

authority, fertile hybrids are reported between the dog and wolf, coyote, jackal, and fox. It is a striking fact that there are certain peculiarities in the dogs of different countries, and in general the dogs of savage races most closely resemble the wild species of the particular locality.

It appears probable, therefore, that dogs originated from wolves, coyotes and jackals, all of which cross freely with dogs, and, as just indicated, produce fertile hybrids. The Esquimaux dog resembles the gray northern wolf, and the Indian dog looks, and frequently howls, like a coyote. It is highly probable, therefore, that a number of wild species were domesticated in different countries, and that the present great variation among dogs is due to the differences in the wild species from which they developed, and the numerous crossings which have subsequently taken place. Dogs readily adapt themselves to changed conditions and to the wants of man. It has thus been possible for man to utilize dogs for a great variety of purposes.

Our dogs vary in weight from 2 to 150 pounds or more. There are long haired, short haired, and hairless breeds. Dogs show all the colors known in domestic animals, and the greatest possible variation in the length, size and conformation of every part of the body. The uses to which dogs have been put are too numerous to permit of a thorough discussion in this account. Dogs serve as pets, as companions, as curiosities, assistants in the management of sheep, cattle, swine, goats, horses, and other domesticated animals. They are extensively used in hunting all kinds of game birds and animals. Many breeds of dogs have been expressly originated for hunting certain kinds of game.

Dogs are also used in hunting down criminals, and in helping the police in large cities. In the place of watchmen, trained dogs render excellent service. As draft animals, dogs are in much favor in Europe, Asia and Alaska. Heavy sledges are drawn by large teams of dogs over rough ground in the severest weather. Their teeth are used as ornaments, their skin as coats, rugs, robes, and for leather. Occasionally dogs furnish motive power on the treadmill, run errands, carry packages, and do other odd jobs about the farm.

In Alaska, Siberia, and elsewhere, large numbers of sledge dogs are used, and for this work dogs seem to have great endurance. A team of nine dogs is expected to pull a load of 600 to 1,800 pounds, depending upon the grade and character of the country. Sheep could not be managed under present conditions on the western ranges without the help of the trained sheep dog. The best suited for this work is the collie, the Scotch collie being preferred. These dogs show great intelligence at their work, and are of the utmost importance in the management and protection of the sheep. Dogs are also employed in herding goats, and according to Carrington, a distinctive type of goat dog has already been developed in Texas. This dog is a cross between the collie and the hound. They sometimes do all the herding, taking the goats out to range in the morning and bringing them back at night without the assistance of man. It is impossible to enumerate all the uses that may be made of dogs. It is likewise out of the question that we should describe, or even enumerate, the breeds of dogs, of which about 320 have been recognized.

Dogs are capable of becoming more intimate companions, and of understanding our desires better than any other of our domestic animals. In fact, the idea of companionship is frequently first, and that of utility second, in the mind of the dog owner. While dogs may be of the greatest use and value on the farm, they may also become a source of nuisance and trouble. Thus dogs have proved the greatest curse of the sheep business over large areas in many of the Central States. They may also become a nuisance in destroying poultry. In general, it is not advisable to keep any but healthy, vigorous dogs which are distinctly useful in some direction, or at least show no bad habits. From their well-known habit of eating carrion, dogs may be instrumental in carrying such diseases as glanders, anthrax, tuberculosis, etc. Then they may carry tape-worms, which latter infest sheep, and for this reason all dogs which are allowed about sheep pastures should be periodically treated for tape-worms. Perhaps the best remedy for this purpose is arica nut given in doses of two grains for each pound of the dog's weight. After a few hours, this treatment should be followed by teaspoonful doses of castor oil.

FARM

Comment upon farming operations invited.

Farm Notes

Considerable attention has been given in the last two or three years to the growing of winter wheat in North Dakota. Owing to favorable winters for the past two years farmers experimenting with the grain have been fairly successful as far as yields go.

* * *

If a farmer could secure the use of a first class working horse for a year on the payment of three cents a week he would consider himself in luck. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE costs only three cents a week, and is even more valuable to the farmer than the horse. \$1.50 pays for it one year. If you are not a subscriber, be one.

* * *

The farmer who keeps himself posted on the modern methods of farming, and reads the experiences of the successful farmers and profits by them is the farmer who makes his business pay. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE publishes the articles that helps the farmer win success.

Worth More Than the Price

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I received the picture of Baron's Pride all safe, and is quite what you represented it to be. It is certainly worth the 50 cents and more.

B. C.

P. L. S. LEFROY.

A Saskatchewan Corn Grower's Methods

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Re corn growing in this province, considerable discussion on which I notice in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE these days, I might say that I have grown corn in Saskatchewan for a number of years, and can say from experience what corn will do in favorable circumstances. I grow fodder corn for stock, especially for dairy cows. It produces milk in plenty and at the time of year when the pasture is dry and of little account for feed.

My method of growing corn is somewhat as follows: I find that it thrives best on a sandy loam soil, on land that has been prepared the year before, summer fallow does very well. I generally sow it about the first of June, using a yellow dent variety and sowing with an ordinary grain seeder. By stopping up some of the openings in the drill the rows are left sufficiently far apart to permit of cultivation between. By this means the sowing can be quickly done and the seed goes down into the moist soil when it germinates at once. I do not care to sow too early in the season. Corn is tender and will not stand early frost.

