

Soils and Crops

Address communications to "Agronomist," 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.

Marketing Poultry.

Many farmers to-day like to ship their poultry to market instead of selling it to the poultry buyer in their own town.

The buying public in all the larger cities, especially, grow more discriminating every year, or at least they become more particular, and any poultry offered for sale must be nearly perfect in dressing and conformity.

As a general rule home-dressed poultry does not sell as well as city dressed, for the reason that the scaling is imperfectly done and the chickens have a spotted appearance which hurts their sale. The retail dealer therefore, wants to buy them at a discount of two to five cents per pound as compared with city-dressed stock.

In shipping dressed poultry see that it is thoroughly cooled before shipping and wrap the head of each bird in a piece of paper to prevent any blood from dripping on the other chickens. Pack in barrels or boxes and ship by express or truck.

In shipping live poultry, the following precautions should be observed:

Do not ship any culls, thin stock, or diseased chickens. They are not saleable and you only pay express uselessly.

If you are shipping enough stock to do so, grade your poultry when putting it in coops for shipment. Heavy springers in one coop. Heavy hens in another, and light stock by themselves. Do not crowd too many birds in a coop. One dead chicken pays the express on another coop.

In warm weather especially, many coops arrive at market with two to five dead in each coop because the shipper has crowded too many in a coop.

Always weigh and count your poultry when you ship. Do not guess at

either the weight or number. If you have to make a claim against the express company or you have a dispute with your commission man, the number and weight are very essential to a satisfactory settlement in either case.

Ship early in the week. The markets in the big cities are practically over by Thursday noon and unless there is a short supply, Friday is bargain hunter's day.

Shrinkage is a big factor in shipping and should be taken into consideration when deciding whether to sell at home or ship to the nearest big market. The average shrinkage on chickens is from five per cent. on aged stock up to ten per cent. on young chickens. If you feed heavily before shipping, the shrinkage will only be that much heavier.

Turkeys shrink from ten to fifteen per cent. and ducks shrink the most. The shrinkage on these seldom runs less than fifteen per cent. The most popular breeds of chickens are Plymouth and Barred Rocks and Rhode Island Reds. These, if in good condition, always command the best prices. Leghorns, Black Minorcas, Anconas, and other under-sized breeds are not wanted except at a marked reduction in prices, generally two to five cents per pound under the first mentioned breeds.

If they can be obtained, one-trip coops are the most desirable to ship. In their weight about twelve pounds. Six coops weigh thirty-five to forty pounds. At the present express rates it costs twenty-five to thirty cents more to ship a six coop than a light one and you then have to pay twenty cents for the return and you do not always get it returned.

In shipping for any holiday market, ship early. Prices are more likely to be lower the day before a holiday as every one is filled up by that time.

Goose

The matter of mineral elements in the hog's ration is important, especially in our north country where, for months at a time the ground is frozen so that hogs cannot root in it.

The exact proportion of the ingredients used to make up a mineral mixture, however, is not so important. The object should be to see that mineral elements such as the hog's system demands for proper development, and such as are not provided in the food in sufficient quantities, should be available in some other form.

In ashes, salt, lime and sulphur will be found most everything that is needed. Some bone meal, or ground rock phosphate, will help and should be added, if it is available. Charcoal is good, so is soft coal, but charcoal is simply an aid to digestion and soft coal is valuable mainly for the sulphur it contains. The four ingredients named, along with charcoal, can be secured anywhere and cheaply, and we will do well to supply them.

As a guide to follow the following formula is good: Wood ashes, one bushel; charcoal, one bushel; rock phosphate, one bushel; salt, one peck; lime, one peck, and sulphur, one peck.

The Dairy

Here is my method of breaking calves to milk.

Put the heifer in stanchions with her left side next to a partition. Put on halter with long tie-rope, bring head to right as far as possible, put the rope around right hind leg from the rear and let it come out under rope around leg. Put leg in right position to milk, draw rope tight and tie securely to something behind heifer. Sit down and milk. The heifer can only move her leg up and down. Usually in from one week to ten days the heifer stands like an old cow. I have seen men lick a heifer in breaking them in. Always try kindness first. It is not necessary to misuse a heifer if broke in this way.

