

or both, that are specially required, and why has a very light sprinkling of the droppings from the hen roost so much more effect than any other form of manure? I notice considerable difference on potatoes, too, though not nearly so marked as on mangels; on turnips, little or no special benefit is noticed. Now, Mr. Editor, I have several other problems of like nature that I should like to propound for solution, but my letter is already too long, so I will leave them for some future time.

ALFRED HUTCHINSON.

Wellington Co., Ont.

Sweet Corn for Summer Feed.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Why not plant an acre or so of sweet corn for early fall feeding. There is no other crop that will produce as much succulent food when it is most needed. Don't plant too thickly; eight or ten pounds should plant an acre, and there will be plenty of room for cobs to form. If planted too thickly, you have nothing but a coarse grass; but, with plenty of room, and good cultivation, you have a profitable crop.

It is best to plant beside the lane or pasture fence, where it can be cut each day and fed fresh to the cows, by simply cutting and tossing over the fence to them.

The best results are obtained when the cob is fit for table use, though feeding may begin a little earlier. Sows with young pigs also eat it at this season with great relish, consuming both cob and stalk, and I know of no other food that will put young pigs, after weaning, into condition more quickly than a liberal diet of sweet corn cobs, snapped from the stalks and thrown to them. The grain is so full of rich milk that the weaning has no ill-effect.

Any large, strong-growing variety should be planted, such as Evergreen, Old Colony, Hitchcock, etc. An acre planted to sweet corn will help out the pastures wonderfully at a season when they sometimes are pretty short.

Essex Co., Ont.

J. O. DUKE.

Rape as a Feed and Weed Destroyer.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Many people who do not summer-fallow, on account of not having a farm suitable for fall wheat, and not wanting to spare a year's use of the land, simply leave this valuable part of farming out of question. We are situated in just such a way, but we use a rape crop, instead. We work our land the same in the fall as though we were going to crop in the spring. After seeding, and our mangels and corn are in, we single-plow the field we have for fallow; then we work it on top with cultivator, disk harrow and harrows, never letting any grass or weed peep through, until about the tenth or twelfth of July, then we put 9 or 12 loads of manure, or whatever we have to spare, to the acre, with the manure spreader.

We then work that thoroughly in with cultivator, after which we sow five pounds of rape to the acre, broadcast. We sow with the drill in the grass-seed box, and cultivate at same time; this puts it on nice and even; give it a stroke with the harrows, and roll it. You then have a nice field, weeds and grass all dead. The rape comes up quickly, soon covers the ground, and smothers out everything that attempts to spring up. About the 20th of September we have a crop of rape from

12 to 20 inches high. I have heard some people say they have trouble with animals bloating, and also dying. That, I think, all depends upon how you start them. We put our cattle and lambs on for about a half an hour, then turn them out; next day, half an hour in middle of forenoon, when dew is off, and also same in afternoon; next day increase time, and so on, until they are thoroughly used to it.

Now, to get proper results from rape, you should have a pasture field near-by, where they can run at will. This, we find, keeps the animals from scouring too much. At first you don't see much change, but they soon put on flesh, and very rapidly, too. I have had cows gain as much as 200 pounds each. We allow them to feed on this until we think we have just time to plow it. When plowed, it is as rich and mellow as an ash-heap, and from it we get the very best results the following year.

G. M. FORSYTH.

Ontario Co., Ont.

What Constitutes an Ideal Ear?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of April 21st, L. C. Palmer speaks of "Seed Corn and Seed-corn Trade," also of the judging of corn at the Corn Show, in Essex. When he said, "Buy your seed corn on the ear," he gave good sound advice. It is the only proper way to buy seed corn, because it keeps better that way, and you can see what you are getting. Then, if you know what you want, you can tell whether it suits you or not. I have bought many bushels of seed corn, but I never have bought any shelled. While it costs about 20 cents an acre more for seed corn on the ear, it amounts to nothing, compared with your gain over the average, shelled-before-shipped seed corn.

If Mr. Palmer had said nothing more, he would have been O. K., but he goes on to say that the judging of corn at the corn convention held in Essex during February last, by the Ontario Corn-growers' Association, was wrong, and why? Because the judges could not give a prize to large, freak ears that would not produce corn that would mature here—the very thing he is complaining of.

While in Omaha, at the National Corn Convention, I did not see any of those 12-inch ears he speaks of, and if they don't show and advocate that type of corn in the corn belt, it is sure proof that we don't want it here. Why is it we have so many poor corn years here? Because our land is not drained, and because too many men like Mr. Palmer are trying to grow too big a variety. Those little nubbins he mentions, of 7 inches in length, and weighing 8 to 10 ounces, are not to be despised. A 100-per-cent. stand of three stalks to the hill, with three 10-ounce nubbins, will give 180 bushels of ear corn, or over 90 bushels of shelled corn, per acre, and he only asks for 125 to 150 bushels of ear corn.

