

# EFFICIENT FARMING

## "A GROWING TENDENCY FOR LIGHTER, LIGHTER MEATS."

The value of the high class English trade secured by the Danish bacon raisers has not gone without notice in the United States. Their view of it will be instructive to Canadian swine breeders and feeders who too often overlook the fact that the American fat hog trade cannot be profitable in Canada away from the cheap feeds of the Corn Belt and catering to a public with altogether different tastes. Recently Mr. Chas. E. Herrick, president of the Institute of American Meat Packers, made the following summarized comments:

"The production of sufficient bacon type hogs in the United States to take care of the English demand really is a matter of considerable importance. This is apparent to every one who knows that Danish bacon, produced and processed especially for the British trade, is bringing at this time in the English market about twenty shillings more per hundredweight than American bacon, and that at times during recent months the Danish product has brought in excess of forty shillings more than ours.

"It seems strange that the English people, two millions of whom are out of work should continue to pay so much more for Danish bacon than American.

"That they are willing to do so apparently is due to the fact that the Danes breed and feed their hogs to conform with the tastes and demands of the British consumer, and are able, from their geographical proximity, to supply goods of the mildest possible cure. Practically all of Denmark's bacon is marketed in England.

"The Danes, having one market to produce bacon for, where the Americans have many, have been able to specialize in breeding a hog that will bring the highest price on that market. They have developed on a ration including skimmed milk, barley, and roots, a leaner pig than a selected American pig of similar weight and with firmer fat than is produced by a corn ration with little protein feeds added.

"Danish co-operative marketing societies have gone so far as to send out bulletins to the producers, stating that they would accept for shipment that month only hogs of a certain weight, say from 140 to 180 pounds, and that producers who had hogs above or below the extremes specified would have to slaughter their hogs at home. In this way, they can supply the British market, watching the demand and catering to it.

"However, there is a growing tendency in this country for leaner pork chops, leaner bacon. Whether our American taste for bacon will become more like the British taste within the next few years cannot, of course, be told now. But packers have noticed a growing tendency for leaner, lighter meats, and at times an increasing difficulty in disposing of the heavier cuts.

"The producer could grow a larger number of hogs and market them at an earlier age. This would increase the supply of lighter, leaner cuts.

"In any event, it is worth while for the American producer and American packers to expand our trade abroad. Would not the raising of bacon type hogs in sufficient numbers to meet the English demand be one way of doing this?"

## Canada's Supremacy at Chicago Show

The International Livestock Show at Chicago, the great agricultural exhibition of the year on the continent, was quite up to its usual high standard, and in many respects exhibits were above the average. There is certainly no lack of interest amongst breeders of livestock and growers of good seed, either in the United States or Canada. The competitions were extremely keen, especially in the grain classes, and these were the outstanding features of the show. Interest is accentuated from the fact that in these awards there is the keenest of rivalry between the United States and Canada.

Canada demonstrated her ability to lead the world in seed production by capturing fifteen of the twenty-five prizes for wheat, twenty-eight of the thirty-five for oats, and a similar percentage of high awards in other grain classes. In livestock the Dominion produced the outstanding bull of the show, the splendid animal of J. D. McGregor, the veteran Aberdeen breeder of Brandon, Manitoba, which was sold for \$15,000 to a California purchaser. In Clydesdales, Canada's awards were noteworthy, particularly those secured by the University of Saskatchewan. O. A. Boggs, of Daysland, Alberta, made a very creditable showing in Hereford classes.

Sheep classes were stronger than ever in 1923, and that consistent exhibitor, Col. Robt. McEwen, of London, Ontario, once more cleaned up the show with his Southdowns, whilst other breeds of sheep secured outstanding awards. The Province of Ontario was supreme in sheep classes. In the hog classes, considering that Canadian exhibits were small, the results were entirely satisfactory. To the faculty of the Ontario Agricultural College must be given great credit for the college's continued success in the student judging competitions, a member of its team taking first place and the entire representation second against all the great United States colleges and universities.

## Stretching Barbed Wire.

In stretching barbed wire where the stretch is made without cutting the wire and not from a loose end, to avoid making a kink in the wire slip a loop of the wire through a one-inch ring, put the loop over the hook of the wire stretcher and pull up as desired.—J. S. G. W.

Paradoxical as it may seem, the man who is selling the best live stock and grain today is the man who in the past has followed the slogan of "Keep-

# Hogs

When hogs are fed well-balanced rations including animal by-products and either good pasture or alfalfa hay there is usually no need of using any mineral supplement except common salt. This statement is made as a result of experiments covering two years at an experimental station. On the other hand, when hogs are fed on grain with grain by-products alone or on grain and such supplements as linseedmeal, soybeans or soybean oil-meal, without pasture or without legume hay, then it will be advantageous to add a mineral supplement supplying additional calcium or lime. Even when a mineral supplement is added to a ration of grain and grain by-products, the results will be unsatisfactory compared with these from a ration including animal by-products, such as skim milk, buttermilk or tankage. This is because grain and grain by-products are not only lacking in mineral matter, especially lime, but are also deficient in proteins of good quality, which are required to produce rapid growth and thrifty offspring. Pigs frequently become crippled or stunted during growth, or become crippled on shipment to market. Brood sows often break down while suckling their pigs. These troubles are due in part, at least, to a lack of minerals in their rations.

