

## Inquiries and Answers

Readers of the paper are invited to submit questions on any phase of agriculture.

### Feeding Grain to Dairy Cows

Will it pay to feed grain to my cows while upon pasture? My cows are not in the best of condition as our feed supply was none too plentiful during the past winter. I have a considerable quantity of barley and oats in my granary and I am not sure whether or not it will pay me to sell it or feed it to my milch cows.—E. F. Hastings Co.

This will depend largely upon the condition of your pastures as well as upon how thin your cattle are. If your cows are in even fair condition and upon first class pasture, it is doubtful whether or not it will pay you to feed the grain to your cows. From what you say, however, we think it will pay you to feed at least a light ration of grain. A mixture of these two grains should contain more oats than barley if fed to your cows, as barley is claimed by some to have a drying-up tendency on milch cows. It is claimed by most of our experiment stations that it pays to feed a grain ration to cows even while on the best of pasture. It will pay well for you to experiment with this for a while, after which you will be certain whether or not it is profitable to feed this grain to your cattle.

### Getting Rid of Ants

Would you kindly tell me how I can get rid of the common black ant? A. R. Oxford Co.

There are several ways to rid one's premises of the black ant. Where they exist in colonies or hills, break the mound open with a spade and apply a liberal amount of common salt to the spot. This will discourage the ants and they will be soon no more in that locality. Boiling water applied either alone or in connection with the salt is a more effective remedy as it will exterminate them on the spot, whereas the salt treatment simply causes them to migrate. There are several ways of combating these pests when they exist in the house or in the pantry. As fumigating would not be permissible where food was stored, a good way is to set out a dish of honey into which the ants will climb, then one can destroy the whole catch. Small twigs of cedar stored around seems to discourage them about as well as anything.

### Trimming Evergreens

Could you inform me through the columns of your paper what is the best time to trim my evergreens? I have trimmed them at different seasons but fancy the spring pruning is the best.—F. H. Grey Co.

As to what is the best time for trimming evergreens is a disputed question. Some claim they get the best results from the spring pruning. Others that the fall trimming is the most satisfactory. With the average farmer, however, it is generally a case of trim your hedges when you have the time. If one has the choice of time, it would be best to trim them in August. By trimming them at this season, your hedge will retain its shape for several months of the year or until the new growth commences the following spring. Thus you have the most presentable hedge for the greatest part of the year from the one trimming. When trimmed in the spring, although it gives satisfaction in many cases, the hedge immediately starts to grow and is more or less ragged throughout the year or until trimmed again. The hedges should not be trimmed too closely, not closer than within an inch of what it was the previous year, so that each year a new wood is left on which buds form.

### Harrowing Corn.

The practice of harrowing corn before and after it has come up is by no means common throughout the country. Some are afraid of tearing the corn out and doing more harm than good should they get the harrows on to the corn after the corn is sown. In no way can we cultivate quicker or to better advantage than by the constant use of the harrows on the corn fields early, sowing till it attains the height of three or four inches.

The harrowing should be done during the centre of the day. The sun will then have wilted the corn so that it will be tough and will not break off readily when struck by the harrows, besides, the small weeds will meet their finish when disturbed during the bright sunlight. Get the harrows on to the corn fields early and keep them there until the corn becomes too high. It is one of the best and one of the easiest methods of cultivation.

### An Effective Remedy for Crows

Each year as the season advances corn growers are put to their wits end to stop the depredations caused by the crows upon their corn. There are many ways of combating these destroyers of young corn. Some keep them in check by means of scarecrows of different kinds, ranging from string strung around the field, to bright colored flags, shining tin and dummy representatives of man. These are as more or less effective depending upon the individuality of the crows and their past associations.

An effective remedy, however, that will meet all cases alike is the following: Procure from your drug-gist, a few grains of strychnine. With the point of a small knife, break open the small end of a few fresh hens' eggs, place a portion of the strychnine in and mix up the contents of the eggs with the strychnine by means of a toothpick or other suitable instrument. Carefully seal up the openings with cotton wool or paste pieces of white paper over the holes. Before you retire at night, place these eggs in the corn field, staking them in order that you may be able to find them. The next morning, you have arisen the next morning, the crows will be on hand in the corn fields and will readily partake of the dainty that you have provided. Make an early trip to the field and you will find your enemies, the crows, stark and stiff upon the cornfield, or not far from it. Gather up the eggs that remain in order that stock may not be poisoned. The writer has tried this remedy and knows whereof he speaks. It is an effective one, besides it is a great satisfaction to be able to walk out in the corn fields and see the crows that had been so exasperating.

### Selecting Gravel

As the season for performing statute labor is drawing near, and as many of our readers will be called upon to draw gravel, as their work in connection with this system, a few words upon the selection of gravel, taken from a recent bulletin of the Ontario Department entitled "Highway Improvement," may not be out of place.

