

ITEMS FOR AND ABOUT THE FARMER

YIELD OF CHEESE SHOWS DECREASE

Advanced Summary Based on Reports From Twenty-Eight Instructors.

PROSPECTS FOR SEASON Increased Acreage of Grain and Fodder Forecasts Greater Production.

The dairy branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture will shortly issue a statement of dairy conditions based on reports received from the various dairy instructors through the province—some 28 in number. Thru the kindness of Mr. George A. Putnam, superintendent, The World is able to give its readers the following advance summary.

The questions answered in the various reports deal with the comparison in quantity and quality of cheese as compared to the same period last year, prospects for the year 1917, conditions of seeding and the meadows, and the supply of labor. The following is a summary of the reports to date:

Cheese—Six instructors report gains in the production of cheese in their districts, while the remainder find the quantity to be either on a par with last year or a decrease varying from five to twenty-five per cent. Quality is uniformly reported good.

Prospects—With increased growth in pasture of the past few days prospects for the yield of cheese is uniformly reported good. Some reports exceptionally good prospects for their districts for this time of year.

Seeding—An increased acreage is generally reported, and the seed beds in the very best of condition. Fall wheat generally was injured and in many cases plowed up. Spring wheat is in splendid condition, and there is an increased acreage of corn, potatoes, and meadows.

Meadows—The meadows are in fine condition in all districts. Growth has been rapid of late, and the outlook is for good hay. In some districts the labor problem is more difficult to handle.

Labor—In most districts farm labor is scarce, but everybody is working harder than usual, and the work is consequently being done more extensively to overcome the lack of manual labor.

Some districts have felt the high wages demanded by the help on account of the big money being paid by the army and navy. In some districts the labor problem is more difficult to handle.

An extract from one of the most interesting reports received from the Chatham County instructor, Mr. J. H. Miller, is as follows: "I have also received the leaflets on care of milk and will distribute them as I see fit. I might mention to you that the Maple Leaf condensed milk plant is in operation here now, and they take in 100,000 lbs. of milk daily. They are paying \$2.25 per cwt. for June milk. The pastures are good in this locality, and everything indicates a big June make of cheese—Very truly yours, Thos. Ellis."

LAMBING IN LINCOLN FLOCKS.

It is pleasing to be able to report a very satisfactory lambing season in the Lincoln longwool flocks. Dried lambs, milt culm and bran were responsible in price during the winter, and supplemented with some of the best of the ewes in fairly good condition. Reports from many of the largest breeders of Lincoln longwools in the counties of Lincoln, Nottingham, York, Leicester and Derby state that lambs arrived strong and healthy, though many complain that ewes have been short of milk. One flockmaster records a wonderful fall, there having been over one-third of his ewes with triplets, while he had more than a pair of lambs for each ewe. The total of the ewes in the reports numbered 68,912, owned by 37 breeders. Of the total of ewes 23,150 dropped twins or triplets and 19,783 had lambs. This gives an aggregate of 69,862 lambs, which must be regarded as remarkably good. What is more, the mortality among ewes is below the average, the slightly higher than last year.

MILK FOR CHEESE

Good farms are being projected as a way of utilizing vast areas of free grazing lands along railroads in Arkansas, states The Christian Science Monitor. Goats thrive on undergrowth in Arkansas forests and their raising presents several distinct advantages. In the first place, goat meat is as good as mutton and there is an unlimited demand for goat lambs in city markets. In the second place, the goats produce a fine, rich quality of milk, which is especially valuable for cheese.

Charles A. Chambers, a railroad industrial agent, has called attention to the peculiar possibilities. "I am sure," he declares, "that a stock raiser who will utilize perhaps 100 acres of cleared land near some of the free grazing ranges that border the railroads to grow winter feed for five years. All he requires will be a good grazing range under the timber, a burro or two wearing bell and about three good colic sheep dogs."

Section of Holstein herd on the farm of W. J. Currey at Aurora.