## Ways to Beautify the Home Grounds.

Of all shade trees for the backyard or garden proper, is there anything comparable to the apple? Of course you cannot have much shade until the tree is a few years old, but if you have a suitable position for such a shade tree by all means plant one this spring.

Should the garden be so modest in size that it will not accommodate many shrubs we can have at least some flower borders filling these preferably with hardy perennials. The ideal flower border is one that is backed by shrubs; here the greenery of the latter accentuates the gay colors in front, and these in turn lighten up the rather somber greenery behind them. A splendid effect may be had by growing free-climbing roses on a nine-foot-high trellis along the back of the herbaceous border, planting various perennials in masses of from three to five of a kind. A scheme such as this, to look its best, necessitates a border at least ten feet wide, for the planting to look natural should be rather irregular and this requires plenty of room if we are to get away from a crowded and artificial effect. Do not plant in straight lines; formality should not find a place in the hardy border. The distance to plant will depend upon the variety, always remembering that the majority of these perennials will in the course of a year make quite large clumps, so that in most cases one foot will be the minimum distance, though many should be set quite eighteen inches apart.

When the border is wide full advantage can be taken of such tall-growing plants as hollyhocks, delphiniums, helianthus—sunflower; hibiscus, loosestrife—lythrum; rudbeckia—cone flower; bocconia—plum poppy; boltonia and tall hardy asters. Phlox should be used freely, massing three to five plants of one variety together. Blooming over such an extended period, they are invaluable in the flower garden. Peonies, of course, will be represented; no other hardy perennial makes quite such a showing in spring. The charming long-spurred columbine should find a place, and also campanula, Shasta daisy, coreopsis, bleeding heart, foxglove, erigeron, with its purple daisy-like flowers.

Among lower-growing plants suitable for the front of the border, choice may be made from the old pink—dianthus plumarius; gold dust—alysium; rock cress—arabis; Carpathian harebell—campanula; snow in summer—cerastium; rock rose—helianthemum; moss pink—phlox subulata; primrose and soapwort—saponaria ocyoides.

The owner who cares well for his cows, is well cared for.

## Canadian Lambs of Championship Grade



A carload of Canadian Southdown lambs won the grand championship at the recent International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, the owner repeating the success of 1922. The lambs averaged 92.8 lbs. each and sold for \$28 per cwt. In 1922 the average weight of the lambs (shown above) was 87 lbs. and the price \$31 per cwt. For the packing trade an 80 lb. lamb is always in demand.

# For Home and Country

## The Girls' Ten Commandments

Full of suggestive ideas for a happily balanced arrangement of work and play which develops the four-square girl of which Ontario is justly proud, the records from the Girls' Institutes continue to come in. Carrying on in conjunction with a Department whose chief superintendent is a man of wide sympathies and great executive ability, an assistant superintendent who is herself a young woman of brilliant achievements, and availing themselves more and more of College and Departmental Extension services, the girls of the country are making history.

Komoka has had a course in Food Values and Cooking; donated prizes at the school fair; assisted the Senior Institute in sewing for the Northern Ontario fire sufferers, contributed to the London Santa Claus fund and Children's Hospital, held a lawn fete or garden party also a corn roast to which other young people of the neighborhood were invited. This Institute issues a paper "The Komoka Breeze," edited by the members. Their "Ten Commandments" are also of special interest. They are:

1. Thou shalt not make dress thy chief thought.
2. Thou shalt cultivate the habit of punctuality.
3. Thou shalt not make fun of thy club, for the club will not hold her honorable who maketh ridicule.
4. Remember the first and third Tuesdays of each month to keep them apart. All other nights thou shalt spend as thou desirest, but the first and third Tuesdays are the nights of thy club. In them thou shalt not pretend a headache, nor make foolish excuses, for it taketh but a few hours and thou shalt surely be rewarded with what thou shalt get at thy meetings.
5. Honor thy club members and its demands, that thy days may be long as a valued and loved member.
6. Thou shalt not use slang, nor murder the English language by speaking improperly.
7. Thou shalt think beautiful thoughts. Refuse to listen to anything impure.
8. Thou shalt not waste thine own time, nor that of thy neighbors or employees.
9. Thou shalt not gossip. Before you tell anything think thrice: (1) Is it necessary? (2) Is it true? (3) Is it kind?
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's beaux, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's clothes, nor her leisure time, nor her jewellery, nor her car, nor anything that is hers.

Alton held a very successful St. Patrick's concert in March, the program being given entirely by the members. During the summer they made print quilts and sold them to raise funds. In the fall they had a sewing course, and at Christmas time they asked people in the neighborhood for donations of clothing and the girls made these garments over into children's clothing for needy families. They added to this clothing baskets of homemade candy, fruit and nuts and distributed it with the compliments of the Junior Institute.

