

Soils and Crops

By Agonomist.

This Department is for the use of our farm readers who want the advice of an expert on any question regarding soil, seed, crops, etc. If your question is of sufficient general interest, it will be answered through this column. If stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed with your letter, a complete answer will be mailed to you. Address Agonomist, care of Wilson Publishing Co., Ltd., 78 Adelaide St. W., Toronto.

Avoiding Calf Ailments.

Nine-tenths of the common ailments among dairy calves should be prevented by a sensible course of management from the time they are removed from the cows until they are old enough to eat dry grain and hay. Some are so anxious to glean every cent of profit, that they cheat themselves and starve their calves by saving the cream and then compelling the little calves to subsist on skim-milk when they are only a few days old. Some calves do not seem to be injured by such a diet, providing it is fed fresh and warm from the separator, but the calves a few days old have not sufficient strength of digestion to digest it properly and it passes through the alimentary canal in an undigested condition, and the so-called white scours result. The calf, unable to digest the skim-milk, is simply starving until it is a hopeless proposition. Such a condition could have been avoided by feeding the calf whole milk a few days longer, instead of robbing it of nature's nourishment. Other feeders find it too much trouble to warm the milk for calves and as a result their stomachs become chilled so that their digestion is greatly impaired, if not ruined. Then the owner dopes the calf until digestion is completely ruined. Others have failed to feed regularly and as a result the calves get extremely hungry and when they are fed eat so greedily and eat so much that it tends to upset their digestion until they bloat and perhaps die from the effects. Even though they survive they grow up weaklings and easy prey to other serious ailments.

Some think that any old wooden pail is good enough to feed the calves from. Such pails become breeding places for millions of germ life and ptomaines and the calves are literally poisoned and become victims of gastric fever or colic too. Some think that sour milk is all the calf needs and by the time the calf is one month old any old kind of milk may have or get from the creamery vats is fed in any quantity. Then when digestion becomes impaired they crowd rinds of cheese, egg shells and charcoal down the calf's throat. Such kind of treatment may be in line with

Darwin's theory of the survival of the fittest, but it seldom results in developing a good dairy cow.

Never compel the calf to nurse some garkety cow that gives fishy and diseased milk, unfit for human use. Feed milk from its mother or some other fresh cow until it is, at least, two weeks old, then mix it with one-third skim-milk and gradually reduce the quantity of whole milk until the calf is a month or six weeks of age. Never try to feed a calf cold milk until it is two months old. Always warm the milk to about ninety-eight degrees Fahrenheit and never feed it. If the milk is sterilized to destroy disease germs it should be doctored by the use of flaxseed jelly or linseed oil meal. It is better to feed dry grain than to mix the middlings and ground oats with the skim-milk. Some good feeders pour a little oil meal and middlings on top of the milk and the calf drinks it along with the milk more slowly than when the grain is mixed with the milk and settles in the bottom of the pail. As early as possible calves should be encouraged to eat dry grains and clover hay. At first light rations should be fed and gradually the amount may be increased until at two or three months of age two or three pounds per day may be safely fed. Equal parts of cornmeal, wheat bran and ground oats and half a part of oil meal make an efficient grain ration for the growing calf. When the calves are turned out to pasture, continue the grain ration until they are able to eat and digest sufficient grass to make good growth and maintain good flesh condition. Unless the pastures are unusually good keep up the grain ration until the end of the season. It is the height of folly to attempt to grow and develop good heifers on scant rations of inferior feed stuffs. There is little danger of getting calves too fat so long as proper feed stuffs are used. In fact a little fat is not at all objectionable. More harm comes from feeding an excess of concentrates and not enough milk, grass and bulky feeds which promote digestion and furnish bone and muscle-building nutrients in the right proportions to maintain the health of the animal.

horse. A few minutes spent daily in currying and brushing a horse is time well spent. Aside from giving the animal a clean, glossy appearance, this daily brushing stimulates circulation. The skin is an important excretory organ, and must be kept clean and free to do its work.