Splendid Example of the Advantage of Milk Testing
What your best cow can do for you is a matter of seven-year-old grade in a herd near Oxford Mills, Ont., that milked over 300 lbs. of milk in 30 days. The fat content of the milk was 3.2 per cent, equals the substantial sum of \$103.75. Perhaps you got more. Fortunately, the owner of this herd is keeping records of each cow that he owns, and has the satisfaction of knowing the exact value of his fifteen cows earned over \$150 each.

With milk weighed every third day, and a composite sample tested once a month, the actual yield of each cow for shows and lactation can be found with but little trouble.

Milk and feed records forms are free on application to the dairy division, Ottawa. A study of records should mean an increase in your cows' earning capacity by at least fifty per cent. in three years.

PRICES HIGHER ON MARKET.

Special to The Toronto World.
Chatham, June 24.—Chatham citizens are indignant at the high prices which are being demanded on the local market, and which exceed prices in local stores. Butter was sold on the market Saturday from 25 to 30 cents a pound and eggs at prices one cent above these figures for the dozen. Butter could be purchased in local stores at thirty cents to thirty-five and eggs at thirty cents.

NEWS OF OUR READERS

Mrs. Wm. Loveless, of Ellesmere, has 45 white Wyandottes and a number of Runner ducks. She and the children take a great interest in the poultry, especially the two hundred odd little chicks. Mr. Wm. Loveless has all ready built up a nice herd of Holsteins, some twenty head, besides a few other cattle. He has been shipping between four to six cars of milk per day, and two weeks ago, installed a Burrells, Lawrence & Kennedy milking machine. He has two units, and they are working fine, though he intends getting a smaller gas engine, as the four horse power one, which he now has, is so powerful and expensive for the purpose.

Near Lansing, some of the farmers have, apparently, been somewhat nervous about the lack of growth. This is evidenced by their winter wheat to spring wheat, and are now considering plowing again with the tractor, and seeding buckwheat. Potatoes have made but little growth according to Mrs. Thompson. Perhaps the sun, which is becoming more reasonable, will put a different look on things generally.

W. H. Dennis, Burgessville, bought, recently, one hundred and one hogs of which Harry Armstrong bought in sixty-five, weighing 1,210 pounds, receiving a fine cheque, \$2,216.75.

J. H. Proctor and Sons, Yonge street, near Newmarket, sold 28 head of cat-tail weighing 95,000 pounds, for which they received \$4,375. There were ten steers that averaged 1,415 pounds each. This is the finest lot of cattle that has been shipped from here for years. The Victoria Farmers' Club shipped from Thornbury, last Tuesday, three carloads of stock. The volume of business transacted by this progressive organization is rapidly increasing. \$102,000 worth of stock being shipped by them in the past year.

John Brown and Son, Galt, shipped, a carload of cattle from Freetown and a carload from Baden to the Toronto Stockyards. These cattle were purchased at from 10 to 11 1/2 cents per pound.

D. Temple and Son, Aylmer, last week, shipped the balance of their sixty fat cattle they sold to Ira Mabey. They were paid 12 cents per pound on the hoof for the herd.

Last week Sanger Brothers, Lakeside, took 18 head of good cattle to Midway. They would average nearly \$150 each. They were a fine bunch.

Wm. A. Thurston was allowed \$23 by the Verulam council, having had one sheep killed and two injured by dogs.

Orval Drewey claimed of the Whitechurch township council, for three sheep killed by dogs, the sum of \$50.

The Mulmur council, at its last meeting, paid out for 11 sheep killed by dogs, the sum of \$235, and \$9 to valuers of same. It is thought that two dogs owned at Mulmur, were responsible for the damage.

Albert Johnson, 8th concession, delivered a fine team of Clyde mares to Thomas Sanderson, Wroxeter, for which he received the handsome sum of \$500.

According to the most reliable reports there is every likelihood of there being a good average crop of apples this year. The blossom is developing well and is not too heavy. On account of last year's yield being so poor the chance are that a higher and better crop will be secured this year.

