

Preparing Green Ducks For Market.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Owing to high feed prices it is more important than ever that green ducks should be marketed at the earliest possible opportunity. Before the war, when feed prices were normal, we found it most profitable to get the ducks off our hands just as soon as they reached a marketable age. When disposing of them as early as possible one should keep in mind, however, the necessity of having as large a proportion as possible of flesh on the frame. Not only must the ducks be well fattened, but care must be exercised in killing and plucking them for market.

Before being killed, ducks should be starved for twenty-four hours. This is necessary to clean out the intestines of food, which makes the ducks keep longer. The best way to kill a duck is to place it between the knees and then with a killing knife, having a blade 8 inches long and 1 inch wide, sever the blood vessels at the juncture of the head and neck. As soon as the duck is bled, it should be hit hard on the top of the head with a fairly heavy stick. This stuns the duck and makes it easier to pluck.

Immediately after the duck is stunned it should be plucked. The plucking should be done dry as both the duck and the feathers are better than when the duck is scalded. First pluck a few feathers from the breast as the duck is held on the lap with its back down. These feathers are plucked in the opposite direction to which they lie. The rest of the feathers on the body are plucked by wetting the right hand and grasping the feathers close to the body and then pulling in the same direction they lie. By plucking in this way the down is taken off with the feathers. Plucking is often done with the aid of a sharp knife, which assists in grasping the down and feathers.

Where the ducks are to be marketed locally or are intended for immediate consumption, they may be scalded or steamed. The dense plumage of the ducks makes it more difficult to scald properly than a chicken. Moreover, the fatty nature of the duck flesh also makes it more liable to injury, and consequently great care must be exercised if the ducks are not plucked dry. The best practice, if you want to pluck the ducks easily, is to wrap them in burlap or old grain sacks after scalding them. Have the water quite hot and dip them in, moving them up and down in the water two or three times, this in order to have the water work into the feathers. As soon as the ducks are withdrawn from the hot water, wrap them in the old grain sacks and allow them to steam for a few minutes. This steaming process seems to loosen the feathers and makes plucking easier than when dry plucked. When proper care is used ducks may be plucked quite rapidly in this way and at the same time present a good appearance. When the ducks are scalded, picking is usually done with the duck on a bench or table. Usually the soft feathers of the body are removed first and the stiff wing and tail feathers later.

Macdonald College, Quebec.

M. A. JULL.

FARM BULLETIN.

A Good Summer Show at Calgary.

The annual summer show at Calgary was held last week, June 28 to July 6, and met with a fair measure of success, particularly in the live-stock department where there was a splendid display. The Clydesdales were strong with 133 entries which made keen competition. D. Thorburn, De Winton, Alta., carried off the Clydesdale male championship on Scotland's Splendor, while J. W. Durno, Calgary, Alta., won like honors in the female sections with Princess of Mount Pleasant.

Sixty-two Percherons of good quality were forward and made a noteworthy exhibit. E. A. Davenport, Acme, Alta., had the male champion in Keota Jalap, and Geo. Lane's Norabelle won a similar standing among the females.

The leading Shorthorn exhibitors who contributed to a grand display in this breed were Chas. Yule, Carstairs, Alta.; J. G. Barron, Carberry, Man.; J. J. Elliott, Guelph, Ont.; L. A. Bowes, Calgary, Alta.; T. B. Ralphs, Calgary, and R. A. Wright, Drinkwater, Sask. Yule won the male championship with Craven Knight, and Bowes had the best female in Collynie's Best. Elliott of Guelph had a very good senior herd and won first with it on account of uniformity, but Barron was a close second.

Four well-known Hereford herds were represented at the Calgary Show, namely those of Frank Collicut, Calgary; the Curtice Cattle Co., Shepherd; G. E. Fuller, Girvin and L. O. Clifford, Oshawa, Ont. Collicut won both championships on Gay Lad 16th and Sally. Clifford was strongest in young stuff and had the junior female champion in Perfection Lass 5th.