It is especially important to give the legs daily care. If it is necessary to wash them in cold weather, they should be thoroughly dried before being exposed to the open air. Mud should not be allowed to collect on the fetlocks, as it causes scratches and sores on the heels and about the hooves. Sores, scratches, and unsightly spots are often caused by mud and manure setting in the hair. When the mud dries it causes the skin to crack open.

In the spring the horses should be kept especially clean, as the long hours of work, dust, sweat, and heat all combine to make proper care of the skin a necessity. Sore shoulders and other afflictions, due to lack of care on the part of the owner, have often caused great loss of time and money.

Sheep Notes

A ram is half the flock. A good ram will impress his desirable qualities on his offspring. The ram must be strong in the points in which the ewes are deficient. It is a well-known fact that like begets like, and if both the ram and the ewe are weak in the same points these weaknesses will be intensified in the offspring.

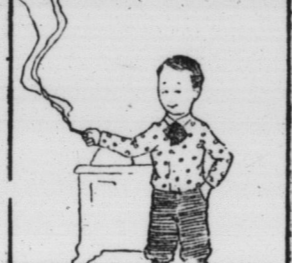
If the flock is small, a ram lamb will be all right. If there are more than 30 ewes the ram should be two years old. The ram selected will depend upon the type of the flock. If the ewes are small and light-boned, a heavy-weight and heavy-boned ram will be needed. A ram with more refinement should be used if the ewes are coarse-boned and rangy.

In selecting the ram, special attention should be paid to type, mutton qualities, and denseness of fleece. Quality of mutton is the prime factor in the farm flock, and should receive the most attention. The fleece should not be forgotten, for not only will the fleece be a source of income, but a good fleece will give a higher market value to the sheep.

The ram should be strong, active, and show strong masculine character. These points are important, for on them will depend to a large extent the number of lambs produced, also their health and vigor. The ram should stand up well on his feet, and his pasterns should be strong. The back should be strong and the ribs well sprung to give plenty of room for the heart and lungs.

FUNNY FOLD-UPS

CUT OUT AND FOLD ON DOTTED LINES



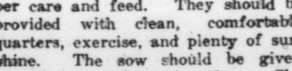
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MY CIGARETTE IS 15 CHOCOLATE CREAM. WHAT LOOKS LIKE SMOKE IS ONLY STEAM.



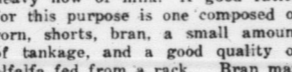
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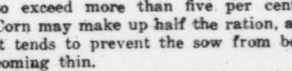
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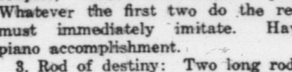
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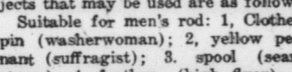
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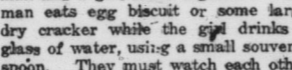
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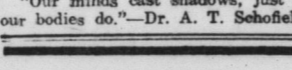
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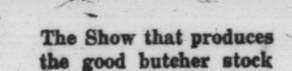
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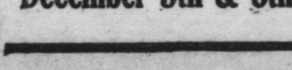
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Poultry

Stock allowed to roost outdoors during the summer must now be taught to go under shelter at night. Happily this practice of outdoor roosting is not so common now as it was years ago. Instead, well-ventilated houses are provided, and the fowls have better protection and at the same time all the outdoor comforts.

This is a good month to do outdoor repair work. There are days in October when it is a pleasure to do this repairing; leaky roofs, drafty walls, filthy runs, etc., should be attended to.

Painters say that October is the best month in the year for outdoor painting. Take their advice and give the buildings a good coat of paint, which will not only preserve them but add to their attractiveness. Whitewashing the interior of the hen coops is an old idea, but it is a good one. It gives a cheerfulness to the building that nothing else seems to do. Disinfecting the premises is also in order, and it is work that pays.

If there were any low places in the houses last winter, which caused more or less dampness, remedy the trouble now so that the houses will be perfectly dry this year. Dampness is the starting point of chicken-pox, distemper and roup, and a little labor wisely spent now will save much during the cold months.