Last week in the neighborhood of Richmond Hill grain crops were commencing to grow. The sun and the hay crop was coming along well. Indications are for a good average crop from this district.

F. Thompson, Oak Ridge, has fourteen acres in hoe crop, five of which are in potatoes. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are examples of the progressive farmer, having their motor truck with which to bring their produce to market.

J. Proctor, Yonge street, near Newmarket, shipped as fine a bunch of fat cattle, twenty-four in number, recently as has been seen for some time. Mr. Proctor realized top market price which netted between \$4000 and \$5000.

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There appears to be an increased acreage for corn this year and the majority of farmers have their crop planted. Corn for ensilage was planted as late as June 20 last year, and yet there was a fair crop.

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS VALUABLE TO FARMERS

Review of Interesting Features Contained in Catalogs and Bulletins Recently Issued.

On Wednesday a successful sale was held at Oakville, Col. Long was the auctioneer, and the bidders were somewhat slow in getting started, fair prices were realized and some excellent Holsteins changed owners. Consignors were Gordon S. Goodrich, Alex. Wallace, R. M. Holtby, Anthony Gies and Major E. F. Oiler.

Tractor Plows.
In these days of labor saving devices the book "Horseless Plowing" will naturally be read with interest. The World has not yet seen a better illustrated catalog than the present one. It shows various plows and disk harrows working the ground behind large and small tractors, and the construction of each device is described. Address the Cockshutt Plow Co., Limited, Brantford, for copies.

Fruit.
The June fruit report is now printed and copies can be had from Donald Johnson, fruit commissioner, Ottawa. This Dominion Government review is issued monthly and is mailed regularly to any interested party who sends in a request.

SOLDIER FARMERS AND NEW ONTARIO

Government's Plans for Helping Returned Soldiers and Families.

A week ago Wednesday the first draft of thirty men left Toronto to eventually settle upon the land provided in the Township of Owens and O'Brien, being 70 miles west of Couchiching on the National Transcontinental Railway. The 19 sections of the World were set forth in the sections of the official information, termed "Opportunities Available for Returned Soldiers."

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HOW TO PROMOTE STRONG COLONIES

Instructions for Securing Best Results From Your Bee-Hives.

DISCOURAGE DESERTION
Weak Nuclei Not Desirable, But Rather Strong Natural Growth.

While a maximum production of honey is of pressing importance in this war-foot year, yet increasing the bees for next season must not be neglected.

A Rough speaking, the bees that are in the hives at the commencement of the honey-flow gather the crop, while the brood builds up the colony for next year, unless care is taken to do other important honey-flow. This brood is very valuable for forming nuclei, because these, started early in the year, are able to get on their feet with a laying queen, while the colony will build up into strong colonies before winter. Increasing in this way with brood from strong colonies during the honey flow is a sure thing, as the colony upon which an apiary can be stuckly built up, while at the same time an almost full honey crop is secured.

In newly-formed nuclei containing brood in all stages, there is always a more or less desertion of bees and consequent death of the young brood and sometimes chilling and death of the old brood even when the nuclei are skillfully made. In the case of nuclei, further queens may not be immediately obtainable, or they may be lost in introduction. Robbing of the newly-formed nuclei has also to be guarded against, but during the height of the honey-flow only careful business will cause this; towards the end, however, the danger of robbing grows so great that it is difficult to avoid. A strong nucleus, even when strong, may be discouraged when checked by stopping the entrance with grass; the bees will make their way out while the grass dries and shrinks in about two days, but care must be taken to avoid overcrowding the confined bees, which would lead to stinging, and possibly to the loss of the good way to overcome the loss of young brood is to place the brood over a screen excluding a week before its removal from the parent hive. This may be done in the ordinary course of relieving congestion in the brood chamber as requested by farmers who are swarming, a frame or two of empty comb or of foundation being placed in the brood-chamber when the brood is raised.

