

Soils and Crops

This Department is for the use of our farm readers who want the advice of an expert on any question regarding soil, seed, crops, etc. If your question is of sufficient general interest, it will be answered through this column. If a stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed with your letter, a complete answer will be mailed to you. Address Agronomist, care of Wilson Publishing Co., Ltd., 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto.

SPRING VS. FALL FRESHENED COWS.

Many farmers take it for granted that to have the cows fresh in the spring, it will make a greater profit than from them if they came in in the fall. One farmer who thought that way, told me his reason: "The principal thing that appeals to me," he explained, "is because what I get from the cows in the summer, is practically all profit. I do not have to give them much grain. They take care of themselves excepting around milking times, when I then have to get them into the barn, and out the first thing in the morning. I figure the profit that I get in the summer is worth enough to pay for the rest of the year."

We all know that cows, naturally, are apt to do their best in the summer time. Therefore to get the greatest profit from them, in the winter, conditions should be made as near like summer as possible. In the summer they get all of the nice fresh water with no ice in it to make it too cold. How many farms are there that have facilities so that the cows can get the same in the winter? Cows enjoy the nice warm days in the summer, too. Barns therefore should be kept warm and comfortable for them in the winter time. Too cold barns require more feeding of grain, which is expensive; as much of the feed has to go to keep the cattle warm. And they do not give as much either, under such conditions. Light is another important thing to consider. Plenty of windows to let as much of the sunlight into the tie-up is important if we are trying to imitate summer. Dark, damp stables make cows uneasy and discontented, and also help to breed germs of different diseases.

When the cows are at pasture in the summer, they get juicy, green, succulent feed. Such a ration may be given in a way by means of a silo. If the silage is put in before the frosts kill it green and succulent feed is assured for the winter time. All farmers who have fed silage can testify as to the great fondness which cows have for it.

So, to get the best results from winter-kept cows, it can be seen that by making conditions as near as possible as the cows get in the summer, the greatest profits are obtained. While it is true that the expense of grain and feed is much less for cows at pasture in the summer, perhaps I feel that on the long run, cows that fresh in the fall, pay the best. Unless the pasture is extremely good, along the last part of the summer it begins to get short and the grass dries up and without getting feed in the barn the cows drop off. How many farmers are there that consider it, and fail to feed their cows? And by the time the cows are taken in, in fall, they have dropped off in their milk flow and cannot be gotten back

again to where they should be. Consequently they are carried along without paying the profit that they might, until they freshen again.

Cows that have their calves in the fall, can be taken particular care of, and can be made to do their best. To get the greatest profit from ensilage it should be given to cows that are giving their largest flow of milk. To feed valuable ensilage to cows that are only giving their half flow of milk, is a waste of good feed. Such great results are obtained when given to cows that are fresh, so fall cows bring in the greatest profits from silage.

As a rule the price of milk is more in the fall and winter, too; and to get more milk (from fresh cows) makes more profit also. Cows that are taken care of properly, will give more during their lactation period beginning in the fall, than those that come in in the spring.

And winter-kept cows will go to pasture when it is at its best, in the spring. There will be no drop-off, which is the case with spring-freshened cows that go through the dry-pasture period.

Cows that are kept during the winter have to be fed grain. The extra amount of grain which should be given to fresh cows, is more than paid for as the extra amount of milk given is more in proportion.

Also, the work needed to take care of a certain number of cows, is nearly the same whether they give a large amount of milk or little.

Then, again, calves that are born in the fall, grow better and are larger and stronger and are ready for pasture sooner than spring-born calves. Calves raised in the summer are bothered with flies and the hot summer is had for them and the feeding pails, etc., are easily contaminated if not washed very promptly and carefully; scours are more easily gotten therefore. Also, calves wintered in a nice warm barn do not have these risks to bother.

So it is seen that if the cows are taken care of properly, after freshening in the fall, they will return more profits in proportion for any extra care and feed given them, and by the time they are nearly ready to dry off, the dried-up pasture is not doing the harm that it would to a cow that is giving a large flow.

