

Threshing the Bean Crop Care is Necessary to Prevent Splitting

Howard Leavens, Bloomfield, Ont.

As yet there has been no regular bean machine in this section. Farmers growing a large acreage of beans here have used the regular threshing machines. The pea pulleys are put on these machines, and the machines run at very low speed. On some of the machines, part of the spikes are taken out of the concaves. In one machine that I used the concaves were taken out entirely, and a hardwood board put in their place. This was done to avoid splitting the beans. If, however, the beans had been in the mow for sometime or are very dry, there is bound to be a certain amount of split beans.

With the regular threshing machine the beans should be threshed directly from the field or before they get thoroughly dry, and so hard that they split easily. The most satisfactory way where only 50 to 75 bushels would be threshed, is to put them on the floor and thresh them with the horses the same as dry peas used to be threshed. In this way there are no beans split and they can be threshed at any convenient time, either as they are drawn from the field or later in the fall or winter when work is not so pressing. The threshing machine has not been altogether satisfactory, except in some cases where the beans were slightly tough.

This year I believe there is to be a bean machine tried out in this section. On account of the high duty the bean machines are almost prohibitive in sections where only small quantities of beans are grown.

Nearly every known device has been tried for threshing beans from ensilage cutters with the knives taken off, to corn husking machines. However, nothing yet has proved as satisfactory as threshing them with the horses or flails. We have, of course, had no experience as yet with the bean machine.

After Harvest Cultivation

Some Examples of Its Advantages

In the Dominion Illustration Stations, some results have been obtained in comparing the summer cultivation of sod land with fall

plowing the same, which indicate very clearly the benefit derived from summer cultivation. In addition to the greater yield obtained, it should be remembered that the land is thereby put into much cleaner condition for subsequent crops.

Two fields of four acres each were taken; the first field was plowed after harvest, was cultivated occasionally during the summer and autumn and plowed in the autumn; the other field of four acres was left in sod and also plowed in the autumn. The oats from the summer-cultivated field gave a yield of 15 bushels more per acre than the field plowed in the autumn. This difference of 60 bushels on the four-acre field at 50 cents a bushel shows a total gain of \$30. Counting the cost of summer cultivating at \$4 per acre, a total cost of \$16 for the four acres,

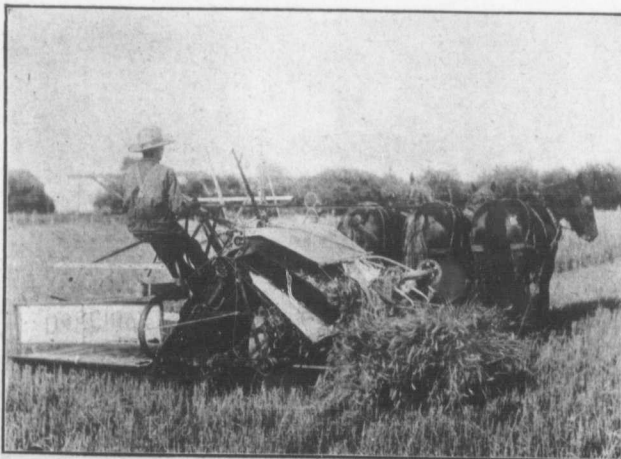


Even the Veterans who retired years ago from Agriculture's Firing Line are back in the fields this Year.

an increase in net profit of \$14 or \$3.50 per acre was obtained. The soil on the cultivated field being in a much finer condition and almost free from weeds, the difference in the profits from the two fields, if worked alike, should be almost as great the following season.

Twenty-eight rows of sugar beets grown on summer-cultivated land produced ten and a half tons, while 36 rows of the same length grown on land simply spring ploughed produced only nine tons, a difference of 3,733 pounds. The price paid at the factory being \$5.63 per ton, a gain of \$16.03 per acre was shown in favor of the after-harvest cultivation.

In the rush of work nowadays, after harvest cultivation is apt to be passed over on farms not sufficiently equipped with wide working machinery and efficient horse power.



Garnering the Harvest in Huron County, Ontario.

This week eastern farmers are busy with the heaviest harvest in many years and with a minimum of help to handle it. Under the circumstances how helpless we would be without the aid of modern farm machinery of which the wide-cut self-binder is the most worthy representative!

Points in Wheat Culture Suggestions on Soil, Seed and Smut

WHEAT does best on a well prepared, medium loam soil. The big thing that the crop needs first is moisture. No plant food can enter the wheat crop unless it is dissolved in the soil water and root juices.

Winter wheat will probably follow early oats. Where this plan is followed be sure to plow the oat stubble as early as possible after the oats are harvested. The growing oats shaded the surface of the soil from direct sunlight and to that extent prevented the escape of soil moisture by evaporation. As soon as the oats crop is harvested this shade is removed and enormous quantities of water escape. For this reason get plows and disks into the oat field as soon as possible after the oats are cut. If the ground is fairly mellow do not plow too deeply. Three to five inches should be sufficient. As soon as the soil is plowed have it disked and if it has not worked into a smooth seed bed follow the disk with rolling and then with a light harrowing.

Use none but plump, sound seed of a suitable variety. Let the fanning mill work overtime, sifting out the broken, shriveled kernels. Dawson's Golden Chaff is a favorite everywhere in the east, while a new variety, O. A. C. No. 4, promises to be even more productive and satisfactory. It is always a safe rule to choose the variety that does best in your own neighborhood.

Spray for Wheat Smut.

In order to combat wheat smut, spread the seed on the barn floor and thoroughly sprinkle it with a solution of one pound of formalin to forty gallons of water. Shovel the grain while it is being sprinkled and when it is completely dampened cover it with a pile of sacks, so as to keep the gas in among the seed as long as possible.

If wheat maintains anything near present prices, it is surely going to pay the American farmer to give more attention to the crop. A bushel and a half of good seed is sufficient for an acre. The preparation of the seed bed requires the major amount of labor given to this crop. Once the wheat is started it needs no further care until harvest time. Harvesting labor may be short, but remember that the crop which

yields the heaviest makes most efficient use of farm labor.

A method of seeding to fall wheat that is popular with a few farmers, but that is not common in any section of Canada, is to sow wheat in the corn land. A few years ago we saw a fine field of wheat in Northumberland Co., Ont., that had been seeded after the corn crop was removed. This corn had been kept clean and well cultivated. The crop was put in the silo the middle of September, the land disked and harrowed immediately, and the wheat drilled in both ways. The cultivation of corn had put the land in excellent condition, and the wheat made a good growth that fall. This plan is not capable of wide adoption this year, however, as the corn is late, and but few fields have been carefully scuffed.