sheep receive also plays an important part. Keeping the wool clean and handling the sheep to prevent crotting will aid in improving the grade.

The shepherd can do a good deal to improve the grade. Once the fleece becomes filled with chaff, seeds, burrs or dirt it is almost impossible to clean it. Carefulness in feeding will go a long way towards preventing the fleece becoming dirty. The sloping rack, wide at top and narrow at bottom, invariably causes the wool around the neck to become filled with chaff and dirt. The racks should be arranged so as to avoid having to carry hay across the pen. Care of the sheep while the wool is growing, and then shearing and handling the fleece properly will aid in securing the top grade, and consequently the top price.

Victoria and Essex Hogs.

For a number of weeks past we have been giving a brief history of our more important breeds of swine. We have come almost to the end of the list. There are two breeds which we have not mentioned; they are the Victoria and the Essex. Neither of these breeds is particularly well known in Canada. The Victoria originated in the United States. The blood of Poland China, Berkshire and Chester White is combined in this breed, and by careful selection breeders have secured a fairly definite type. At a swine breeders' meeting in Indianapolis in the early seventies the committee's report commending the Victoria breed was approved. It was stated that pigs of this breed, if pure, should have a direct descent from a sow named Victoria. Undoubtedly this is where the breed got its name. Prof. Plumb, in "Types and Breeds of Farm Animals," describes the Victoria breed as follows: "The head is moderately broad, the face has a medium dish, the ear is small to medium in size and carried erect; the body is broad and