Of course, even under the best of conditions, farmers cannot always have their cows come in at the time that they want them to. And also, with a large herd of cows, it would not be well to have all have calves in the fall, or at the same time. But, by realizing that the fall-freshened cows bring the most profits, if taken care of as they should be, farmers can, by planning ahead, make the most money from their cows in the end.

Horse Sense

Bright oat straw is whole some winter-feeding for idle horses. Many good feeders figure that every ton of good oat straw which the horses will eat saves half a ton or more of valuable hay. Some of the very best pure-bred draft mares in the country are fed good oat straw as their exclusive roughage during the winter months. The only other feed they receive is about three or four pounds of grain a day to each mare, as may seem necessary to keep the digestive system working properly.

The fact that straw is a heat-producing feed is of importance because the best feed for producing warmth to idle horses is also the cheapest. Idle work horses require only sufficient grain to maintain them in good flesh condition; all the rest of their feed may well consist of cheap roughage, provided it is clean, bright and free from injurious substances. By feeding more bright straw and just enough grain to keep their digestive systems in good order the work horses can be wintered so cheaply as to greatly reduce the cost of maintenance, and this means considerable savings in the cost of operating a farm where several work teams are used.

Stunted? Points worth remembering, they mean money to you. The tender clover and timothy plants require all growth possible as a winter protection, therefore keep all livestock off the newly-seeded meadows, because if pastured before harvest, the young plants are so weakened that winter-killing is the usual result. While, on the other hand, if a strong growth is left for protection, winter-killing is avoided and usually big crops of hay are harvested the following season.

Deserved Decoration. "Have you a wife?" inquired a British Tommy of a boche he had captured. "Nein," replied the German. "Nine," gasped the Britisher in amazement. "Nimm, where's your iron cross, man?"

in large quantities twice a day. The natural way to feed calves is to allow a little milk often, and certainly not less than three times a day. The milk should be warm, the milk pail clean and the calf should be made to drink slowly.

Lambs fail to grow fast because the ewes have been wintered on coarse, dry, bulky roughage. Colts are stunted for the same reason, and also because the mares are made to work too soon and too hard after foaling and allowed to suckle their young when hot, sweaty and tired.

Worms are the most common and certain cause of stunting. They are certain to infest and injure every animal that grazes short grass on an old pasture long used by animals. Each kind of animal taints the pasture with the parasites peculiar to it.

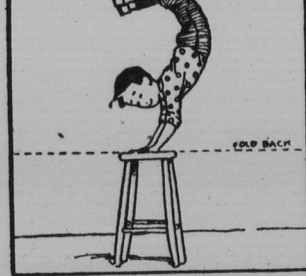
Pigs afflicted with piles or prolapsus of the rectum have been stunted and often prove a total loss. Lack of exercise, constipation and feeding of some irritant, such as unscreened ground oats, containing hulls, are common causes. Prolonged heavy feeding of boiled potatoes is another cause. Stuffing young pigs on corn and confining them to a pen also causes stunting, as well as rickets or paralysis.

After the Grain Harvest. Points worth remembering, they mean money to you. The tender clover and timothy plants require all growth possible as a winter protection, therefore keep all livestock off the newly-seeded meadows, because if pastured before harvest, the young plants are so weakened that winter-killing is the usual result. While, on the other hand, if a strong growth is left for protection, winter-killing is avoided and usually big crops of hay are harvested the following season.

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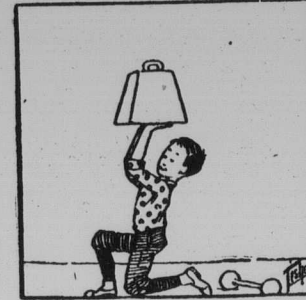
FUNNY FOLD-UPS

CUT OUT AND FOLD ON DOTTED LINES



MY MOTHER SAYS SHE THINKS I MAY TURN OUT AN ACROBAT SOME DAY

IF I WERE ONLY TWINS YOU'D SEE THE FAMOUS TEAM OF "ME AND ME"



Poultry

The fowls and eggs from a pure-bred flock of hens will bring more money on account of their uniformity.