Eliminate All Risks.
All of these risks may be greatly minimized as follows: Have all the queens' cells shipped (this is essential), and when a colony of strong nuclei that it is desired to propagate swarms, move the parent hive to a new stand on the old stand, the queen having been picked off the ground and placed in the empty hive. The swarms will return to the new hive at the old stand. The field bees will join the swarm, and the super should be transferred from the parent hive to the swarm which will produce the crop of honey. The colony, now divided of bees but rich in brood, is divided a week later into three nuclei, each nucleus consisting of two or three frames containing brood, and honey, carrying two or three queen-cells containing queens soon to emerge with the adhering bees.

This method has the great advantage that it not only controls and satisfies the troublesome swarming instinct, but it helps to secure the desired ends by natural means. The bees gatherers are segregated into a strong force, and the brood, being mostly capped, is not likely to get chilled; the bees desert neither the queen-cells readily, and all trouble in raising and introducing queens is avoided. The bees in the newly-formed nuclei are in the post-swarming stage, when their instinct is to spread themselves over and incubate as much brood as possible, and especially the queen-cells.

The beginner should be warned not to divide the parent colony into too many weak nuclei, but the fact may be rectified in the autumn by uniting. The ideal conditions for building up nuclei are a slow honey-flow thru-out August and early September. Fortunately these are supplied in most Canadian localities by goldenrods, asters and buckwheat.

Misplaced queens should be replaced any time up to the first or second week in October, preferably not during the robbing season.

At Midway the price of hogs dropped to \$14.50 last week.

Fred Ward shipped a carload of hogs from Clarendon last Monday.

Local drovers in South Bruce who have been buying heavily in advance are having a somewhat unpleasant experience just now. Many of the dealers are dropping from one cent to two cents per pound on their shipments.

Albert Johnston, 8th concession, delivered a fine team of Clyde mares to Thomas Sanderson, Wroxeter, for which he received the handsome sum of \$500.

Mr. Curry is one of the enterprising men who have been successful in using a mechanical milker for about two years, having purchased his outfit in August, 1915. He has two units, Human makes which means that he can milk two cows at the same time. Each unit milks one cow with twelve cows twice a day by himself, and has been shipping thirty-two cans of milk each week.

John F. Bingham of Erin Township has purchased 100 acres in the same township belonging to William Akitt.

Mrs. Bullock, Plattsville, has sold her farm to Robert Thomas, and Mr. Thomas has sold his farm to Bluegrass Bros.

The sale of farm stock and implements of Mrs. Samuel Bullock, held a week ago, was largely attended and was very successful.

Russell Bracey, Winterbourne, held an auction of farm stock and implements, at which good prices were realized.

Another bunch of horses was purchased at Midway during the week.

Ben Richmond sold a fine team of horses for \$400 to the Rogers Brothers of Camarvon.

Albert McNab shipped a choice carload of cattle to Toronto from Ches-stove a week ago.

RAISE YOUR OWN VEGETABLE SEEDS

Turnips and Beans Should Be Grown Extensively, Says Expert.

Prof. Zavitz recently delivered a practical valuable address at Aurora, Puslinch Township, stating that much poor grass land and injured wheat land could be better used profitably in growing potatoes, turnips and beans than in mixed grains or oats, as the former were of much greater food value than the latter.

He urged the farmers to note that there is an unlimited demand for good shipping turnips, and the price will remain high. The average yield of beans in Ontario for a number of years past has been 17 bushels per acre; that they are not perishable and will ship any distance; they are ready for consumption without any manufacturing process; they are easily grown, cared for and harvested. The canners guarantee a minimum price of \$2 per bushel. Prof. Zavitz notes that there is an unlimited demand for good shipping turnips, and the price will remain high.

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GOOD RESULTS RECEIVED FROM MILKING MACHINE

After Two Years' Use Owner Claims That Time, Labor and Good Temper Have Been Saved, and Herd Looks Well.

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Mr. Curry is one of the enterprising men who have been successful in using a mechanical milker for about two years, having purchased his outfit in August, 1915. He has two units, Human makes which means that he can milk two cows at the same time. Each unit milks one cow with twelve cows twice a day by himself, and has been shipping thirty-two cans of milk each week.

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