"The best gravel pit for roadwork is clean, free from any excess of sand and clay, composed of stones of varying size up to and one-half inches in diameter, and containing enough fine stuff to fill the voids, and make a compact mass. The appearance in the face of a pit is that of an almost solid mass of pebbles, from the size of marbles up to one and one-half inches in diameter. Gravel of the above description which stands up right in the pit, after the spring thaw, with no traces of slipping, is

## Imp. Clydesdales (Stallions and Fillies) Hackney's, Welsh Ponies

I have now on hand Clydesdale Stallions and Fillies—Scotland prizewinners and champions; Hackney Fillies and Hackney Ponies; also Welsh Ponies. There are no better animals, nor no better horses, than I can show. Will be sold cheap and on favourable terms.

A. AITCHISON, Guelph P.O. and Station 612-15

## A Few Good Clydesdales and Hackneys

A very choice lot of Imported Clydesdale Stallions and Fillies, sired by such noted getters as Barton, Baron Mitchell, and Marcellus. In Hackneys I have to offer two big trappy handsome Stallions and two medium sized and exceptionally broody ones from three to five years of age. All show high straight action and combine the choicest breedings. In Fillies I have a number of prize winners at Canada's leading shows, as well as a number of coming show ringers to offer. Prices will be right for the goods and suitable terms can be arranged. Come and see them.

W. E. BUTLER, Ingersoll, Ont. 612-15

## JOHN CHAMBERS & SONS HOLDENBY, NORTHAMPTON, ENG.

We are shipping to our American branch another consignment of Shire Stallions, Mares and Fillies. These are selected from the best of the breed, and are of the highest quality. Over to head in all. This lot includes several 2 and 3-year-olds, as well as a number of heavy mature stallions, and a number of Mares and Fillies, in foal. Horses shown or imported by us were at the O. C. H. Horse Breeding Show, Toronto, Feb. 1908, 1st on a year old Stallion, and aged Stallion, and 4th and 5th on a 3-year-old filly. We import good stallions and all their worth the money and on favorable terms. Let us hear from you.

C. K. GEARY, Can. Agent, St. Thomas, Ont.

### REGISTER YOUR CLYDESDALES

To be eligible for registration, a graded Clydesdale filly must have four crosses by Clydesdales sired registered in Canada. Stallions require five crosses. It will save trouble and expense to attend to this matter early. For application forms, etc., apply to Accountant, National Live Stock Records, Ottawa.

PRESIDENT, JOHN BRIGHT. SECRETARY-TREASURER, J. W. SANGSTER. Weekly Sun Office, 18 King St. West, Toronto 8-57

### YORKSHIRES of Choicest Type and Breeding

I have on hand 75 broad sons of Princess Fame, Glenderra, Clarn, Minnie, Lady Frost and Queen Bess strains. My stock boars are true to type and of richest breeding. For sale are a large number of sows bred and ready to breed, boars fit for service, and younger ones of both sexes. Pairs and trios not akin.

J. W. BOYLE, - WOODSTOCK, ONT.

suitable for use on the road without any treatment.

River gravel is frequently better than pit gravel from the fact that an excess of clay or sand is washed out, and it is less water worn than lake gravel. Lake gravel, if not too coarse or shaly, makes a very good surface, but packs slowly.

The sound made by metal tires in passing over a gravel road should be continuously smooth and gritty. If the gritty sound is absent, the gravel contains too much earthy material. An interrupted, rattling sound indicates too many large stones.

Dirty gravel is the chief thing to avoid. Gravel containing much clay or sand, or earthy materials, packs quickly, and makes a good weather road. But in the wet weather of spring and fall, it turns to mud and slush, and ruts readily. It wears out quickly. Avoid very fine gravel, and gravel that packs quickly. It lacks strength, and is usually dirty. It is the stone that is needed on the roads. There is enough clay and earth on the roads without hauling and paying for more. A road surface of stony material will wear, and keep its shape. But fine material becomes slushy, flattens out under traffic and the crown of the road is lost."

### Road Making in Dundas Co.

Thos. A. Bailey, Reeve, Mountain Township

About a year ago our township purchased a grader and a year later a crusher. Since then we have been working on our leading roads, across the Township. In constructing a road the first thing required is the draining of the road bed. The side drains should be opened so as to give the water a free flow to a good outlet. This is absolutely necessary, as no road can remain in good shape

if the water is allowed to stand and soak into the road-bed. The water will cause the road to spread and cut up in ruts and wheel tracks.

The next thing is to properly grade and crown the road, giving it sufficient crown to shed all water freely to the side drains. The grader is an excellent machine, and when used by competent hands ideal work can be done with it. We use three teams on the grader and have never tried hauling it with a traction engine. We open a light track in the centre of the road to receive the broken stone. After the metal is put on we go up one side and down the other with the grader showing a small amount of earth up against it so as to keep the stone in place until it becomes consolidated by traffic.

We have no road roller. Much better work can be done, however, with the aid of a good roller, as it packs and consolidates the metal so that traffic does not move or push it out of place. We aim to crush all stone fine enough to pass through a two inch ring. Our wagons hold one yard and we drop a load in a place.

### MAPLE CLIFF FARM

BREEDERS OF Clydesdale Horses and Teamwork Pigs, Three Imported Stallions and one Hackney for Sale And a number of Young Boars fit for service.

R. REID & CO., Hintonburg Farm outside Ottawa. 617

### LAND PLASTER

Ground extra fine and of the highest grade. Car lots or less. Write for prices.

TORONTO SLAT WORKS TORONTO 620-47