

EFFICIENT FARMING

FLIES AND LIVE STOCK.

The fly is a destroyer of profits. The annoyance that the various types of live stock suffer from this cause during the summer period can be determined with fair accuracy and expressed as loss in pounds of milk, pounds of pork or work not done. Animals get no rest from morning until night. The worry is greatest during the period of greatest light and temperature.

The common stable fly, also known as *Stomoxys calcitrans*, resembles the common house fly in size and shape. The stable fly bites much harder, giving quite a sharp sting. It is also a blood sucker and a very persistent tease. The thin skin covering the legs, flanks and abdomen of cattle and horses is the area they attack when bent on satisfying their thirst and hunger. At other times they may rest quietly on the animal's back or on the stable wall. Any person that has to milk cows during the summer period is well acquainted with the annoyance that these little creatures can create. And when the stable fly is ably assisted by the house fly and the horn fly, both the cow and the milker have anything but a pleasant time in their endeavors to be at least half efficient in milk production. The stable fly breeds principally in decaying refuse, horse manure, rotting straw—materials that are too frequently found quite close to the farm buildings during the summer period when it is possible to keep them at a distance.

To prevent the stable fly from annoying the animals, providing darkened stables, pens, sheds or other shelters in which the animals can retreat is a good practice. Spraying or brushing the animals over with liquid fly repellants is also advised. There is no repellent of very enduring efficiency, but a number of such now in common use are worth while even if

their effect is so short as to require daily or twice a day application. This may seem a lot of work, but a man with an auto spray holding two gallons of liquid can go over a line of twenty cows in five minutes. A successful preparation that can be used as a spray is made by mixing the following:

Three lbs. laundry soap, 4 1/4 quarts coal tar dip, 4 1/4 quarts fish oil, 3 quarts coal oil, 3 quarts whale oil, 1 1/2 quarts oil of tar. Dissolve the laundry soap in water and then add the other ingredients and more water to make 30 gallons of spray.

Poisons and traps are sometimes used and can be made very efficient agents in stable fly control if used with ordinary intelligence and thoroughness. Formaldehyde is one of the best poisons to use in fly destruction. Mix two ounces of formaldehyde with 1 1/2 quarts of milk, sweeten with brown sugar, and place in a window where the flies congregate. In stables and pig pens properly darkened, one window may be left uncovered to provide the necessary light to attract the flies to the poison dish. If the stable man will at the beginning of the season provide shelves on which to place poison dishes high enough up to be out of the way and where there is light, keep the same replenished from day to day with formaldehyde, milk and sugar, and see that all other moisture is covered up, millions of flies can be destroyed with little effort. A general clean up daily to prevent the pest increasing by breeding is very necessary to fly control; in fact, there is little use in trying to poison or trap flies if we are so shiftless and neglectful of sanitary conditions as to permit them to breed wholesale. Clean up is the first and last word in stable fly control.—L. Stevenson, Ontario Agricultural College.

VALUE OF INTROSPECTION

It gives one a very exalted feeling to stand on a pedestal, aloof from the crowd, telling it what to do and how to do it. It makes one feel as above the common herd, but, when one comes to council with oneself, that is a different matter. Then we meet our proposition on the level and our confidence with our conscience makes us feel very humble.

Most of us dislike this humble feeling, so we do not often have this quiet personal conference. So, we go along holding on to a false pride which permits us to keep half-baked notions that we are all O.K. but that the drought spoiled the crop, the worms ruined our fruit, the pig was a runt anyhow, or, in other words, something outside of ourselves has been to blame for the unsatisfactory results we have attained.

If we would but get into a quiet place at frequent intervals to have a conference with ourselves and seek the answers to pertinent, personal questions, it would, without doubt, be time well spent.

We may ask such questions as: Am I unprejudiced in my consideration of the latest finding in agricultural work; am I doing justice to my land in tillage and fertilization; am I doing my best to live a full and useful life; am I endeavoring to eliminate prejudices which hinder my progress and the happiness of myself and family?

