

The breeding season is a great strain on a ram, and, unless he is vigorous and in good physical condition, the results will not be gratifying. A little extra grain in this connection, where necessary, is a good investment. A small paddock or orchard may be reserved for the ram, wherein he may take sufficient exercise without any trouble on the owner's part. It is advisable not to permit him to run with the ewes and lambs. He may be placed with barren ewes or wethers which are being prepared for the block, or confined with other rams when more than one is kept.—Dominion Bulletin.

FARM.

Labor-savers Worth Considering.

Farm labor or the lightening of farm labor is still a big problem on the farm. Many could save themselves countless steps, endless time and much worry if they could only or would only see their way clear to properly equip their farms with necessary tools, implements and simple devices to save labor. L. E. Scott, a Wisconsin farmer, addressing a Farmer's Institute gathering gave some good hints which should be acted upon by any who may read them.

With wages at five or six cents a day, man power is the cheapest possible power in China. In America, horse power, wind, steam, gasoline and electricity are all cheaper and more satisfactory, wherever they can be successfully applied.

Most farmers recognize the value of good field equipment, but are often neglectful in providing a full complement of small tools for the barn, garden, workshop and dwelling, and in keeping the same in good repair.

Forks, shovels and brooms should be supplied for barns and stable and so placed that one in doing chores will not need to go far for the tool needed.

Garden tools are as scarce as the proverbial "hens' teeth" on many farms. The garden soil may be prepared with the field tools and the little small garden truck the average farmer raises may be sown by hand, but a good cultivator and a hand weeder will save much time and annoyance in weeding the row of small stuff. Bright, sharp hoes are also muscle and time savers. In buying a hand cultivator, get one with a large wheel.

A full set of auger bits, a good grade of hammers (with whole handles), a hack-saw for iron, a few drill bits and a couple of good saws, a plane and a carpenter's level should be in every farmer's work shop.

When purchasing the saw, do not forget a meat saw for the kitchen and have the hardware man put in a new blade at least once a year. It will only cost a few cents and will save you time when you carve spare ribs.

A variety of wrenches that will fit any burr and in any ordinary position may save both time and profanity.

We haven't had a pump man or a plumber on our farm for twenty-five years. A set of pipe tools has been cheaper and has saved us many a trip to town.

Much time and energy can be saved in the field if farmers would use the low-down wagon for hauling silage corn. We still use and like as well as ever the wagon with timbers slung under the axle, preferably a long axle. This will haul easier than the low wheel wagon, but anything is better than lifting corn up on to a high rack. It makes me tired to see farmers do it.

The biggest rush on our farm is in haying time. We have tried nearly every kind of device for unloading and have concluded that the largest grapple fork obtainable is the most satisfactory. Be sure to get one that is well poised and has an easy and sure lock.

Last summer we put in a drum to pull back the carrier. We made it on a rainy day and it saved time when the sun was shining. It is just a double drum, made of boards, revolving on an old gas pipe for a shaft. The larger drum is twenty-four inches in diameter and the smaller one is eight inches. A half-inch rope runs from the larger one to the carrier, and a 3 cable from the smaller one to the weight outside the gable of the barn, so that a fall of twenty-five feet will bring the carrier back seventy-five feet to the lock. Some use a double or triple block instead, but I prefer the drum. It need cost little if any more and being under cover at one end of the barn it will last a life time. The weight may be made of concrete.

The power hoist will probably be the next gadget added to our haying tools. The single hoist together with the drum that we already have, I believe will enable us to put in considerable mow hay with the same help in a given length of time.

A stable stacking outfit will not only save time, but a better stack can be built with it than where the hay is pitched up by hand. The grapple fork will work as well here as in the barn.

Every farm that has its gasoline engine or other power, should have its line shaft. One of the best machines that we run from ours is the washing machine and wringer. It lightens the work materially in the house fifty-two weeks in the year. I believe that most farmers' wives will be better satisfied with this method, enabling them to do their own washing, than with the farmers' co-operative laundry advised by our city friends, where everybody's clothes would be washed together in the same batch. As we are fortunately served with an electric current an electric iron saves time in ironing the clothes.

We run a grind-stone from our line shaft. The drive pulley is on a short shaft on one end of the grind-stone frame and a horizontal sprocket chain runs the stone, so you can tip the mower sickle either way without encountering pulley, belt or other obstacle.

Last fall we belted our sausage cutter and ran that from the line shaft. The only trouble was we didn't have hogs enough.

I would urge farmers, as soon as they can get to it to put in some system of waterworks. We find in washing our milk things that a water pressure saves us as much time as would pay the interest on the entire plant.

By all means, provide for sewage disposal. The carrying of waste water from the house by the painful is a hindrance and a drudgery. In absence of an open stream, run the sewer into a septic tank where the ground is sufficiently porous to absorb the water. Where no better disposal is available, it has been demonstrated that running into a covered cistern and pumping out to run over your land or upon the manure heap is entirely feasible. It beats packing it out by the painful a hundred to one.

We haven't arrived at a point of vantage that will enable us to touch a button on our bed post and have the cows fed and milked mechanically and have our breakfast cooked and brought to our bed, nor would such a condition be desirable. "A certain number of fleas are good for a dog", and a certain amount of manual labor is necessary for our best being, but every hour saved from unnecessary toil and drudgery adds that much at least to our lives of usefulness and well-earned pleasure.

I am not urging farmers to go beyond their means to secure these conveniences, nor mourn their lives away because they cannot yet afford them. Maybe they can some time but there are many who can afford them, and I assure you they are more satisfactory than money in the bank.

