

The Harvesting Season.

The dates on which apples reach maturity and are ready to be picked are too well known locally to require any mention here. Pears, too, are often picked green and allowed to ripen in storage, so it is unnecessary to give dates in regard to them.

Peaches usually begin to ripen at this Station the last week in July. For the four past years, which the data given cover, the average length of the peach season was ninety-four days; the shortest season being ninety days in 1912, and the longest, one hundred and five days in 1913. Native plums begin to ripen at Geneva about July 15, and varieties are reaching maturity from this time up to October 1.

The cherry season begins with the ripening of early sweet cherries about June 12, followed a week later by some of the sour sorts, while the Dukes or hybrid cherries are, as a group, a day or two later in beginning to ripen than sour cherries. The length of the season for cherries is about a month, and is nearly the same for the three groups, though the sour and hybrid cherries last a little longer and may be kept considerably longer than sweet cherries.

The first week in October usually marks the height of the grape season at Geneva, although in 1912 it was in the second week. Usually killing frosts during the second or third week in October cut off many of the latest sorts. During the last three years the earliest season was 1913; the first grape being marked ripe on the first of September, while in 1912 the first was ripe on the 12th.

Gooseberries are picked in various stages of greenness, so that ripening dates for them mean less than with other fruits. Gooseberries begin ripening at Geneva about July 1, and continue to ripen from ten to fifteen days. The berries of some European kinds remain on the bushes in edible condition for from ten to twenty days after ripening.

Currants begin ripening at this Station the last week in June, and the varieties succeed each other during a period of three weeks. Currants hang on the bushes for a week or two after maturity without great deterioration.

Blackberries begin ripening about July 15, and the dewberries a few days earlier. The season for these two fruits lasts from twenty to thirty days.

The red-raspberry season begins at Geneva with the ripening of an extra early kind, which is usually ready for picking the last week in June. The hybrid sorts or purple canes and the yellow raspberries come on about July 12, while black raspberries start their season the first week in July. The season for the red and hybrid raspberry is from fifteen to twenty days; for the black raspberries, from ten to fifteen days.

Strawberries may be expected to begin ripening at Geneva about June 12, and the season to last from fifteen to twenty days.

If a grower can so arrange his plantation and work that pickers can be kept reasonably busy from the middle of June to the last of October, there is no doubt but what a greater revenue will result than from specializing in one or two kinds of fruit. While these dates will apply to only parts of Canada, the order in which the various kinds of fruit begin to ripen should be approximately the same.

FARM BULLETIN.

The Best Sale in the History of the O. A. C.

It was a goodly number of enthusiastic live-stock breeders that gathered in the Judging Pavilion at the Ontario Agricultural College, on Thursday, November 1, to take part in the regular annual sale of pure-bred breeding stock put on by that institution. Straight-forward dealing and improved offerings are making this sale one of the events of each year. The buyer is most generously treated, and the blood lines of the stock offered are of the best of the respective breeds. We are safe in saying that the stock sold this year composed the best all-round draft ever made from the College herds. It was in good breeding condition and, for the most part, provoked spirited bidding.

Scotch Shorthorns were in keenest demand and they brought forth the sensation of the sale, the sweet, white, yearling Augusta heifer, Augusta Snowdrop, which went to the bid of John Miller, Jr., Ashburn, Ont., for \$1,100. The Augustas are one of the most popular families, and the heifer was a choice individual along with her blue blood. There were nine of the beef type sold, including six richly-bred bull calves, and they brought a total of \$4,000, or an average of \$444.45 each. The three females made \$2,065, or an average of \$688.33, and the six bull calves sold for \$1,935; an average of \$322.50.

Five dairy or dual-purpose Shorthorns were led into the ring. They included four calves and one young cow. Three of the calves were very young bulls. The five brought \$1,420, or an average of \$284 each. The imported six-year-old cow, Puddington Solo, fell to the bid of A. McLaren, Buckingham, Que., for \$525, and the April daughter of O. A. C. Waterloo Baroness 3rd, perhaps the best cow of her class in Canada, went to the same buyer at \$475, making an average for the two dairy Shorthorn females of \$500.

Of the stock sold from the dairy breeds kept at the

College, the Holsteins went off the best, but even they did not bring the prices which the exceedingly high-record backing of the animals warranted. There were bargains in Holsteins. Twelve, including a baby calf, were sold for \$1,807.50—an average of \$150.62, and there were several bargains in the lot.

