

breeding to select a breed of the bacon type. My experience of the hog business, in England and Alberta, leads me to say, that when one gets used to this country, and knows how to market his produce, this is unquestionably the one where the larger margin of profit is made. The climate is suitable and grains for feeding easily and cheaply grown. The greatest difficulty at present is a suitable market, at a fair price. When this is established, we shall see a very rapid advance in the hog industry, which will add considerably to the wealth of the country. I have seen a large number go in and out of the hog business because of the uncertain market conditions, but with the prospect of a solution of this question, there should be no hesitation in going into hogs and making it a paying investment.

My greatest difficulty at the start was in saving my young pigs in winter time, especially during cold snaps. I hold that sows kept for profitable breeding should produce two litters every year. When our sows are due to farrow, we place them in a warm loose box in our horse stable. If it should happen to be away down below zero at farrowing time, we watch the sow, and take each youngster as it comes, put it in a box which is lined with hay, and cover with a gunny sack; or if very cold we put the box in the furnace room of the house and carry the youngsters to it. When they have all arrived, and the sow quietly settled, we take them to her and let them suck, returning them to the warmth as soon as they have had a good feed and in a couple of days if all goes well, and they are well filled out, they will stand a lot of cold, but if they get chilled during the first twenty-four hours, they are worthless.

This way of handling means some broken rest, but it pays. During the severe winter of 1906-1907 I had five sows farrow, in the coldest weather, and we reared fifty young pigs. My first winter in this country I only reared three pigs out of four litters. I am most careful to keep my sows on suitable food, to enable them to bring good strong, healthy litters. This is most important and during the summer, it is very cheaply done. We grow rape in drills, sowing some oats and barley broadcast between the rows. When this is ready, we put the brood sows in it, in twelve feet square pens, moving them morning and evening. This with a little grain and all the water they want, seems to keep them in the very best possible condition. During the winter the sows are kept in a corral, with a well built house to sleep in, the door being fastened open. They are fed under an open shed, facing south, the winter fare being chiefly bran, wheat and barley chop, whole oats and alfalfa hay. Our horse manure is thrown into the corral which gives them something to root over and keeps them exercised.

After farrowing, we give the sows nothing but a drink of warm water with a little milk in it for twenty-four hours and feed them very lightly for several days, increasing as the little ones grow. A sow rearing a large litter will take a lot of nourishment and must have it to do good work. She also requires a lot of liquid. One rearing ten young pigs has to be supplied with, and must take into her own body, nourishment for eleven. Few hog raisers realize what a quantity this is, and provide adequately for it. We crowd the little ones on from birth as fast as we possibly can. No gains can be so economically and profitably made as with the young of any animal. When they begin to run about and root, say when two or three weeks old, we let them run into an adjoining pen, where we have a small trough with skim-milk and a little shorts. We keep this going as fast as they can handle it, so that at weaning time they do not miss their dam and are good, lusty pigs. The best of the litters are selected (if up to our standard) for breeders, both sexes, the balance pushed on to their destiny, leading a life of luxury and ease, which we make as short and profitable as possible.

I recently visited a farm to buy some cows, and the owner kindly offered to show me his fattening hogs. When we got to the hog-house, he dropped the bucket he was carrying and one of the hogs jumped from the pen into the passage-way like a greyhound. This is not by any means my idea of the way to keep a fattening hog. I find barley chop and skim-milk an ideal feed for making the best pork. A six months old pig weighing about 160 to 180 lbs. reared and fed as described, is as toothsome as the best chicken you can get; and can be made to produce as much profit as any animal, giving as little trouble, that can be turned over in so short a time.

I consider the following conditions necessary to make the hog business profitable:

- (1) The owner must have a fondness for, and an interest in, his animals. Must get to know his business, seek knowledge and welcome it from an source, and if he has had no previous experience he should go slowly with grades and increase with experience and grow into the pure breeds, when competent to handle them successfully.
- (2) See that you have good thrifty animals to start with. A stunted animal is dear, as a gift.
- (3) Good shelter, (not necessarily expensive) must be provided, well ventilated and with plenty of sunlight.
- (4) Keep all hogs in good condition by supplying the right kinds of food, in ample quantities. Do not let young pigs waste time. Crowd them at a safe limit. Keep a plentiful supply of wood ashes, soft coal or some sods of grass before your hogs, with a sprinkling of salt. They have a craving for these

substances, which although not exactly foods, appear to aid digestion, and it pays to satisfy this desire.

(5) Do not forget plenty of water. This is most important. Give your hogs of all ages all they want. No other element enters so largely into successful and profitable feeding; and more fail from not observing this fact than from any other cause I know.

Alta.