I heard a man once say, "There need be no such thing as drudgery." He said, "Cleaning a cow stable is not drudgery unless we make it drudgery." And that is true. If we have the right equipment, a good gutter, a good carrier and plenty of room to dump it, and we have a vision of a fine crop growing from the plant food contained in the manure, then cleaning the stable becomes a pleasure.

The Moon Theory.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I fear I am going to make the reputation for myself of being an ignorant critic. Here I am, about to comment on an article by one of your most admirable contributors, Peter McArthur. But as he mentioned in the article in question—"Signs"—that he realized he was treading on dangerous ground, and when I tell him that this article caused quite a commotion down here amongst the descendants of the old Glengarry Scotch stock, I know that he will have no ill-will towards me for making this humble attempt to defend a theory that has been handed down to us from generation to generation.

There are a great many superstitions that are too absurd to require any consideration. Nobody thinks now that because an apple tree blooms in the fall that there is bound to be a death in the family at once. Nor that because the old silent clock strikes a few blows on the gong, that calamity is sure to follow, and the same applies to the belief regarding the hen which develops her vocal chords until she is able to imitate the rooster. Other popular beliefs have been proven false by knowledge gained by experience. The number thirteen no longer has any dread for the people of this community, for a neighbor here claims that before he won his wife he asked her thirteen times, then received the melodious reply on the thirteenth day of the month. Notwithstanding this association with the unlucky number he claims this to be the best bargain he ever made in his life. Then I remember setting a hen on thirteen eggs, and after three weeks had twelve lively chicks. I think I should have had the full compliment only that one egg happened to be bad.

But the moon theory or theory of planetary influence is—in our opinion—not in this class. In our experience we have noticed that during the sugar season we always have the best run of sap, at and immediately following the advent of the

Easter full moon. And we have also come to believe—from our experience—that live stock and vegetable growth is subject to some influence that we do not understand. When we consider that the earth is not a self-existent, independent globe, but one of a family, all having more or less familiar characteristics, that our animal and vegetable life depends on light from the sun, and that the moon's attraction is effective upon the tides, is it not reasonable to assume that we may, in other ways, be subject to other subtle and invisible influences from these and other planets? Although Creation is such in breadth and depth that human intelligence is incapable of even dreaming of all the elements of which it is composed, and that the intent of operation of the Divine Plan is beyond our conception, some well-learned men are beginning to realize that such influences do actually exist, and that each has a clearly defined and useful purpose. As yet the knowledge they have acquired regarding these things is too vague to be of any benefit to us. But, in the future, some inspired intellect will probably fathom these mysteries and place them on a sound, scientific basis. If so, then we shall benefit by these present unknown quantities, and thus have gained one more step towards the degree of perfection and harmony, which is intended to be ours.

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Corn Planting Time.

There is no fixed or best time to plant corn. As with other crops it depends upon the season, and as corn is a crop easily injured by frost, the temperature which goes with a late or early spring goes a long way in determining the date of planting, as does also the condition of the soil to be planted. As a general thing in Ontario corn is planted some time in May, and this year, unless weather conditions are altered very materially and very soon, most of the corn in many districts will be in before the middle of the month. Growers know from experience that it is far better to keep the seed in the granary than to put it in a cold, clammy, wet soil where germination is retarded, and the seed is likely to rot or at least germinate very weakly. A great deal of the success or failure with the corn crop depends upon the start the corn gets.

There is very little new to say regarding necessary cultivation. The practical farmer knows what constitutes a good seedbed, and that a lumpy, poorly-worked, grassy bottom is no place to put the seed corn. In some districts, like South-western Ontario, where large acreages of corn are grown each year, growers prefer fall ploughing, while in others, where it is claimed the soil is a heavier clay and where the climate is not so warm or growth so early as in this district, many growers favor spring ploughing. On our own farm at Weldwood ploughing in the spring seems to give better results than fall ploughing. The soil is a heavy clay with a hard, close sub-soil, and the bottom is none too warm as a general thing. The corn is generally placed on sod and the land seems to warm up, and the growth become more rapid on the spring-ploughed sod as the days pass by and the sod rots, forming a loose, mellow layer for the young corn roots.

Whether the soil has been ploughed in the fall or is ploughed this spring, it is necessary to thoroughly work the top. Sod should be disked and re-disked. Nothing seems to equal the disk harrow in working up a fine seedbed in sod. If stubble ground is being planted to corn, the spring-tooth cultivator with wide shares will do possibly even better work than the disk harrow. The drag harrows should be used frequently, and it is good practice to roll down with a heavy roller. This is particularly true of sod, and the rolling may be advantageously done before any work is done with other implements on the newly-turned furrows. This will prevent tearing up of sods to a considerable extent. It is good practice to roll and work the land at least once over on the evening of the same day that it is ploughed. The team may be worked on the plough up till four o'clock or after, and the remainder of the afternoon spent in rolling and cultivating. This prevents drying out, the forming of crusts or large lumps.

Of course corn ground should be manured, and where fall ploughing is done it is better to have the manure ploughed under, the furrows not to be too deep. Some have good success, however, in spreading on ploughed ground and working with cultivator and disk. This is practicable where a manure spreader is used. But straw manure on top of the land gives trouble in cultivating, especially where the spring-tooth cultivator is used.

When the weather is warm enough and the seedbed thoroughly prepared and firmed down it is ready for the seed, which should have been tested as to germination some time ago. There are two common methods of planting corn, one in hills and the other in drills. For hill planting the