In Aberdeen Angus, which put up a splendid showing, the major portion of the prize money went to J. D. MacGregor, Brandon, Man., though Jas. Bowman, Guelph, Ont., and E. A. Noad, Olds, Alta., gave keen competition. Bowman was strongest on the younger stock. The male and female championships went to MacGregor, on Black Cap Glencarnock and Majesty's Queen.

The horse and cattle judges were: Clydesdales, Wm. Graham, Claremont, Ont.; Percherons and Belgians, A. Robinson, Pekin, Ill.; Shorthorns, Lawrence Ogden, Maryville, Mo.; Herefords, Frank Brown, Carlton, Oregon; Dairy Cattle, Prof. H. H. Dean, Guelph, Ont.

If smut appears in the corn crop destroy the affected plants. That treatment is usually effective in keeping this disease in check.

Food Board Regulations of Interest in Farm Homes.

Persistent reports have been going around that clever crooks are operating in the country and imposing fines on farmers for having too much flour, sugar, or other provisions, that are being regulated by the Canada Food Board. These imposters, it is claimed, steal the fine and are not representatives of the Canada Food Board or any branch of the Government. It is reported that many farmers have been victimized in this regard simply because they are not acquainted with the regulations and do not take the trouble to ascertain whether the stranger is a bona fide inspector or not. Inspectors of the Canada Food Board "invariably carry credentials," writes the Secretary. Anyone questioned by a stranger in regard to food on hand or anything of this nature should first ask for the credentials of the inspector or questioner. There is no need of being stampeded by strangers going throughout the country. First be sure that the parties interviewing you are bona fide servants of the Government and then give them the information they seek.

A few of the important regulations governing the purchase, storage, and consumption of food in farm homes are given herewith.

Order No. 30 deals with cane sugar and reads as follows:

1. No person shall hold or have in his possession, or under his control at any one time, cane sugar more than is sufficient for his ordinary requirements for a period not exceeding fifteen days, except as hereinafter provided:

(a) A person living at a greater distance than two miles, and less than five miles from a dealer licensed by the Canada Food Board, may have in his possession, or under his control, cane sugar not more than is sufficient for his ordinary requirements for a period not exceeding thirty days; a person living at a greater distance than five miles, and less than ten miles from a dealer licensed by the Canada Food Board, may have



Prof. J. H. Grisdale.

in his possession, or under his control, cane sugar not more than is sufficient for his ordinary requirements for a period not exceeding sixty days; and a person living at a distance of ten miles or more from such dealer, may have in his possession, or under his control, cane sugar not more than is sufficient for his ordinary requirements for a period not exceeding one hundred and twenty days.

Order No. 31 says in part: "No person shall hold or have in his possession, or under his control at any one time, flour made wholly or in part from wheat more than is sufficient for his ordinary requirements for a period not exceeding fifteen days, except as hereinafter provided:

(a) "A person living at a greater distance than two miles and less than five miles from a dealer licensed by the Canada Food Board may have in his possession, or under his control, flour made wholly or in part from wheat, not more than is sufficient for his ordinary requirements for a period not exceeding thirty days; a person living at a greater distance than five miles, and less than ten miles from a dealer licensed by the Canada Food Board, may have in his possession, or under his control, flour made wholly or in part from wheat, not more than is sufficient for his ordinary requirements for a period not exceeding sixty days; and a person living at a distance of ten miles or more from such dealer may have in his possession, or under his control, flour made wholly or in part from wheat, not more than is sufficient for his ordinary requirements for a period not exceeding one hundred and twenty days.

Section 1 of Order No. 31 of the Canada Food Board has been amended by adding the following subsections:

(c) "A bona fide farmer shall be permitted to hold, subject to the order of the Canada Food Board, the amount of flour, made wholly or in part from wheat, he may have in his possession in excess of the amount prescribed by the above Order if, on or before the 15th day of June, 1918, he reports to the miller or dealer

from whom it was purchased or by whom it was manufactured, the excess amount held by him. It shall then be the duty of such miller or dealer to report all such holdings to the Canada Food Board on forms to be supplied, and at such times as he is directed.

