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Our Interest In Seed

John R. Philp, Grey Co., Ont.

With seed time so near at hand, we should not hesitate to give that attention to the preparation of seeds that our future crops demand. It is a long time since we first heard that old proverb, "like begets like." We have proved it to be true in respect to grain, as with animals. It therefore behooves the farmer to sow the best seed only if he expects to reap good crops.

Many make a practice of changing their seed from year to year. Perhaps this practice is all right. It would be especially advisable if one's land were infested with noxious weeds. By all means sow nothing but pure plump seed. A great deal more can be done to increase the yield by thorough cleaning, than it is possible to do by changing seed. Experiments conducted at Guelph and elsewhere prove that the yield can be greatly increased from year to year on practically the same land by proper selection.

Prepare the seed in good time. There are several reasons why this is advisable. Time is not so valuable, early, as it is after seeding operations have commenced. Early cleaning permits of feeding the light grain to stock while in the stable. Idle horses and sheep can be fed profitably on such grain. In cases where grain is a little scarce a better sample of seed will invariably be on hand when seeding time appears.

When we remember that the plant depends, wholly upon the kernel from which it sprung, for sustenance until the rootlets get a grasp of the soil, we will readily understand how important it is to sow nothing but good, plump, well developed seed. The following table copied from a report from the Ontario Agricultural College gives considerable information regarding the value of different samples of seed sown, and the results obtained therefrom.

OATS:	Class of grain	No. of years	Bush. of grain per acre
Large plump	7	62.00
Medium plump	7	54.13
Small	7	46.54
BARLEY:			
Large plump	5	42.41
Small, plump	5	50.40
Shrunken	6	45.90
Broken	6	43.52
PEAS:			
Large seed	5	30.26
Small	5	33.88
Split	5	10.61
SPRING WHEAT:			
Large plump	5	31.67
Small	5	17.99
Shrunken	5	16.67
WINTER WHEAT:			
Large plump	5	42.41
Small	5	34.75
Shrunken	5	33.72
Split	5	7.99

The experiments as shown cover a period of from five to seven years. Hence they are especially valuable and worthy of notice.

According to the latest crop bulletin of the Bureau of Industries, there is approximately six million acres devoted to cereal crops in the province of Ontario. Let us figure out for ourselves what this means to the Province in dollars and cents, if we but accept its teachings and sow the best seed. The resulting benefits would not all

show in the grain alone; we ought also to figure on the straw which would be again returned to the land in the form of manure. These principles of grain selection apply to seeds of all kinds, clovers, grasses, turnips, rape and potatoes.

Select Good Yielding Varieties

S. A. Northcott, Ontario Co., Ont.

Too much attention cannot be paid in regard to selecting suitable varieties of grain, and the varieties that yield most abundantly. A variety that yields most on one farm may not do so well on another. However, by following up the results of experiments at the Experimental Farms and those conducted throughout the province by the Experimental Union as well as conducting a few personal experiments with varieties that have done the best at experimental stations, any one can soon get into varieties which are best suited to his conditions.

From the report of the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm for 1907 it will be seen that common emmer stands the highest in the list of cereals for the yield of grain per acre both for the year 1907 and in the average

As Others See Us

I must congratulate you upon the success you have met with in the production of such a really valuable publication as Farm and Dairy. I also like its new name very much and join with your many friends in a hearty wish for the continued success of Farm and Dairy. I also thank you for your efficient and effective efforts in behalf of rural mail delivery.—John Stewart, Durham Co., Ont.

for six years, 1902-'07. Emmer represents one of the best types of spring wheat. It is used as feed for stock instead of for the production of flour. This grain is rather unpopular in some sections owing to its appearance as having a large percentage of hull. The hull on Emmer, however, is much less than it appears to be. Each spikelet contains two kernels of wheat, while that of the other grains encloses only one kernel of meat. Emmer has about 21 per cent. of hull. The Jeanette oat, which is the highest hulled variety, has about 23 per cent., while other varieties have from 25 to 40 per cent. of hull. Manganese barley has about 15 per cent. of hull on the grain.

Emmer may be sown on almost any kind of land, but of course the better the land the better will be the yield. It requires $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre if sown under favorable conditions. It may also be sown at almost any time in the spring when the land is in shape, early or late, with practically the same returns as against other grains that must be sown early in order to get the maximum yield. Emmer is exceptionally good to stand up, which characteristic makes it a capital cereal to use as a nurse crop when seeding down. This important feature, combined with a high yield, should make it a profitable crop to grow.

Fitting Horses For Spring Work

T. R. James, Middlesex Co., Ont.

With spring approaching, an important problem with most farmers is to get their horses, that have been standing idle throughout the winter, into shape for the work of seeding. Fitting the horses for this work should have been begun long ago. In fact they should have been kept fit from the time they went into winter quarters. Where, however, they have been allowed to care mostly for themselves, special attention should have been given them starting with February or early in March. The ration of straw and other coarse fodder on which many horses are wintered, should have been substituted in part with a fodder of a more substantial nature, such as well cured mixed hay and a liberal supply of grain, the best of which is oats, as all horsemen are aware. The one thing to avoid in feeding is sudden changes. If a particular ration has been fed continuously it is the height of folly to change abruptly to some other feed. The change should be made gradually. Failure to observe this law of feeding, in a large measure makes for the prosperity of a large number of veterinarians, who, times without number are called in to treat cases that would never have required treatment, had they been fed in a rational manner.

EXERCISE.

Granted that the horse is in a fair condition the problem of the day is to get him into the best shape possible for work. This will consist mainly of hardening his muscles and the flesh that he already carries, in order that he may not be too easily fatigued when set to work upon the land. Exercise is the one way of attaining this end. It is always a noticeable fact that the team that has been in harness of and on all winter stands the spring work much better than horses that have been enjoying a continuous period of enforced idleness. Any man who has experienced a holiday of greater or less duration can sympathize with the average horse as he is put to work in spring.

GROOMING AND CLIPPING.

Grooming should be attended to regularly. One cannot accurately estimate the value of grooming. Some are inclined to overlook this item in attending to horses. They pay dearly for lack of attention in this respect in the extra food necessary, in their less thrifty condition, and in their rough, unkempt appearance. Where time has a real money value, as is the case on most farms, clipping should be resorted to. The horse that is clipped just before going into the spring seeding, will stand the work much better than his mate that is forced to shed his hair in the natural way. Many will not agree with me on the practice of clipping horses but the average farm worker should not be made to suffer the discomforts that go with lack of attention. The matted coats, of many horses will scarcely dry out from one day of seeding to the next.

It is a common sight to see horses in a run down condition after they have gone through the