

Question Drawer

This department of The Guide is open to all readers, and it is hoped that they will take advantage of it. All questions relating to the problems of the farmer of Western Canada will be answered in this department. Write questions on one side of the paper only, and send only one question on one sheet of paper. Data in making this department of the greatest value.

MUST HAVE NAMES

Questions sent in without the name of the sender attached will not be answered. The name will not be used if not desired, but it must be sent in as a guarantee of good faith.

WHEAT AND FLAX

W. H. M., Orange, Sask.—I have 100 acres of summer fallow—good strong land, well worked. Would you advise sowing wheat and flax on it, if so would you tell me the wheat to sow before sowing the flax?

Ans.—Your plan might work out very satisfactorily, although we can give you no other information other than that flax when sown with oats has given good results. We would advise sowing the flax after the wheat was up, say a couple of inches. If your land is inclined to lodge the grain, the stiff straw of the flax may tend to support the wheat.

GROWING ALFALFA

C. F. R., Dewar Lake, Sask.—Hay being a winter article in this district and having heard so much about the prolific growth of alfalfa I am anxious to try a couple of acres for a start. My land is a clay loam with a clay subsoil, not too heavy, sticky garden. I wish to know the best way to cultivate this land to get it in the best condition for sowing alfalfa. I broke 40 acres last spring and double dressed it twice. What other work will it need and what time of the year should I sow the alfalfa, how much to the acre and where will I get seed?

Ans.—Ordinary ground is suitable for the growing of alfalfa. Be sure that there are no wild grasses in your field because if these grasses come up to any extent during the first or second year they will retard the growth of alfalfa. We would advise you to plow your land again in the spring, just previously to sowing grasses the seed bed carefully, harrowing well and packing. Use the best seed you can get, write to F. Hedley Auld, Department of Agriculture, Regina, for particulars to seed. Sow from 10 to 14 pounds to the acre. Sow the latter part of May. The first summer cut the crop twice leaving the hay on the field. Cut the first time about the first of July and the second time about the middle of August, leaving the hay to protect the roots during the winter.

The second year alfalfa should be cut just as soon as any blades can be seen, for at this stage it is more nutritious, and if three cuttings are to be obtained in one short season it must be cut promptly when the plants reach this stage in their development. In curing, the fact must be borne in mind that the leaves contain a great part of the nutritive and special care must be observed to see that they are retained. To do this it is necessary that the curing should take place as much as possible in the sun. Never try to cure it in the wind-dried without cooking or you will be disappointed in the quality of hay obtained.

SOWING FLAX ON STUBBLE

Subscriber, Lloydminster. Please state your opinion as to the advisability of sowing flax on stubble land which has previously grown oats and wheat, also if a good crop can usually be expected on old land.

Ans.—Flax always does best when sown in a good seed bed, for this reason summer fallow land gives the best results. If sowing on stubble land we would recommend your plowing and harrowing the land well. Old land will grow a fair crop, that is, if the land is not too badly run out by successive cropping.

CONCRETE MIXER

G. T. F., Pioron, Man.—In answer to I. H. R.'s, Treherne, Man., question in your columns for concrete mixer, I would draw his attention to the description of a machine for the proportionate mixing of dry materials mentioned in The Farmer, 1910, number of "Chamber's Journal," London, England. According to the description this "apportioner" is capable of mixing four different ingredients absolutely in desired quantities at any requisite speed from 15 cwt. to as many tons per hour. Fuller information may be received from the editor of the above journal at the address, 325 High St., Edinburgh, Scotland.

SAND POINT

Subscriber, Duley, Alta.—We have a well with a coarse quicksand, in which we wish to put a sand point; should it be driven right through to the next strata?

Ans.—Not necessarily; you need not drive any

further than the point where a good water flow is obtained.

DUTY ON WHEAT

W. J. B., Zolma, Sask.—Will the removal of duty on wheat shipped to the United States improve the Canadian price of wheat?

Ans.—Manufacture prices range from two to twelve cents higher than the Winnipeg market prices for the same grade of wheat. There is every reason to believe that the removal of duty on wheat will benefit the Canadian farmer considerably.

HAY PERMIT

E. B., Rastledge, Man.—To what department should I apply to obtain a permit to cut hay on the government land?

Ans.—The Government Land Office.