If we will but conscientiously ask ourselves such questions, we may find answers which may broaden our views of life, materially change our agricultural practices, and add considerably to our happiness. Too often we obstruct our own roads to a greater and more happy life.

Rules for Care With Fire in the Woods

If Every Person Strictly Observed These Simple Rules, the Great Annual Loss by Forest Fires Would be Reduced to a Minimum.

1. Be sure your match is out before you throw it away.
2. Knock out your pipe ashes or throw your cigar or cigarette stump where there is nothing to catch fire.
3. Don't build a camp fire any larger than is absolutely necessary. Never leave it, even for a short time, without putting it OUT with water or earth.
4. Don't build a camp fire against a tree or a log. Build a small one where you can scrape away the needles, leaves or grass from all sides of it.
5. Don't build bonfires. The wind may rise at any time and start a fire which you cannot control.
6. If you discover a fire, put it out if possible; if you can't, inform the nearest Forest Ranger or Fire Warden as quickly as you possibly can.

THE PERENNIAL PHLOX

The phlox is one of the most satisfactory hardy perennials, as the plants multiply rapidly, bloom freely, and make a great display in the border. To get the best results they should have an abundant supply of moisture and a damp situation should be chosen for them when possible.

Their worst insect is a tiny insect called the red spider, which, however, is not very troublesome except in dry seasons. Where the red spiders are abundant the leaves become yellowish where they are working and their presence may be known by these lighter patches. As they are feeding on the under side of the leaves any spray which is used must be applied there. To do this effectively, one person should hold back the foliage with a stick or rake handle and another do the spraying. Cold water frequently and forcibly applied will be found effective and any of the contact sprays such as nicotine sulphate, whale oil soap, or kerosene emulsion, will control it if used frequently. A little flowers of sulphur mixed with these will make them more effective.

The cultivation of the phlox is a very simple matter. Soil that will produce good garden crops of any kind is quite suitable for phlox. The plant multiplies by an increase in the size of the plant, which may be divided into even smaller portions which may be used for starting new plants. There are obtainable either from a friend's garden, from the nursery, or as horticultural society premiums, and may be planted in either early spring or in the fall.

The phlox is well suited for a perennial border and as it grows from one and a half to two feet tall it should be set fairly well back. From three to six feet apart in the border, according to the space to be given to the other varieties of perennials, is a suitable distance. The colors, although varying from white through many grades to red, do not clash in the border, particularly when set at the wider distances. It is a mistake to allow the phlox to remain in the same spot for many years. About once in three years they should be divided and the centre portion discarded. By this means the quality of the bloom is kept up and stock is increased for planting or distribution to friends.

There are many good varieties of perennial phlox, but in the following list we may find some of the best.

- Antonin Mercie—Bright violet suffused with white, large white centre.
- Consul H. Trost—Pure red with French purple centre.
- Eclair—Bright rosy magenta shading lighter. One of the earliest.
- Elizabeth Campbell—Salmon pink, shading lighter. A very pleasing color.
- Etna or Mounet Sully—Bright crimson red with darker centre. Both very good.
- Wm. Robinson—Salmon, large flowers.
- Widar, or Lamartine—Bright violet with large white centre.
- Pantheon—Crimson pink suffused with white about centre.
- Pyramide or Fiancee—Flowers pure white. Both very good.
- Selma—Lilac rose with conspicuous crimson eye.
- Europe—Pure white with crimson carmine centre.
- Miss Lingard—White with a lilac centre, is an early free-blooming variety which should be in every collection.
- Tapis Blanc—One of the best whites. Dwarf.
- George H. Strolein—Orange scarlet.
- Mme. M. Carvalho—Mottled white and pink.

Spraying Cherries.

