

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE. *

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"That Nothing be Lost."

"A penny saved is a penny made." Everything that can be saved out of the products of the soil, especially a year such as the present, is so much made. There are thousands of bushels of weed seeds and small grain in the crop; in some cases we have heard of 50 per cent. of the yield from the threshing machine being taken out by the fanning mill in order to make a salable sample, and 25 per cent. shrinkage is quite common in some districts. Wild buckwheat and lamb's quarter or pigweed seeds boiled seem to possess a considerable amount of nutriment. Some feed a little of this boiled stuff along with oats to horses, and say it has about the same effect as flax seed. Fed to pigs, along with chop wheat screenings or barley, it gives good results. From an analysis made by the Dominion Chemist, Prof. Shutt, of the seed of lamb's-quarters, he concludes that it has a comparatively high feeding value. "Its percentages of fat and protein—the two most important nutriment—place it approximately midway between corn meal and bran." The Professor, in his report, wisely urges the importance of boiling or grinding all small seeds fed to animals on the farm, in order that they might take the good out of such feed, which might otherwise pass undigested through the animal's system and be scattered over the farm. As to the feeding value of damaged and sprouted wheat, J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist of the Ottawa Experimental Farm, says in a recent letter to this office: "Our experience here points to damaged wheat as a very valuable addition indeed to the hog menu, and we have in some cases found it to do very well fed alone. Sprouted grain also has been tried at several stations, and sprouted wheat has been tried here with very good results. The fact of grain being frozen does not seem to affect its value for feeding, pound for pound, as compared with other grains, since where injured wheat was fed alone, from four to six pounds were required to produce one pound of pork, and the same quantity of barley or peas was necessary to do this. By our experiment here we found that frozen wheat and sprouted wheat were worth from 50c. to 70c. per bushel. Of course, the price of pork has everything to do with the price realized from wheat, but on an average five pounds of this wheat can be counted on to produce one pound of pork. At the present prices this would bring the value of the wheat in Ottawa to about 70c. per bushel."

For Fewer Grades of Wheat.

At the recent meeting of the Grain Standards Board, which was held in Winnipeg on October 26 and 27, in addition to making a "commercial" grade—No. 3 hard—to meet the conditions of this year's crop, the matter of reducing the number of grades, so as more nearly to correspond with Duluth grades, with which our export wheat has to come into competition sooner or later, was discussed at considerable length, and as a result of the Board's deliberations, the following resolutions were passed:

"That it is the opinion of this Board that the methods of handling Manitoba wheat would be best served by making the following changes in the schedule of grades, viz., that the grades of No. 2 hard and 1 northern be consolidated under the name of '1 northern,' and having the present qualifications of 1 northern, with no less than 60 per cent. of hard wheat.

"That the name of 'No. 2 northern' be changed to that of No. 1 Manitoba spring, the grade having not less than 45 per cent. of hard wheat, and weigh not less than 58 pounds per bushel, and that any wheat not good enough to grade No. 1 Manitoba wheat, be graded as No. 2 Manitoba spring, in the discretion of the inspectors."

These changes could not, of course, take effect until the Act itself is changed, and could not go into effect till next year. Such a simplification of the grades, putting them on a similar basis to those

of Duluth, should be of great benefit to the exporter, and what benefits the exporter should certainly benefit the producer in the matter of dried-wheat certificates from terminal elevators. According to the Act, any tough or damp wheat that has been dried, has to be so marked on the grade certificate; and thus branded, its value is depreciated to some extent. It was therefore resolved to ask the Department to allow the inspector to give a clean-grade certificate for dried wheat, if he considered it equal to the standards of such grade, this to take effect at once.

In connection with drying wheat, it is claimed by Mr. King, of the Port Arthur drying and cleaning elevator, that ordinary "tough" wheat shrinks in drying about three pounds per bushel; damp and wet grain will, of course, shrink much more. The cost for drying tough wheat is 1½ cents per bushel, and it is claimed that dried wheat is perfectly safe to store.

Economy in Feeding.