The pullets should be placed in their winter quarters before they begin laying. To move them after they have begun will give them a setback. Do not overcrowd. Not more than twenty-five pullets of our Canadian breeds should be in one flock, and a smaller number is better. But in the case of Leghorns or any of the Mediterranean class, twice that number will do equally as well.

"Every show a better one" is the slogan of the Toronto Fat Stock Show, and the 1918 Show promises to be no exception. The sale which follows the show is attended by buyers from all over the continent and each year the prices paid are better than previous years. There is always a demand for choice meat at Christmas time, and farmers are realizing the big advantage of marketing their stock this way.

October.

October is a jolly fellow,
And in his yellow sack
He brings a host of merry days
And sunshine, on his back;
Grapes and pumpkins, apples, nuts,
And lightly doth he tread
Upon the gold-leaved carpet
That old Mother Earth has spread!
And how shall we use his merry days?
And all the joy that's in them?
Outdoors, outdoors, right after school,
Heigh ho, now let's begin them!

Wedding haste sometimes leads to household waste.

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GOOD HEALTH QUESTION BOX

By Andrew F. Currier, M.D.

Dr. Currier will answer all signed letters pertaining to health. If your question is of general interest it will be answered through these columns; if not, it will be answered personally if stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr. Currier will not prescribe for individual cases or make diagnosis. Address Dr. Andrew F. Currier, care of Wilson Publishing Co., 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.

Fasting.
J. R.—How is it possible for fasting people to go so long without food? If I miss only one meal, I get a severe headache and if I go without food I am affected in the same way as when I eat too much. Sometimes it is inconvenient for me to get something to eat, and if I wait too long, I am usually laid up the whole following day. Why is this?

Answer—Eating and digestion, as well as other functions of the body, are more or less governed by habit. People usually eat three meals a day; and three times a day the stimulus of food excites the glands of the stomach, pancreas and intestines to pour out their digestive juice. If the stimulus of food were lacking, the juices would still be poured out for a while, but in smaller quantity, and by and by the secretion would cease, or nearly so. As the time for eating recurs, there is first a kind of disappointment if food is not on hand to satisfy the expectation; but, little by little, as I am told, the disappointment becomes less keen and the appetite—this is the desire for food—less urgent.

This is particularly the case when the person who is fasting is not working, and he may get along without a great deal of discomfort if he has plenty of water which is more essential than food.

When food is withheld, the machinery must still be kept going and consequently there is gradual integration of the tissues, first the fat and then the muscles. Of course the person who is fasting is constantly losing strength—for, without fuel, the fires are constantly getting lower and after a while they go out entirely. One who is fasting, like the writer of the above letter, feels keenly the want of food for a day or two, and the reaction expresses itself in headache and a disinclination to work. If a person goes without food for a week, the suffering is relatively less.

I am told this is the way the English prisoners in Germany feel as the result of the way they have been

served. They have not exactly been starved, but the quantity of nutriment they have received, is so small and the quality so poor, that they habitually lose weight and would be physically unable to do hard work of any kind.

Questions and Answers.
Mrs. A. S.—My husband is very anxious to gain in weight. How can he do this? He does not care for milk.

Answer—I do not know of any better way to gain in weight than to take an abundance of easily assimilated fats—such as olive oil or cod liver oil, or to drink plenty of rich milk daily; however, if your husband does not like milk, he might drink buttermilk—which contains the fat in milk.

Miss I. O. B.—Am sixteen and have long been troubled with kidney disease. Can you help me?

Answer—I am afraid I cannot. Your question is altogether too indefinite. For kidney disease covers a great multitude of conditions. Furthermore, you probably do not understand that this department is not to furnish individual attention to the sick; they must go to their physicians for that assistance.

A. E. F.—There is a gland on the side of my face as large as a bean. It does not bother me, nor does it seem to be enlarging. Is there any danger from it?

Answer—There is always a danger that such glands will enlarge and ulcerate, and become running sores. Probably it would be a simple matter to take it out; and I think that would be the best plan.

