

FARM MANAGEMENT

Seeding for Wet Pasture

What would be a good grass with which to seed highland pasture? Much of the land is a wet, clayey soil. We have been seeding with timothy. In a very short time it dies out and bromes and silver top takes its place. We have gotten good catches of clover the last three years. It holds fairly well where it is not too wet. Part of the pasture is a dry hill side, with lime rock under it. Clover seems to do best on this soil.—W. P. F. Kings Co., N. B.

On such land as you describe red top is the grass likely to give most perfect satisfaction. Alsike clover and red top together make a most excellent grass for either pasture or hay. The land should be broken and thoroughly cultivated for a year or two. Take off a crop of peas and oats the first year, work again in the fall and apply a little bit of manure if possible. Seed the field with a mixture of timothy, five lbs.; orchard grass, five lbs.; red top, 10 lbs.; and alsike clover, four lbs. per acre. Such a seeding in the proportions given should insure your getting first-class crops of hay for a couple of years, and excellent pastures for a few years longer.

If, on the part of the pasture overlying lime stone rock, you could scratch in about two pounds of White Dutch clover per acre, you would greatly improve the quality of the grass, and the amount likely to be produced per acre in any given year.

10 per cent. Increase in Grain

In an address before the seed growers at the recent Ontario Winter Fair, Guelph, the Seed Commissioner, G. H. Clarke, stated in part that from a study of the records of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association he had formed the opinion that from 12 to 15 per cent. of the 1910 cereal grain crops in the province of Ontario would trace back to selected seed. The proportion would be about the same in the western provinces, less in the province of Quebec, and more in the Maritime provinces, especially in Prince Edward Island.

Six years ago the supply of selected seed was less than one-quarter of the present supply, yet the demand was then greater than the apparent demand, and much of the seed offered at fair prices was left unsold at the end of the season. Now the supply will not fill one-quarter of the demand, even at high prices for the selected seed. Many grain growers have convinced themselves by experience and observation that a 10 per cent. increase in yield and an improved quality of grain result from the use of selected seed. The farmers of Europe who are negligent of the quality of their seed grain are quite exceptional. Fully 85 per cent. of the grain crop of Germany and Scandinavia is grown from seed that is the very best available, and the farmers get to much trouble and expense to procure it. At least 90 per cent. of the cereal crop of Sweden is grown from stock seed selected under the supervision of Dr. Nilsson and his staff.

Ten years ago the farmers of Guelph and Markham districts in the province of Ontario were accustomed to hold annual seed fairs, but no others had been organized anywhere in Canada. Last year more than 100 of these seed fairs, widely distributed throughout the different provinces, were conducted. These seed fairs are closely associated, both in their objects and organization, with competitions in standing fields of seed grain, of which there were upwards of 150 successfully conducted in 1910. The best exhibits of seed grain shown in both the field competitions and seed fairs are now annually brought together in competition at large provincial seed exhibitions in all of the provinces except British Columbia.

In the improvement of farm crops through the use of better seed grain and other seeds, these seed fairs, field competitions, provincial seed exhibitions, and the Canadian Seed Growers' Association have proved to be strong educational factors. The benefits which have accrued from the efforts of these organizations are incalculable.

Some Farmers May Be Disappointed

"There is a great demand among farmers for Holstein cattle," said Mr. W. Telford, of Bridgerton, Ont., recently to an editor of Farm and Dairy, "and I am afraid that some of the farmers who are buying this class of cattle are going to be disappointed with the results they obtain. They seem to think that if they can only get Holsteins that

they are going to get much better results from their cows. They do not recognize that Holstein cattle, as well as being large producers, are large consumers of food and that they will not do well unless they are fed well. A Holstein cow that is not well fed, will not do much, if any better than an ordinary cow.

"These men should like to remember that there are culls, even among pure bred Holsteins, cows. Any cow that has Holstein markings seems to be in good demand. The result is that interior stock is being palmed off as pure farmers. When these farmers find that this stock is not doing as well as they expected it would, there may be a reaction against this breed. Farmers need to be educated to the importance of feeding and taking care of their stock."

Eastern Ontario Scored

Why is Eastern Ontario so low about taking up the work of the cow testing associations? In the whole of Eastern Ontario, there are about five cow testing associations, they being located in Peterboro, Perth, Prescott, McEwen and Alexandria. In Western Ontario, in the county of Oxford alone, there are 18. Dairying is carried on much more extensively in Eastern Ontario than it is in Western Ontario.

This subject was discussed at some length during the recent convention in Perth of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association. "We have not been able as yet," said Mr. Geo. H. Barr, Chief of the Dairy Division, "to find a single herd in Eastern Ontario through our cow testing associations with a record sufficiently good to warrant us in drawing attention to it on our Government charts. This is the case, although Eastern Ontario produces more milk than any other similar area in the Dominion. Instead of having only four or five cow testing associations we ought to have 25 or 30 cow testing associations at least. It must be because few farmers in Eastern Ontario take any interest in the subject that we are unable to find any good records of individual herds."

A farmer in the audience suggested that the trouble was not with the cows as much as it was with the men who fed the cows. "We will have," he said, "to improve our breed of feeders."

RECORDS HAVE HELPED HIM

"I have," said another farmer, "been testing my cows for several years, and I have learned some valuable lessons. For instance, by the use of my scales, and the Babcock test, I found that one cow cost me \$7.00 a year less for feed than another cow standing right beside her. It is not always the quantity of milk that a cow produces that determines the net profits she returns. The cost of feed needs to be considered also.

"I have found, too, that my best producing cows have the faculty of transmitting this quality to their progeny. The poor cows transmit their poor qualities. When we are watching the feeding of our animals we soon find that if they are to do their best and return us the greatest profit, we must feed them well and give them good care."

Another farmer stated that in a new factory to which he belonged there were 345 cows. The patrons were interested in the matter of feeding and caring for their cows better and in keeping track of their production. The first year their cows had averaged 4,946 pounds of milk. The next year the same cows gave 279,000 pounds of milk more as a result of the better care and attention they received. This farmer thought that this was a good method for factories to adopt to increase their supply of milk.

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