The Department of Entomology of the O.A.C. has for several years conducted experiments in the spraying of cherries, especially sweet cherries, chiefly with the object of getting further knowledge of the best way to control brown rot and leaf spot. This work was continued during 1923 but an innovation was made in that some of the trees in each plot were sprayed with a fungicide (no arsenical being used) when in full bloom. The object was to test whether this would lessen the crop by interfering with pollination. If it did not do so, then this method could be used in years when the weather during bloom was wet and when in consequence most of the blossoms would be so injured by the brown rot disease that they could not set fruit. It was a pleasure to find that both at Simcoe and Grimsby trees thus sprayed suffered no injury and that the fungicide did not interfere with pollination or in any other way lessen the crop. So far as we know this is the first experiment of this kind in Canada upon cherries, though we have had similar experiments in spraying apples in full bloom with similar results.

For Home and Country

When and How Are You Going to Recreate Yourself?

BY GIBBON SCOTT.

The English Women's Institutes inaugurated something which might prove adaptable in some degree to Canadian Institutes. It was a W.I. Summer Tour of two weeks, though, of course, the time could be longer or shorter to suit time and purse, and any place could be agreed upon by the members.

This tour was to Switzerland and cost about \$50 each, including everything. The party consisted of twenty-five members with the Institute secretary, who endeared herself to everyone through her unfailing kindness and thoughtfulness as conductor, says the English "Home and Country" magazine. The headquarters of the party was at Spiez, on Lake Thun, with a glorious view of the snowy mountains. The members had season tickets for the lake steamers of which they made full use, visiting lakes Thun, Brienz, the town and castle of Thun, Interlaken, the Falls of Grisebach, and Kandersteg, where the party was entertained by two of the members summering there, to tea, at the conclusion of which there was a talk by a Swiss on the Swiss Educational and Local Government Systems.

The members climbed the Grindelwald Glacier and some adventurous spirits even started at midnight to see the sun rise on the mountain tops, one being lucky enough to find the much-sought-after Edelweiss flower.

They were especially interested in the people and their home life. The general condition of well-being was noticeable, and the happiness and contentment of the young people whose life offered few distractions. The school girls have a custom of singing when out on excursions. "The Swiss seem to enjoy life to the very full, and sing for the very joy of it," wrote one.

The household cooking utensils, stove arrangements, the cultivation of the land, so different from ours, the wooden farm implements were closely examined, and facts and impressions eagerly stored up for the benefit of the W.I. members at home. The color of lakes and mountains and flowers, the swirling mountain torrents with spray, the glittering snowfields,—nothing was missed.

Here in Ontario we have the most wonderful falls in the world, some of the grandest lakes and most beautiful landscapes, with the motor cars, which are still a luxury for millionaires over there. Why not organize for June this summer some Institute tours of shorter or longer duration to suit the members?

One country Branch clubbed together and rented a lakeside cottage for a month to which the members went for a few delightful rest days each according to a schedule planned with the secretary during the hottest days. It was kept occupied!

Better to spend some of our time and a little money on the recreation which will keep us from taking that over-needed rest in bed with a doctor in attendance next winter. What the home-maker owes to herself is worthy of thoughtful consideration too, if she is to be really efficient.

Caring for Furnace Smoke Pipes.

Furnace smoke pipes are ruined in summer, not in winter. I will illustrate: A few years ago when I set up my coal furnace in the fall I found the ten-inch smoke pipe badly corroded, with several holes through it, and many spots which I could push in with my thumb. The elbow joints were strong enough to hold it together, so I wired asbestos paper around it, and set it to work. Then I ordered a new one. This new one lay in my dry cellar all winter, for the old asbestos-covered pipe did its work well through the whole season. That set me thinking. I recalled that though I had beaten my pipe clean every spring, it would always be dripping in the fall, though it was kept in a dry shed.