Six Ayrshires of choice breeding but of scarcely as high quality as some of the rest of the offering did not sell for anything like the money they were worth. The six only brought \$527.50, and, carrying as they do the blood of the great Hobsland Masterpiece, they may be considered bargains at an average of \$87.91.

Only three Jerseys were disposed of. All were bull calves, and they brought \$210 or an average of \$70 each.

Two extra choice beef steers of show-yard quality, one a Shorthorn-Angus cross and the other a pure-bred Shorthorn, went to A. Barber, Guelph, at 20 cents and 19 cents per pound, respectively.

Yorkshire sows, some carrying their first litters and others not yet bred, were in keen demand. Nineteen choice sows recently bred sold for \$1,405; an average of \$74 each. Ten open sows totalled \$377.50, or an average of \$37.75 each.

It was on the whole a very satisfactory sale and very gratifying to see the efforts of Prof. Day and Prof. Leitch, and the entire Animal Husbandry staff, appreciated by the general public.

Following is a list of animals and purchasers:

Scotch Shorthorns.	
Proud Champion, W. A. Galbraith, Iona St.	\$ 325.00
College Diamond, John Paget, Sundridge.	450.00
Lancaster Reserve, James Chinick, Chatham.	400.00
Lancaster Pride, Albert Smith, South Woods-lee.	285.00
Augusta Jewel, Gibson Bros., Bratton, Sask.	275.00
Lavender Royalist, John Miller, Jr., Ashburn.	200.00
Proud Lady Hope, Geo. Amos & Sons, Moffat.	365.00
Roan Lady, O. A. C. 4th, E. S. Croxton, Angola, Ind.	600.00
Augusta Snowdrop, John Miller, Jr.	1,100.00

Dairy Shorthorns.	
O. A. C. Major Hope 2nd, Wm. G. McNaughton, Monkton.	\$ 135.00
Major Maude, John Paget.	185.00
O. A. C. Darlington Prince, H. Watson, Brampton.	100.00
Puddington Solo, A. McLaren, Buckingham, Que.	525.00
O. A. C. Waterloo Baroness 3rd, A. McLaren.	475.00

Holsteins.	
Daisy Posch Johanna, W. J. Fraser, Brampton.	\$ 210.00
Mercena Netherland O. A. C. 2nd, J. Sharp, Guelph.	205.00
Beauty of O. A. C. 3rd, W. H. Gooding, Islington.	225.00
Calif. A. Barber, Guelph.	20.00
College Toitilla Rattler, A. Merryweather, Bridgeburg.	175.00
Molly Rue Rattler 3rd, Kemptville Agr. School.	152.50
Margaret Cornucopia 6th, J. H. Turner, Milton.	90.00
Molly Rue Boutsje Lass, A. Gies, St. Jacobs.	210.00
Mercena Lassie's Pride, T. O. Dolson, Brampton.	90.00
Count Rattler Pontiac, W. J. Fraser, Streetsville.	250.00
Sir Hengerveld Tensen, Fred Bagg, Hespeler.	80.00
Sir Pontiac Rue, C. A. Radding, Angola, Ind.	100.00

Ayrshires.	
Bud's Minnie, James R. Fallis, Brampton.	\$ 155.00
Floss' Guarantee 2nd, A. Merryweather, Bridgeburg.	150.00
Floss 5th Masterpiece, John Ballantyne, St. Mary's.	70.00
Soncie's Masterpiece, James R. Fallis.	55.00
O. A. C. Minnie's Masterpiece, A. Merryweather.	47.50
O. A. C. Daisy's Masterpiece, Arsene Denis, St. Norbert, Que.	50.00

Jerseys.	
Dulcie's Astor, O. A. C., W. R. Platt, Water-down.	\$ 75.00
Tapon's Noble, B. H. Bull & Sons, Brampton.	80.00
O. A. C. Reverence, Henry Martin, Port Carling.	55.00

Yorkshires.	
Among the buyers of sows were: S. Pickard, Galt; D. M. Panabaker, Hespeler; Walter Macdonald, Marden; Jos. White, St. Mary's; Sam Harrop, Milton; Wm. Dobbie, Guelph; E. V. Thompson, Guelph; Wm. Taylor, Newton; J. A. Slater, Galt; Wm. Murdock, Palmerston; D. J. McKay, Science Hill; Kemptville Agr. School; Wm. Sheriff, West Montrose; J. E. Steen, Meadowvale; W. J. Lennox, Toronto; S. Maltby, Aberfoyle; H. W. Martin, Kitchener; James Tawse, Puslinch; H. Watson, Brampton.	