Corn is easily managed if sown as I have stated. The cultivation is started as soon as the rows appear, and the weeds gotten after at the start. I generally attend to the crop in the evenings after day's work is done. The corn is always sown close to the buildings, so that it is convenient to attend to it. Harvesting is done with the binder. It is put up in small stooks so that it will not mildew. In this way it is kept till winter sets in when it is fed in the sheaf to stock. Cows devour the fodder greedily and lick the ground it lies on. I cut it pretty green as it makes a more succulent fodder than if left till more mature, or until dried up with frost. This is the only way I have ever tried of curing the fodder. I have not yet thought of making it into silage. To make a long story short I grow corn because of its milk-producing qualities when fed to cows, and sow it after all my other crops are in, sowing and managing subsequently in the manner described.

Sask.

R. W. H.

Bluestoning Ineffective

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:—

I should like your advice as to the following: Three years ago I bought wheat for seed which had smut in it. This I treated with bluestone, one pound to eight gallons of water, dipping the wheat in for four minutes, a quarter of a bag at a time, and stirring it up well. It was then placed in a clean box, bagged in new bags and sown on new land. The result was still smutty wheat, but not as bad. Following spring, I thought I would kill or cure, so treated it in the same manner only the bluestone solution was twice the strength, the bags were again new and also the land. Result, smutty wheat. Last spring I treated it again in the same way and put in on new land again. There is still smut in this grain, but less this year than ever. Would you advise a change of seed? Do you think that formaldehyde would give better results? There was nothing wrong with the bluestone. Does fall wheat require treatment for smut?

Sask.

C. E.

If you treated this seed with bluestone using the fungicide in the proportions given, and was as careful as you say to prevent reinfection after treatment, the smut spores on the seed should have been destroyed, and no smut should have occurred in the

crop. One pound of bluestone in ten gallons of water used on ten bushels of seed is generally considered a safe rule to go by. There is a chance, however, that you may not have been using bluestone at all. Unscrupulous dealers sometimes palm off iron sulphate for bluestone, but this is very seldom done. A few years ago a compound called "agricultural bluestone" was sold in this country which was composed largely of iron sulphate, but of late years practically the entire product sold has been genuine.

The only explanation we can suggest of the treatment being ineffective is that the work was not thoroughly done. The bluestone may not have been thoroughly dissolved. Some use hot water to bring the bluestone into solution, others suspend the compound in a sack or basket in the water. It takes quite a time to dissolve if it is simply thrown into a vessel and water poured in on top. A concentrated solution forms at the bottom and retards dissolution. As you were careful to prevent reinfection after treating, this is the most likely reason for failure to get results. Changing the seed would make no difference, as most grain requires treating for smut anyway. It may be that the seed became infected in the drill. Clean the box out thoroughly.

Formaldehyde gives satisfactory results when it is used in proper strength and as it is much more convenient to apply than bluestone, it is coming more into use for treating seed grain. The proper proportions are one pound of the formaline solution by weight to 40 gallons of water. As the formaldehyde sold in this country contains alcohol to prevent freezing and is therefore lower than water in specific gravity, it should be weighed, not taken by measure. Would try it in preference to bluestone. Fall wheat requires treating the same as spring wheat.

Alaska Wheat Fake Again

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In the "Illuminated World Life" I read a most interesting and appealing article on the newly discovered "Alaska" wheat. I thought, now is my opportunity to make a fortune at farming, especially in this frost-stricken country, as the wheat was stated to be impervious to frost. I would have unhesitatingly sent the \$20.00 for a bushel, but for an article in your famous paper denouncing it as a fraud. I presume you still hold the opinion? Enclosed correspondence may interest you. Kindly state in your next issue if I should stick to my money.

Alta.

A. S. T.

The correspondence referred to is simply a letter from a seed grain company in Idaho offering to supply our correspondent with the famous "Alaska" wheat, at the rate of twenty dollars per bushel, or in smaller quantities, two pounds for a dollar. We might say that we still hold to the opinion previously expressed in these columns that this whole thing is a swindle, that the so-called Alaska is nothing more than a coarse growing variety of wheat sometimes known as the Egyptian. Experiment stations in the United States, and authorities in that country and this agree in denouncing Alaska wheat as a fake. When experiment stations on the other side of the line, and agricultural experts, agree on any question, a man can safely conclude that there is no possible ground for disagreement, else they would have disagreed. You would be well advised to hang on to your twenty dollars. You will be "stung" if you send it to any firm that purports to be selling a wheat possessed of all the wonderful merits of this widely heralded Alaska. Ed.

Homesteads for Women

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:—

In these days, when women are such independent creatures, we hear of them in all sorts of places, and engaging in all kinds of work that was formerly thought to be possible only for men. No avenue of employment is closed to those of either sex who wish to engage therein.

We all know, too, that many a woman has to depend on her own brains and ability for even the bare necessities of life. It is also the case that in a great many instances the work of one woman practically supports a whole family. It is not always because the husband, or brother, or father has died and left the children dependent on the one grown and capable woman. It is often because the man who should make the home is incapable of doing so. He may not be mentally capable; perhaps he is physically weak; or possibly he is not inclined to make a slave of himself for the sake of those who naturally look to him for support.

Then there is the woman who has no one but herself to care for. She can, of course, obtain a livelihood in many ways that were closed to her a few years ago.

The law of this country allows men of eighteen years and upwards the privilege of homesteading. It also allows the widow with children depending on her support to do likewise. This is a recognition of the fact that, as a rule, men are understood to be the support of the women and children. In the case of the father's decease, the widowed mother has, of course, to take his place. So far the law is good, though I think eighteen years is too young for our boys.

But why is it made quite impossible for a single woman to make entry for a homestead? In some