W. J. TREGILLUS.

Our English Correspondence

The prize list has been issued for the Royal Show at Gloucester. This year, the total value reaches £9,675, of which sum Gloucester contributes £1,355. The various breed societies are responsible for £2,339. To the horse section, £3,003 is allotted; to the cattle classes, £2,492; to sheep, £2,015, and to pigs, £710.

The Agricultural Organization Society claims that British farmers can look forward with some confidence to the future, as there are many signs of returning prosperity, and various economic difficulties are disappearing as the result of organization.

The Society consists of 170 affiliated agricultural societies, which have 10,000 members.

The co-operative purchase of requirements to sale of produce are making distinct progress. Railways are placing motors in service for quick dispatch of produce, and the larger supplies from co-operative sources are bringing lower rates of carriage.

The Royal Commission on Animal Tuberculosis has just issued its third interim report. The report states that tuberculosis of the udder is comparatively common amongst cows, and that milk from such a source is dangerous to human beings. Milk drawn from infected udders contained tubercle bacilli even when drawn through sterilized tubes. The experiments indicate that the excrement of cows suffering from tuberculosis of the lungs or the alimentary canal is much more dangerous than discharges from the mouth or nostrils. The presence of infected cows in company with healthy cows in the cow-shed is said to be distinctly dangerous.

The further conference on the meat traders' demand that farmers warrant their stock free from disease has proved abortive and no settlement was reached. The deadlock came upon the question as to upon whom should fall the cost of the insurance. It remains to be seen whether the Meat Traders' Federation will carry out their threat and boycott all British-bred meat unless sold with a warranty. Agriculturists do not believe that such a boycott could be made effective.

Action has been taken locally in several cases. In the Carlisle district, the butchers, farmers and auctioneers have formed a joint protective association, with an assurance scheme to cover the cattle warranty question. The Newcastle Farmers' Club recommends that sixpence be paid by sellers in addition to the usual "luck" shilling, and that this one shilling and sixpence be paid as a premium to insure against loss.

Messrs. Weddel have published an instructive review of the frozen meat trade of the United Kingdom. Last year, the importations of frozen mutton were 5,578,560 carcasses, and of frozen lamb, 4,072,858 carcasses, a decrease of about a half million carcasses from the previous year.

Beef imports were greater by 173,770 quarters, reaching a total of 1,788,159 quarters.

Mutton prices maintained a steady level during the year, but beef was higher. Improved demand was a feature of the market.

How rapidly the demand has grown for frozen meat is well shown by comparison with the imports of 20 years ago. In 1888 the imports of sheep and lambs were under 2,000,000 carcasses. In the same period the storage capacity in London alone has grown from 300,000 to 2,730,500 carcasses.

The average per capita consumption of beef, mutton and lamb has risen from 74 pounds to 89 pounds—an increase of 20%.

For the first time in six years, British external trade returns show a decline, the grand total for 1908 being £101,000,000 less than in 1907, which was an exceptionally prosperous year. How dependent Britain is on outside sources for food supplies is shown by the enormous figures relating to the principal necessities.

Grain and flour imports reached a value of over £72,000,000 and meat, including animals for food, exceeding £49,000,000.

Wheat imports were 91,132,705 cwt., and of maize 33,841,000 cwt., were received. Cattle numbered 383,130 against 472,015 in 1907—a considerable decrease.

Butter imports were practically unchanged at 4,211,195 cwt., but cheese showed a slight decrease to 2,306,086 cwt.

Bacon increased slightly to 5,685,742 cwt. Imports of wool were 719,074,887 pounds.

The total imports for the year were valued at £593,000,000; exports were £377,000,000, and re-exports £80,000,000, and the total external trade was thus £1,050,000,000—a stupendous business in spite of the decrease.

The Poultry Organization Society estimates the value of eggs and poultry consumed in the United Kingdom at £20,000,000.

In regard to eggs, home supplies are increasing—foreign importations having decreased by two hundred millions since 1903—which was the maximum year.

The supply from Canada is gradually diminishing—only one egg in three hundred now coming from the Dominion.

Imports of poultry are steadily increasing in value. Russia contributes over a third of the total, occupying the dominant position formerly held by the United States. Prices show a steady rise.

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Mr. Davis, a United States special agent who has been investigating the grain and flour trade of Europe for the Bureau of Manufacturers, has made a most interesting report. Mr. Davis comments on the vast amount of raw wheat sent to Europe, when America has such excellent facilities for milling. It is claimed that if American mills ground this wheat into flour, the increase in value would be not less than £8,000,000 per annum.

That British millers are taking full advantage of this vast supply of raw wheat is shown by the many fine mills erected in recent years at points where American and Canadian wheat is landed in large quantities. The writer recently inspected a very fine flour mill in process of erection for the Co-operative Wholesale Society at the new Avonmouth Docks at Bristol.