PLOWING WITH FOUR HORSES

P. H. B., Turner, Sask.—Which is the easier on horses at plowing, the four horses driven abreast or tandem?

Ans.—Driving tandem is the easier on the horses, it is easier, the horses have better footing, one horse not being compelled to walk on the plowed land, and it also does away with any side draught. The plowman can also do straighter and better work.

BARN PLAN

W. H. L., Lemore, Man.—I would like to have some subscribers send me a barn plan with basement with room for 30 head of cattle, 14 of them to be fed and the remainder to be house in pens, also room for 14 head of horses.

[Note.—Would some subscriber answer this query?]

T. J. T., Howards, Sask.—I wish to break ten to fifteen acres of land which I would like to turn down for hay. What would be the best manner of seeds to use for a crop of hay which could be used for pasture after the hay was cut? Give opinion as to sowing the whole or part of the alfalfa, also preparation of soil for the seed and the best time to sow the seed. The soil is a medium light loam.

Ans.—There are few grasses more suitable for hay and pasture than tall fescue grass.

We would not recommend sowing alfalfa on soddy ground as alfalfa is not very prolific during the first year, and grasses in new land are apt to choke out the alfalfa. Have the land mowed with a good firm seed bed before sowing alfalfa. Sow the seed about the end of May. Cut the stand twice during the first summer, leaving the grass on the ground for protection.

REMEDY TO RID GOPHERS

W. F., Allard, Sask.—In this district the gophers have done thousands of dollars worth of damage, and thus far no good remedy has been brought forward to destroy the pests. Some men had nearly their entire crop destroyed by them last year. Kindly give a remedy.

Ans.—If your municipality would give a bounty of two cents a gopher, the boys would soon clean up many of them. Perhaps the best remedy would be to get gopher poison. In Manitoba a few years ago the gophers were bad and a bounty of two cents was given. Later the government supplied the farmers with gopher poison which was mixed with grain and a little put in the hole and in less than two years gophers became almost extinct in many districts where they were formerly very plentiful and harmful.

CURE FOR MANGE

W. G. W., Yellow Grass.—In a certain issue of The Guide a farmer offered to give to anyone that wrote him a cure for mange in horses with one application. Would this farmer kindly communicate with W. G. Williams of Yellow Grass?

TONS OF GREEN HAY

R. E. M., Rapid City, Man.—I take great pleasure in answering a question recently asked in The Guide as to the number of cubic feet there are in one ton of loose green feed that has been stacked thirty days.

Ans.—There is about four hundred and thirty cubic feet per ton, measuring half way up the roof after it has been in the stack thirty days.

BRANDING COLTS

Subscriber, Summerburg.—I wish to brand some colts in the spring, do I need to get a government brand? Please give directions for branding.

Note.—Would some Western subscriber kindly answer this?

WHEAT AND FLAX

C. S. C., Viking, Man.—Can wheat and flax be sown together successfully, and how much should I sow of each? Would the flax tend to make the wheat mature earlier than if the wheat were sown alone?

Ans.—We have never heard of wheat being sown with flax, but we should judge that it would prove as successful a combination as oats and flax which have been grown together by many farmers of Saskatchewan. The flax should be sown after the wheat is up about two or three inches so as both will ripen about the same time. If your land is rich you might sow about two bushels of wheat and 40 pounds of flax per acre. The crop would tend to ripen quicker from the fact that a crop with a good thick stand will mature earlier than one that is thin, as the thinner the crop the more it will grow to straw.

PLANTING CURRANTS

Subscriber, Sask.—I want to plant some currants next spring, will cuttings from last year's growth do or will I have to dig up the roots?

Ans.—Both ways will be successful.

RAPE FOR OXEN

S. N. W., Salvador, Sask.—Does rape make a good summer feed for oxen or is it too softening?

(1) Can rape be used as a winter feed, if so, can it be treated the same as hay? (2) If rape not good as a summer feed for oxen do you know of any feed that would do the feeding of which is not too expensive? (3) Is alfalfa a successful crop to grow up here?

Ans.—(1) Yes, but if working the oxen you would have to feed some solid food.

(2) Rape is essentially a winter crop.

(3) Besides rape a good winter crop is a mixture of oats and peas.

(4) Alfalfa is recommended to be a successful crop in the West.

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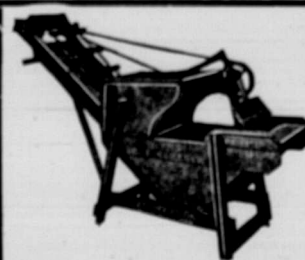
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