



A Comfortable Home and Substantial Buildings Characteristic of the Best Dairy Farms of Eastern Ontario

These buildings are the centre of activity on the 100-acre farm of Mr. J. White, Peterboro Co., Ont. The milk produced on this farm is retailed in the city of Peterboro. —Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

When to Breed the Mare

J. R. D., Renfrew Co., Ont.

SPRING foals arrive at a time when horse labor is greatly in demand for seeding operations. Is it any wonder, then, that the foal dropped at this time does not get a fair start in life? In the past, practically all of our foals have arrived in the spring, and the disadvantages of the system are now clear to us. The fact that the intervals between the foal's meals are so long makes best results impossible. The hard work that its mother must perform decreases her milk flow, and her foal is apt to be decidedly underfed.

We have found this system to be hard on our mares. Working steadily and attempting to suckle their foals pulls them down in flesh, to say nothing of the effect caused by worry at the separation. Another advantage we hear chalked against the prevailing plan is found in lost time. Coming in from the fields at short intervals to allow the foals to drink, and separating the horses from one another before meals and from their foals after meals uses up energy that is needed in preparing the seed bed. We have fully decided that our old system is hard on the foal, on the dam, and on the teamster. A few farmers of our acquaintance have commenced to raise autumn colts. They claim many important advantages for this method. The mare's services, as we all know, are seldom required during the winter, and she need not be separated from the foal during the suckling period. The owner has also more time to devote to the youngster, and it receives better care than its spring-dropped brother or sister. Then, too, it escapes the worry of flies during the first months of its existence.

The reason that we have not adopted this plan sooner was lack of proper housing accommodation for fall or winter foals. Recent experiences of our neighbors have shown us, however, that a little fixing up will put us in possession of suitable quarters. Another disadvantage of fall foaling at present is that the choice of sires is considerably more limited in the fall of the year. We are planning to give the newer system a try-out this fall.

Our advice to the farmer who can not or will not raise fall colts had better have them come after the greater part of the spring work is done, say about the middle of May. The mares can then be given a couple of months' run on the grass before having commences, and the foal causes little bother, and acquires the habit of looking out for itself before it is necessary to separate it from the dam for even short periods.

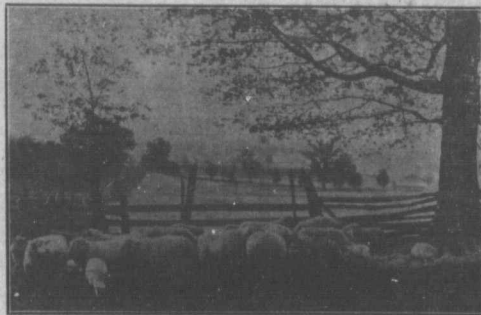
The slow work of putting in the crop is not as hard on a mare carrying a foal as on a mare suckling one.

Fertility Values

L. M. E., Colchester Co., N. S.

THE value of barnyard manure can be determined by watching results the first season after application. On a farm in the Stewiack Valley in this county, with which I am intimately acquainted, are some eight or 10 fields. One of these fields is always expected to outyield the others at least two to one. The difference in yield is explained by an application of 48 loads of manure to the acre, almost 10 years ago. This inordinate application was the result of a hired man misunderstanding his orders, but it has certainly given a splendid example of fertility values. Such an application was a foolish one, but it has been bearing results for 10 years.

I have a gravelly field on my own farm. Four years ago I dressed this with 15 loads of manure to the acre, and planted with potatoes, mangels and turnips. The part of the field that has received manure yielded at least 50 per cent. more crop than the acre or so that had been missed.



"A Fence Corner Pastoral"

We were quite satisfied that the superior crop of roots had paid for the manure and that that would be the end of it so far as any noticeable results were concerned. Last year the field was in oats and the manured portion yielded ever more favorably in comparison with the untreated portion than had been the case the year before. Since then I have taken one big crop of clover and one of mixed hay off the manured portion and a very slim crop off the rest.

If I were to take into consideration the extra crops received in the last four years, the manure applied has been worth a good deal more per ton than it has been credited with in the most optimistic government bulletins. It has shown me, above everything else, the value of conserving every pound of fertilizer produced on the farm.

Winter Feeding of Sheep

"Ontario Shepherd," Ontario Co., Ont.

THE most successful shepherd I have ever known never made less than 100 per cent. profit on his flock over and above all expenses, including labor. He owed his success to splendid natural conditions for sheep husbandry. He had abundance of well-shaded pasture for the sheep in summer. Not far from the buildings was a natural swamp quite densely wooded, and in which the grass grew very long in summer. In the winter the mucky ground froze solid, and here the sheep ran all winter, with only a cheaply constructed shed for shelter in damp weather. In this shed they were fed a very little clover hay and some grain. Quite a bit of their feed they obtained for themselves in the swamp.

Many of us lack these ideal profit-making conditions, but that is no reason why we should not make a profit from sheep. We are well satisfied with the profits that we are making at Spring Farm, although our conditions are no better than the average found on farms in Ontario. The winter quarters of our flock consists

of a cheap shed at one side of the barnyard, which the sheep can enter at will. The roof is waterproof, but otherwise the construction is of the cheapest. This shed is always well bedded, as sheep must be kept dry above all other things. The yard, too, in which they run in winter is bedded in dirty weather with wheat straw to keep their fleeces clean. In this shed we do all the feeding.

Alfalfa Ideal Roughage

We have found that the ideal roughage for sheep is second crop alfalfa. Lacking that, we would feed the best clover hay we have. Corn stover is also appreciated by the flock, but they have not got much of that since we built our silo. Silage, fed in limited quantities, is better than the stover, and at the same time affords suc-

culence. There was a time when we considered that we could not winter sheep without turnips, but the silage has been giving such good results and is so much cheaper than turnips, that we have almost given up feeding roots. Mangels, when obtainable, are good for the ewes but dangerous for the rams.

When we have good alfalfa or clover hay along with ensilage or roots for succulence, we find that very little grain is needed. What we do feed is fed in the sheep, and in this way threshing bills to some extent are avoided and the straw affords some slight variation in the diet of the flock.

Part of our market lambs are carried through the first winter. If the market is strong we (Concluded on page 18)