

EFFICIENT FARMING

YOUR MEDICINE CHEST FOR YOUR LIVESTOCK.

A medicine chest for your livestock, and some knowledge of how to use it, may save you some veterinary bills, and perhaps the life of some of your animals. Here are some hints you may be able to use:

Label all medicine and keep poisons locked up so the children will not get hold of them. I find it a good idea to destroy drugs I find unlabeled. Often dose might look like something else, and if used instead of a remedy it may cause more trouble.

Keep all medicines in the chest. Powders should be kept in air-tight containers, for they lose their strength when exposed very long to air. I find sterilized fruit jars will do nicely. When you buy drugs always insist upon fresh stock. Stuff on shelves for a long time may lose its strength, and thus be useless.

Especially if you have a large amount of stock, you will want for compounding drugs a large smooth table or counter with drawers. One of the drawers may be divided into compartments for bottle corks, tin boxes of different size for ointments, and some tin or cardboard boxes for powders to be dispensed in teaspoonful or tablespoonful doses in the stable.

Here too may be kept labels for the boxes, a graduate for the measuring of liquids, a glass funnel or two, and some squares of paper for the wrapping of separate dose powders. In another drawer or compartment should be kept an assortment of clean bottles, chiefly half and one pint, but with a few smaller and larger sizes. There should also be one or two strong long-necked pint and quart bottles for drenching. On the table may be kept scales and weights, a mortar and pestle for the pulverizing and mixing of drugs, a large slab of plate glass, china, or slate, and a flexible knife for the mixing of ointments. Here, or in a cupboard in the stable, should also be kept a hook and noosed rope for the drenching of horses, a spray pump for the application of fly repellants, and a special pump or syringe or two feet of one-inch rubber hose with a large tin funnel attached, for rectal injections.

The veterinarian uses many alkaloids and poisons, as well as other special drugs which cannot safely be given by the layman. As colic drenches usually contain some narcotic, a small supply should be obtained from a veterinarian for emergency cases. Fever mixtures, worm powders, tonic powders, liniments, blistering salves, and other combinations of drugs may also be obtained in the same way.—Dr. A. S. Alexander.

IN MY APRON POCKET.

I have a 20-acre farm which is in good shape, fairly well stocked, and within reach of a good market.

Until 1922 I did not keep regular books. I am at a loss to understand now why. I have resolved never again to neglect this indispensable aid to making the farm pay.



The Wild Rabbits.

Among the sandhills,
Nearby the sea,
Wild young rabbits
Were seen by me.

They live in burrows,
With winding ways,
And there they shelter
On rainy days.

The mother rabbits
Make cosy nests,
With furry linings
From their breasts.

The tender young ones
Are nursed and fed,
And safely hidden
In this warm bed.

And when they are older
They all come out
Upon the sandhills,
And frisk about.

They play and nibble
The long sweet grass,
But scamper away
Whenever you pass.

A "No Smoking" sign on the door of each large laying house is not a bad idea for the poultryman. Each house is thoroughly covered with litter and it should be dry litter. Such material burns easily, but visitors to a poultry plant may not consider that fact unless the sign acts as a reminder.

On January 1, 1922, I provided myself with a daybook and ledger. In the daybook, which was vest-pocket (I should say apron-pocket) size, I jotted down in pencil a brief memorandum of all transactions of selling, buying, or paying out money for working expenses. At night I carefully transferred these pencil notes to the ledger under appropriate headings. Once a month the ledger was balanced.

I kept account in another book of all work done on the farm, and of the returns obtained or the losses incurred from every investment. Each cow and calf had a place in this book. All purchases and sales of poultry were balanced against the egg-producing record of my hens, or the value to me of chickens marketed and used for the table.

This soon resulted in my making radical changes. It brought to my attention that I was feeding, housing, and milking three cows who were doing the work for me of a single high-grade animal. Having reached this conclusion, I lost no time in selling these cows and buying a fine registered cow and her first calf. My returns in milk and butter sold have greatly increased, while the cost of feeding and work has been reduced two-thirds.

I found from my records that beekeeping was paying me well, in proportion to the small amount of time and expense involved. I had not regarded my bees seriously, and only kept three hives. I now have twelve hives, with Italian queens and have put in a quarter acre of buckwheat, and as much crimson clover, for their use. A grocer who deals only in "fancy" products buys all the honey I have to sell.

