

NEW BRUNSWICK SHEEP SALE.

The Cotswold, Leicester, Shropshire and Lincoln sheep purchased recently in Ontario by Thos. A. Peters, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture for New Brunswick, were sold at auction at Fredericton, N. B., Sept. 18th, during the week of the Exhibition. Below is a summary of prices and averages for the rams and ewes of each breed:

Cotswold—			
22 rams	\$290 50	Ave. \$13 20	
12 ewes	176 00	Ave. 14 66	
Leicester—			
13 rams	\$276 50	Ave. \$20 57	
6 ewes	89 00	Ave. 14 83	
Shropshire—			
20 rams	\$480 50	Ave. \$24 02	
10 ewes	151 50	Ave. 15 75	
Lincoln—			
10 rams	\$236 50	Ave. 23 65	
4 ewes	40 00	Ave. 10 00	

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.
2nd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.
3rd.—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.
4th.—When a reply by mail is required to urgent veterinary or legal enquiries, \$1 must be enclosed.

Miscellaneous.

BITTERSWEET.

I am sending you a rough sketch of a plant, or vine, that grows about fences. It comes out in blossom in June. The blossom is a small potato-like blossom, and is purple with a yellow center, leaves dark green, and has green berries that turn to yellow, and then red when ripe. The potato bugs feed on it.

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—The potato is *Solanum tuberosum*, and the plant inquired about is *Solanum dulcamara*. Both belong to the nightshade family. The latter is also called woody nightshade and bittersweet. *Dulcamara* means sweet (*dulcis*) and bitter (*amara*); the taste of the somewhat poisonous berries is distinctly sweet and bitter, hence the name. The twigs and bark, and sometimes the root and leaves, are used medicinally, both internally and in ointment. Every herb-doctor's manual gives a list of skin diseases, sexual ailments, etc., upon which bittersweet exercises very desirable remedial effects.

J. D.

CORN OR RAPE FOR GREEN MANURE—RAPE AS FEED—CLOVER SEEDING.

1. Which do you think would be most beneficial to the soil, to sow corn (Leaming) in rows, 28 inches apart, about June 10th, and give three or four cultivations, and let cattle onto it about August 1st, and plow remainder under Sept. 1st, or put in rape, July 1st, in rows, 28 inches apart, and cultivate, and turn cattle in August 1st, and plow residue under Sept. 1st? Of course, the latter would be for young cattle only.

2. Would rape make good feed for 100-lb. pigs?

3. Is it satisfactory to feed to steers intended for beef the following winter?

4. What would be a satisfactory gain for 1,100-lb. steer on rape for two months?

5. Is corn a satisfactory green manure? Is it a leguminous plant?

6. We have a field which gave a good yield of alsike this year. Would it be advisable to let it go for alsike next year? Sufficient was shelled to give a good catch. Will it be liable to grow next year?

7. A field was seeded to clover last spring, the seeds missed; the first miss we ever had. Timothy was sowed with clover, but does not show as yet. Do you think it will come up to timothy next year?

F. W.

Ans.—1. We should prefer rape, but for the purpose you mention, would sow early in June.

2. Yes.

3. Yes; it is excellent for that purpose. The cattle, at first especially, should have access to straw, or to a pasture field also to lessen the tendency to scours.

4. One hundred pounds should be satisfactory.

5. Corn is not a leguminous plant. It is not in much favor for green manuring.

6. Alsike is a perennial. Though it makes scarcely any growth in the fall after being cut, it will be all right for next season.

7. Timothy may be present, though no green leaves appear in a dry spell after harvest; but if it makes no show during the fall, it has either died or never started, and the field will have to be re-seeded.

T.

PERMANENT PASTURE—MULCHING RASPBERRIES.

1. If I plow a field of sod this fall, and cultivate it well, would it be fit to seed down next year to permanent pasture?

2. Would it be good to sow orchard grass?

3. What would be the best permanent pasture?

4. Would it be all right to mulch raspberry bushes after it freezes in the fall to keep them from budding early in the spring, and being killed by frost?

B. W. M.

Ans.—1. A1 clover or timothy sod plowed now, and thoroughly cultivated till fall, and again next spring, might be got into fair shape for seeding to permanent pasture, but heavy manuring, followed by a year in hoed crop would be much better.

