

## Items and Articles of Special Interest to Our Farmers

### Perennial Sow Thistle Can be Eradicated Now

For several months the weeds and seed branch has been experimenting with perennial sow thistle in order to discover the best methods for its eradication. Although it has only appeared in Saskatchewan within the last few years, it has already proved itself to be one of the most difficult weeds to get rid of. It spreads itself both by seeding and by root stocks underground, so that no matter how carefully the plants may be cut down before seeding they will continue to spread from the root systems almost as fast as if they had been left untouched. In other provinces people have had to abandon their farms because of this weed.

#### Experiments in Regina

In Regina several patches were used for the experiments and the ground was staked off into lots six feet square. The plants were then treated either with herbicide, ferric sulphate, salt, or fuel oil, in various strengths. Up to the present, at all events, the fuel oil looks to be the most promising method. This is the residue from the crude oil after the coal oil and more volatile oils have been extracted and is the ordinary oil used for marine and other engines.

#### Careful Records Kept

Careful records were kept of the doses given to each of these plots. It was found that the amount used, to be effective, had to be sufficiently heavy to penetrate to the root mat, which lies about four inches below the surface, otherwise, although all applications, heavy or light, killed off the foliage, in a few weeks new shoots appeared above the ground. Six gallons of the oil left the plot absolutely bare, and it would appear to be quite unlikely that the plants will "shoot" again next spring.

The fuel oil can be procured in Saskatchewan, as there is now a refinery, whereas the herbicide is prepared in New Jersey, U.S.A. Another thing in favor of the fuel oil is that it is ready for use as it is, while common salt and ferric sulphate have to be made into a solution.

#### Fuel Oil Most Effective

In another row of plots one dollar's worth of each of the above-mentioned materials was used and up to date the fuel oil appears to be most effective, although no definite conclusions can be made until July, 1919.

It is not yet known how far the use of this oil will affect the soil fertility. Common salt, in more humid countries than ours, kills plant life for eighteen months and its effect would probably last longer in our drier climate. As the oil would not leach away like the salt solution, it is probable that it would inhibit plant life for a much longer period, but in any case it is far better to grow nothing than to permit this weed to go unchecked.

This method of eradication would be of most value on the railways, where the sow thistle exists in small patches at numerous points, and it is hoped that the weeds and seed branch may be able to demonstrate so clearly the value of this method that the railways will be induced to use it and thus aid in stopping the spread of this very dangerous weed.

### Stability in Hog Prices

When asked to increase his output of hogs, it is only natural that the farmer should inquire what is being done to protect him from loss. The result of any action to increase hog production which may be taken at the present time will not be apparent on the market until about twelve months have elapsed, and the farmer fears that something may happen within those twelve months which will influence the price of hogs and possibly, wipe out his profit. It is only fair, therefore, that a clear statement should be made as to what has been done and what is under way to protect the interests of the farmer.

Our Food Controller has made an announcement that the profits of packing houses will, in future, be limited, and that such action will be taken that the farmer who produces the hogs shall receive as his share, a fair proportion of the proceeds derived from the sale of the hogs. This action on the part of the Food Controller brings about a condition of affairs such as never before existed in this country, and should help to give the farmer confidence that his interest will be protected and that he will not be left at the mercy of any large corporation.

In addition to the action of our own Food Controller, we are assured by Mr. Joseph P. Cotton, Chief of the United States Food Administration, Meat Division, that the Food Administration will see that the producer at all times can count on a fair price for his hogs. He

also states that a rigid control of the packers will be established and that serious breaks in prices of hogs will be stopped. He closes his statement in the following words:

"Let there be no misunderstanding of this statement. It is not a guarantee backed by money. It is not a promise by the packers. It is a statement of the intention and policy of the Food Administration which means to do justice to the farmer."

In the Breeder's Gazette of Chicago under date of Nov. 15, the announcement is made that the buying power of the United States Government, both on its own account, and that of its allies, will be utilized for the purpose of stabilizing the hog market. Whenever a heavy run of hogs occurs, the Food Administration will support the market by placing heavy orders, so that the packer will not be under the necessity of hedging in the provision pit against the daily cost of his hog drive.