Dairymen will grow as a basic farming industry because it makes possible great savings in the production of nearly all farm crops.

Build Up Your Breeders

Maintain their health—insure the fertility and hatchability of their eggs. It's easy.

Pratt's Poultry Regulator

Is guaranteed to put your fowls in perfect condition and keep them strong and vigorous. Makes them lay more eggs—fertilize eggs—the eggs that produce big batches of worth-while chicks.

Your Money back if YOU Are Not Satisfied

Made in Canada—Sold by Dealers Everywhere

PRATT FOOD CO. OF CANADA, Limited

115W. Carlaw Ave., Toronto

PRATT'S 31st YEAR OF SERVICE

The Farm Wood Lot.

According to the 1910 census the value of forest products produced on the farms of the United States east of the Great Plains was close to \$200,000,000. In 1918, over 100,000,000 cords of wood were burned on American farms or sold off the farms to town and city dwellers. Throughout Eastern Canada the value of forest products sold on the average farm is probably greater than in the United States.

Except in the more thickly settled sections of the country lucrative employment is found for farm labor and teams during the winter months cutting and hauling logs, ties, pulpwood, pit timber and cordwood. Even in the thickly populated portions of the Eastern Townships of Quebec where the farms have been cultivated for well over one hundred years, it is quite common for farmers to handle from 100 to 250 cords of firewood in a season. This year stove and furnace wood is selling for from \$10 to \$14.50 per cord. This will give an idea of the important part the farm wood lot plays in helping farmers through periods of depression or financial difficulty.

In many sections considerable revenue is derived from the sale of maple sugar products. Forest areas conserve moisture for springs and wells, act as windbreaks, make the landscape more attractive and utilize land unfit for cultivation. Every farm should have at least enough home grown timber to supply fuel, fence posts and lumber for repairs to farm buildings.

A little care given each year to fire protection, proper thinning and utilizing of the timber would nearly double the yield from the average woodlot. Instead of slashing half grown trees of the useful marketable varieties for home requirements, if the less valuable varieties, windfalls, and trees showing signs of insect damage and rot were used, the remaining trees would make more rapid growth.

Open spaces should be avoided as much as possible because once a grass sod is formed the growth of the trees is checked. Tops should be lopped to ensure more rapid decay and to lessen the danger from fire. The main idea is to keep a blanket of leaves and wood on the forest floor to hold moisture and encourage the growth of the young trees.

It is bad practice to allow sheep or cattle to pasture in the woodlot, because they destroy the young growth which should come on as soon as the heavier timber is removed.

Of the hardwood trees the hard or sugar maple is the most valuable. Besides supplying sap for sugar making, the wood is valuable for fuel, the manufacture of agricultural implements, furniture, hardwood flooring and distilled products. Other valuable hardwoods are birch, beech, brown and white ash and elm. Basswood and poplar grow more quickly than other deciduous trees and are useful for reforestation. Among the conifers spruce is the most important wood, supplying the bulk of the timber and rough lumber for building purposes. Besides, it is useful for pulpwood and pit timber. Pine is not often found in farm woodlots, but is useful for manufactured lumber. Fir and hemlock are used mainly for building lumber and pulpwood. Cedar makes the best shingles and is also used for telephone and telegraph poles, cross-ties and fence posts.

Tamarack, although not a common wood, is very durable and is valuable for fence posts, ties, mine and crib work timbers. Wherever there is plenty of moisture a second growth usually springs up where the heavy timber has been removed. Because of their rapid growth the spruce, fir and poplars often supplant the original hardwood forests. Fully stocked with trees an acre of soft woods will grow at the rate of one to two cords per year, will supply posts or pulpwood in 15 to 25 years and saw logs in 20 to 40 years. Hardwoods grow at the rate of one-half to one cord per year, a cord being equal to about 500 board feet of rough lumber. By proper management rocky, waste and swampy land, if allowed to grow up under forest, may be made to yield a worthwhile income.

