

Since the Agricultural Society and the Farmer's Institute have the same object in common, viz: the advancement of agriculture and the introduction of new ideas in farming—agricultural education, as it is more euphoniously termed, we have never been able to understand why they should exist as two separate institutions. And we doubt very much whether anybody else can. They should not only be under one management, but should be one and the same organization locally. Not only that, but the fair—if one is still to be held in those places where we said a while ago it should cease to exist—should be a combined institute meeting, seed fair, and agricultural fair, and it should be held in the winter season. Take a district where a summer show is held, a seed fair and an institute meeting or two annually. That is four days, at least, devoted to fairs and institutes at that place. Bunch all these events in together, add on a couple of days more to round out a week, and at no more cost, with no more outside talent than is now required, a short course in agriculture could be worked out that would be of infinitely greater value to the community in which it was held than would the disjointed and disconnected efforts of the organizations now endeavoring to carry on educational work. There needs to be a concentration of effort as well as an elimination of what is frivolous and non-educating.

Man.

B. S. H.

### Can Winter Wheat be Grown in Saskatchewan?

I am getting interested in fall wheat and do not see any reason why it should not do as well here as in Southern Alberta where they have just reaped a good crop. If we could manage to grow fall wheat around here we would be able to get it in on our summer fallows before harvesting and would stand the chance of missing the summer frosts which have caught a lot of our crops in this district the last two years. What do you think of this proposition?

Sask.

H. A. D.

During the past twenty years numerous trials have been made with fall wheat of different varieties on the Experimental Farms at Indian Head and Brandon and also on other farms in central Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Almost without exception these have been failures. Generally, the fall wheat germinates well and by winter has obtained a firm, even stand of plants, and through the severe winter weather there is seldom any apparent injury, but towards spring when the days are bright and warm and the nights very cold, the plants begin to turn dark in color and then wilt. By the 1st of April, only the hollows where the snow lies very deep show a sign of green plants. These hollows usually produce a few sheaves of excellent wheat, but not enough to pay expenses. I understand that on some of the cleared scrub farms in North-western Manitoba there have been some very fair crops of fall wheat, this part of the province is near the timber line and possibly the class of soil found there very largely accounts for the success. The somewhat heavier fall of snow and the fact that the remaining timber and scrub prevents the snow from drifting off the fields is also a great help. If your correspondent has conditions similar to the above he may expect to have fair success with fall wheat, but in any case I would advise him to go slowly until he has tested his land in a small way.

Turkey Red wheat, grown in the west, is pretty sure to prove the best seed for his purpose. Sow about August 15th on well prepared summer fallow. If sown much later than this, the plants fail to become firmly established before the cold weather, and will be killed out in early winter. Some recommend the use of straw or strawy manure as a protection for the young plants, but on the Brandon Experimental Farm no advantage has been gained from this plan.

S. A. BEDFORD, M.A.C.

Writing from northwestern Saskatchewan on this subject, Mr. John Parker says:

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your issue of December 23rd, I read an article on "How can wheat escape frost." As far as spring wheat is concerned, the only remedy is to locate on high ground. Cold air, being heavier than warm air, settles down on the low grounds, as may be seen on frosty mornings, in the form of fog, while the hills will stand out as islands and the crops on the high land will escape, while crops down in the valleys will be frozen black. Now, every body cannot locate on ridges and it isn't necessary that they should. Several of the most progressive farmers in this district are testing fall wheat and in nearly every case it has been satisfactory. Owing to the fact that

Saskatchewan has a very dry climate, it is necessary to sow the winter wheat on or about August 1st in order to get the crop established before the freeze up which generally takes place in October. Winter wheat will generally be ready to cut about August 1st and thus will escape the early frosts which occur about August 12 to September 2nd. It will thus be necessary to work the summer fallow early and follow the winter wheat the following spring with spring wheat on the stubble, or if you have the force, on fall or spring plowing.

To those who wish to grow fall wheat, I have this pointer to give:—keep your seed for the next crop, because you may not be able to get threshed in time to sow on August 1st. Some one will have to be last, and the plan mentioned above will be the safest and most satisfactory. Work the land thoroughly, start the weed seeds early by harrowing in the fall or spring, followed by plowing seven inches deep in June; harrow and pack at least twice; sow one and one-half bushels per acre of winter wheat and you will not have to worry about frost. We are told that winter wheat is not a sure crop in Saskatchewan, but is spring wheat a sure crop? or is anything or any other crop sure? Nothing seems certain except taxes, trouble and grafters. Try fall wheat.