Every modern device to facilitate expeditious and cheap handling was being installed to deal with the enormous shipments of grain which reach Bristol by the Dominion and Canadian Pacific steamers.

FRANK DEWHIRST.

FARM

Getting Rid of Wild Oats

We publish herewith, some of the answers received from readers in reply to the query in our answers to question competition in the issue of Feb. 10th. First prize has been awarded to Mr. J. E. Slater, Lansdowne Mun., Manitoba, second to Mr. R. A. P. Margetson, North Norfolk Mun., Manitoba.

The methods outlined by our various correspondents for cleaning land of the wild oats, were very nearly alike in general principle. It would appear that two methods of combatting this weed is followed; viz., summer fallowing and the growing of barley. Mr. Garnett describes what is, perhaps, a very thorough means of eradication. His methods too are much in line with the teachings of recognized agricultural authorities on the question of fighting this pest.

Putting the land to grass, cutting off in the hay any oats that may grow, and rotting the life out of the seeds buried too deeply to germinate, is the advised procedure when one's farm becomes seeded to these pests. No one believes it to be the only method of fighting them or the method best suited to all circumstances. But is one of the best ways of striking at this pest.

A Manitoba Farmer's Method

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In answer to your question of Feb. 10th, I submit this description of a thorough and practical method we have used for getting rid of wild oats. This method, though it embraces a few features familiar to many who have had to do with this weed, has yet other features, which if they are not solely our own, they are at any rate not generally known. Frequently, we have been asked by those who know of our success against wild oats, and by those who have seen a part of our plan in operation, for particulars of same. As the methods appear to be slightly complicated and difficult to understand, I think that for our mutual benefit I shall be quite justified in giving them here in full detail.

To begin with, in the fall of the year, after the crop is taken off, select the piece of ground you intend to clean and have it disced and harrowed—the discs to run crosswise and the drags lengthwise of the way which you next intend to have the field plowed. This is better than double discing as it tends to leave the ground more firm and compact, especially if done in moist time. Upon this land you might haul your manure during the winter. It is then left till after oat seeding the following spring, when simultaneously you should plow, harrow and sow to green oats, killing the wild oats already sprouted, and giving the oat seed sown the benefit of a fresh and moist soil and an equal start with the wild oats yet to come up. This concludes work with the field until harvest; when, in taking off the crop, you have to carry out that important part which is most invaluable in the eradication of wild oats.

As the time for harvest August—we do it before the near, get an eye on the oat just as the top shells of the before there is any sign of your binder and plows. sheaves cut at this stage that is only a matter of satisfy the most particular arily the shelling of wild crop to consider.)

And now for your attention your binder and go once around turning down two feet of s to four feet between the fu The next time around, the binder-tongue walks in the wheel following on the har eases the draft somewhat, a an ecstasy because he doe "steering" his horses. Of plowed ground must be give and also the binder table according to the depth of plow as shallow as possible

Behind the binder should cut between five and six feet plows; or better still, two f single plow, which last sh the field you go, producing the binder and plows each round; and the binder wh furrows, beeps the work in a good plan for those who harrows after the plows.

Some people, like ourselves, which necessitates from In that case, as circumstance lacking might be hired, or v with a neighbor who is treat same way. Another plan—last year and three years successful—is to cut the gra into the middle of the field t binder. You then can a calculating from the binder an equal distance from the plow outward, the sheave furrow and stooked on th objection to this plan is th for the stooker. It takes a But you can turn over a g as the horses never stop whe rounded.

The main object in havir follow the binder is; the stu and wild oats too short to buried green, and early. I consequently the following both much more thorough, done in a slack time. T stooked on the plowed gro once before, this makes an the air being hotter and dr and there is no stubble to sweeping under the stook. through dirt is not worthy is driven into the sheaves in winds.

When the field is cut and cured and stacked; you then a thorough cultivation. It wild oats make their most heard it said that wild oats the year; but that is a mista ally around where the stook had known wild oats to be, ally green with sprouts. It oats will thrive anywhere b tion is going on.

Late in the fall, after the plow the land again at a d inches—we recommend a di ful—and then you will hav I think, will surprise you, a duce, a crop of wheat, and to Lansdowne Mun.

The Only Effect

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I am submitting my experience and most practical of wild oats. I have made lem for several years and h obstacle in exterminating th getting all the kernels to ge the wild oat is most fastidiv deeply or the temperature d lie and sulk until the foll loom up as large as life in the owner fondly imagined wou

Before stating what I thi all the oats to germinate ir granted that that is the i feasible). I will give brief with different methods.

In my first attack on the field until about June 7th v weeds and ploughed the lan