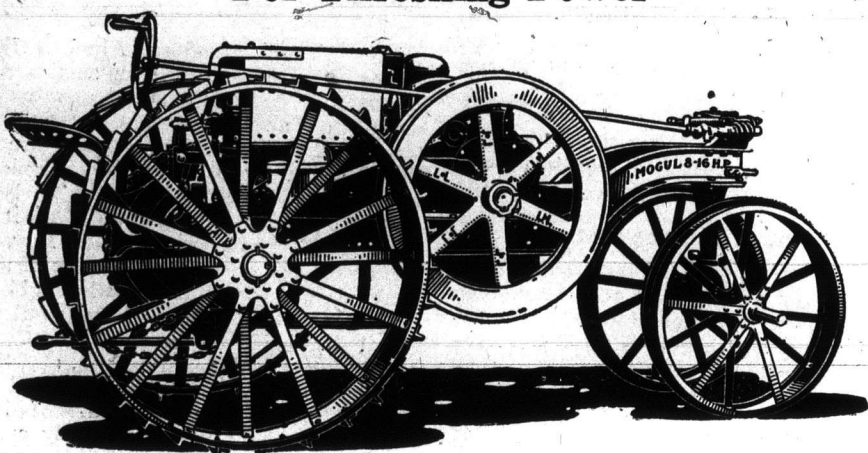


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About the Farm

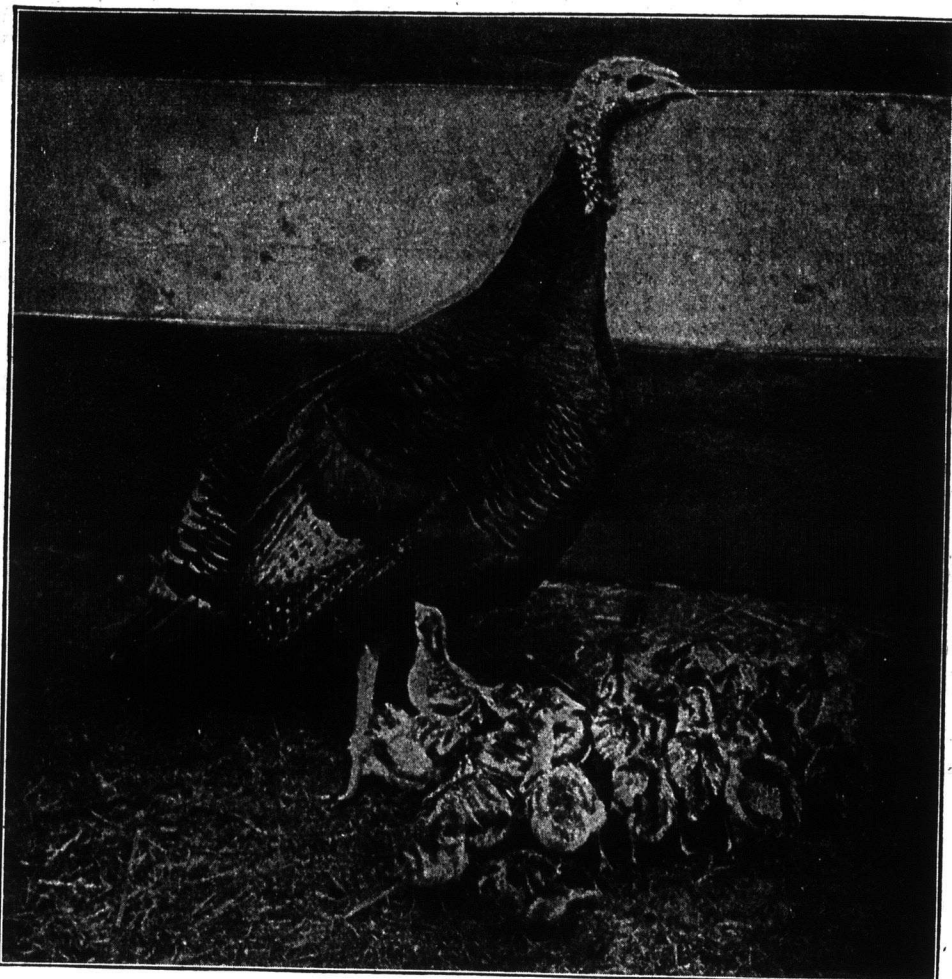
Commercial Fertilizers Profitable By Harry R. Jonah, King's Co., N.B.