2. Orchard grass is good to sow with other grasses in permanent pastures.

3. We recommend a trial of Prof. Zavitz's mixture, viz: Orchard grass, 4 pounds; meadow fescue, 4 pounds; tall oat grass, 3 pounds; meadow foxtail, 2 pounds; timothy, 2 pounds; alfalfa (Lucerne), 5 pounds; alsike clover, 2 pounds, and white clover, 2 pounds, making a total of 24 pounds of seed per acre. In the Old Country, they often sow 45 or 50 pounds per acre.

4. It might be worth trying, although we have never heard it advised nor seen it done. The only form of protection recommended for raspberries by experts is laying the bushes down in the fall, and covering them with earth to prevent winterkilling. To do this, loosen the soil at one side of the root, and bend the plant over in that direction. The tops are usually bent in the direction of the row so that they will overlap the crowns.

HANDLING CORN WITHOUT SILO.

Have about three-quarters of an acre of very good corn, the first we ever had. Very little, if any, has ever been grown in this locality. Have no silo, so have thought of cutting straw and mixing with corn. Would it keep if put in mow of barn? If so, what percentage of corn, and how would you mix, when cutting or in mow after cutting? If this method would not do, please describe fully the best method of storing corn for winter use where there is no silo. I cut my straw, etc., with a nine-h-p. gasoline engine, which I purchased a year ago and about the uses of which I may write later. Have only a share in cutting-box, consequently could only cut corn all at one time.

2. Please tell, also, how the farmers down East cut their corn in the field, where they do not have corn harvesters. Have thought of cutting with the binder.

J. H. M.

Ans.—Owing to the considerable amount of moisture contained in cornstalks, even when they appear quite dry, cutting and stowing in bulk is always attended with

some risk, especially for one inexperienced in handling such fodder. In Southern Ontario the favorite way of handling corn for husking is to shock it up in the field, either 36 or 48 hills to a shock, and leave it there two weeks or more, after which it is husked outdoors, if weather permits, and the stalks tied in bundles and stood up in large shocks, combining the stalks of half a dozen original shocks. Here the fodder is left for a time, and finally hauled to the barn and pitched into a mow on top of straw or hay, the bundles being stood upright, one or sometimes two tiers deep. Sometimes, owing to weather inclemency, the husking is done in the barn, but in any case the stalks are stood in the above manner if mow space is available. If not, they may be set up outside the barn in large shocks, carefully tied with two or three bands of twine, twisted hay or rushes to give them a conical shape so as to shed rain. Sometimes the stalks are laid horizontally, and built up into the form of a stack, though in this form they are very liable to mold. Along about December, it is considered fairly safe to cut up or shred a reasonable bulk of stalks, and pile them on the barn floor or in a mow three or four feet deep; all the better if they are mixed with their bulk of straw, and a little salt added. Some prefer feeding them whole, claiming that the cut stalks dry out more, knotty and butt portions becoming hard and unpalatable. While this is true to a certain extent, on the other hand it is nicer to have the stalks cut or shredded to avoid the nuisance of having long whole ones in the manure, although with a small quantity fed in early winter this would not matter so much. If, when you cut the stalks, you have any misgivings as to their preservation, mix with them two or three times their bulk of straw, and spread out thin. To mix, cut a few bundles of corn, then a few forkfuls of straw, as convenient, and distribute the cut stuff evenly about.

2. Some use a sickle, and some a short-handled stout hoe. Usually the man who uses either one insists that it is far ahead of the other. Personally, the writer is partial to the hoe, for one accustomed to using it can cut as fast as with the sickle, and leave a much shorter stubble. The stubble is a nuisance in subsequent tillage, and contains a large amount of good feed, though being rather fibrous this is not so valuable for drying as for ensiling. An ordinary grain binder is sometimes used to cut thick-sown ensilage corn, but is not satisfactory for ordinary hills or drills. It does the work imperfectly, leaves a long stubble, and is very liable to suffer more in wear and tear than the job is worth. Better use the hoe. It is still the best and most economical corn harvester where men can be hired for two dollars a day.

SQUARE WOODEN SILO—DATE OF CUTTING CORN.