Hold-Ons.

1. Hold on to your hand when you are about to do an unkind act.
2. Hold on to your tongue when you are just ready to speak rashly.
3. Hold on to your heart when evil persons invite you to join their ranks.
4. Hold on to your virtue—it is above all price to you in all times and places.
5. Hold on to your foot when you are on the point of forsaking the path of right.
6. Hold on to the truth, for it will serve you well, and do you good throughout eternity.
7. Hold on to your temper when you are excited, or angry, or others are angry with you.
8. Hold on to your ideals, for they can be realized.
9. Hold on to your good character, for it is and ever will be your best wealth.

If you have no stand on which to place a drinking water pail try using a square wooden box just a little larger than the diameter of the pail. Set the water pail in the box and it will not be tipped over from hens jumping on the edge as is the case when a half empty pail is setting by itself.

SMOKE OGDEN'S CUT PLUG

15¢
per packet

1/2 lb tin
80¢



"A Real Old Country Treat"

OGDEN'S LIVERPOOL

For those who roll their own.
ASK FOR
OGDEN'S FINE CUT
(In the green packet)
IT IS THE BEST

To Decrease Shrinkage.

Every farmer knows the large shrinkage which often occurs in cattle between the farm and the stock yards. This shrinkage, however, can be reduced by proper feeding previous to the moving of the cattle, and also in the management during that period.

Where cattle have been fattened on grain and grass, it is advisable to place them in a dry lot a day or two before shipping, and feed all the timothy hay they will eat, and at the same time cut heavily on the grain ration.

Cattle fattened in a dry lot on grain and clover or alfalfa hay should be changed to timothy hay at least twenty-four hours before shipment, and their grain ration should be reduced at least fifty per cent. A full grain ration should not be served the animals for at least twelve hours before shipping. Some good cattlemen substitute oats for a portion of the grain ration at this time.

Where the animals are fed on silage, clover or alfalfa hay and some nitrogenous concentrate, it has been found advisable to omit the nitrogenous concentrate for at least a day preceding shipping. Timothy hay should also displace the leguminous hay and the silage should be cut to about one-third of the regular amount.

Handle the cattle quietly so that they do not become excited or heated.

No Need for Microscope.

Scientific Barber—"Do you know that when the edge of a razor is examined under a microscope it has teeth like those of a saw?"

Customer—"I don't need a microscope to know that."

The little difference between what we earn and what we spend is capital. It would require fourteen days to travel a mile at snail's pace.

Parents as Educators

The Educative Value of Mother Goose.

BY ANNA MAE BRADY.

Every child should have access to a well illustrated copy of Mother Goose, not only because these little jingles represent the heart beats of the race but because they have within them the greatest educative value. The tiny babe is lulled by their rhythm, to which all the primitive in him responds and his eye is caught by the pictures long before he is able to interpret them. Grown-ups never outlive them. Poor indeed is the child who is denied this foundation of the classics.

Mother Goose represents the first attempt of the race to give us a literature. Away back in the beginning of time, long before the days of books, these verses developed. The race no doubt was in that rhythmic stage where people loved to sing and away their bodies to music; queer music it was, too, for we hear that it was often made by beating stones or sticks together, but always the rhythm was the appealing thing. So, too, the sounds of rhyming words tickled their ears and when they were so pleased with them that they repeated them over and over, handing them down from generation to generation, each generation refining yet leaving the plot unchanged.

These rhymes while but a sentence or two in length are well-nigh perfect in construction. They will pass any test to which we submit adult literature. There is a plot, introduction, climax, and conclusion. The characters dance on and off again, yet so clearly are they represented that as long as life lasts we have a clear picture of them. With only a few words to describe them, Little Bo Peep, Jack

The song of the bird was originally a cry of alarm.

One swallow devours about 6,000 flies in a day.