JOHN PARKER.

### Plowing Match Rules

Our agricultural society is thinking of holding a plowing match in this district next summer. Will you kindly furnish me, through the columns of your paper, the rules and regulations and score card governing plowing matches in Manitoba? Will oblige, Vegreville, Alta.

H. T. P.

The following rules and score card were adopted by the Bird's Hill Agricultural Society on the occasion of their first match for the provincial championship:

- 1.—Entries to be made to the secretary not later than 9 a.m. on day of match.
- 2.—All persons entering must be members of the Institute. Membership fee, 50 cents.
- 3.—An entry fee of 50 cents will be charged for all entries.
- 4.—No person will be allowed to interfere with the plowmen except in the setting of the plow. Each plowman must drive his own team.
- 5.—Competitors must be on the ground not later than 9.30 a.m., when draw will be given for positions. Plowing to begin at 10 a.m. sharp. Any coming later will have to take positions given by Directors.
- 6.—Plowing to be done from 10.30 a.m., and from 1.30 p.m., to 4 p.m.
- 7.—All competitors not having finished by 4 p.m., will be ruled out, but allowance will be made for unavoidable delays at the discretion of the Directors. Actual time of plowing will be considered in final award.
- 8.—All plowing to be five inches deep, except feering and finish, which must not be less than three inches, and width to be according to size of plow used. Furrow must be turned by plow. No hand work will be allowed either for pulling of weeds or turning the furrow.
- 9.—Each plowman, walking or gang plow, must open out and finish his own land with the same plow he competes with.
- 10.—A half-acre to be done by each walking plow, and one acre by each gang or sulky.
- 11.—Anyone having taken 1st Prize in men's class at previous matches can only compete in Class V.
- 12.—All protests must be in writing and lodged with the secretary before 5 p.m. on the day of the plowing match.
- 13.—In the absence of competition, the Judge may award the 1st, or any prize, according to his own discretion.

The basis of judging will be fixed upon the following score: Straightness 15, feering, 10, in and out at ends 10, depth and width of furrow 10, evenness of land 20, finish 10, covering weeds and stubble 25. A programme of sports and refreshments will be provided.

### Dry Salting Pork

A subscriber asks for information as to the dry salting of bacon. The following useful description of bacon curing is given by A. W. Fulton, in "Home Pork Making."

For hogs weighing not over 125 or 130 pounds each, intended for dry curing, one bushel fine salt, two pounds brown sugar, and one pound saltpeter will suffice for each 800 pounds pork before the meat is cut out; but if the meat is large and thick, or weighs from 150 to 200 pounds per carcass, from a gallon to a peck more of salt and a little more of both the other articles should be taken. Neither the sugar nor the saltpeter is absolutely necessary for the preservation of the meat, and they are often omitted. But both are preservatives; the sugar improves the flavor of the bacon, and the saltpeter gives it greater firmness and a finer color if used sparingly. Bacon should not be so sweet as to suggest the "sugar cure,"

and saltpeter, used too freely, hardens the tissues of the meat, and renders it less palatable. The quantity of salt mentioned is enough for the first salting. A little more new salt is added at the second salting and used to gether with the old salt that has not been absorbed. If sugar and saltpeter are used, first apply about a teaspoonful of pulverised salt-peter on the flesh side of the hams and shoulders, and then, taking a little sugar in the hand, apply it lightly to the flesh surface of all the pieces. A table-spoonful is enough for any one piece.

If the meat at the time of salting is moist and yielding to the touch, rubbing the skinned side with the gloved hand, or the "sow's ear," as is sometimes insisted on, is unnecessary; the meat will take salt readily enough without this extra labor. But if the meat is rigid, and the weather very cold, or if the pieces are large and thick, rubbing the skin side to make it yielding and moist causes the salt to penetrate to the centre of the meat and bone. On the flesh side it is only necessary to sprinkle the salt over all the surface. Care must be taken to get some salt into every depression and into the hock end of all joints. An experienced meat salter goes over the pieces with great expedition. Taking a handful of the salt he applies it dexterously by a gliding motion of the hand to all the surface, and does not forget the hock end of the bones where the feet have been cut off. Only dry salt is used in this method of curing. The meat is never put into brine or "pickle," nor is any water added to the salt to render it more moist.