Our Thanks.
Dear Lord, while we would thank Thee
For all our worldly wealth,
We thank Thee more for loving friends—
For happiness and health.
And now, we humbly pray Thee
To guide us on our way
Until we raise our thanks and praise
On next Thanksgiving Day.

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FOR THE HALLOWEEN PARTY

A novel decoration for a table is a small cornstalk sheaf, one about three feet high with a few of the ears attached. Take an empty peach basket and turn it upside down on the table, and around this tie the cornstalks so that the support is entirely hidden and the stalks form a pyramid. Around the base place small pumpkins, apples, pears, grapes, gourds filled with nuts, yellow cucumbers, red and green peppers and grapes. This is better for a centerpiece for a very large table or for the church Halloween supper.

Another plan is to use a huge, hollowed-out pumpkin for a centerpiece and fill it with shining red apples and other fruits or, better yet, if you have an old black iron kettle place it in the middle of the table, hanging it from a tripod, and fill it to overflowing with fruits and autumn vegetables. Beside it, stand a witch, either a doll dressed up or one made of paper, and place around it a lot of little paper mache cats, that cost five cents each in the ten-cent stores.

From black paper cut cat faces, and make candle shades of them, and use them for decorating the table in any way you can. Small witches, which may be used for favors or to hold the place cards, are easily made of clothes pins and paper. Paint the head of the pin white and then mark a witch's face on it with black ink or paint. Dress the witch in the usual costume of red and black and white, using crepe paper, and cut out a small witch cap of either black or white paper and paste on the head. Make her a little broom of a few bits of wheat or corn-stalk, and if you care to go to the expense you can stand a tiny boughed black cat of paper mache by her side.

It is also a novel idea to place beside each plate, a blank card on which you have previously written the name of your guest in a weak solution of sulphate of copper and then rubbed over with a little ammonia. This, later, when flame or heat comes near it, makes the name appear in beautiful hues. On the other side of the card write a silly prophecy or a verse you think suitable to the guest—a sort of fortune verse—using a mixture of sulphuric acid, one part to twenty drops of water, being sure to write with a quill pen. When dry, this writing is invisible, but when exposed to heat it appears vividly. Have one of your household gowned as a witch, who appears in time to answer your announcement that you have engaged a witch to read, through her magic the blank cards, and tell to each person present their fortune. The witch appears with her magic lamp, and using all sorts of funny, muttered incantations, proceeds to hold the card near the lamp. Much to the amazement of the guests, the writing appears visible. When the card is handed back to the owner, it is again blank. This is very amusing for a part of the supper, and creates all sorts of fun.

At the end of the supper, which should be simple, and in keeping with the informality of Halloween, a good menu consisting of white and brown bread, sandwiches, chicken salad, pumpkin pie, ginger bread, doughnuts, apples, nuts, cider, coffee, and if you like, olives and pickles, let all the guests stand and drink of "lamb's wool," an ancient ceremony, which will insure to each one, luck for the coming year. This beverage is made by bruising roasted apples and mixing with milk. Then cut the soul cake with much ceremony, and give each guest a piece. This is the cake in which has been baked a ring to denote marriage for the one who gets it—this marriage to take place within the year—a coin, to denote riches, a button for bad luck, and a thimble for bachelor or spinsterhood.

Before you part, dance to slow music, the magic circle to determine your luck. The dancers form a solemn circle, no one daring to laugh, and the music must be appropriate. Slowly circle with hands clasped in hands around one who stands in the middle, blindfolded. Each one in the circle wears a string around his neck, some having on their string English walnuts, which denote good luck, and other Brazil, which denotes very different luck. As the circle moves around the one in the centre gropes about and tries to touch a player. If the one he touches wears an English walnut then good luck will be his, if a Brazil nut, indifferent luck, and if he touches more than one player in his groping he will have bad luck. Each player is in turn blindfolded and tries his luck ere the circle breaks up.

From a War Gardener.