On the other hand, my books showed me the futility of maintaining the small flock of turkeys I have been keeping. My attention has been fixed upon the excellent price the birds brought in the Christmas market. I had not realized the cost of egg-feeding, the hours of attention the young birds demanded, and the constant expenditure of my time and attention during the nine months it took to make turkeys marketable. I am not raising turkeys this year. Were I differently situated, there would doubtless be money in them; as it is, they are only an expense.

A carefully kept record of egg production has enabled me to weed out unproductive hens. Now I have an army of pullets working for me of which I am justly proud.

My books have taught me to eliminate, as far as possible, the casual customer, and have a regular market for all my produce. I have learned where to buy, as well as to sell.

They have enabled me to collect many small accounts that I might have overlooked, and, on the other hand, are a constant reminder to pay my own bills with the least possible delay.

Altogether, my accounts are one of the best investments of time that I could make.—Mrs. M. J. Jenkins.

Only One Hog in Eight a "Select."

Only one hog in every eight marketed this year has been a "select." In other words, rather less than 12 per cent. of the total number have entered the top grade to get the premium. Ontario, of course, leads the provinces with 19.5 per cent.; then come Quebec, 17.4, Manitoba 6.4 and Alberta 2.1. With the exception of the Maritime provinces and British Columbia, where the supplies are small, all the provinces are included in the returns just made by the Dominion Government. The table at the foot of this column summarizes the report.

The total "selects" in the 10 months, about a quarter of a million, is just equal to Danish exports to Great Britain for any five weeks in the last six months. Plainly, if Canadian farmers want to get a larger share of the big British imports of pork products—worth \$270,000,000 in 1922—they must do better than produce one hog in eight of the desired type.

For 12 months a premium which has averaged about one dollar per cwt. has been paid for the "select" hog. Put in another way Canadian farmers are actually losing by their indifference this premium on seven out of eight hogs they market.

HOG GRADING FOR ONE YEAR.		
	Total Hogs	Per cent. of selects
Ontario	1,028,611	200,822 19.5
Quebec	277,793	48,851 17.4
Manitoba	212,425	13,705 6.4
Alberta	284,179	6,113 2.1

Reaping and Threshing One Operation.

The only reaper-thresher in operation in Canada this year is on the Dominion Experimental Farm at Swift Current, Sask. It cuts a 12-foot swath and will cover from 80 to 85 acres per day.

It is really a combination of a binder—minus the binding attachment—and a small separator, without the usual feeder and blower. As it is cut, the grain is carried directly to the separator, and from this the threshed grain goes through a spout into a wagon attached to the left side of the machine. The straw is dropped at the rear in a winrow.

The machine may be drawn by a tractor or by horses. If horses, then 12 are needed for a 12-foot bar. Combines of various widths up to 30 feet are made and in use. All of the cutting and separating mechanism is operated by an engine mounted on the frame of the combine.

The one process method eliminates the cost of the twine, and of stooking, and when the work is finished the saving will be found to just about represent the cost of threshing. The cost of the machine is round two thousand dollars. Two men operate it, so the good wife has no such bugbear as "cooking for threshers."

The reaper-thresher is not a new invention, but for a good many years has been in general use in the Argentinian and Australian, in Mexico, and also in the United States as far north as Kansas and Nebraska, and every year it is coming farther north.

This is the second year it has been used on the Swift Current Experimental Farm, and the Supt., J. G. Taggart, has found it very satisfactory within its limitations. It has not been his experience that it shatters the grain any worse than the old method of harvesting.

Yet it has its limitations and drawbacks. As the grain does not stand in stook, the entire field must be dead ripe, or it will heat or mold in the bin; and in a windy country every day that the grain remains standing is a risk. All this must be considered in the operation of the reaper-thresher.

Push the Bean.

We may search the entire list of vegetable foods and not find one that supplies the splendid balance of nutritive elements that the bean does. Nor have we one which gives to the consumer such a high degree of energy.

Nature has supplied to this product an unusually liberal percentage of protein. It has twenty per cent. more of this element than has corn, potatoes or onions. As compared to wheat, it carries fourteen per cent. more, and it even contains a seven per cent. greater supply than does beef.

