

carload are received from the commission firm. He then compiles for each member a statement showing what his stock weighed and was sold for on the market and the expenses incurred in connection with the shipment and sale of it. Along with this statement he mails a cheque for the balance due the producer.

A Few Precautions That May Save Young Pigs.

To have the young pigs active and healthy when farrowed it is necessary to care for the sow so that she will be healthy at time of farrowing. There is usually the least trouble if the sow has plenty of exercise and proper feed during the gestation period. Roots and sufficient grain to keep her in thrifty condition make a satisfactory ration. If the sow is over fat there is likely to be more or less trouble at farrowing time, and the pigs may be weak. On the other hand a sow that is very thin cannot be expected to give birth to strong, thrifty pigs. Giving the sow the run of the barnyard and feeding her reasonably well is about the ideal system. If the yard is open a small, inexpensive pen may be erected in one corner to afford her shelter. A few days previous to farrowing it is advisable to get her into a farrowing pen so that she will become accustomed to her new quarters. A plank floor is preferable to cement, and it should be covered with chaff or cut straw. If too much bedding is used there is more danger of the sow burying or tramping the pigs. Eight or ten-inch planks placed around the pen about eight inches from the floor give the pigs considerable protection. If all pens were provided with a guard rail there would be fewer pigs killed by the sow lying on them.

It is advisable to be on hand at farrowing time. Some of the pigs may wander away from the sow and become chilled or they may smother. Loss from these sources is preventable. A pig that is chilled and appears lifeless may be revived by giving it a hot bath and then rubbing it thoroughly dry. Before leaving the pen see that each pig is sucking. Some stockmen have hot bricks in the bottom of a box or basket and place the pigs in the receptacle as they arrive. This keeps them warm and the sow is not bothered with them until she finishes farrowing. By taking this extra trouble many pigs may frequently be saved, especially in chilly weather. There is not the same need of this precaution during the summer. However, it is worth the effort even if only one or two pigs are saved. It is good practice to examine the mouths of the pigs, and if sharp teeth are present to break them off. If the sharp teeth are left there is danger of the pigs injuring themselves and also the sow's udder.

Profits From Pigs.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Having kept an account of feed consumed by a bunch of hogs, I thought it might be of some interest to your readers to know what profit can be made on pigs at the present price of feed and hogs. On the 11th of September last a sow had 10 pigs. I kept an account of the feed this sow consumed until she had pigs again, which was on the 23rd of March, 1918, and of the feed eaten by the 10 hogs until they were shipped April 4, 1918. On that date they weighed out at 2,010 lbs. Following is a list of feed stuffs used and price of same:

2,400 lbs. shorts at \$2.30 per cwt.....	\$55.20
1,020 lbs. shorts at \$2.35 per cwt.....	23.97
400 lbs. feed flour at \$3.70 per cwt.....	14.80
600 lbs. corn feed at \$3.50 per cwt.....	21.00
2,530 lbs. oats at 60 cents per bushel.....	44.64
986 lbs. barley at \$1.25 per bushel.....	25.67
Grinding 32 bags of chop.....	2.95
	\$188.23

The 10 pigs weighed out at 2,010 lbs., and for them I received \$20.10 per cwt., bringing \$404.01. The cost of feed deducted from this leaves a profit of \$215.78.

For the feed, valued at \$188.23, I have a sow and 11 pigs left and \$215.78 in cash. The litter referred to got warm feed all winter, three times a day, until they were three months old, then they were fed twice a day until about a month before they were finished when they were fed three times a day again.

Middlesex Co., Ontario

DAN MULLINS.

Homemade Cures for Live-stock Troubles.

For the benefit of those making enquiry in regard to different remedies, I wish to mention several curative agents which I have found effective.

One remedy for diarrhoea which I have never known to fail is as follows: Steep two or three yellow dock roots, and, if the diseased animal can eat, mix the liquid with the feed; if not, give as a drench.

I had a cow with a lump in her teat, up close to her udder, and the veterinarian said he could do nothing for it. I decided to do some experimenting with it, and although the lump was very hard all I used was hen oil. I simply oiled the outside of the teat five or six times and the cure was perfect. I also used hen oil to cure poll-evil on one of my horses. The hen oil softens the tissues and thereby effects the cure. I should state, however, that in the case of poll-evil the oil was applied before any pus formed. I should be glad to hear of anyone using the above-mentioned remedy with success.

