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# THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

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# Farm Experiences

## FALL AND SPRING BYE

I wish to add a note of my experience with rye to that of J.A.L., who writes under "Farm Experiences" in the issue of Jume 7th. He says, "From my experience spring rye is not a good crop to sow because any of the best known tame hays or green oats will beat it for feeding qualities and the hay crops ways with grain can be sown at a more for feeding qualities and the hay crops sown with grain can be sown at a more convenient time." I quite agree that green oats and hay may be grown to better advantage than spring rye in many cases, but on the other hand, spring rye has a place of its own which cannot be taken by either an oat or

many cases, but on the other hand, spring rye has a place of its own which cannot be taken by either an oat or hay crop.

I have found spring rye and admirable hay crop. It should be sown very early in the spring and it can be successfully sown on the poorest and dirtiest part of the farm. The first erop of hay is cut when the rye is just headed out about July 1. This will yield from 1½ to 2½ tons, of as good quality as Brome hay. The second crop is cut about September 1, when it will yield from 1 to 2½ tons per acre. In addition to the hay crop-the two cuttings will go a long way towards eradicating wild oats, thistles, sow thistles and similar weeds. Instead of cutting a second crop of hay it may be pastured from August 1 till freeze-up. Immediately on cutting the second crop of rye hay and not later than September 10, the ground may be plowed and sowed to fall rye. A rotation of spring rye, followed by fall rye will kill any weed that grows in Manitoha.

J.A.La says that unless a man grows a carload of fall rye it is hard to dispose of. My experience is different. At the present time there is an active demand for fall rye seed and anyone who cares to advertise it for sale in The Guide can dispose of small lots for seed freely. The demand on the Morden district, where much rye is grown, for seed during the fall of 1915, was greater than the supply. I grew 895 bushels of fall rye in 1915 on 39 acres, and, having no facilities for keeping it for seed, I sold it for 87 cents per bushel, there being no duty on it going into the United States—and I killed the

there being no duty on it going into the United States-and I killed the

the United States—and I killed the weeds.

There is no crop so profitable as rye on dirty ground and there is no crop as good a weed cradicator. There were 364,572 hushels of rye grown in Manitoha in 1915. Most of it was grown on ground too dirty to grow anything else. If we had grown 3,000,000 hushels on 150,000 arres of the dirtiest land in Manitoha we would have gone a long way towards cleaning it from noxious weeds. I would suggest that municipal councils, instead of cutting crops which are polluted with noxious weeds should take a deposit in cash or a bond from noxious weed growers, conditioned on sowing the foul land to fall rye before September 1. That will do the trick on the weeds and it will give a good return in money. There is no use, however, in sowing rye late in the fall.

My experience agrees with that of J.A.I., that fall rye mixed with barley or oats makes a splendid ration for horses, cattle, hogs or sheep. Not only is it good feed for stock but it is ad-

mirable for bread. Personally I pre-fer rye bread, that is bread made of one-half rye flour and one-half wheat flour, to straight wheat flour bread. It is more nutritious and, to my taste, it has a better flavor. Try it for your-self. Every farmer should have a copy of Winkler's first bulletin "Rye as a Weed Eradicator," No. 31. It will be sent free on application to the Editor of Publications, Department of Agri-culture, Winnipeg. culture, Winnipeg.

A. McLEOD.

ESTIMATING WEIGHT OF CATTLE

Measure round the animal close behind the shoulder, then along the back from the fore part of the shoulder-blade to the bone at the tail. Multiply the control of the shoulder-blade to the bone at the tail. tiply the square of the girth by five times the length, both expressed in feet. Divide the product by 21, and the result is the approximate weight of the four quarters in stones of 14 pounds. Very fat cattle weigh

one-twentieth about one-twentieth more, and lean cattle about one-twentieth less than the result obtained by the above method. The four quarters are little more than half the weight of the animal when living. The skin weighs about one-eighteenth and the tallow about one-twelfth of the whole. As an example of the of the whole. As an example of the method employed, if the girth round the animal at AB on the sketch is 7 ft. and the length C.D. is 5 ft., multiply the square of 7, or 49, by fire times the length, or 25. This gives 1,225, which, when divided by 21, shows the approxi-mate weight to be 584 stones of 14 pounds.

### PERENNIAL SOW THISTLE

Everybody should be on the watch for the perennial sow thistle. This weed is now getting a foothold in the central part of the Red River Valley and prompt eradication measures must be employed if this weed is to be kept in check. The sow thistle is the most noxious perennial weed in the valley in that it makes a sod more rapidly than noxious perennial weed in the valley in that it makes a sod more rapidly than quack grass and smiothers crops more than either quack grass or Canada thistle. The seeds of this weed are carried long distances by the vind, which fact explains its sudden appearance in cultivated, grain and meadow land. It is easily identified in that when the plant is in full

the plant is in full bloom the flower generally stands well above the grain crop. The flower is bright yellow is color, and looking very

about the size and looking very much like the dandelion flower. The leaves are blue green to light green in color, much longer than broad with soft prickles on the margin. The stem is also prickly and when broken shows a milky juice.

Like the Canada thistle, the peren-

nial sow thistle has a long, underground, creeping stem, which will produce a new plant every few inches. By spreading in this way it is able to take complete possession of the ground, crowd-

ing out young grain plants before they get a start. All fields should be carefully searched at once for this weed and all plants in bloom should be pulled and burned and, if possible, the patch should be dug up and destroyed. If a field is budly infested the thistles should be kept from seeding and the land should be plowed just as soon as the grain can be taken off. Early fall plowed land should be hare fallowed until all growth ceases in the fall, and to clean up such fields entirely plant a cultivated crop the following year. Everyone should become acquainted with this weed and ald in its extermination.

F. M. G., Man.

# BEE KEEPING

During the winter of 1914, owing to poor stores and too much heat and smoke in the cellar, out of shteen colonies put in I took out only two which were of any use.

Seeing bees advertised in pound packages I ordered a pound from the South just for an experiment. They came the first of May, in the very best condition, with only about one dozen dead bees. I put them on two drawn combs filled partly with sugar syrup. They were beautiful bees. The weather was very cold, so I covered them with quilts and stuffed a feather pillow in the open space at the side of the hive and left them alone, except to visit them and sit and watch them hustle. They were the greatest little workers—out first in the morning and in last at night.

I determined to have more of them, and wired for five more partiages, which arrived May 26 in even better condition than the others—not a spoonful of dead hees. How proud I was of them!

I followed the directions as nearly possible, giving them drawn combs of sugar syrup. I tried putting a tomato-can of syrup inverted, on a saucer in the open space at the side of the hive, and it must have worked all sight from the way those little duffers worked and built up.

I shook one of my old colonies June

hive, and it must have worked all sight from the way those little duffers worked and built up.

I shook one of my old colonies June.

17, and gave frames of broad to the new ones. They had their hives full of broad and been in the middle of July. On the 19th, the first one cast a fine swarm, and from then on I had, a swarm every day until all but one of the new colonies had swarmed.

The been I received May I filled two supers of sections and one half-depth super of extracted. I got 20 cents persection and about 30 pounds of extracted, which I sold at 15 cents a pound. I did not give these bees any broad either, as they were almost a month, ahead of the other five.

I now have sixteen good strong colonies and two not so strong, if they winter successfully. From the remaining colonies I sold 193 sections and 196 pounds of extracted.

My little apiary is on the north side of the lawn, with about 20 acres of natural shelter to the west, and with a hedge on the east. The bush is oak and wild fruit trees—plum, cherry and saskatoon.

MRS. F. WESTOATE.

MRS. F. WESTGATE.

