

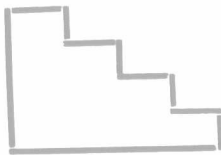
FARM.

House Plants for the Farmer.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Any farmer possessing a house from which frost is excluded would be surprised at the number of varieties of flowering and foliage plants he can successfully grow in windows, providing a few simple rules are followed. During the summer, geraniums (of different varieties), fuchsias, heliotropes, begonias (both fibrous and tuberous rooted), roses, abutilons, petunias and many others equally beautiful, may be made to give a continual display of bloom, and if these are interspersed with a few foliage plants, such as rex begonias, a hardy palm such as one of the Dracenas (Fountain Plant), a fan palm (Lantonia), and a fern, say the "Boston," the result would be a revelation to those who have not taken up this delightful hobby. In the fall the chrysanthemum would be in full flower, followed during the winter by the cyclamen, and in the early spring by the host of beautiful bulbous flowers available.

To insure success, a good window (preferably a south one) is necessary, together with a framework containing four or five shelves built a foot or so away from the window in the manner of accompanying illustration: During the early morning, up to 9 or 10 o'clock, and in the evenings after four, the window may be left clear, but it is very necessary between these hours that there should be something to protect the plants from the fierce glare of the sun on bright days. One of the cheapest methods of accomplishing this is to tack on to a wooden roller a piece of white cotton the size of the window, and to lower this during the hours mentioned. Of course, more elaborate methods may be used at discretion.



It is also imperative that a good soil be used for potting, and a compost which will answer all requirements for the majority of house plants is one composed as follows: two-thirds of well-rotted sod (which can be procured from a piece of breaking) and one-third, collectively, of well-rotted cow manure and sand. This should be well pulverized and thoroughly mixed.

Careful watering is perhaps one of the most essential things to success in the cultivation of plants. Do not water a plant except it is dry, and then water thoroughly, leaving until again dry. The habit of watering at certain fixed times is one of the principal causes of failure in plant-growing, and its damaging effect is only equalled by the practice of leaving the plants in saucers or jardinières.

If it is possible to procure earthen flowerpots, do so, but if the almost inevitable tin can has to be requisitioned, see that the edge is cut clean, so that the plant may be removed without disturbing the roots, and that several good-sized holes are made in the bottom and covered with bits of broken crocks to ensure good drainage.

HARRY BROWN.
Horticulturist.

Exp. Farm, Brandon.

Three to One in Favor of the Calf.

"I can take three calves," says T. F. B. Sotham, the noted Hereford breeder, "and make them increase two pounds per day on the same feed needed to make one mature steer gain two pounds. That is six pounds gain on calves against one on the steer. Double the money can be made feeding calves that can be made on two-year-olds. A man must feed stock with good blood, and he will not be in financial trouble. Let him buy calves and develop them. It is a far better system than putting two- or three-year-olds into the feed lot."

The following table is of interest as showing the number of live stock in proportion to population in some of the European countries:

	Per 1,000 acres of total area.			
	Persons.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Swine.
Ireland	219	230	215	60
Scotland	220	64	320	7
Hungary	232	85	100	22
Denmark	248	186	115	88
France	293	103	164	48
Switzerland	311	132	27	57
Austria	320	117	43	48
Wales	345	147	685	50

The consumption of sugar in the United States increased from 956,784 tons in 1880 to 2,219,847 tons in 1902.

Fall Plowing.

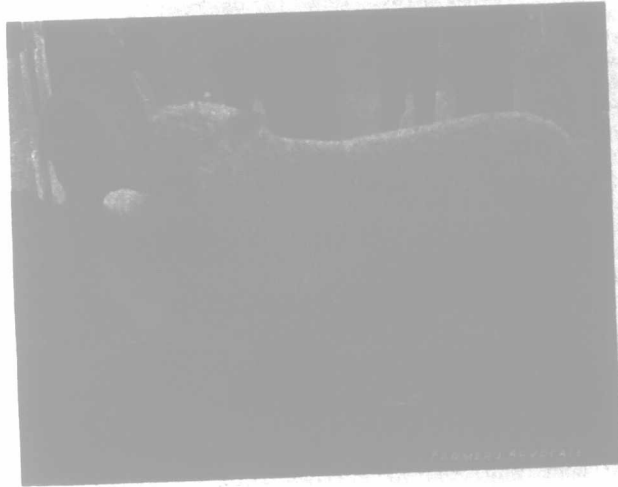
The benefits to almost all spring-sown grain crops from plowing the land in the autumn and leaving it in a rough state with as much surface as possible exposed to the mellowing influences of the winter frosts and spring sun are so well known that it is scarcely necessary to be reminded of the importance of getting as much plowing as possible done before the land freezes hard enough to stop the work.

There are so many other things needing to be done in the fall months that in these times of scarcity of help it has become more difficult than ever to find time for getting all the plowing done that one would like. The importance, however, of this work is so great and the character of next year's crop depends so much upon its being done that only the most urgent business should be allowed to stop the plows. The time in which it can be done in this country is always uncertain after the first week in November, and the fact that October this year was uncommonly free from heavy frosts is no guarantee that winter may not set in earlier than usual. If plowing remains to be done, the sooner it is done the safer, and it is better to be sure than sorry. Another matter of no less importance is surface drainage. Even if the land is underdrained, artificially or naturally, care should be taken that all necessary surface ditches to carry off surplus water are well opened and have a free outlet. Early spring seeding generally yields by far the heaviest crops, and the seeding is often delayed for many days in spring by water lying in low places while the higher parts of the field are ready for the sowing. This fact calls for attention to the necessity in many cases for tile drains to relieve these slack places and to make the fields more uniform in condition, but the natural openings from such low places can often be greatly improved by a few hours' work with plow and scraper, and the results in rendering earlier seeding practicable will pay for the labor a hundred fold.