At the end of the first winter with the new pipe I washed it out thoroughly with a scrubbing brush, rinsed and dried it. The galvanizing crystals were almost as bright as they were in October. Then I put it in the same dry shed. It did not change a particle that I could perceive through the summer. However carefully a stove pipe is knocked or beaten to clean it, it retains a coating of hygroscopic matter, whether you have burned coal or wood. This absorbs water from the damp summer air and forms a corrosive liquid which eats into the pipe rapidly as we learn to our cost.

To take proper care of a furnace smoke pipe, therefore, one should scrub it out very thoroughly. My pipe has lasted me for years, and is still in almost perfect condition.—F. S. C.

Nature's Method of Hatching.

In hatching eggs by the natural method, it is a good plan to start several hens at the same time. This is not always possible with the lighter breeds, but with Plymouth Rocks and other heavy sorts it is generally not difficult to find three or four hens wanting to sit. On the seventh or eighth day after setting, the eggs should be tested by holding them before a light. The infertile eggs can be detected by their showing a uniform lightness, whereas the fertile eggs show a dark spot with a cloudy portion around it. If enough infertile eggs are found, it may be possible to discard one of the sitters and give all the eggs to the remaining hens. It requires some practice to do the testing properly. If one does not possess a regular lamp or electric light tester, the testing can be done by holding an egg at a time at the end of a tube made by rolling a piece of paper and placing the egg against the lighted lamp after dark. Exhibition Circular No. 2 of the Experimental Farms, obtainable from the Publications Branch of the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa, says that it is a good plan, when learning to test eggs, to crack an egg occasionally to see what is inside. The loss of a few eggs by this plan may prove a gain in the end.

The loss of little pigs will mean the loss of big profits.

According to Premier Bracken, weeds cost the farmers of Manitoba more than \$20,000,000 annually.

If you do not dock the lambs this spring, the market man will dock the price next fall or winter.

HEART DISEASE AT FIFTY

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We think of heart disease as a terrible handicap, and should a doctor pronounce such a diagnosis as applicable to one of us it would come as a stunning blow—the end of everything. If we realized how few persons of middle age are wholly free from some form of heart disease, perhaps we should be less fearful of it; and perhaps, on the other hand, we should treat it with more respect even though with less dread.

I venture the statement that any group of a dozen people rounding fifty years of age, country or city folks, but a little better odds on the country group, will show nine defective hearts if critically examined. Out of that nine possibly five will live to a good age without realizing that there is any impairment of their most important organ, two will discover their defect but not suffer seriously from it, and two will die of some form of disease of the heart.

A goodly share of heart complaints are the direct result of neglecting common points of infection such as abscesses of the teeth or diseased tonsils. It has not yet been absolutely demonstrated wherein lies the avenue of connection between these apparently inconsequential ailments and the heart but its existence is beyond a doubt.

The first thought of a good doctor, who would treat heart disease, in young or old, is to see that such points of infection are cleaned up. Another very important matter in preventing heart disease is to allow plenty of time to build strength after illness.

The points of this little lecture are two. First, that a diagnosis of heart disease is not of necessity a death verdict. The disease is common enough. It is better to be warned of our state that we may respect our limitations than to go over a limit an organ that needs consideration.

Second: That if we give respectable attention to the little ailments of life, keep ourselves in good physical condition, in the hard, grinding days of youth, take time to get well before resuming hard work after illness, and, in general, show consideration of the wonderful machine that is our body, we need have little fear that our hearts will fail us in our prime.—Dr. C. H. Terrigo.

Potato Sets.

The average of five years' results in testing potato sets of different sizes at the Ontario Agricultural College show that the size of the piece of potato planted has a very marked influence on the yield produced. There was an increase in the yield of potatoes per acre as the size of the potato sets increased in weight. Planting two ounces in comparison with one ounce pieces an additional 20.6 bushels of seed potatoes were required, and an additional yield of 25.5 bushels of potatoes were harvested.

Corn meal spoils more readily than flour and for most families it is best to buy in small quantities.