I have only recently taken up the use of commercial fertilizers, but since using them I have had very good results. I have used basic slag on oat ground one season, at the rate of 400 lbs. an acre. My method was to set the manure spreader at the rate of five loads an acre, fill about half full with manure, then spread a layer of slag, about 70 lbs., on the manure, and fill up the machine with manure. Then I spread the whole out together, which makes a very even distribution of the slag and overcomes the disagreeable job of sowing it by hand. The result of land treated in this way over equally good land without the slag showed a marked improvement, both in the stand of grain and in the catch of clover.

I have also used some of the leading makes of fertilizers on turnip crops. The past season, on a field of two and one-half acres, an application was made of about 400 lbs. of fertilizer an acre on two acres, the remaining half acre re-

Now, it is self-evident that anything that is bought or produced for sale with the intention of making a profit on the transaction, must be bought or produced for a less price than it is sold for. The weak point of farming as a business is that when the farmer buys, he usually has to pay the price asked, and when he sells, has to take the price offered, because he either has to have the things purchased, or what he sells is more or less perishable, and he has to have the money.

To come back to the cost of production of farm crops, we have, first, either the rent of the land or the interest on the money invested, the tax on the land, and the upkeep of the tools, horses, harness and storage buildings for the crops, and the cost of the labor involved in their production. The ostensible value of the grains and hay and pasture so produced may be estimated by the local prices. But it is evident in the end that either the land cost or the labor cost must be brought within the limits of the value of what the farm will produce, so that these



A proud mother with a large and promising family

ceiving no fertilizer. This, of course, was in addition to a dressing of manure. The result was that the half acre receiving no fertilizer was not more than one-half as good a crop as the rest of the field.

My method of applying the fertilizer is to sift it on by hand on top of the row, and follow immediately with the seeder, which stirs it up with the ground. I believe the principal good derived from a light application of fertilizer is to give the turnip plants a vigorous start when first coming up, which I believe goes a long way in making or spoiling the prospect of a turnip crop.

I intend using fertilizer in this way on about three and a half acres of turnips next spring.

Cost Production on the Farm

Having made somewhat of a study of cost accounting on the farm for some years, I would submit the following for the benefit of your subscribers:

Farming as a business should be divided into its two component parts: First, farming proper, that is, the use of the land and the addition of the necessary labor to produce the crops; and, second, the taking of these crops so produced, and, by feeding them out to the farm stock, retaining to a large measure, the fertility values on the farm, and yet getting at least the cost of production.

two costs will not exceed the value of what is produced.

Taking Care of the Calf

At this season the dairy calf is very often injured by neglect, which is hurtful to the dairy farmer's interests. The calf should receive even better care than the cow.

The small dairyman should kill all grade bull calves. A pig will give better returns for the skim milk fed.

Give the calves a good warm stall with plenty of bedding. Keep them up on the cold, wet days. Water them in the barn or turn them out just long enough to get water. Do not force them to drink ice water.

Feed enough grain of any kind except cottonseed meal to keep them in good condition and if possible provide a rye or clover patch for grazing. A well-fed calf will not suffer from lice. Feed all the good hay a calf can eat. Never can a higher return be obtained for good clean hay than from the dairy calf.

Keep the calf growing. A hidebound calf is a high-priced calf and will not make the best kind of cow.

A dairyman's business ability can be judged by the condition of his calves. never neglect the young dairy animal. Indeed, it should receive the best feed and care of any stock on the farm. If calves are fed by hand, be sure