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LIVE STOCK FOR SHOWS

A Few Help'ul Hints for Youthful Exhibitors.

Bear the Ancestors In Mind—Pick
Typy Animals—How to Feed and
Handle Colts, Calves and Lambs
—Boys Are Making Good as
Exhibitors.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of
Agriculture, Toronto.)

Calves that have been fed liberally and judiciously will develop as the factors which we call heredity determine. It will be all calf, but its perfection of form is determined by its parentage. Food cannot make a square beef calf out of a three-cornered dairy calf. So to begin with the feeder should select the young calf largely on the individuality of the parents. Get a calf that will feed out to be as good or better than its ancestors—something that is worth while spending time and money on—and then take care of it. The breed score cards give clearly what is desired in breed type. These should be studied along with the animal that is being selected for exhibition. Calves should be halter broken when young, and handled gently that they may be quiet and docile at exhibition time. If in proper flesh to look well, ribs and back well covered, it is comparatively easy to complete the work of preparation. Prospective exhibits should be kept in the stable for several weeks previous to the fair, where they can be washed, groomed and blanketed in order that their handling qualities may reach a degree of mellowness that is very desirable in exhibition calves. When exhibiting before the judge see that your calf is standing on level ground, quietly, and with feet well placed so as to present a good appearance. Don't let the other exhibitors crowd too closely and hide your exhibit from view.

Handling the Colt.

The colt selected for competition at the fair should meet the requirements of the class in which it is planned to exhibit. It should also be typical of the breed that it represents. As with the calf, the colt can only be what its ancestors make it. Colts may look very much alike when only a day old, but they certainly do not develop alike, even if the care and feed are the same. So get your start by selecting your exhibition prospect from good type parentage—exhibition stock if you can. Liberal feeding from the beginning on a comparatively narrow ration to develop all the bone and muscle possible should be the aim. Halter breaking and careful schooling to develop courage and tractability should be practiced from the beginning. The colt's feet should be trimmed frequently enough to keep them in proper shape. Teaching the colt to move attractively at the walk and trot, to stand well and to permit handling of its feet is very essential in the general training of the animal. Such training is also a great aid on exhibition day. The colt that has had liberal treatment from birth and developed well, needs but little exhibition fitting. Good feeding will put a bloom on the colt that cannot be attained in any other way. Protection from the hot sun and flies, blanketing and grooming are material aids in developing a desirable coat condition, and should be practiced during the month previous to the exhibition. Ribbon and straw decorations while very attractive to the average good horseman do not carry very much weight with the high class judge, and are not likely to be of influence except in very close competition.

Shaping the Lamb for the Fair.

Lambs presented for exhibition at school or other fairs should, first of all have been born early enough in the spring to be well grown by exhibition time. The lamb's fleece should be kept free of ticks and lice, burrs and dirt. During the season, a washink can be given, if necessary, at least two weeks previous to the show. Lambs that are kept up and fed in covered pens will show a better fleece than if they had been running out on pasture up to the last minute. The fleece should be neatly trimmed one week or more after washing, if washing is practiced, and care taken to keep the fleece free of chaff and dust until the exhibition is over. In feeding for exhibition, variety in feeding stuffs should be sought in order to keep up the lamb's appetite, using oats, corn wheat, bran, cracked peas, barley meal and oil cake meal for the grain portion of the ration and good alfalfa or red clover hay, and swede turnips as roughage. These feeds if mixed to give a ration with a nutritive ratio of 1 to 6 or 1 to 7 will take care of the growth demands and fatten the lambs. Should it be desired to feed the lambs while running on pasture, the grain ration given can be used. The lambs should be handled sufficiently to make them tame enough to stand well when being exhibited. If more than one lamb is called for in a class, all individuals should be uniform in size, type, condition of fleece and body fleshing.

Getting the Pig Ready.

Pigs presented for exhibition at school or other fairs should, first of

all be of the proper type and weight for the class in which it is planned to exhibit them. The exhibit should be clean. This condition is best accomplished by an application of warm water, soap and the scrubbing brush. The crate or pen should be well bedded with straw or shavings to make it comfortable and attractive. It should also be free from nails, old wire, broken bottles or any other material likely to injure the exhibit.—L. Stevenson, Sec., Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

It takes no more to feed a cow that tests high in butterfat, and she may be returning you double in profit.

THE FARM LOAN SYSTEM

Government Plan for Developing
Farm Property.

Loans Limited to Specific Purposes
—Reasonable Rate of Interest for
Long Term Loans—Helps to
Straighten Estate Tangles—About
Repayments.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of
Agriculture, Toronto.)

On October 28th last the Agricultural Development Board passed the first loan under the long term farm loan legislation of the previous session. Since that time loans to the amount of about \$800,000 have been passed.

In noting the progress as shown by the figures quoted it is necessary to remember that the loans are limited to certain specific purposes. Acquiring land, erection of buildings, straightening up an estate—these were the purposes in the original Act and loans up to 65 per cent. of the value of the property could be made. To these purposes have now been added the discharging of encumbrances where such encumbrances do not exceed 40 per cent. of the value, and the cost of installing the drains.

Three Features.

There are three features of the plan which have been commented on favorably by applicants. These are:

1. Money is available.
2. Rate of interest.
3. Amortization of repayments.

There has been a general impression that there was always plenty of money available in rural Ontario to finance all farm mortgages offered. This is not as true now in any section as formerly, and is not true at all in some sections. Victory bonds attracted large sums of money from rural Ontario and moreover developed an understanding of bonds and their advantages for investment which did not previously exist. Consequently many applicants for loans have stated that there was now little or no money available in their community for farm mortgages.

