

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

—AND—
Home Magazine.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor.

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Published in the Dominion.

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The Month.

STOCK.

Be sure and look well after all calves, lambs and pigs this month; do not let one die for the lack of care or attention. Make up your mind to this—that you are determined to have larger and better-paying stock. Early maturity is what has and what will pay. To obtain this you must give all young stock sufficient nourishment, and make them comfortable. If you see dogs, sticks and boots liberally applied to farm stock, you need not look for much comfort or happiness in the house; most probably that farm will ere long have a new occupant. If you see thriving stock, that farm is safe.

The prospects are such that you may expect a much higher price for beef and mutton, and that there will be more profit from this branch of the farm than from any other; therefore we advise all to take extra care of the young stock, and also to feed liberally to the old. No farmer was ever made rich who fed niggardly. It is fat that pays; put it on the stock, and keep it there as long as the animal is in your hands. It will also pay you to purchase older steers from bad feeders this month, and to secure lambs or sheep to be delivered in the autumn. If you have money you can profitably use it now in preparing for summer and fall shipments of live stock or dead meat for the European market. It will pay you even if you have to get a car-load of American corn, which is now cheap. Do not kill and sell any good sheep or horned beasts to drovers or speculators this month, or for the next five months, except your fat stocks; rather purchase stock and feed them well.

If our subscribers act on these hints judiciously they may gain a good march ahead of those who do not take our agricultural journal.

If you have an opportunity to procure a good brood mare which has size and appearance, to raise good horses, it will pay to do so. Dispense with small, inferior mares as soon as you can.

The prospects are that there will be more money made from butter than from cheese this season. At the same time there will be more money lost in it, as was the case with most manufacturers last year—that was by those who did not understand the requirements of the present market. The basket-loads carried to the store in the hot sun did not pay the merchant last year. Good butter must be properly made, handled and un-mixed with poor grease. Lots of the butter sold to country storekeepers was only sold as grease. Good, prime butter will pay.

POULTRY

are and should be profitable. See that you have a good lot and that they are not neglected.

SPRING WHEAT.

This makes us scratch our head. Here are letters, many of them asking which we think is the best wheat to sow this spring. If the chances were that spring wheat would not answer better than it has on our sons' farms (as they now manage the farms) we should do as they do—sow none. They are tired of trying spring wheats; they have lost money by it, and so have we for the past twelve years. The only kind they would sow last year was the Lost Nation, procured from Prince Edward Island; that yielded better than any other spring wheat in that locality, but it was not a paying crop. We have not heard of a single field of spring wheat that yielded a profit last year in this part of the Dominion; in the northern and eastern parts of Ontario there may have been some good pieces, but they were scarce. Spring wheat is badly shrunken. The hot weather in some cases and the midge in others caused sad loss last year. In some localities the Red Fern has eclipsed all other varieties; in others the Club and Fife wheats are preferred. The Russian, or, as some call it, the White Russian, has its votaries, and the Red Chaff or Farrow is preferred in other parts. We have some good reports about the Gordon wheat, but have none in regard to the Rio Grande or McCarling varieties. We have heard of a wheat selling at an enormous price by traveling agents, but have no report of it from seedsmen. There were two new varieties introduced last year from the States, namely, the Champlain and Defiance. We have received one good report of the latter from Canada and no report of the former. This season two varieties will be brought in from Scotland, but we cannot say which will be the best. We cannot tell you which wheat to try or which to discard this year. If you have one variety that is answering better than another in your

locality, sow it; if you sow any, you may try different varieties that may be advertised in catalogues. Perhaps some may answer better next year.

The winter wheats have been the most profitable in this part of Ontario. The best farmers here pay but little attention to spring wheat now; grass is more profitable.

BARLEY

has been more profitable than wheat, and in this locality we should rather risk profit from it than from spring wheat.

PEAS

for seed are now in great demand despite the injury done by the pea-bug last year; from its effects there are so many buggy peas that any person having good peas free from bugs will make a good profit from them. We have heard of \$1.50 being offered for clean, pure Crown Peas, free from bugs. Many will sow these buggy peas if they can do no better; although some may grow them, the plant is apt to be weak and will not resist the effects of either wet or dry weather equal to a firm, sound pea. The crop will be reduced more than the cost of sound peas would amount to. A good farmer will always sow the best grain he can get; a shiftless farmer has no objection to shrunken or foul grain, if it is only cheap.

SPRING HARROWING OF WINTER WHEAT.

We extract the following from the Philadelphia Record:

"Just as soon as the ground is dry enough to get on in the spring, run the harrow across the wheat and the rye fields. Don't be afraid of harrowing too much or pulling the grain out. Run the harrow along the drill rows, and then back again; or, if you run first down and then across, so much the better. The tillering of both wheat and rye will more than make up for any plants destroyed. After harrowing, sow the grass seed, clover and timothy of the usual quantities; after which go over your fields with the roller, and you will not only be surprised at your grain crop, but will be even more at your fall clover in the stubble."

To the same effect the Country Gentleman says:

"Harrow wheat in spring as soon as the ground is dry enough to bear the team. This breaks the crust, destroys small weeds and gives the plants a start. It may be repeated every week or two, until the wheat is a foot high or more, if the smoothing harrow is used. Timothy sown with the wheat last autumn, if several inches high, will not be injured, but rather benefited by the passing of this implement. It is only small plants and weeds which are destroyed. Clover seed sown at the last harrowing and slightly covered will usually germinate quite as well as when sown earlier without harrowing."