Brant Co., Ontario.

FRANK ROBINSON.

The Superiority of the Pure-bred.

The question of pure-bred versus grade is viewed in the following manner by Raymond Pearl, of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, who is a recognized authority on the laws of breeding:

The necessary, intrinsic expense involved in breeding and rearing a pure-bred animal is no more than that involved in breeding and rearing a grade or scrub. The end product is worth a great deal more in the former case than in the latter, on the average. These considerations being true, and I think they cannot be successfully controverted, it would seem to be the most obvious of sound business principles to keep and breed only pure-bred, registered live stock. Yet the proportionate number of farm animals which are pure-bred must be very small indeed.

The chief reason for the relatively small proportion of pure-bred animals is fairly evident. Most farmers keep animals solely for their immediately productive or useful qualities. They are in no true sense breeders, and make no attempt to realize the additional profits which would accrue from combining a breeding business, on however small a scale, with a producing business. The farmer of the sort mentioned is prone to compare in his mind the productive qualities of the best of his grades with the poorest pure-breds he has ever seen or knows about, to the detriment of pure-bred animals in general. He is then apt to take the general position that it would not pay to buy pure-bred animals for a foundation stock to breed from.

The argument on which this extremely prevalent point of view is based is essentially a fallacious one, because it overlooks certain very pertinent considerations. In the first place, while it is true that the best grades are much better than the poorest pure-breds in productive qualities, and indeed may in some cases rank with the best, it is also true that the general average productivity of pure-bred animals is higher than that of non pure-breds.

In the second place there can be no comparison between pure-bred animals and none pure-bred animals, considered as groups or on the average, in regard to extent to which they transmit good qualities to their offspring. The pure-bred animal is on the average,

THE FARM.

The Great Defensive.

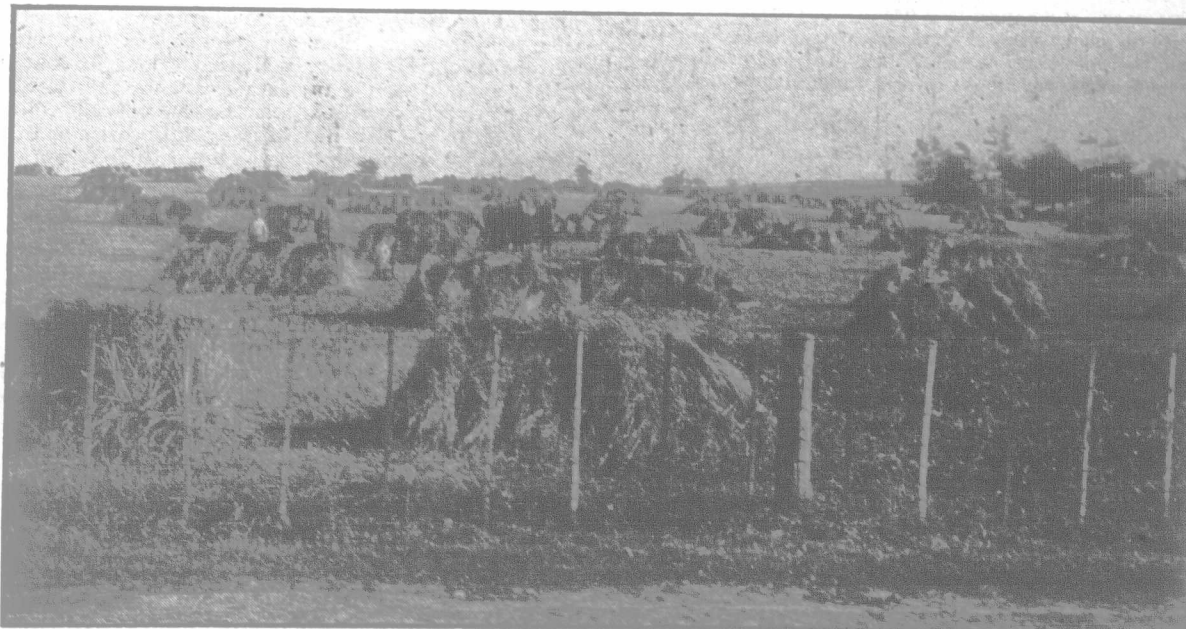
EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

We are living at the greatest moment of world history. Heroism and self-sacrifice, are no longer rare occurrences; they are traits of everyday life of our Boys at the front. Their superhuman accomplishments are the result of clear thinking and determined intelligent endeavor in a just cause, backed by implements of warfare "up to the minute" in perfection.