One of our most conservative poultrymen says that if all farmers would keep pure-bred poultry, the business would be doubled in a few years and that we would still be getting good prices for our products.

Many people are getting tired of eating pork and old dairy cows, and are becoming eaters of chickens, mutton and veal, thus increasing the possibilities of the sheep-and-poultry business.

When poultry can eat and thrive on all kinds of foods and produce good results, it is very good evidence that they are constitutionally strong.

The Silo, The Lighthouse of the Farm. During the last few years stock-raisers have flourished around quite a bit and occasionally one has hit a rock and gone down. Fortunately, every stock-raiser can have a lighthouse that will keep him, as well as an occasional neighbor, off the rocks and guide the way to better farming and bigger profits. That lighthouse is the silo.

There is no longer any doubt that silos point the way to safe farming. Thousands of satisfied users have killed all the doubt.

In more ways than one a well-filled silo keeps stock-raisers off the rocks. The use of silage cheapens beef, milk, mutton and wool by cutting down the amount of grain needed. Silage is valuable for lambs in the feed lot, and for wintering the breeding ewes.

Silos are the greatest food savers known to stock-raisers. An acre of corn fodder put into a silo has more food value than an acre of corn. There are several reasons for this. One is that when corn is put into the silo none of it is wasted. The whole plant except the root goes in; when it comes out it is so palatable that the cattle, horses and sheep eat it with a relish. Another economy is that the corn is stored at a time when it contains the greatest amount of nutrients.

Every person with a dozen cows should have a silo. The diameter should be determined by the number of animals. For twelve cows, make silo ten feet wide and thirty feet high; fifteen cows, twelve feet wide and twenty-six feet high; twenty

used by them in the making of valuable meat foods.

Pigs, PORK AND PATRIOTISM

If we are to continue to provide meat for foreign people as well as our own, every farmer must put forth his best effort to produce more hogs. A glance at the prices of pork on the leading markets in this country and you can plainly see that we are slaughtering, consuming at home, and exporting more pork than we are producing. Some will say that the feed is too high to feed to the hogs, but the price has more than doubled in the past few years and the farmer can make many of the waste feeds on the farm profitable by raising hogs. You will find many communities in this province where the number of hogs have decreased during the past year. What has this caused? Look at the market prices of pork and the question is answered. These prices are high because we need more pork and now rather than any other time the farmer should be able to raise hogs profitably.

We can increase the amount of pork fats much more easily than we can increase the amount of vegetable or dairy fats. The people can not get along without fats as a food and because of this need, the farmer should endeavor to produce more fats by the quickest method. This method is by the increased hog production. Nearly all the farmers have a few dairy cows at least, and they are in an excellent position to raise pigs because of the skim-milk, buttermilk and other dairy products which can be

cows, twelve feet wide and thirty-two feet high; twenty-five cows, twelve feet wide and thirty-eight feet high; thirty cows, fourteen feet wide and thirty-four feet high.

Two years ago a farmer known to the writer, built a silo which cost \$55. He began to keep account to see whether it returned him any profit. His cream checks for one month amounted to \$29.31 more than the same month the year before. He was milking the same cows and they had been milked about the same length of time after freshening. The feed was the same except that the corn was from the silo instead of from a feed bin. At that rate the silo paid for itself in two months.

The filling season, when kernels are dented, is close at hand. Every stock-raiser should build a silo, for the stock farm without a silo is only half a farm. The silo is the one place where \$1.50 corn realizes \$3 a bushel when fed.

On the Upper Branches. The choicest fruit grows on the upper branches. When we want to see the finest products of the farm we must look high up, among the limbs that are nearest to the pure air and the sunshine.

It is the man who thinks big thoughts, plans great enterprises, and carries them out who makes the real success in his chosen line. Never until a man's heart is filled with love for his work can he be truly happy and reach life's finest prizes. Working hard will not do it; investing a great deal of money will not do it; nothing but the investment of self will win. Top-branch farming is a thing of the best possible study, the deepest possible thought, the most careful planning, backed up by good workmanship.

