

be considered is the presence of wild oats in the grass. Cut it as soon as the oats head.

Now, I think I hear someone saying: "How are you going to keep your land clean without fallowing?" My reply is, if you have a piece of land that is dirty plow it in the fall or early in spring, shallow, then plow again or disk thoroughly about the first of June and sow to barley, seeding to timothy.

To sum up the advantages overfallowing: It will produce wheat of better quality; it will not impoverish the land, as it restores humus to the soil; it will stop drifting; the land is producing something all the time, instead of lying idle a year. My experience with summerfallowing has nearly always been too much straw, a very expensive crop to handle, and usually a poor quality wheat. One more important point, and that is to plow the sod early after the hay is off, about six inches deep—try to get it done before July is out. Get it well disked and then sufficient moisture will be stored up for the next crop.

Man.

J. CURTIS.

Handling Flax Crop

An interested reader writes that while writers frequently give advice regarding preparation of land and seeding of flax, little is given to show what are the best methods of handling the crop. We would therefore like to hear from some of our friends, giving particulars about when and how to cut the crop and details about handling it until it is disposed of. Let us know your experience.

Alfalfa or Clovers

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Why so much noise about alfalfa and so little about such clovers as red or broad clover, cow grass and others? Alfalfa, or Old Country lucerne, has been grown in England for centuries and so have most clovers, but for one acre of alfalfa some thousands of acres are growing red clovers. No farmer would think of seeding down alfalfa for a hay crop or pasture in preference to red clover and mixed grasses, and I have yet to learn that the best clovers cannot be as easily grown in this country as alfalfa. Alfalfa has its place; it is handy for cutting green to use as green feed, but it will never take the place of the best clovers and grasses as hay or pasture. Nor do I believe it is likely to succeed on our heavy Saskatchewan soils as well as red clovers and grasses, when the latter receive the same attention, are better known and form part of the cropping rotation.

I don't want to throw cold water on alfalfa, but I am just wondering if some more important forage crops will not be neglected during the

excitement between now and 1914. Not many years ago brome grass was lauded to the skies. To-day it is a debatable point if it is worth growing at all. But lest some alfalfa or brome grass enthusiasts are inclined to deal harshly with me, kindly let me say, Mr. Editor, that I am still growing a little of both.

Sask.

FRANK SHEPHERD.

Five Times the Cost

I am a constant reader of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE and look forward to its arrival every week. I would not be without it for five times its cost.—CHAS. STOVER, Saskatchewan.

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The average yield per acre of winter wheat in the United States in the ten years, 1900-1909, was 14.3 bushels, and in the ten years 1890-1899, 12.9 bushels.

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North Dakota Agricultural College is to carry on some tests in the oiling of roads. Crude oil will be used and about a quarter of a mile of road will be experimented on.

DAIRY

Definite Gains From Cow Testing

A. W. Haine, of Dewdney, B. C., writes as follows: "When we joined the cow-testing association in 1908 we had 21 cows, aged between 4 and 7 years, with an average yield of 6,800 pounds milk. In 1909 our 21 cows averaged 8,360 pounds milk. We have 16 purebreds and 5 grade Holsteins. I would not think of stopping weighing and testing our milk, as I feel satisfied that if a dairyman looks well to the sire of his herd, and weighs and tests, his herd is bound to improve, and the hired men take more interest in their work. We commenced dairying 8 years ago, with the intention of bringing our cows up to the average of 6,000 pounds milk each, which we did in about 5 years."

Such statements as the foregoing should prove inspiring to every dairyman. A fairly high standard of 6,000 pounds milk was reached in 5 years, and an increase of 23 per cent. has been added. Mr. Haine will probably be up to 10,000 pounds per cow soon. That is one particularly interesting feature of cow testing; ideals are realized; then those still higher are sought for again with satisfactory results. What excellent herds could be developed if dairymen all over the Dominion would take up cow testing in real earnest.

C. F. W.

Dairymen at Saskatoon

The dairy association in Saskatchewan had a most successful convention at Saskatoon recently. So encouraging was the outcome that it was decided to hold a similar convention every year. Addresses and discussions were of such nature as goes a long way toward convincing the Westerner that dairying can be placed in a class with grain production as regards profits. Almost all the speakers urged mixed farming instead of exclusive wheat growing. A great part of credit for the success of the convention belongs to W. A. Wilson, the enthusiastic superintendent of dairying for the province.

Hon. W. R. Motherwell, in discussing the government's policy and its bearing on the dairy industry, pointed out that in the early years of the province those farmers who had taken up dairy farming had kept themselves off the street when grain growing farmers had gone to the wall. Referring to the Dominion government's campaign in 1897 and its consequent establishment of creameries in many districts, he asked his hearers not to be severe in their criticism, but to benefit by the mistakes of that campaign. It was conducted with the idea of diverting attention from exclusive grain growing, and to assist the farmers during hard times. The Provincial Dairy Act of 1906 was sound legislation and the policy of the government since then had been to put creameries only where they would be successful. Such a policy of centralization had been all important. Before, there had been a multiplicity of creameries out of all proportion to the cream in sight.

Mr. Motherwell appealed for co-operation on the part of creameries throughout the province, and assured the delegates that their support could be of great value. With the advantage of express rates and the live interest and help generally of the department, now was the time to go forward. Butter could not be made on enthusiasm. It required cream. It was the second 50,000 pounds of butter-making that decreased the cost of production.

They knew all about the past, they knew the present situation, but what about the future? There were the constant difficulties besetting joint stock companies to promote the institution of dairies. Subscribers refused to respond to the subsequent calls. That was why they went to the government, when they were up against it. Mr. Motherwell considered that such joint stock companies might be put on the same basis as telephone companies, with such regulations to suit changing conditions.

If butter had not quality it was but axle grease. It was often a surprise to him that that quality had been kept up to so high a standard in the province. The department was anxious that the quality be maintained and improved. People liked blaming an institution or government with broad shoulders. Mr. Motherwell asked the farmers to give the government inspector a welcome when he went to them. He was there for their benefit, and his visits would have an educative value. It would be a great saving and a matter of considerable advantage to the industry if they could have a cold storage in Saskatchewan.

COWS AND PIGS FOR PROFIT

H. C. Lisle, M.L.A., Lloydminster, said that wheat was too much recognized as the principal agricultural factor of the West, but perhaps dairy farming was of greater moment. With wheat the best of soil in time became depleted. The other industry renovated the land. From a long experience of Western land conditions he knew that the bulk of the land held out conditions of great advantage for mixed farming. The mixed farmer was generally the more successful. In Alberta after several years' experience he had found that the best paying items had been cows and pigs. He had sown 150 acres in wheat year in and year out, and cultivated it according to modern methods, but he could safely say that putting one year against another, he had not made a cent out of wheat.

It was his experience that ranch cows didn't pay for their keep. They required importation



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