

FARMING

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The Best in America.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald, Hermanville, P. E. I., writes : "FARMING is a splendid paper, and since its enlargement to twenty pages compares favorably with any weekly agricultural paper published in the United States. In fact I do not think any in the United States can compare with it, and published as it is, weekly, has great advantages over semi-monthlies in the way of reports of meetings, fairs, etc.



Agricultural News and Comments

The annual show of the Guelph Fat Stock Club will take place at Guelph on December 6th, 7th and 8th next, and promises to be one of the most successful shows ever held there. It is expected that there will be an exceedingly large exhibit of poultry. A number of special prizes have been donated, which should prove good drawing cards.

Before winter sets in the barnyard should be thoroughly cleaned of all manure. No old manure should be left around to be covered up by the new stuff during the winter. The fresher manure is put into the land the better. Rotting means decay, and the escape of gases from the manure pile when this process is going on means a loss in the fertilizing power of the manure.

For each one hundred inhabitants in Russia there are 25 horses, according to a recent official report. This greatly exceeds the proportion in Western Europe, where the relative number per 100 of the population varies from 2 to 17. There are very few purely local or foreign breeds in Russia. Percherons and Clydesdales are bred in the Imperial stables. The Orloff is one of the leading breeds.

Judge a farmer by the team he drives. If he drives scrub horses and mules his farming is done on the scrub plan and he will raise scrub colts, because he will breed his scrub mares to the cheapest stallion, with no regard to improvement; only the color must suit his taste, but he cares nothing for size and quality that go to make up the market requirements; he cares nothing for the market—he does not breed to suit the market, but to suit himself, and never has a good horse to sell.

The horse receipts for September at the Chicago Union Stock Yards show a healthy trade, 7,500 horses were received and 7,450 shipped, as compared with 8,250 for Sept., 1897. The receipts for the nine months of the year are 84,000 horses, a gain of 7,000 over the corresponding nine months last year. In connection with this report it is pointed out that the horse famine has not come, but that the best class of horses are getting scarcer, and the increasing demand draws more on the common horses.

Great Britain imports annually about six hundred million dollars' worth of the twelve main food products which Canada is able to supply. These are breadstuffs, animals, dressed meats, cheese, butter, eggs, fish, fruit, lard, milk, potatoes and poultry. Of these twelve main food commodities Canada exported to Great Britain forty million dollars' worth in 1895. In 1897 this trade had grown to sixty million dollars' worth. Farmers can keep this market only by superiority of quality, by regularity in supplying what it wants and by putting the goods up in the nicest form.

Last spring Mr. W. H. Orr, who had charge of the Government spraying outfit, conducted a series of spraying experiments on an orchard in Ontario County, in which some of the trees were sprayed and some left unsprayed. Recently Mr. Orr visited this same farm and found that the fruit on the sprayed trees gave from 70 to 80 per cent. of sound, clean fruit, while the unsprayed trees gave from none up to from 4 to 16 per cent. The scab and codling moth played havoc with the unsprayed trees. Mr. Orr reports that unsprayed orchards this year contain a very small percentage of sound, clean fruit.

The Arkansas Experiment Station gives the following wash for insects which gather on the bodies of animals. Infuse one and three quarter pounds of pyrethrum in one gallon of kerosene and after twenty-four hours pour off the fluid; then dissolve one pound of soap in a gallon of boiling water, remove the soap and water, add the kerosene extract at once and mix thoroughly by means of a large syringe or force pump. This makes a kerosene emulsion with the active principle of pyrethrum added. For use on live stock, one part of this emulsion is mixed with four parts of water, which ought to be sure death to flies and other insects.

The grading of potatoes according to quality is recommended. A writer says there is just as much difference between a mealy and a soggy potato as there is between tenderloin and rump steak. The difficulty is to sort out the good ones. The following potato test is given by an exchange: "Wash them and put them in a tub of water. They will all sink. Add salt and the poorer and lighter ones will rise. Add more salt and others will rise. Those which finally remain at the bottom you can warrant every time to be prime bakers. Not over 10 or 20 per cent. of potatoes will stand the test. For these your customers will gladly pay extra prices."

The following plan is recommended for keeping new cider sweet: "New cider should be filtered perfectly bright. The cider should then be drawn into clean stout bottles, which are filled to within 1½ inches below the cork. The bottles are then securely corked and wired. They are then placed corks downward in a kettle of sufficient size and the intervening space filled with cold or tepid water. The kettle and contents are then placed upon a stove to heat. When the temperature of the water has reached 150 degrees, at which it ought to remain some 15 or 20 minutes, the kettle and contents are removed and allowed to cool. The bottles are then stored on their side in a cool cellar.

In 1890 the hog products exported from Canada amounted to 7,813,415 pounds; in 1892 they were 12,316,650 pounds; in 1893, 20,116,933 pounds; in 1894, 30,067,654 pounds, in 1896, 55,252,593 pounds, and in 1897, 70,128,453 pounds. These figures show a wide expansion of this important trade. England imports the bulk of her bacon from Canada, the United States, and Denmark. In 1897 she imported 509,546,880 pounds of bacon, of which Canada contributed 51,152,976 pounds; the United States, 308,170,016 pounds, and Denmark 136,876,768 pounds, the balance coming chiefly from Russia, Sweden, and Holland.

At Chicago's western gateway, grazing in meadows less than fifty miles from the city, 2,500,000 sheep are annually