Further, it is stated that American packers' cellars have never been so bare of hog product as the inception of a winter packing season as this year. During October, thirty-one million pounds of meat were taken out of Chicago warehouses alone, and a similar raid was made at other points.

If we consider carefully the facts which have been stated regarding the attitude of Canadian and American Food Controllers, we must come to the conclusion that there is very little danger that a serious break in hog prices can occur. Influences which are brought to bear in connection with United States markets are bound to reflect in turn upon our Canadian market, and the lack of supplies on hand in the United States, together with the decision of the American Food Administration to support the market when a heavy run of hogs takes place, should give the farmers confidence that hog feeding gives promise of being a profitable branch of stock raising, and that the farmer who responds to the world demand for increased production of meat at the present time cannot very well suffer financial loss.

Live Stock Branch,

Ottawa.

### Hints for Savings

Runners may be prevented in hogs that are too tight over the knees by splitting the back seam down halfway and neatly inserting a V-shaped gore taken from the back of a disordered hog.

Fat may be saved and doughnuts made more digestible by dipping them in boiling water immediately after removing from the hot fat. Do not let them remain in the water a second, but place them on the draining rack in the usual way. When the water cools you will have several ounces of good fat.

## Character in Horses The Best Breed of Farm Hen

The Influence of Heredity and Environment in the Evolution of the Horse

That the best breeds of horses have character as distinct as that of their masters must be admitted to be due to their constant companionship with men. By character here is meant mental and moral character, partly transmitted and partly acquired, which makes the horse the willing and efficient servant and the source of unmeasurable enjoyment to so many of us. In the state of domesticity and, of course, under the control of man, the horse gradually improved as a type in point of usefulness, as man himself has advanced in point of civilization and education.

The main force responsible for the improved type of horse is, undoubtedly—Education, because inherited character may be modified and improved by education, and it is because this is so that progress becomes possible. If selection and education were, for instance, abandoned, the horse would rapidly revert to his original type. He would not only deteriorate in size, but in intelligence and, in fact, many other qualities which make him valuable to man.

#### Indication of Character

As regards selection, it is only by progressive selection, with proper crossing, that any degree of fixity can be stamped on the race. Inheritance is a valuable basis for progress when individuals are judiciously selected.

Character in the horse is, as in all the higher animals, indicated by physical characteristics. Thus color and size are usually trustworthy indications of character. The general physical make-up—texture and fineness of skin and limbs, symmetry and finish—are all good general guides to character, but above all other parts of the body the head tells the story of the animal. Its shape and position and expression of the eye, ear and muzzle unmistakably denote character to the eye of the practical observer.

Close observers claim that a Roman nose in a horse, like the corresponding aculline shape in man, generally indicates strong individuality, often accompanied with great intelligence. A straight facial line is quite as often found with a high degree of intelligence, but a dish-faced horse is seldom anything but a nonentity in character. There are, of course, exceptions to this rule, but they only prove it.

A fine muzzle usually denotes a fine nervous organization, while a coarse and large muzzle, with small and non-expansive nostrils and pendulous lower lip usually denotes dulness and stupidity. A sensitive and trim shaped nostril means courage and intelligence, even when, as is sometimes the case, it means heaves. A broad and full forehead and length from eye to ear, are good general indications of intelligence, but the eye and the ear are the speaking features of a horse's face.

The eye of a horse is unquestionably the highest expression of animal intelligence. The ideal eye is of a lustrous hazel, prominently set at right angles to the middle line of the face, large and bright, with delicate and sensitive lids, shaded with full and long lashes.

#### Intelligence Required

The size of the ear, its quality, its texture and its setting are very important. Large and well-shaped ears indicate intelligence as unmistakably as broad foreheads or aquiline facial line. Many people carry small and pointed ears carried closely to the tips. Although this may be the highest type of mere prettiness, many shrewd horsemen admire ears of generous length, widely placed and well carried, of fine texture and with distinct veining, well pointed at the tips and with great flexibility of individual movement.

The character wanted in the light harness horse of the present day, involves intelligence and obedience.