Walkerton took part in a judging contest arranged by the Agricultural Representative, and went with the Junior Farmers and Junior Institutes' excursion to the Agricultural College. They held a garden party, realizing over \$60. They have had a number of debates and concerts by local talent and have done some very valuable work in the way of personal visits to "shut-in" members of the community.

Theford held a picnic and lawn fete and a number of debates. They have also had an apron contest.

West Ops have started a club paper edited by the members. They have an active basketball team; they make a specialty of demonstrations at their regular meetings and have made a layette for relief work.

Cheltenham. One of the outstanding features of Cheltenham's work was at the close of a course in Home Nursing to organize themselves as a volunteer nursing brigade, ready to go into the homes to do emergency nursing as they are needed. This fall, when they were informed that a woman who had just come to the neighborhood had not been able to prepare a layette for the baby that was coming, they set to work and in one afternoon had the garments ready for her.

Fergus contributed a layette and \$25 to the Northern Ontario Fire Relief. They hold their meetings with the Junior Farmers on alternate months throughout the year. They took part in the County Judging Competition; held a bazaar and had a booth at the school fair.

"Scotch Settlement" (Bradford) had a course in sewing and made a layette for relief work. They had a social evening and dance to raise money to buy the necessary material. Finch had rather irregular meetings during part of the year on ac-

count of sickness in the neighborhood, but they were able to arrange a sleigh-ride for the young people of the neighborhood in March and to put on a play in May.

Elora packed a box of clothing for Northern Ontario fire sufferers; made a layette for the North, and pneumonia jackets for "flu" patients.

Wingham held a picnic with the Junior Farmers during the summer and a very successful bazaar in December.

Streetsville, at the close of their three months' course last March began to get up a play which proved a decided success. They had Dr. Ross assist them for one day in the practice of drills and dances for this entertainment. They donated \$20 to the Senior Institute to help with their sick fund. They also gave \$10 towards prizes for the County Girls' Judging Competition. This Institute, with the other Girls' Institutes of Peel County, took part in the excursion to the Agricultural College and in the County Judging Competition.

Hillsburg has had a course in sewing and one in millinery. In co-operation with the Junior Farmers they got up a play and took part in the County Judging Competition. They contributed to the Northern Fire Relief, also made a layette.

Paisley held a banquet with over two hundred guests present. They got up a social evening in aid of the Soldiers' Monument; also assisted in paying for a piano for the town hall.

The Juney Canucks (Almonte) entertained the district annual convention this year. With the Junior Farmers they had a motor excursion to the Kemptville Agricultural School Field Day. They held their annual "at home" dance during Christmas holidays for the benefit of the many young people attending college or holding positions away from home. They gave a donation to the school to buy pictures and are maintaining a room in an Ottawa hospital.

Clinton organized at the close of a course in Home Economics last winter; holds a number of its meetings with the Junior Farmers. They have a monthly journal edited by the members.

St. George Junior Institute furnishes a good example of cooperation with the Senior Institute. The Senior Institute has a moving picture machine and the girls assist in furnishing music while the pictures are being shown. At the Women's Institute annual picnic the girls took charge of the sports.

Ripley took part in the County Judging Competition and arranged a series of meetings with the Junior Farmers.

Blue Lake and Auburn holds its regular monthly meetings on Saturday to enable the school girls to attend. They exchange programmes frequently with the Women's Institute. Some interesting features at their meetings have been a "spelling match," a "geography match," and papers by members on such subjects as "Canadian Women of Note," "Little Things in the Home That Make Things Beautiful," "The School as a Centre of Influence," "An Afternoon with Dickens," "The Social Side of Farm Life," "Recreation in the Farm Home," "Two Priceless Strings of Pearls—The Teeth and Their Care," "Dress as an expression of Personality," and "Papers on Etiquette."

## Cost of Maintenance of the Herd Sire.

In the cost of maintenance investigations conducted by the Animal Husbandry Department of the Ontario Agricultural College, with the herd sires, the following figures were obtained: for the Shorthorn herd sire, \$129.60 per year was required; for the Hereford, \$101.76; for the Angus, \$107.88; and for the Jersey, \$86.26. The bulls were of different ages and of different weights, so no breed comparison can be drawn. The figures indicate that it really costs something to maintain a herd sire and that the man who maintains such an animal for the use of various cow owners, is entitled to a larger fee than he usually demands.

## Prizes for Finished Steers.

Announcement has been made of a series of special prizes to be offered by the Dominion Department of Agriculture at the Edmonton Live Stock Show to be held next April. The cattle sections include groups of 15 finished steers, 1,100 to 1,400 pounds; five finished steers, 1,100 to 1,300 pounds, and five finished steers, 1,100 pounds. In each case five prizes are offered, ranging from \$250 to \$75 for the fifteen group, and \$100 to \$40 for each of the other groups. The animals must have been actually owned by the exhibitor for at least one hundred days before the opening of the show.