Then the rate of interest at six per cent. is regarded as reasonable for a long term loan. It is, of course, two or three per cent. less than prevailing rates in New Ontario, and there is reason to believe that in old Ontario it has a stabilizing influence.

But the feature which appears to appeal to many is the basis of repayment. When the repayment is divided into annual instalments of principal and interest and spread over a period of twenty years it gives a sense of permanence and enables a man to make his plans accordingly. A payment of 87.17 per thousand dollars borrowed, will discharge the entire loan in 20 years, and this is not much more than the interest payments which would be asked in some cases otherwise. Most borrowers are looking forward to having the entire loan discharged long before the maximum period, but when they are told they can pay as much as they like on due date after the third year they are quite satisfied.

As to Red Tape.

It is perhaps asking a good deal to expect a skeptical public to believe that any Government or semi-Government organization operates without red tape. Certainly it is the aim of this Board to do so. To comply with the Act and to see that the interests of the Province are properly safeguarded there are some conditions with must necessarily be rigidly insisted upon. Within these lines, however, the Board has endeavored to make the operation of the plan as simple as possible from the standpoint of the borrower. Sometimes there is a slight flaw in the title, making it necessary to get the signature of someone now several thousand miles away. It is in the interests of the borrower, as well as of the Board, that the title be made absolutely clear, even if it takes a few weeks to do so.

In this work it will be obvious that inspection and valuing is a most important part. The Board is expected and desires to serve the whole Province. Covering such a large territory with such a variety of conditions is a big job and the Board must necessarily place reliance on the information which comes to it from its inspectors.

Estates and Buildings.

One of the purposes for which loans are authorized under the Act is for straightening up estates, and this has been found an advantage in a considerable number of cases;

for instance, where the property has been left to the oldest son, with instructions to pay off obligations to other members of the family.

In Old Ontario naturally the applications for loans to erect buildings have not been numerous, but a number of such applications have been passed. Here is a case of a hundred acre farm with buildings, put down as worth \$7,500, free of debt. Yet the house is only valued at \$200. Hence the owner secures a loan of \$2,500 to build a new house and spreading the payments over a period of years will enjoy the additional comfort while it is being paid for. In other cases it has been a new barn or improvements to some of the existing buildings. Not many loans have been granted on small holdings.

Repayments.

Repayments are probably the final test of the success of any loaning scheme. No repayments are due under this scheme until next fall, and hence no evidence on this point is available. Every precaution has been taken, however, to assure repayment, and every borrower is given to understand that a loan is a business proposition and must be treated on a strictly business basis.

A good sire is the beginning of a good herd; a bad one is the end of an herd.

CULTURES FOR SILOS

Helping Out Poor Fodders Turned
Into Ensilage.

Lactic Acid Cultures Now Applied—
Good Fodder Requires No Treat-
ment—Sealing the Silo—Make a
Compost Heap of Garden Rubbish.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of
Agriculture, Toronto.)

Attempts have been made to control or direct acid bacteria. Bacillus lactic acid has long been known to be beneficial in silage making, and its product, lactic acid, is found to the extent of one per cent. in well made silage. Experience has demonstrated that the addition of bacillus lactic acid in quantity to the fodder as the silos were being filled gave good results, particularly so when the fodder material was past the best stage for making high-grade silage. The addition of the bacillus lactic acid in quantity to the more or less spoiled fodder provided an active agent to check and override the other bacteria present and thereby control the fermentative process, and bring the silage mass to a fairly uniform condition with lactic acid predominant in the silage.

Add Lactic Acid Culture.

This addition of lactic acid culture to the fodder at the time of silo filling is easily accomplished by securing a small quantity of a pure culture for lactic acid, from a creamery as a beginning. The pure culture obtained from the creamery is placed in a three-gallon can of clean skim-milk. This is placed in a warm position for three days, it can then be added to more skim-milk, increasing the bulk sufficiently to have one gallon for each load of material that goes into the silo. This skim-milk culture carrying a vast number of bacillus lactic acid is sprinkled over the cut fodder as the silo filling proceeds.

Good Fodder Requires No Culture Treatment.

If the corn is in prime condition for silage making at the time of ensiling, nothing is to be gained by adding culture, however its use is strongly advised if the corn or other fodder is a bit off in condition due to damage through unseasonable weather, delays, etc.—L. Stevenson, Sec. Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

Sealing the Silo.

Several methods of sealing the silo after it has been filled have justified their use. What is wanted is a heavy blanket of material on top as near airtight as possible. A Minnesota writer says:

Some times weeds or heavy green grass are run through the cutter as a finishing layer. Some prefer to jerk the ears from the last two or three loads of corn used so no grain is lost, and allow the corn itself to make the airtight layer needed to preserve the silage below. At any rate, it is a good practice to tramp the silage around the edges at intervals of three or four days for about two weeks. This helps to prevent the settling away from the wall, which often occurs.

Spoiling at the surface may be prevented entirely by covering the top of the silage when filling is completed with a layer of tar paper cut to fit snugly around the walls and overlapping between the strips. If this is used, it is advisable to weight it with some green material of some kind or with boards. Most farmers, however, think the use of corn itself with the ears removed and with proper tramping is more economical than the use of paper.

In filling the silo the usual recommendation is to keep the surface higher at the sides than in the center and to do most of the tramping near the wall. The last two feet had best be kept about level with the same amount of tramping in all parts of the silo.