Lime which gives new life to land is equally necessary in the human race. It builds bone. Sour land crops are deficient in it.

HEALTH RESOLUTIONS

Since human happiness depends to a large extent upon having good health to enjoy life in its broadest aspects, one can make good resolutions about health with good purpose.

What have you been doing in the year past that should be eliminated from your daily habits? What have you been neglecting that should receive attention? There is no disputing the fact that you are a year older. Every year that you allow bad habits to dominate is a year of impaired efficiency. We are living longer now—days. A boy born in Canada now has an expectation of life, at birth, of a little more than fifty-five years, whereas about the middle of the last century his expectation of life would have been only thirty-five years.

When a man has reached the age of thirty-two he may expect to live beyond that period another thirty-five years, and when he reaches the age of sixty-two he may expect to live still for a little more than thirteen years. Of course, these expectations are based on averages, which accounts for the seeming irrelevancy of my figures. The older a man gets to be the better are his chances to be among those who make the average high by living to a great age. Your present habits of life have a great deal to do with determining whether you will be one of those who live to fifty-five or whether you will go on to seventy-five. The man who is digging his grave with his teeth at thirty-five still has a chance to correct his dietetic errors, but the chance may be gone a decade later. Luigi Cornaro, one of the best authenticated instances of extreme age, was a sick man at forty and obliged to go on a very rigid diet. He enjoyed nearly seventy years of useful life after that and attributed his long life to the fact that early excesses had made him adopt very rigid rules of eating and drinking.

Taking stock of your health is a good New Year's method. Are you getting good service from heart and lungs? Is your blood pressure normal? Are you having good digestion? Does the dentist find your teeth in perfect order? These are important questions for one who thinks it worth while to start the year in good condition. I have three resolutions in mind that will be worth at least one hundred dollars each to you for this year. They are simple. Any one can follow them.

I will sleep in fresh air eight hours every night.

I will evacuate the bowels every day at a regular time.

I will drink water freely and eat only moderately of meat.

Buzzing Up the Land.

That baking, washing, lifeless, unproductive land is the merciless bandit who robs the laboring farmer of every possibility in the way of profits. This bandit can be outwitted. I have done it.

I was helped to do it by an outcast. This outcast is a plant. In the past we shunned it. There was no place in our busy lives for it. But there is such a place to-day, and let me tell you, that plant is none other than sweet clover.

Sometimes a cow or a sheep will not eat it. But they can be trained. That is, however, unnecessary, since the land can be buzzed up to virgin conditions without making hay of the blooming, branching sweet clover. Yes, this can be done while the farmer is gathering in cold hard cash from the land.

Now, you are listening. Well, before you turn your ear, let me tell you to plow that sweet clover under. Use a chain maybe, or anyway, do anything to get the soil on top. Two or three crops will make land mellow, active, full of vim and pep and ready to do what it did first after the forest was harvested.

Did I forget something? Yes, you remembered it—that cold hard cash. You will need some to start with unless you have about twenty good swarms of bees for every ten acres of this sweet clover. I find that these busy, buzzing brothers are capable of gathering the cold cash from this sweet clover. When honey-making weather is reasonably plentiful a score of healthy swarms will secure within the little cells about a ton of the sweet nectar. At eighteen or twenty cents per pound—well, figure it. Yes, the total is larger than from beans, or corn, or oats, or wheat.

Of course, you might need a little lime to satisfy the calcium appetite of this vigorous plant. You will have to supply this if, in dry years, by the appetite of clovers has used up the native stores. But lime pays and makes sure and safe the sure way which leads to production on a virgin soil bank.

Even-charging bacteria and by generated nitrogen must be win into these enaculated cells. Sweet clover is my prescription. It is a kick. Three doses will bring back the worst cases. You may need to supplement with a little commercial fertilizer. Then let the bees pay the bills as I have done.—Samuel Hagerman.

The practice of thrift gives an upward tendency to the life of the individual, and to the life of the nation; it sustains and preserves the highest welfare of the race.