Now, Mr. Palmer is in about the same boat with the rest of us. We all have a lot to learn about corn. Only last week a farmer came to me to see if I had any seed which would produce a large crop of corn on poor land. I did not have any, either shelled or on the cob.

What the Corn Convention tried to teach was how to grow the best crop of corn possible, and mature it for the purpose it was grown for. None of us have reached the senior class yet, so let us keep on studying how to do it.

Essex Co., Ont.

T. S. BIGGAR.

Municipal Legislators and Weed Inspection.

In a recent issue, Prof. Grisdale, of Ottawa, outlined a plan of rotation and cultivation to subdue sow thistles, which plan, I have no doubt, would be effective for the purpose designed, and would insure land clean of that and most other weeds, but his concluding sentence, "See that your neighbors do not reseed you," seems to me next to an impossibility, here in Ontario at least. If the Professor, or anyone else, will explain how this part of his instructions can be carried out in this Province, it will be a favor to many of your readers. Of course, I am aware of the fact that in Manitoba and other Western Provinces they have inspectors appointed for the purpose of securing united effort against the weeds, and, that in Quebec, complaint against any person allowing weeds to mature seed, without any attempt to check, can be lodged with any justice of the peace, who must see that steps are taken to cut or pull out the noxious plants. But here, in darkest Ontario (this part, at any rate), every owner or occupant of land is free to grow as many and cut or pull as few weeds as he chooses, and the man who tries to keep a clean farm has no redress if his neighbors do nothing or next to nothing in this direction. Our Provincial law makes it a finable offence to allow noxious weeds to go to seed, and provides for appointment of inspectors by the municipal councils for the purpose of carrying out the law in this respect; but, so far as this locality (South Perth) is concerned, no inspector or inspectors have ever been appointed, although petitioned for as the Provincial statute instructs. Thus, we have one set of legislators ignoring and undoing the work of another and superior body of law-makers, making null and void that which was designed to protect the man who is willing to do what is right in the matter, against the carelessness and criminal negligence of his neighbors. The Noxious Weeds Act of this Province doubtless cost the country a large sum to place it on the statute books, and, so far as I can learn, has been worth little or nothing in actual practice. It has been law since 1896, has been framed by the former Liberal Government, amended and endorsed by the present Conservative one, and still is of no service to the country, though admitted to be sound in principle by those who ought to know. The trouble seems to be that township councils fear the loss of a few votes at elections more than the invasion of the lands of ratepayers by any or all kinds of weeds, and actually place a premium on the practice of the man who disobeys the Provincial law, inasmuch as he pays no more taxes and contributes nothing in fines, any more than the man who does his best to carry out both letter and spirit of the law of the land.

Perth Co., Ont.

"OBSERVER."

Size of Ears and Yields of Corn.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Kindly allow me space to make a few suggestions and express a few thoughts regarding a letter by L. C. Palmer, Essex County, published in "The Farmer's Advocate" of April 21st. Mr. Palmer goes into details in describing the Essex Corn Fair's failings; he criticises certain things, yet makes no suggestions as to what the management of the Corn-growers' Association should do to remedy them. His principal cause of lamentation was the length of the ear that the corn judges gave prizes for, all ears over ten inches long in the dent varieties being classed as undesirable.

With all due respect to Mr. Palmer's opinion on this matter, I think that one of the wisest things the corn judges did was to give prizes for a medium ear of corn. Farmers in Kent and Essex are in most cases growing larger corn than they can successfully ripen. What I consider to be the best corn for us to grow is a corn that we can not only ripen one year, but every year. Were the corn-growers to offer prizes for the largest and longest ears, irrespective of what they believe to be the best size of an ear for our climate, they would be doing the corn industry in Ontario an injury. Mr. Palmer's ideal ear is a mammoth affair, weighing two pounds, larger than prizes are given for any place in the United States. Planting corn 3 feet 6 inches, one acre of ground contains 3,556 hills. Three stalks to the hill would make 10,668 stalks. A 9½-inch ear will weight somewhere about one pound, but, on the basis of Mr. Palmer's figures, an 8-ounce ear to the stalk would give 76 bushels to the acre of shelled corn. One 12-ounce ear to the hill makes 38 bushels per acre. Three of Mr. Palmer's ideal ears to the hill would make 304 bushels shelled corn per acre—a larger yield than the most enthusiastic corn evangelist in the world ever dreamed of.

The largest yield on record was grown by John E. Butts, in the Wake County one-acre corn contest. Two hundred and twenty-six bushels shelled corn was the official measurement. It would possibly interest some to know how he secured these



Early Spring in the Sheep Corral

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