(d) "Any person holding or having in his possession not more than 25 pounds of flour made wholly or in part from wheat, or who holds or has in his possession at the date hereof part only of one original package in which such flour was purchased, though the amount exceed 25 pounds, shall be permitted to hold the same."

The order previously referred to also prohibits the feeding of milling wheat to poultry or live stock, and the sale of same for these purposes. A mixture of wheat and other grain which does not contain more than twenty-five per cent. of wheat may be sold or purchased or used for the feeding of poultry, this Order says.

Order No. 35 states as follows:

1. No person shall make in Canada for private consumption French pastries, iced cakes, or cakes with icing of cane sugar between the layers, or added to the exterior; and no person shall use in Canada cane sugar for making for private consumption, what is commonly called candy.

Order No. 46 has to do with public eating places, but one part deals with private and semi-private luncheons, dinners, parties and picnics, where food or refreshment is served to fifteen or more persons, other than members of the family or household of the proprietor. Anyone having to do with public festivals, or events coming under this Order, should communicate with the Canada Food Board and get a copy of the regulations covering same.

Order No. 50 is of recent date and concerns the baking of bread and use of substitutes for flour. Instructions regarding this may be found in the Home Department of this issue.

There is also an Order-in-Council prohibiting waste of food fit for human use. This regulation covers a large field, and we believe that in the farm homes, at least, there is little chance of any food being wasted. The same Order-in-Council controls the holding of products until they deteriorate or go bad.

Public eating-places are under strict regulation in regard to meatless days, but it has been left to public support to carry out these rulings and wishes in regard to the private home.

The Harvest of the World.

The conditions under which shipping has been carried on have made the North American Continent the chief storehouse of food for Britain and France. However food crops in other countries have considerable bearing on the situation and as the enemy submarine becomes less menacing and shipbuilding is speeded up, no doubt, the other grain producing nations will have a chance to contribute more to the rationing of our Allies. At any rate it is interesting to know when the world's crops are taken off. A small booklet issued by the Grain Growers Grain Company gives the harvest time as follows:

January—Australia, New Zealand and Chili.

February and March—East India and Upper Egypt.

April—Lower Egypt, Syria, Cyprus, India, Mexico, Cuba and Persia.

May—Central Asia, China, Japan Southern United States and Morocco.

June—Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, South France, and Central United States.

July—Roumania, Austria-Hungary, South Russia Germany, France, South England and North Central United States.

August—Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Great Britain, Canada and Northern United States.

September and October—Norway, Sweden and North Russia.

November—South Africa, Argentina and Peru.

December—Burmah and Argentina.

The war cloud which now hangs over most all the countries of the world has induced them to make an effort for increased national production. What the harvest will be in 1918 is hard to determine as yet, but the May Bulletin of Agricultural and Commercial Statistics, published by the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome, supplies interesting data in this connection. With regard to the areas sown for the season 1917-18 in the northern hemisphere, it states that in all the countries where definite figures are available, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Luxemburg, United States, British India, Japan, Tunis, areas sown with wheat this year are decidedly larger than those of the previous agricultural season. For the United States and for British India, in particular, the increase of winter sowings is about 5 per cent.

Only in Spain and Canada were the sowings decreased, but very slightly (less than 2%) in Spain, though 13% in Canada. It must be remembered that the figures deal for Canada with winter wheat only.

Summing up the Bulletin says: "We are enabled to state that, both on account of the increase in areas sown, and of the decidedly favorable condition of the crops on May 1, we have the right to expect, in the coming summer, a better crop of food grain than that in 1917.

J. H. Grisdale Now Acting Deputy.

Prof. J. H. Grisdale who since 1911 has been Director of the Experimental Farms' system has been appointed Acting Deputy Minister of Agriculture. In this position he succeeds Geo. F. O'Halloran. The change has been brought about as a result of removing from the Department of Agriculture the Patents and Copyrights Branches.