Millions of men have gone across the stage of life and left not a single mark to show they ever lived. Their names are forgotten. They plowed, they sowed, they gathered into barns; but where are they? What have they left to make the world any better or to prove that they were worthy the place they occupied? Not a single thing. Their lives were pale fruit, growing down out of sight, under a burden of leaves and branches.

This need not be so. The call of to-day is for the very best there is in us—not here and there a man, but all. The world need for big men on the farm is urgent. It will never be fully met until all men everywhere appreciate to the full the dignity of good farming, and put all there is in them of mind, soul, body, and heart into everything they do, from hoeing a hill of corn to directing a great farm operation.

How to Prevent Cabbage Heads From Splitting.

If cabbages are grown on a rich, loamy soil, the growth is often so rapid that the heads split late in the summer. It is especially the case with early cabbages or with late varieties that are started early. On that account many gardeners delay setting out cabbage plants until late in the season.

It often happens that a fine patch of early cabbages cannot readily be disposed of at once. Usually they are ruined by splitting. The trouble can be prevented without much effort. Take hold of the cabbage before the head with both hands and give it a slight jerk sufficient to loosen part of the feeding roots, but not strong enough to pull the plant away from its hole in the soil. In that way the flow of food materials to the plant can be almost stopped, although sufficient moisture to keep it solid, fresh and green will continue to rise. Then the heads may be left in the garden until they are needed. If you cut off the heads of early cabbages instead of pulling them up by the roots, the stems will throw out new leaves that you can use for salads or give to the hens.

GOOD HEALTH QUESTION BOX

By Andrew F. Currier, M.D.

Dr. Currier will answer all signed letters pertaining to Health. If your question is of general interest it will be answered through these columns. If not, it will be answered personally if stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr. Currier will not prescribe for individual cases or make diagnoses. Address Dr. Andrew F. Currier, care of Wilson Publishing Co., 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.

Medicines for Kidney Diseases.

If one has disease in the stomach or intestines he generally knows it and can localize it, but if he has disease in his kidneys, aside from aching and pains in the loins which are by no means sure indicators of kidney disease, there is nothing which can tell him, if he is without special information on such subjects, that these organs are diseased.

To be sure the urine is an important indication but it says little to the uninitiated. Its appearance has comparatively little significance, in fact when it is as clear as spring water and irreplaceable to the ordinary judgment it may have come from hopelessly diseased kidneys, while that which is bad smelling and suspicious to the uninitiated may have come from kidneys that are normal.

Many of the physical changes in the urine take place in the bladder hence if you are influenced by the appearance of the urine as to your choice of medicine you may be taking what may be harmful to the kidneys and be of no use to the bladder.

Albumen and casts are the most important things found in the urine but they cannot be seen or found except by chemical and microscopical examination.

Blood and pus may often be seen in the urine but how can you tell whether they came from the bladder or kidney, as they may come from either.

Gallons of urine are sometimes passed daily, how are you going to tell that it indicates diabetes with sugar or diabetes without sugar, or cold, or disease of the nervous system, and how are you going to decide what remedy you should take?

When newspapers advertise Smith's Kidney Cure, Jones Safe Remedy and Brown's Kidney Pills, they are offering you something that is harmless and worthless and a fraud, or something which may be good if you know how to use it, but upon which you are not able to decide by your unaided judgment.

There are many societies for the prevention of mischief and wrong doing, there should be one to prevent people from using kidney medicines they know nothing about.

It is possible to influence the kid-

neys by medicines for all the blood in the body passes through them every few minutes and it is the blood which carries medicinal substances taken by mouth and eliminated by the kidneys.

Two kidneys are usually provided for this purpose though many are able to get along with one while it remains in good condition.

Medicines will not replace a kidney which has been destroyed or removed, nor will they destroy kidney tissues which have been so injured they cannot filter out water and waste matters from the blood.