First of all, a fine sensitive and powerful physical organization is demanded, because perfection of physical adaptation to the work to be done, insures speed, safety and comfort. We want enough to give the advantage of sufficient weight. We want solid or harmonious color, but above all we want a well balanced brain and indomitable will and courage.

## The Best Breed of Farm Hen

Beginners find it hard to decide which is the best breed of hen for the farm. They are often misled by spectacular accounts of big results from certain breeds whose owners specialize in egg production. It should be borne in mind that what pays well as a specialty, may not be so profitable as a sideline on the farm where help is scarce.

White Leghorns are in favor on large poultry plants. There, hens are usually fed the year round, so that it is important to market cockerels as early as possible, especially as Leghorns never grow big, consequently never bring a high price. On the farm it is different. On the average farm, where about 100 hens are kept, both hens and chickens can forage their living from July 1st till snow comes, which makes it profitable to let cockerels mature.

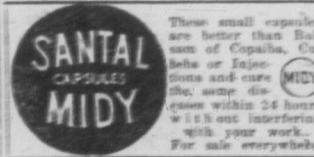
I've had experience on the farm with scrabs, Brown Leghorns, White Leghorns, Black Spanish, Barred Rocks, Buff Cochins, and White Orpingtons. I kept tab on results, so can compare breeds. Leghorns laid a few more eggs than the large breeds, but Barred Rocks led in cash returns by nearly a third, because they laid when eggs were dear. One man declares that his Leghorns lay well in winter but they have a large scratching pen, and are not allowed to go out, as chilled feet stops the egg yield. This can seldom be arranged for on a farm; besides hens forage a good deal of their living around yards, and stables where stock is fed. Leghorns are good foragers—in fact, they're too good. No ordinary fence will confine them, and you can't have a garden or small fruit within a quarter of a mile of the house. An ordinary wire fence will confine the large breeds.

It must be considered that the hen is a meat maker as well as an egg producer. Every chick, not lost, eventually comes to the table. I let most of my Leghorn cockerels go early in summer, so as to be rid of them. I let all Rocks and Orpingtons mature as they fed over cut grain fields. About ten days before marketing they were penned for finishing, with a few Leghorns that escaped. One buyer was offered her choice of three Leghorns, or one Orpington for \$1.00. She chose the latter, because, as she shrewdly observed, though the Leghorns weighed a pound more, she would be buying three sets of bones.

Now compare the difference. If 100 pullets are wanted, there will probably be 100 roosters to market. If Leghorns, they would bring from \$35 to \$45, if Rocks or Orpingtons, from \$90 to \$100, according to market prices. These figures also apply to hens.

Another advantage the large breeds have is that they raise their young, and will mother anything you have a mind to offer them. Out in front of my window sits an Orpington hovering her chick. Besides her own, I can count three sizes of half-naked Rocks, whose mothers have weaned them, a little guinea and two little turkeys, all smugling about her for warmth. She spreads her wings, doing the best she can for the whole orphanage.

I omit the other breeds, as they didn't seem profitable.



Rocks and Orpingtons seem about equal both as egg producers and as mothers, but the standard weight of Orpingtons is a pound more than Rocks.

It may be that Leghorns could be made as profitable on the farm as the larger breeds, if given the same attention as they get on a regular poultry plant, but this has not been my experience.

### CASTORIA

For Sings and Kinder  
In Gebrauch seit mehr als 30 Jahren  
Immer mit der  
Unterschrift  
Carl H. Richter

### Fitting the Colt

To cram feed into the foal that is to be shown at the fairs is the customary habit. This will unquestionably make the foal grow faster, grow bigger at the same age, and make the colt fatter and more solid looking. By heavily feeding the dam, teaching the colt to eat more, feeding it with cow's milk, are easy methods of developing the young colt into shape and lines of the finished drafter. But will it pay?

Too many agricultural writers condemn the system of cramming the colt and forcing early grains, and big weights. There are even bulletins issued upon the subject, urging farmers to feed their colts more. Too many people take the advice. The result is a big shapely, growthy looking colt, all right. If there were no other results this would be all right. But the unfortunate part of it all is that there are.