Stay on the Farm.

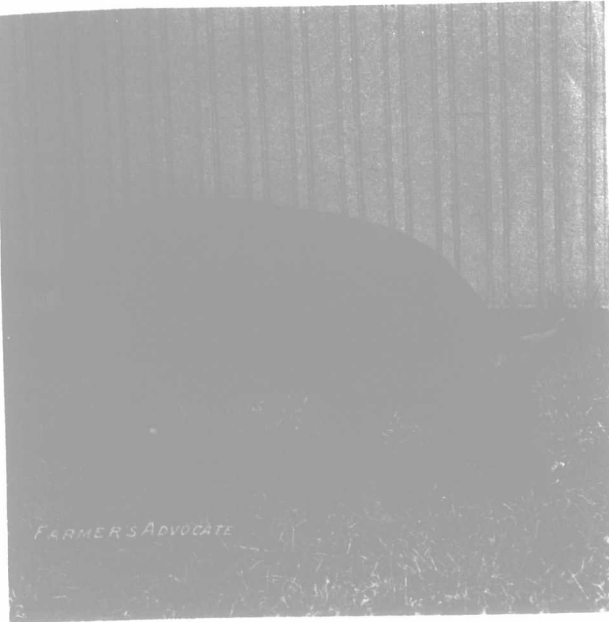
Clark M. Drake, in the Country Gentleman, throws out the following hints to those who contemplate retiring from the country to "enjoy" town life, and they are worth pondering: "Remaining on the farm where the mind and hands may be occupied, and still severe labor be avoided, is really an ideal life. How much better than to settle down with absolutely nothing to do! There is an abundance of fresh milk, eggs, fruit and vegetables, which are not always readily obtainable after leaving the farm. The noise, dust and flurry of town life are avoided, and in their places we have the genial air, pleasant surroundings, absence of vice, and other desirable things. A friend of mine has left the farm and settled in town, where he has no business to occupy head or hands. He lolls away his time in an arm-chair or in a hammock. I can see that he is losing ground in physical and mental powers. His days will be fewer and less enjoyable than if he had remained where both mind and body might be occupied. Unless one is actually sick, it is better to have something to do. It is the busy life that always tells favorably with one's self and with the world."

President Roosevelt has determined to put a stop to the waste of labor, paper and ink in the U. S. Government printing bureau, and proposes, as the Chicago Journal puts it, to shut off, if possible, the interminable, unfathomable, unmeasured, illimitable and perpetual printed reports and documents of all sorts, kinds and descriptions, on every conceivable topic of human dullness, that come like spawn from the Government printing press.



DORNFORD NO. 1.
Yearling Oxford Down ewe, bred by J. H. Wilsdon, England.
Winner of first prize and sweepstakes at Toronto and London Exhibitions, 1902.

IMPORTED AND OWNED BY R. J. HINE, DUTTON, ONT.



WHITACRE BRUCE 2544, IMP.
Tamworth boar. Winner of first prize at Royal Show and Ottawa Exhibition, and second at Pan-American, 1901; first at Ottawa and Toronto, 1902.
IMPORTED AND OWNED BY R. REID & CO., HINTONBURG, ONT.

Western Fair Management.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Now that the bustle of the exhibition season is over for another year, we can quietly look over the field after the battle, recalling both the agreeable and disagreeable incidents which the livestock exhibitors run against. With regard to "The Western," the thought has often occurred to me, if this show is such a success under the present mode of management, what would it be with judicious management? If the directors and their officials could only get the idea into their heads that it takes others besides themselves to constitute a fair; that it is necessary to have exhibits, and therefore exhibitors, to fill the bill; that if the stock barns, palace, fruit and root sheds, and the numberless things that go to make up a successful show, are not there, there will not be very heavy gate receipts.

I was one of the unfortunates mentioned by Mr. Harding in your last issue, who clustered around the entrance gate trying, unsuccessfully, to make a Western Fair official comprehend that highly-fitted and well-cared-for stock needed something to eat and drink on Sunday. We arrived from Toronto late on Saturday night. After getting our sheep in their pens and feeding and watering them, we had to look for lodgings in the city, there being no fit place at the sheep pens. Having secured our passes with the assurance that we would be admitted in the morning to attend to our stock, on arrival in the morning a Sunday pass was demanded. On our asking where to find the party who would grant us one, nobody knew. Not a very agreeable predicament to be in.

I think it would be well for the board to reconsider another thing if they desire the sheep pens filled. As you are aware, the Sheep Breeders' Association requested the different fair boards to change the sheep classification. Before beginning to prepare our sheep I wrote the Toronto secretary, asking if the classification desired by the breeders would be given. He said yes. Now, why could not the London Board do the same thing? Why could they not make it as convenient and agreeable as Toronto does, so that the same lot of sheep could be shown, and in the same way? I think, Mr. Editor, from the remarks made by exhibitors, that if another show were being held at the same time very few would come to London. I don't know how the fair board is appointed; if elected, I would suggest to the electors: give the lady who is now, I think, assistant secretary, absolute power; relegate the present management to an old ladies' home for about two months preceding and during the next fair, and don't try to prepare the crowd of visitors to join the white-robed throng while there, because they are not in a proper state of mind at that time to go in that direction.

R. J. HINE.

Elgin Co., Ont.

Endorses Mr. O'Leary's Position.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I think your paper is a No. 1 publication. I also endorse what Mr. D. O'Leary says about the embargo on Canadian cattle. I would say let it alone. Let us get them (feeding cattle) at reasonable prices so we will be able to finish them for the British markets at paying prices, and this will help to build up this beautiful Canada of ours.

W. POWEN.

Wellington Co., Ont.