

Field Crops

GROWING THE SWEEPSTAKES OATS

The oats with which I won the sweepstakes at Peoria were not grown on a small plot as I have no time to look after small plots. I have about 300 acres of grain which is all sold for seed each year.



M. P. MOUNTAIN
Winner of Sweepstakes on Oats at Peoria

The sweepstakes oats were grown on a 10 acre field which has been heavily manured for several years. They were from seed purchased from G. H. Carter of Qu'Appelle. This seed was stamped with the Canadian Seed Growers' Association seal. The oats were allowed to become dead ripe before I cut them and they were threshed out of the stook. The exhibit had no special care. It was taken out of a bin of about 600 bushels, heavily cleaned with a fanning mill and graded and that is all the attention it received.

M. P. MOUNTAIN, Man.

COST OF GROWING WHEAT

Last week The Guide asked for the co-operation of readers in an endeavor to arrive at the approximate cost of producing a bushel of wheat in 1917. The plan for arriving at this estimate was fully outlined. The estimate is to be based on the three year rotation system so generally practiced throughout the west. This system includes one year summerfallow and two years' crop. In order to simplify the estimate a half section farm is taken as the basis. Of this 20 acres is deducted for yards and pastures, leaving 300 acres for field crops. Of this 300 acres 100 acres is in summerfallow, 100 acres in first crop after summerfallow and 100 acres in second crop after summerfallow. The accompanying figure shows the division of the farm and gives a short outline of the items to be taken into consideration.

The Guide's plan is simply to get several hundred practical farmers to estimate what the work on each of these three 100 acre fields would cost in 1917. In each case the farmer is to estimate on those operations, and those operations only, which he would have included in his method had he been farming this one-half section. The cost of the different operations should be what he would consider a fair remuneration in his district under the conditions that prevailed in 1917. As far as the yields are concerned, these should be based on his average return per acre from first and second crop after summerfallow respectively. The cost of marketing, the grade of wheat and the price per bushel at his local elevator is also given. To these charges are added the items of general expense as interest on the value of the half section at seven per cent. and municipal taxes. The estimated cost of cultivation, etc, is based on a fair contract price, in

which the person doing the work would supply his own horses and machinery and feed. The cost would not, therefore, include such items as depreciation on the outfit nor feed for the horses, as these would be furnished and would be taken care of in the estimated cost of each operation. Write for extended report forms for filling out. They will be gladly furnished on request to any farmer interested.

GROWING THE SWEEPSTAKES RYE

This was my first trial of rye and I grew it on the recommendation of Prof. Harrison of the agricultural college as a weed cleaner and hay producer, something that I need, being especially engaged in the rearing of livestock.

The rye was seeded on a piece of well worked breaking at the rate of 1 1/4 bushels per acre in the last week of August. It made a rapid growth and was grazed with sheep, cattle and horses all fall until nothing seemed to be left.

When spring came the rye came up again and was again eaten down until June 1 when it was hard to see any trace of it. Within a week after the removal of the stock, it appeared very strongly and made rapid growth, coming into head about July 7 and making a stand of 5 1/2 feet when fully headed out.

The proper time to harvest seems to me to be a matter upon which there is a little doubt and on which probably many mistakes are made. On close observation of the berries, I found that they were quite soft although to all appearances the crop looked ripe. I delayed cutting for at least 10 days until the berries seemed firm or nearly so.



JOHN STRACHAN
Winner of Sweepstakes on Rye at Peoria

Rye does not shell out easily and I feel convinced it should be allowed to ripen well to avoid shrinkage. Threshing was done on August 15 and the yield was 40 bushels per acre weighing 62 lbs. to the bushel.

No special attention was given to the preparation of the seed either at seeding time nor for show excepting that it was run a few times through the fanning mill. I do not believe in grazing so hard as is mentioned above. I believe it made it a little later than it should have been.

The winning of the prize sweepstakes at Peoria was quite a pleasant surprise to me and needless to say it has only encouraged me to try again and again with greater effort and with more varieties.

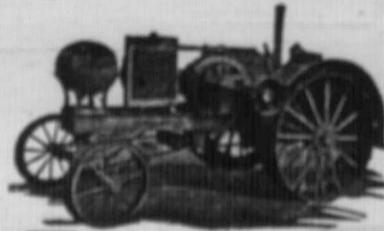
U.S. WINTER WHEAT CROP

Although the acreage of winter wheat in the United States sown last fall was the largest in the history of the country, a forecast of the crop gives only 540,000,000 bushels as the estimated yield. The acreage is estimated at 42,170,000, an increase of four per cent.

100 ACRES SUMMER-FALLOW	100 ACRES FIRST CROP AFTER SUMMERFALLOW	100 ACRES SECOND CROP AFTER SUMMERFALLOW
Estimate total cost of cultivating through the season of 1917, including early spring cultivation, plowing, discing or packing, harrowing and any other items of cost. Estimates to be based on a fair contract price for doing the work.	Estimate total cost for 1917, including cultivation, seed, hail insurance, cutting, stooking, threshing and marketing, and also fall work on stubble. Yield based on your average yield in 1917 from your summerfallow crop.	Estimate total cost for 1917, including cultivation, seed hail insurance, twine, cutting, stooking, threshing, and marketing, and also fall work on stubble. Yield based on your average yield in 1917 from stubble crop.
		20 acres yards and pasture

What would the work on these three fields in 1917 have cost in your district, and how many bushels of wheat would have been produced?

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