

Mangel Harvest the Easy Way

Alfred Hutchinson, Wellington Co., Ont.

IT may seem a little out of place to discuss methods of storing roots just now when the root harvest is over and our thoughts are turning to preparations for the next crop. But I find that if I leave a subject for a "seasonable time" that it will either be forgotten or I shall be too busy or tired, or the weather will be too hot, or something else will prevent, and it will be postponed for a more convenient time.

It has long been a mystery to me why farmers are advised to be so careful in the pitting of mangels, while we are supposed to take up turnips the easiest way possible. Now, as a matter of fact, given the same treatment, mangels will keep longer than turnips by weeks, yes months, every time, excepting only exposure to frost, which mangels will not endure. I am quite free to confess that if I had to pull mangels by hand and twist them off their bill of fare, and I believe that it is the idea that this treatment is necessary that deters so many from growing what is certainly the ideal root for dairy cows.

A Conversion to "Rough" Methods

When I came to Ontario from the west, 13 years ago, my predecessor advised me to take a sharp hoe to cut off the mangel tops and use the harrows to pull them. I listened respectfully enough, but I, in my thoughts, and one was that this was most certainly a barbarous method of treating mangels. There were three acres of "long reds" to harvest, and all the help I had was a stout lad, so one fine morning I started out with a big butcher knife to take up and pile my mangel crop. By noon I had learned several things. The most important was that if I intended to get those mangels into the cellar much before Christmas, I should have to adopt some more rapid method than pulling by hand and topping with a knife. Another thing was that I had a back which strongly objected to being bent all day. There were others of minor importance, but these two live in my memory still. I surrendered unconditionally, and that afternoon we sharpened up the hoes and sailed in.

I must admit that I had misgivings, especially when the harrows broke lots of those long reds off instead of pulling them; but that was nothing to what occurred when we put the first load into the root cellar. Like most other cellars, mine is filled through a hole in the ceiling, and after the roots have slid down a slatted chute, there is a straight drop of 10 feet to the floor below. Anyone who has handled a rather small sample of long red mangels can imagine what happened to that first load; lots of those roots were in five or six pieces. I certainly thought they were done for, but having started, I determined to see the job through, and we filled that cellar right up to the ceiling. There were 40 to 45 tons in all, and they kept splendidly, the pieces just as well as the whole ones.

A Practical Conclusion

Now, I am not going to attempt to prove that mangels keep better for being broken up; probably if they were carefully hand-picked, wrapped in tissue paper and placed in cold storage they might keep for two or three years. That is not the point at all. What I want to show is that mangels may be topped and otherwise handled just the same as turnips, and will keep as

long as most of us need them. If one wished to keep a few loads extra late, they might be pulled and handled in the orthodox way and stored at the back for late use, but it is the height of folly to go to a lot of expense and trouble in caring for that part of the crop that is to be fed before, say, April 1st. After that date they will decay to some extent, but we throw the bad ones to one side and feed them to the sows. They may not do them much good, but they don't do them any harm; they seem fond of them.

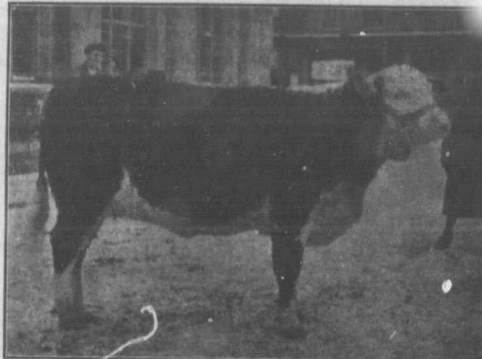
We have handled 13 crops now, running from 30 to 45 tons each, and this year we stored between 60 and 65 tons. Every mangel was topped with a hoe and they were harrowed out with the ordinary iron harrows. One turn each way is enough for mangels; turnips are better to have three or four.

A Cheap Horse Ration

F. R. Mallory, Hastings Co., Ont.

WHEN the fall work is finished our horses are put on winter rations. They are fed a shovelful of silage twice a day. A little grain is thrown on top of the silage, and they eat it with relish.

Oat straw takes the place of hay when the horses are idle. About a month before spring work begins we start feeding hay. By the time we are ready to commence seeding their flesh has hardened up.



This blocky, the Hereford

Good Enough to be Champion of Her Breed

straight lined, smoothly covered heifer is Miss Brue 50th, champion of the recent fair at Guelph. She was exhibited by Jas. Page, Wallstown, Ont.—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

Our horses come through the winter in good condition, and stand the spring work well. We find this method just as satisfactory and a great deal cheaper than feeding hay all winter.

On the common earth roads and in the field horses can on an average pull 50 per cent. more load on a wide-tyred wagon than on one with narrow tyres. In other words, two horses can pull as much load on the wide-tyres as three can on a narrow-tyred wagon. The wide tyres help to pack the road, the narrow tyres make ruts.

Our Nova Scotia system of keeping manure in cellars under the barn may have its objections, but from the standpoint of fertility conserved it is O.K. I believe it is a better plan to have a covered manure pit nearby, rather than have the cattle stable over manure, but our system is better than dumping the manure in the barnyard, as I understand is commonly done in some of the other provinces.—E. F. Eaton, Colchester Co., N.S.

Cooperation through Farmers' Clubs

ONE of the striking things about the development of manufacturing, merchandising and commerce is the large scale on which they are carried on. This means that a great many people work together. It will be found that the work is divided up in such a way that certain groups of people work at one thing and so develop special skill and speed in doing this particular work. Other groups do other lines of work. This means that every one employed in the industry develops special skill for doing his or her particular line of work, and each line of work is under the direction of an expert. This results in making the factory, railroad, or whatever it is, more efficient.

In farming, it is not so easy to bring this about, as each one must necessarily do practically all the different kinds of work that needs to be done on a farm. However, one farmer will develop particular skill in feeding hogs, another has great success in raising horses. Another had a special knack for making roads; still another farmer can make trees and fruit to do exceptionally well. Such farmers are experts in these lines of work. They ought to be made the experts for the community so that their skill can be brought on to all the farms in the community. If this could be carried out, the production of the farms in any community would be greatly increased.

An Information Clearing House.

One way for bringing this about is the farmers' club. The farmer who has had success in growing hogs can tell his neighbors how he did it. As his farm is located right in the locality, any one who is interested can visit the farm and get more information in this way. The different lines can be done over in the same way. This would result in bringing the best methods worked out on each individual farm on to many of the other farms in the locality.

This would not only spread the skill of the individual farmer on to many farms, but it would have a great stimulus on the most successful farmers. They would have the eyes of their neighbors watching their methods. They would want to do even better, which would lead them to study their particular line more than ever.

A great deal could be done to encourage the breeding of pure-bred stock, and to confine it to one breed. It is a misfortune for a community to have several breeds of cattle. It is best to have just one. Then the community will develop that breed better and that much quicker become noted for that one breed.

The subject of marketing and buying can be taken up in the club. If the club members will buy together they can often secure better prices from the grocer, the hardware dealer, and the machine dealer, etc.

The farmers' club can be made the starting point for these cooperative enterprises. It can be used to secure the farmers the benefits that big business secures from doing things on a big scale. Many have the idea that nothing can be done unless there is a big organization. This is a mistake. The successful cooperative enterprises have come from small beginnings.

We will soon be taking our farm inventory. We find that the best time to sum up the year's operations on the farm is along in the latter part of the winter.—L. K. Shaw, Welland Co., Ont.

The Horse

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Ice harvest at the old house on the farm.

tion of com for horses, too, is at a diarily be turned on.

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We cannot the future.

Synopsis of Guelph.