Medicines can sometimes spur up inactive kidneys, check those which are doing too much, and coax along those which are diseased and imperfect but not too much so.

If this cannot be done, the wastes and poisons which the kidneys should eliminate, are retained and life is destroyed by them.

Water is one of the best kidney medicines, especially when combined with sodium, potassium, lithium or other minerals.

Mineral water is constantly used with advantage by those who have kidney diseases.

Cold will stimulate the kidneys, so will blistering and cupping. Alcohol and digitalis, acting through the heart increase the blood flow through the kidneys and so increase the flow of urine.

Buchu, bear berry, parsley, broom, juniper and many other drugs will influence the kidneys and are often present in patent medicines.

In general it is unsafe for an individual to decide for himself whether his kidneys are diseased, and how they are diseased, still less therefore is it safe or prudent to decide upon the kind of medicine which would suit your case.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mrs. J. M. T.—Will bananas cause increase of weight? I wish to be on flesh.

Answer.—Bananas, when ripe, are full of fat and also have any large amount of fat.

ushling Christian virtues place in the teaching. Shall see God—The Christian is a gradual unveiling of the pure have a clarification which more clearly in everything.

9. The peacemakers—Peace lower sense is the absence of sin or difference between men, but in a higher sense it is reconciliation of man with God—the peace made by Christ. Sons of God—They are most akin to the divine nature, perfect, as the Father in heaven is perfect.

10. Persecuted—The servants of God who in all things have been persecuted or the presence of sinners of Jesus who have already suffered. Theirs is the kingdom—That is, the royal rule of God in the earth belongs to those who in supreme loyalty have not hesitated to give themselves utterly for their convictions, not counting personal ease or well-being, or even life itself.

Gal. 5, 22, 23. Fruit of the spirit—The Christian man lives, according to Paul, by the "Law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus." No life of outward conformity to certain commandments, but of loyal obedience from the heart. This produces in the normal fruit. Love—This is the binding principle in all Christian fellowship. Joy—This characterizes the Christian spirit. "Ask and receive that your joy may be full." Rejoice evermore. The kingdom of God is joy in the Holy Spirit. Peace—"Peace I leave with you," said Jesus. "My peace I give unto you." Long-suffering—This is a part of the Christian inheritance. Kindness—Moral integrity, benignity, a benevolent and gracious attitude toward people. Goodness—Uprightness of heart and life. A clear and definite quality of moral soundness. Faithfulness—A firm conviction and steadfast adherence thereto, as well as perfect trustworthiness. Meekness—That quality of gentleness alluded to in the beatitudes. Self-control—That quality which indicates that one has mastery over himself, particularly his appetites and passions.

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5. The meek—This means an absence of resentment; meekness in suffering. This was a virtue which received but faint praise by the Greeks, who could not conceive of such a spirit as consonant with manliness. This was the spirit of Jesus, who prayed for his enemies, yet who was deficient in no element of virtuous manliness. Shall inherit the earth—In a literal sense the meek have inherited the earth. No great ones of the earth have a higher place than the apostles. The Superman despises the meek as weak and effeminate. But it is not to the brutal or the arrogant alone that the lordly that the crowns are eventually given by the noblest minds of the earth.

6. They that hunger and thirst after righteousness—"Righteousness" is literally "rightness," correctness in thinking, feeling, and acting. It is integrity, justice, fairness. It is rightness, not of outward conformity but of inward holiness. "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees," shall be filled. As of one feeding. Shall be satisfied. Spiritual hunger for the highest and the best things shall be satisfied. Compare John 6, 35.

7. The merciful—With the Stoics "mercy" was reckoned among the defects or vices, it was a disturbing element that broke in upon the philosophic calm, but it is a trait of the child of God. Shall obtain mercy—This principle shall be dealt with as they deal with their fellow men is seen in the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matt. 18, 21-35).

8. The pure in heart—Not ceremonial purity. Purity is a distinguish-

Rhubarb should not be pulled when the stalks become fey and thin. Give the plants a mulching of manure, which will improve the supply for next year.