The highest price for a sow was \$95. The total of the sale, not including the two fat steers, was \$9,747.50. The two steers would bring over \$500, making a total well over \$10,000.

Exercise next to proper rations, is the great necessity of breeding stock.

Production Cost.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

To-day we have good reason to respect any measure that may assist in calculating the cost of production of farm products. Food controllers, active at home and abroad, are making their influence felt to a greater or less degree in all rural communities.

We are asked to fix a price based on the cost of production. Can we do this? Many, ignorant of the rudiments of agricultural economics, think we should. When we compare the conditions under which the citizen labors and those under which the ruralist labors, we find a wide difference. True, every vocation has its disadvantages and perhaps unpleasant features. We are not now considering the aesthetic but the business side of the question.

The farm is virtually an open-air food factory of many departments. Few of these departments can be protected from the weather. The city factory workman has usually more or less comfortable, protected quarters in which to work. His labor can proceed uninterrupted, thus the product of his skill is the more cheaply produced. On the other hand, the farmer has weather conditions to contend with, frosts and hot spells, drouths and freshets. All these take their toll regardless of the finest skill in farm management. Nor is weather the only factor over which we have little control. Insects and plant diseases (both fungous and bacterial) whose attacks are largely influenced by the character of the seasons exact their "pound of flesh." In hot, dry seasons grasshoppers, flies, etc., abound. In damp seasons blight, rust and smut of grains, anthracnose of beans, clover and alfalfa, mildews, fusarium moulds, etc. This does not approach by any means a complete outline of the difficulties attending.

Capital for the farmer is soil fertility. Capital for the city concern is money. In each the law of supply and demand, both of labor and raw materials, is to be observed, also maintenance of buildings, machinery, etc. Division of labor is now highly organized. The farmer plays the role of producer of food, and raw materials for clothing in the form of wool and cotton. So then what affects the citizen in the way of living will, to a very large extent if not fully as much, affect his country brother. Neither path is blazed with gold and individual thrift is perhaps the better solution for meeting the anticipated harder times.

But we must secure some data regarding cost of production. We should urge every good farmer to keep accounts, cost accounts in particular, for they reveal many interesting facts. By them we can furnish proofs with an approximate degree of accuracy. We find that certain stock can be raised profitably only to a certain age, that certain numbers can be kept to best advantage, below or beyond this number is less profit or greater loss.

Arriving at actual cost cannot be done in any one year. It must extend over several, and results averaged. Farming is largely a cash basis business, but the mere record of sales and expenditures is not sufficient. One of the knotty problems has been to formulate a system that will be simple in operation and yet fit into any phase of farming, requiring a minimum of time to do the posting. Prof. A. Leitch, of O. A. C., has the best yet formulated.

We must know our labor expenditure, the distribution of income, the cost of each sort of stock and field crop. In this way we secure labor, food and production records. If carefully kept these accounts show just where the farmer stands financially, and if not carefully kept will show what way the business is drifting. Farm accounting is fundamental in successful farm management and worthy quite the small effort it demands. Not only is it important in this time of crisis but at all times. Agriculture is our basic industry. When it succeeds all others may prosper. So it is up to the farmer to help out the benighted food controllers.

Huron Co., Ont. E. V. LAWSON.

At the beginning of the week the daily papers carried the manifesto which Sir Wilfrid Laurier has issued to the people of Canada in preparation for his campaign at the forthcoming election. Sir Wilfrid stands by his referendum scheme in connection with the Military Service Act. He would not enforce that Act until the people had passed upon it. Further, he advocates a removal of the tariff increases of 7½ per cent. on all commodities coming into Canada from countries other than Great Britain, and the five per cent. on goods coming from Great Britain, which the Government put on soon after the war began. Other tariff reforms he advocates are the removal of duties on agricultural implements and other essentials to production, and a general well-considered reform of the tariff for the purpose of increasing production and relieving the Canadian consumer. He advocates also, if the necessity arose, the taking of control of factories engaged in the supply of war material and limiting profits.

Bacon has for some months past been steadily rising in price in England, simultaneously with a deterioration in quality, according to a statement received from London by the United States Food Administration. The statement continues: "It is no exaggeration to say that many shops last week had no bacon at all. Where procurable, as much as 2s. 6d. (60 cents) a pound was asked for stuff worth in pre-war times about 9d. (18 cents) a pound."