When young the colt's underpinning is only beginning to develop. It is getting used to the work that it has got to do. The bones are as yet tender and the matter of how they will develop is directly related to the work that they have got to prepare for. If the work is that of supporting a big heavy body the limbs will take that shape. There will be a rapid growth of bone, not a good, hard, fine growth, but a big, open, coarse one. To carry the weight best, pasterns will develop short and straight. The motions of a big fat colt will necessarily be slow, and the development of quality in tendon and muscle will be inferior. The mere weight of the colt will determine that the legs be short and thick.

Beside all this, the colt will lie down often, and rest. He will fold up his legs and his weight will keep them in that position which means the more or less erratic growth of joints, and this also means that the gait will not be true and straight. Colts that are not fed so heavily will be more restless and active. This will develop limbs that are meant for action, and feet to withstand wear and shocks. It will mean better muscles, bigger tendons, finer, but cleaner bone, and even a more sloping shoulder and a general build where integrity between muscles and joints find expression in superior action. These are qualities too highly prized to be risked for a chance to win a prize under a rather superficial judge. How do you know that the judge will approve of the big, thick, lubberly colt? There are few of them who do, and more who don't nowadays. Anyhow, if you intend to "come back" with the colt another year, don't overload it with fat.

## Cured His RUPTURE

I was badly ruptured while lifting a trunk several years ago. Doctors said my only hope of cure was an operation. Trusses did me no good. Finally I got hold of something that quickly and completely cured me. Years have passed and the rupture has never returned, although I am doing hard work as a carpenter. There was no operation, no last time, no trouble. I have nothing to sell, but will give full information about how you may find a complete cure without operation, if you write to me, Bureau M. Paine, Carpenter, 514 E. Marcellus Avenue, Manassas, Va. Do not cut out this notice and show it to any others who are ruptured—you may save a life or at least stop the misery of rupture and the worry and danger of an operation.

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### To the Farmers of Western Canada

There is considerable low grade grain throughout the West this year and farmers who have this class of grain as well as those who have oats, barley or flax to ship should bear in mind that it will be to their advantage to ship to us as our long experience in the grain business and special connections enable us to get for the shipper the very highest possible price for his grain and the best premiums that are being paid. Grain can also be sold on sample and, if the shipper wishes it, we are well equipped to handle it in this way. While we are not infallible, we feel that we are in a position to give our customers the best advice as to when to sell and all their grain will be wanted, and wanted badly this year, therefore don't sell on street but ship your grain.

McBEAN BROS.

GRAIN EXCHANGE, WINNIPEG. 25th September, 1918.

## SHEEP FOR SALE

The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture is prepared to supply high grade ewes from one to four years of age to Saskatchewan farmers on the following terms:—

\$400.00 worth supplied on quarter cash basis; \$1,000.00 worth supplied on half cash basis, balance payable July, 1919, and December 1, 1919, with interest at 6 per cent.

These ewes are a choice lot, mostly sired by Oxford, Shropshire and Suffolk rams.

For particulars apply to  
A. M. SHAW  
Live Stock Commissioner REGINA, Sask.

## HEIFERS FOR SALE

The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture is prepared to supply grade heifers, yearlings and two-year-olds, of the Shorthorn, Hereford and Angus breeds to Saskatchewan farmers at the following terms:—

One-third cash with order, balance payable December, 1919, and December, 1920, with interest at 6 per cent.

These heifers are well bred, all good colors, straight and growthy, just the kind for foundation stock.

For further particulars, apply to  
A. M. SHAW  
Live Stock Commissioner REGINA, Sask.

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Improved "HEUREKA CAPSULES" are the proper medicine your horses should get.

There is no other medicine or remedy on the market that could be used with nearly the success obtained by the use of the great "HEUREKA CAPSULES."

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grateful and satisfied users. Many successful farmers and horsebreeders have saved and improved their stock by using our improved HEUREKA CAPSULES. How about you? Have you ever thought of giving this remedy a trial. If your horses are troubled with bots and pinworms, they are suffering just as much as any human being. No matter what you feed them or how well you feed them, and no amount of extra good care will do them any good. The horses will steadily lose flesh and after a while will be run down and unfit for work. You must exterminate the root of the evil, the cause of the different diseases which develop from bots and pinworms.

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