In the amount of energy, it is unexcelled. It has double the calories that are found in many of our meats and eggs; leads by a long way the whole list of vegetables and contains even twice the calories of that par-excellent food, milk.

It is not our purpose to urge the full substitution of beans for these other foods. Beans have a place when used in combination or as a change; and, particularly to the person who is doing hard physical labor, the quantity of beans included in the ration can be relatively large to the advantage of both health and economy.

Long ago the army and navy, those efficient institutions whose dietitians do everything to secure the maximum of results from the food consumed, learned the value of beans in the strenuous life of the soldier.

These facts, taken with the favorable keeping qualities and easy handling, make beans a product which should be favorably known in every household of the land.

The general consumption of beans ought, therefore, to be encouraged. How shall this be done?

Saving the Rainy Day.

To the farmer and his helpers who wish to make the best possible use of what otherwise might be a period of enforced idleness during inclement weather, I would suggest the installation of labor-saving grain chutes.

I have been in barns where the horses were fed in the basement, also the cattle, the granary directly overhead. Day after day the farmer toils up and down the stairs carrying grain and sometimes hay for feeding his animals.

This is certainly a useless expenditure of motion or human energy. But there is, too, a quarter of an hour or more wasted each day that might be more profitably expended. The half of a rainy day is ample time in which to construct a conveyor spout from the grain bins above to the feeding alley, which would have effectively taken up this lost motion.—G. Everitt.

These are the days when the methods of our fathers are being severely challenged.

Some Productive Winter Work

Suggestions on How to Put the Slack Time to Profitable Use

BY J. L. JUSTICE.

I have been thinking over a suggestion I heard recently in regard to productive employment on farms during the winter months where little or no live stock is kept or produced, and I recall several instances where farmers were turning their time into cash in a number of different ways. I am sure that the ones I mention are only a few of the innumerable ways in which many otherwise idle days might be turned to profit.

I know one farmer—he feeds live stock, too, on a medium-sized farm—who has made it a practice for the last three or four years of building self-feeders for hogs. The self-feeder is quite popular now wherever hogs are grown or fattened, and by making only one design with a small and large size, the lumber is purchased to advantage at a cost of five to eight dollars a thousand under the retail price. Suitable hardware is easily secured, and a little local advertising provides a market for the finished product.

It is the advertising that counts for best success in such a venture. For instance, one farmer with an eye to business in getting orders found where he could buy good solid barrels at small cost, so he built a neat, light self-feeder for growing pigs, loaded it on the side of his flivver and took it around to every public sale gathering in the country, where he got orders for all he could build in his spare time. Along this same line, one could build portable hog houses and farrowing sheds, using the above suggestion, building a miniature model to show at public gatherings or in store windows of small towns.

Another idea worked out by a farmer who had gravel on his farm was to make concrete tile. He bought a small tile-making outfit to make tile for his own farm, and when his own needs were supplied he and his two boys made tile for their neighbors at a cost below what they could be purchased for on the market. This sort of a project could not be carried out in freezing weather without using a heated building or a place where the concrete would not freeze. To this might be added the moulding of concrete posts and blocks.

One man who kept a few cows and ground his own feed had so many requests for grinding that he bought a good-sized grinder and with the use of his outfit made quite a little profit from the business. It was found that more neighbors wanted ground feed during the winter and spring months than during the summer pasture season, which just suited his convenience. It saved the farmers long trips to the city mill and when they helped him

grind the feed he charged them less than they would have had to pay elsewhere.

A fruit man who had to buy a great many wooden boxes and receptacles to market his fruit in, utilized his winter days in cutting and making his own boxes. He installed the machinery to saw and utilize the lumber on his own place and found a market right in his own community for all his surplus boxes, as it happens to be a community partly devoted to fruit growing.

A friend who happens to be a good hand at butchering started to doing butchering for a few neighbors. So many requests came in that he conceived the idea of purchasing a full butchering outfit, loaded it all on a light truck, and with his son and son-in-law he followed the business as a regular thing from November to the middle of March. They butcher from a thousand to twelve hundred hogs every winter and have a splendid system for quick and profitable service within a radius of six or seven miles, and turn down many requests that it is impossible for them to meet.

