

Register of Farm Crops

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

Sir.—It is frequently asked—What is an average crop? As some help to answer the question, the annexed tables for twenty-seven years, of the four principal crops raised in the country, namely, wheat, barley, oats, and peas, may be acceptable. The wheat and barley are, I believe, as exact and correct as such tables can be made; and though every care has been taken with the oats and peas, yet every farmer knows that they are often, or at least occasionally, fed unthreshed, and therefore may not be so correct.

The farm on which the crops were grown is a good one, but has been all the time farmed under some special disadvantages. During the early part of the time it was wrought without sufficient means or suitable help to manage it to advantage; then, there was always a degree of uncertainty of having it more than the current year, and further, there was never anything like sufficient or suitable buildings on the farm; so that a large part of the crop had to be stacked out, thus incurring waste and loss to the crop, increasing the amount and cost of labour, and preventing stock being kept with much advantage; much of the farm cannot be wrought to the best advantage for want of under-draining, so that a wet spring followed by a dry summer had a very injurious effect on the products of the farm.

Of the prices given, the highest named was often only obtained for what was sold for seed; and in the case of peas, the highest prices were only for early Kents, or some other fancy variety. They are, however, the prices actually obtained. The crop was sold always nearly as it was threshed, as there was no place where grain could be kept for any length of time after it was threshed. In the cases where there is no price given in the table, it will be understood that none of that crop had been sold for those years that are left blank.

The dates given for beginning to plough and sow are the correct dates for this farm; but owing to a large part of the farm being low, damp land, ploughing and sowing were often done in the neighborhood some time before the dates given. The same may be said of the dates for commencing and finishing harvest: though correct for the farm, there was mostly harvesting done before, and also after, the dates given for beginning and finishing harvest. The dates, however, may be looked upon as a fair average for the section of country. Some years, it will be observed, that sowing was begun in the spring before any ploughing was done. That was, of course, on land that had been fall-ploughed, and in years when there was no green sod to plough in the spring.

STATISTICS OF FARM CROPS FOR TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS.

Table with columns: Crops, Average Bushels per Acre, Price per Bushel, and Harvesting dates (Began to Plough, Began to Sow, Began Harvest, Finished Harvest, Flooding Stopped by Frost).

Main data table with columns: Crops, Average Bushels per Acre, Price per Bushel (From, To), and Harvesting dates (Began to Plough, Began to Sow, Began Harvest, Finished Harvest, Flooding Stopped by Frost).

Computing from these tables the average yield and prices of each crop, for the whole period, the result will be found as follows:

The Wheat crop for the whole twenty-seven years gave an average of nineteen and a-half bushels per acre; and the average price for all the wheat sold during that time was within a small fraction of one dollar per bushel. Of Barley, the crop for the twenty-seven years yielded an average of twenty-seven and three-quarter bushels per acre, and the average price for all that was sold was a little over sixty-seven cents per bushel. Peas yielded on an average during that time twenty bushels to the acre, and the price for which they were sold gave an average of seventy-two cents per bushel. Oats gave an average for the same time, of forty-two bushels per acre, and the price for the total quantity sold gave an average of thirty-two cents per bushel.

WALTER RIDDELL.

Cobourg, March, 1868.

A Rotation of Crops.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

Sir,—After reading all the articles that you have given us through the columns of THE CANADA FARMER, about growing turnips for manure, the rotation of crops, &c., with great interest, I am induced to give you my ideas on the subject. I do not pretend that my method is original, but I have proved its practical utility, and think it right to communicate the result of my experience to my brother farmers, as well as to hear theirs. My order of rotation is as follows:

First, peas; second, fall wheat; third, roots; fourth, oats, barley and fall wheat; fifth, meadow; sixth, pasture. My method of cultivation is briefly this: First, plough up clover sod with a jointure plough, to skim off the grass and bury it under the furrow; harrow the furrows down, cross-plough with a gang-plough about three inches deep. Harrow to a fine tilth. Sow peas in rows twenty inches apart, using a grain drill with eleven coulters, ten inches apart, as adapted for wheat, but taking out every other coulters, which leaves six coulters, twenty inches apart, for peas; run the horse-hoe through them when the peas are two or three inches high; and a second and third time when there are any bad weeds among the peas. Also, hand-weed between the plants. After the peas are harvested gang-plough the pea land, and harrow it well; plough into six yard lands, and sow with fall wheat, using the drill with coulters ten inches apart. Hoe the wheat in the spring, when the ground is dry, with a horse-hoe, doing six drills at once. When the wheat has been harvested plough and sow the wheat stubble with rape or white turnip, to be eaten off with sheep in the fall, or ploughed under in the latter end of October for manure; or sow the wheat stubble with rye, to be eaten off in early spring by ewes and lambs; plough, harrow and cultivate the soil thoroughly and lay on from fifteen to twenty loads of manure to the acre, and sow two-thirds of the land with turnips to be stored in cellars for winter, and the remainder with rape to be hurdled off for sheep, or carted into the pastures for the cows, when the pastures are poor. In the spring, cultivate and gang-plough the turnip land as soon as dry enough; sow with barley, oats, or spring wheat, seeding down with grass. The fifth year mow it twice; and the sixth pasture.

The turnip crop is the most valuable crop we raise, and the surest; our turnips have averaged from six to seven hundred bushels per acre, worth at least five cents per bushel for feeding cattle. It is impossible to keep stock profitably without turnips. But to feed turnip economically, one should use a horse-power pulp machine to reduce the turnip to a pulp, and mix it with cut hay, oat sheaves, pea meal, oil cake, &c., and cut straw or chaff for store cattle.

W. C. S.

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NOTE BY ED. C. F.—Our correspondent enquires if a pulping machine can be procured in Canada. Can any of our readers give the information?

NEW AND EXTRA EARLY POTATO.—Our American exchanges give great praise to a potato called the Early Rose, a seedling of the Garnet Chili, which is said to be ten days earlier than the Early Goodrich, of excellent quality, remarkably free from small tubers, and highly promising in general appearance and character.