### Earning Capacity of Labor

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In the January 6th number of your paper is an article on the earning power of farm labor.

If the figures given, \$755.62 are the gross earnings of one man handling a five horse equipment, it means a loss of nearly \$500 per annum on its employment. If it does not mean this, I would like a statement showing the details.

Assuming that gross earnings are intended, and taking \$35 per month and board as a fair wage for a man able to handle a five horse outfit you have:

Wages .....	\$ 600.00
Interest on value of five horses at \$200. at 7% .....	70.00
Renewal charge per year of five horses ..	70.00
Oats, 3 gals. per horse, per day at 30c. ...	219.00
Hay, 15 lbs. per horse, per day at \$5 per ton .....	68.00

Money earned as per statement .....

Loss .....

Interest ought to be charged on money invested in land, management, harness, implements, allowance made for renewals of same, sickness, and loss of crops.

If I am all wrong here, put me right, Mr. Editor, and in doing so, you will, I am sure help others than myself, and also go a step towards solving one of the great problems of the near future, i. e.: the status of farm help. This will have to be met and settled by the farming community as by other classes of employers, and hours of labor, division of labor and other factors put on permanent footing. Is the employing farmer ready for the question?

Man. J. H. FARTHING.

(The figures given in the article to which this correspondent refers, were compiled by the United States Bureau of Statistics and represent the net earnings of a man working a five horse outfit and cultivating 135 acres of land in North Dakota. Details were not given in the report from which this data was taken, to show the method by which the earnings were arrived at. On a farm, it is a rather difficult thing to determine net earnings exactly, but the figures given were believed to represent approximately the earning capacity of farm labor in relation to the number of horses used by each worker. The figures represent average, not individual, earnings in the districts named for each. Ed.)

### Millet as a Crop

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I was thinking of growing some "Kursk" millet next summer, but should first like some information about it, as to its suitability for this part of the country, amount to sow per acre, yield and effect on stock, is it as good as hay?

Northern Sask.

C. E.

"Kursk" is a variety of millet very highly recommended by the Steele Briggs Co. It is said to be in a class by itself, being grown from hand-selected plants and seed. Earliness is one of the qualities claimed for the Kursk variety, and as its native home is in Siberia it should do well in Saskatchewan.

I am not experimentally acquainted with the "Kursk" millet, the varieties usually grown in Canada, are of two classes, the foxtail millets, such as Common, German and Hungarian, and the broom corn millets called by this name because they greatly resemble broom corn. There is another class known as Japanese millets with knots like joints, but this latter class is seldom grown here.

Of the foxtail variety and the seed of this here, and this should be proper management for good clean seed. What larger than an the heads are of a yellow.

Hungarian grass on the Brandon from this kind is dark purple. It is and the heads are quite

German Millet, is a variety with loose heads not proved so pro Farm as the Hungarian is small and yellow in

The Broom-corn difficult to cure. So tested at Brandon The Hungarian grass good fodder.

Millet hay, proper and is eaten readily. Complaints have been made in large quantities, nearly or quite ripe.

For the best results and moist. The seed the surface, and if it germinate readily and For this reason summer preparation in this of the most unsatisfactory seed per acre has given necessity of placing soil, a drill should be if in good order, will must be taken not to otherwise it will not be

All the different sown each year, the to germinate and the frost. For these reasons done before the 24th

The crop must be there is danger of severe east it is usually cut but here I have had a grain binder and which should be well become perfectly dry otherwise the middle of

D.

### Annual I

The Manitoba Dairy convention in the lecture at the Agricultural College and Thursday, February 19th, is the list and delivered:

WEDNESDAY

"The Advantages of Prof. T. L. Haecker, S. "Dairy Form and Sheppard, Fargo, N. D. "Some of the Essentials of Farming," Prof. J. W.

THURSDAY

Business session of officers, etc. "Clovers and Their Role, Winnipeg.

THURSDAY

Demonstration in machine. "Fodder Corn," Prof. "Dairy Records," J. "Dairy Bacteriology

peg. "The Evolution of the Champion, Reaburn, M

THURSDAY

"Advantages to Agriculture of the Dairy Business," N. D.

"Feeding for Milk Production," St. Anthony Park, Minn.

"The Reputation of the British Market, Demonstration working machine will be given of the convention. The milkers will have experience machines and answer a

The association has exhibition, during the organs of an animal showing the disease in copic slides of the diseases tuberculosis, and the it from our herds, will be ation.