The disposition to defer the day of commencing to draw on the winter store of provender is common to all farmers. While it is well to be careful that nothing is wasted, it is quite possible to be saving on one hand and wasteful on the other, with the result that the balance is against us. If the late fall months are favorable to the growth of grass, and the weather mild, as has been the case in most sections of Canada this year, there is, as a rule, little need of supplementing the pastures by a call on the winter stores, except in the case of milking cows, before the end of November. The coming of cool weather, and the consequent relief from the plague of flies which torture animals in summer, is in favor of the stock, and as long as the fields afford a fair bite of grass they may do well; but it should be remembered that young grass which comes up after autumn rains has not all the nutritive qualities of June grass, and when touched by frost it is still less nutritious, so that if it is desired to hold the flesh and condition that has been gained, there may be, and generally is, true economy in commencing to feed a little fodder before winter in real earnest sets in. Even access to a stack of straw is better than no provision to tide over the critical period between late autumn conditions and winter feeding, and animals, knowing instinctively the need of more substantial food than they can find in the fields, will help themselves to dry fodder if it is at all palatable and within their reach. Milking stock, of course, should be stabled at night when frost and cold weather comes, and fed a half ration at least, while cattle intended for beef should not be allowed to lose weight, which can only be regained by more expensive feeding later on. When hay is scarce, as is the case in many districts this year, the temptation is strong to put off the period of winter feeding longer than would otherwise be done. In this case, if a supply of ensilage or of cured cornstalks has been provided, the contingency is well met; but where such wise provision has not been made, the best use possible should be made of the straw and chaff in the barns as a substitute. To our mind, it is a good plan, where it is feasible, when threshing, to save the chaff separate from the straw, for early winter feeding, as any meal that is fed to cattle in the stables will give much better results if given in combination with chaff, cut straw or cut-corn fodder or ensilage, by reason of its being eaten slowly, masticated thoroughly, well mixed with saliva, and thus better fitted for digestion. One of the advantages of saving the chaff is that it comes handy for early feeding before winter work has set in and while the means for cutting straw may not be convenient or the time of all the hands may be taken up with outdoor work on the farm. Even where ensilage is provided, on which to feed any meal that is given, there is economy and profit in feeding it in combination

with chaff or cut straw or hay, making more nearly a balanced ration and at the same time utilizing a large amount of rough fodder, often having much more nutriment in it than it is commonly credited with, and which may be rendered palatable by mixing it with the ensilage a few hours before feeding time, the straw being softened by the juices of the ensilage, and, becoming slightly heated, the aroma of the silage permeates the whole mixture, which may be improved by the addition of pulped roots. If the farm buildings are only moderately conveniently arranged, this preparation of the feed can be carried out with no great expenditure of time or labor, and will pay well for the doing. By thus utilizing straw, which if early cut and well saved is not to be despised as feed, hay may often be sold to advantage, and, if need be, the proceeds profitably invested in bran, oats or other grain or in corn or oil cake. When, for instance, the market price per ton of hay and bran are about the same, it is well worth considering whether a ton of hay may not be saved by substituting straw to some extent as part of the feeding ration and investing its value in bran and oats or corn, and thus securing a better-balanced and more nutritive ration and one better calculated to give profitable returns from milking cows or by building up the frame and flesh in the case of young stock of any class. The possible objection that cutting straw involves a considerable outlay for machinery and expense for extra labor is met by the reminder that the power needed for this purpose may be utilized for several other uses as well, but where one objects to the outlay for the requisite machinery, the necessary outfit may readily be hired for a day at a time two or three times during the winter to cut all of this sort of feed that is needed and do considerable grinding of grain besides. Thanks to the revelations of scientific investigation, much light has in recent years been thrown upon the subject of the intelligent and economical feeding of live stock, and it is safe to say that a more general and careful study of the subject by farmers in the light of some of the excellent books written by competent authors on this theme will be helpful to all who are willing to learn. The time has quite come when farmers, in order to make the most of the means within their reach, must study the science of their business, which simply means seek to know more about the principles which govern and influence the growth and development of the plants and animals on which their income depends, and we are quite sure that the intelligent application of the knowledge thus gained will satisfy them that it pays to mix the meals of farm stock not only with fodder, but also with or by the use of brains.

The Argentine Opportunity.

"With the ports of this country closed to importations from the United Kingdom, the attention of Australian and North American breeders will be doubtless directed to this as a market for pure-bred stock, and it will be matter for surprise if they let such an opportunity escape them. Australian cattle ought to do well here, and the process of acclimatization should be an easier one than from the colder climates of the north. Californian Merinos too should have the same advantage, while in sheep it is well known that Australasia can produce an animal hard indeed to beat."—*Review of the River Plate.*

Pleased with the Watch.

Mr. F. E. Pollard, Leeds Co., Ont., writes:—"My son received the No. 4 watch from you on Oct. 24th, and wishes to thank you for same. He thinks it better than he expected, and is very much pleased with it, and is anxious to get more subscribers for you."