I have a silo (square), 13 x 13 feet and about 15 feet in depth. I understand that the ensilage has not kept very well in previous years. One year they started to feed from the bottom of silo, and a very large part of it spoiled. Another year, although opened and used from the top, considerable was again spoiled in the corners and outside, but not many cattle were kept that winter, which may have been the cause. It was well tramped that year. Silo is double-boarded, with thick paper between the boards on inside and one board on outside. The studding is two inches by ten. Boards are rough,

GOOD PROSPECTS FOR APPLE PRICES.

In the face of a duty of seventy-five cents a barrel, there will be a considerable export of Ontario apples to the United States this year, according to Mr. P. W. Hodgetts, Secretary of the Ontario Fruit-growers' Association. A large number of American buyers are in the Province, taking what they can get now, and making contracts for further supplies during the season, at an average price of \$3 a barrel, f. o. b. on this side of the line. Severe spring frosts, and subsequent bad weather in the Southern and Western States, were disastrous to the apple crops, and account for the demand for Ontario apples. Similar conditions in Britain and Europe have caused a shortage there, and the export to those countries will be heavier than usual. Manitoba, too, is making large demands, so that the outlook for apple values is bright. Prices of apples for home consumption range from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per barrel at the point of shipment.

not matched, and run horizontally; all joints are broken on inside. I am thinking of rounding the corners somewhat by running two or three rough boards, 1 x 12 inches, perpendicular, in each corner from top to the bottom. Would that cause the ensilage to become more solid and also keep better? Of course, it will be well tramped. The silo is built in one side of cow stable inside, and very convenient for feeding. I have been advised to pull it down, and rebuild it with the boards, but I prefer leaving it as it is. Can you advise me what to do?

2. My corn is tall white ensilage, just starting to ear; stalks are very tall. Shall I wait till frost, or cut it now? Should it lie some time to wither up, or can I put it in silo as soon as cut?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—1. We incline to think that the advice to tear down and build anew was wise. The style of silo described is one of the most expensive and least satisfactory wooden silos ever built. In the first place, fifteen feet is so shallow, that in order to make the silage last all winter, such a thin layer is removed daily that the silage at the top keeps drying out, heating and partially spoiling from day to day, particularly around the corners and sides. This tendency is aggravated by the comparative looseness of the ensiled corn, owing to the lack of sufficient weight to settle it properly, even when tramped. The average capacity per cubic foot of space is also much less in a shallow than in a deep silo. Again, a square or rectangular shape is not conducive to free settling, as the friction is greater than in a round or octagonal silo. Furthermore, horizontal lining, with unplanned lumber, is unsatisfactory. The ideal wooden silo is a stave structure, with inside surface dressed. Better still, and more economical in the long run, though more expensive at first, is the round cement, with a depth of 26 to 30 feet. However, as our inquirer does not wish to tear down his silo, and would scarcely have time to erect another this fall, we recommend cutting off the corners as suggested, by standing up in each corner a twelve-inch board or plank with bevelled edges, and tacking it in place. If inch boards are used, they will require braces behind them to prevent splitting. Tramp tightly about the corner when filling. Of course, in feeding one should never commence anywhere except at the top, and the stock should be sufficient to lower the silage by an average of one and a half or two inches per day. Even at this, care should be exercised to keep the surface level, and avoid digging holes with a shovel or fork.

2. As the corn is so very immature, leave it till frost comes, then cut as soon as possible, and put promptly into silo. If it gets dry before ensiling, wet it when cutting. This can be done by placing a barrel of water in such position that it may be drained into the blower pipes as the cut corn is being elevated into the silo.

SALE OF MARR AND DUTHIE CATTLE.

Just to hand from Macdonald, Fraser & Co., Limited, of Glasgow, Scotland, is a catalogue containing the pedigrees of 31 richly-bred Shorthorn cattle from the herds of William Duthie, Collynie, and John Marr, Uppermill, Scotland. These cattle are to be sold at auction on Tuesday, October 8th, 12.30 p. m., at Tillycain, Aberdeenshire, by Macdonald, Fraser & Co. Telegrams: "Duthie, Tarves," "Marr, Uppermill, Tarves."