The word from military headquarters is "back us with food." From Government bureaux comes the same call. Over a quarter of a billion people must be fed, and America must assume a large share of the task. The last opportunity to increase Canadian wheat production this year is at hand. Spring wheat production can yet be increased. Possibly it is too late to effect much increase in spring-wheat acreage, but measures can yet be taken to increase the yield of wheat now being prepared for planting. The story of the "means to the end" is old, but age has more firmly established the truth. It is told in few words—choose a good variety (Marquis is one of the leaders); sift and fan out shrivelled, broken and very small seed; prepare a good mellow seedbed; manure and fertilize sufficiently. These are the big points!

This is what the grower of the wheat, illustrated herewith, did last year. He grew 325 bushels on 8 acres, —a little over 40 bushels per acre. This excellent field of spring wheat was grown in 1917 by Arch. Greer, Dufferin Co., Ontario. Oats in 1916 followed potatoes grown on this field in 1915. The potatoes received 20 loads of manure per acre. In 1917 the field was seeded to wheat. The wheat was drilled on May 11, 1917, with 200 lbs. of fertilizer carrying 2 per cent. ammonia, 9 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 1 per cent. potash.

If Ontario produced such a yield on her spring wheat area this summer, she would have close to 6½ million bushels of spring wheat to add to her twenty million winter wheat production for next year's food supply. Enough spring wheat to feed 1,600,000 men for a year! Twenty acres of wheat on a hundred-acre farm—yielding



A Field of Wheat Grown in Dufferin County in 1917.

narrow-bred or line-bred to a much greater extent than the grade or scrub. This means that the likelihood of any particular individual transmitting good qualities which it may possess to its progeny is by so much enhanced.

In the third place, the breeder of pure-bred animals is not depending, as is the breeder of grades, solely on their productive qualities as a source of income. If he is handling pure-breds the offspring are a standard commodity to which a more or less definite rating as to value attaches automatically. If he is breeding scrubs or grades the offspring are apt to be more or less troublesome and unprofitable by-products of his manufacturing business. The dairyman, for example, who keeps only grade cows has no market whatever for his bull calves except as meat. When sold for this purpose he is sure to get small returns for them. On the other hand, the dairyman whose herd is made up of pure-bred animals at once has opened out before him the possibility of an additional and better market for his bull calves. He can sell them for breeding purposes and in this way realize much more than meat prices for them.

Finally, the breeder of pure-bred, registered live stock at once identifies himself with a large and powerful organization, namely, that of the registered live-stock interests of the country.

Hoarding hides is now the crime laid against the large meat packers of the United States. The general public may not know the reason for it, but the fact remains that the price of hides has touched a very low level lately, while prices for boots, harness, and all leather goods have soared and are still soaring. Hoarding hides, or whatever has brought about these conditions, may be profitable to some but not to the producer and the consumer.

40 bushels per acre—would produce food enough for 200 men for a year! Such a crop would be worth good money at present prices; such a production would be real service to the Empire and to the Great Cause.

HENRY G. BELL.

Hide and Leather Prices.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

To-day happened to be too stormy to do more than the smallest possible amount of work outside or about the stables. I sat me down beside a brisk coal fire to meditate upon spring requirements. I thought about harness. I needed a new set of team lines. The local harness dealer asked, a few days ago, \$7.50 for a set of lines 1 inch by 21 feet in length; mail order catalogue quoted lower and higher prices. Lines of this description would weigh in the neighborhood of five pounds.

The farmer receives for his beef hides, perhaps twelve cents a pound. If you want to do some mathematical calculating, here is a chance to begin. What is the spread between the raw hide and the finished leather article? In the Farmer's Advocate the other week leather was being offered at prices ranging from 75 to 90 cents a pound, accompanied by the cheerful advice that prices were going higher on account of the war. We are not aware that an advance in prices being offered for hides has preceded such an announcement. We suppose the farmer may receive a cent or so more for his hides, while the price of tanned leather is put up five or ten cents. Where does the difference go? But, anyway, that part of it is not concerning me very much just now. What I cannot account for by any means is as to the great spread between the price the farmer receives for his hides and the price which users of leather have to pay tanners. We are not aware that hides shrink a half in the tanning