I heard of a rather unusual idea recently which should be workable by the right sort of a man. Having a reputation for making such a fine quality of potato chips, this farm wife made batches occasionally to sell to friends. Her husband had a large crop of potatoes which were of a variety that made exceptionally good potato chips, so they converted many of the potatoes into chips and disposed of them in the bulk to grocers and cafes.

A young farmer who was somewhat of a natural mechanic, enlarged his workshop, and repaired all kinds of farm machinery that it was possible for him to do, including trucks, tractors and automobiles. Another who is handy at plumbing work does a great deal of the plumbing for farmers in his community at a charge far below that of a union plumber.

The testing of seed corn was made the principal work of a young man and his sister, but they found it difficult to interest farmers in this work until after the first of the year or along toward spring. This is particularly and exacting work but may be done by any intelligent person who will study the principles involved, especially in detecting the disease of corn called rootrot, which can be determined only on the well-germinated kernel. I could mention other ways that ingenious farmers have used their spare time to advantage, but the above list will show some of the innumerable plans devised, some of which may be an inspiration to other farmers in helping them out of a difficulty.

EDUCATION IN THE WILDERNESS

BY MRS. HAMER-JACKSON.

Quite recently a friend and I started on a tour of the school districts of Northern Alberta, just to get a few figures on the educational facilities for the farmers' children in the northern part of the province.

Setting out in a little Ford coupe, we motored north, east and west, as far as trails would allow us to go, often getting where no motor cars had ever been known to pass before, but on the whole covering about 650 miles of country roads and farming districts where this year crops are over five feet in height and heavy with grain.

Opportunities abound in the bush country where clearing can be done easily and where the richness of the soil—deep black loam—has created little forests of wild growth which can be cut down by hand or with special machinery, or burnt down or again plowed under. It is not, however, the agricultural possibilities of the country in which we were interested, but, as mentioned above, in the educational facilities within the reach of children in the rural districts.

Drawing a straight line from the western boundary of Alberta to the eastern limit of the province, just north of the city of Edmonton, the territory counts about 600 schools operated under the Provincial Department of Education. The largest number of these schools are rural institutions of the one-room type, although many of them are two-roomed schools, while the towns, even the small ones, give high school tuition for pupils wishing to go on with their studies and to take high school work. As a general rule, the country school boards or boards of trustees are anxious to keep the children near their homes, and they are willing to make every effort to secure the services of teachers who will teach the high school grades.

EFFICIENCY OF THE RURAL SCHOOL. Most of the pupils attending the

rural schools get up to Grade IV, while about 8 per cent. reach Grade VIII. On the other hand, nearly all children passing the Grade VII go to high school. As a testimonial to the possibilities of the rural schools, we have met, in this recent trip, two children, a boy and a girl, whose names are in the list of successful candidates for the Grade VIII examinations of last June, although both children are under twelve years of age.

One of the remarkable side-lights on that question of education in the rural districts is the general willingness of the parents to see their children have as good a chance as they can possibly give them. We visited 377 farm homes in about 50 days. Out of that number 320 had children of school age; 282 sent their children to school some part of the year; while 7 had them working at home by correspondence courses through the mail. Sixty-seven had the Children's Book of Knowledge, 21 The World's Book, 84 The Teachers' and Students' Encyclopedia. Two hundred and thirty-two received some English or French weekly newspaper or monthly magazines. The comparatively large number who did not receive any kind of literature through the mail is accounted for by the families of Russian, Polish, Swedish or other foreign origin for whom it is difficult to get newspapers in their own language and who do not understand sufficient English to be interested in Canadian reading. Ninety-two of the farmers visited had motor cars, 114 shipped cream to the nearest town, while 84 wives sold eggs for pocket-money. In several districts the "cream cheques" were also the wife's prerogative, which she used to buy clothes for the family at her own discretion.

On the whole the trip was a revelation on the ingenious ways by which a Western farmer can manage in hard times to live and raise a family, often a large one, buy machinery, including sewing and washing machines, books and musical instruments of one kind or another, which all bring ease and comfort to the farm home.

Two of the essentials of good apple butter are long, slow cooking and constant stirring.