

EFFICIENT FARMING

Record Stocks of Lard.

The uselessness of Canadian hog breeders trying to enter the fat hog field is proved by the present glutted state of the lard market across the line. Heavy hogs, for years past, have been cheaply fed on the corn products in those States known as "The Corn Belt," and there developed several breeds of hogs, such as the Duroc-Jersey, the Poland-China and the Hampshire, which were particularly fitted for the American packer trade. Since war ended, however, the increase in preparations of vegetable oils as substitutes for lard in cooking have reduced the demand for the latter very considerably and, to-day, not only is the export of lard from American ports very much smaller than it used to be, but even the domestic consumption has declined markedly.

The "Market Reporter" for July 23, under the heading "Cold Storage Stocks of Lard Break All Records," reports:—

"Stocks of lard in cold storage on July 1 amounted to 205,878,000 lbs., compared with 193,816,000 lbs. on the same date last year. Excluding these two years the average stocks on July 1 have, in the past, averaged approximately 95,000,000 lbs. Of the 205,878,000 lbs. held on July 1, 114,981,000 lbs., or 56 per cent., were stored in Chicago. The production during June was 131,572,000 lbs., compared with 127,628,000 lbs. in June, 1920, and 100,489,000 lbs. in June, 1919. During the first six months of 1921 the production of lard was 785,057,000 lbs., compared with 717,718,000 lbs. for the corresponding period of 1920, an increase of 67,339,000 lbs., or 9.4 per cent. During 1919 the production during the same period was only 594,976,000 lbs.

Meanwhile the price of lard, regulated by a world-wide demand, has dropped by roughly 50 per cent. within a year. For instance, the wholesale price of lard in bulk in Toronto in June last averaged 15 cents a pound, while in June, 1920, it was 30 1/2 cents a pound—a decrease of actually 51 per cent.—and advertisements in the daily press show that the retail prices corresponded closely with the wholesale.

In Canada, where breeding for thirty years has been steadfastly turned away from the attempt to compete in fat hog raising on our northern feeds as against those in the corn-belt, the supply of lard has never been excessive. The thick fat of the hog that yields lard has rightly been considered here a draw-back to profitable bacon production. Supplies in cold storage in the Dominion on July 1 were, 2,141,754 lbs., a drop of roughly 900,000 lbs. since June 1, but about the same quantity as was held in store on January 1.

It cannot be too clearly understood that the demand for lard has been the second factor in the American fat hog trade. That trade never had a footing in Canada, where the best efforts have been put forth to cater to a taste for fine quality bacon at home and, under the name of Wilshire sides, to the highly important British bacon market. The glut to-day in lard stocks is another indication that a change has come about in the United States and that it is doubly useless for our breeders to go in for producing that which is every year finding a more difficult outlet.

It is all-important, therefore, that farmers who are now breeding types

and breeds of hogs that do not make select Wilshire sides should get rid of them and stock with the breeds and types that do.

Fight the Parasites Now.

It is a common idea that intestinal and other parasites only need be combated in spring and summer. That is a mistake. Some of the most important items of the campaign are applied before winter sets in.

It should be understood that adult animals carry intestinal parasites through the winter season, and in spring void their eggs, or embryos, and so contaminate grass for the young animals born at that season of the year. Nature, left to herself, arranges that young animals should arrive in spring, and so prepares rich, green grass to stimulate a flow of milk for the sustenance of the foal, calf, lamb or pig, as the case may be. Horses get rid of their stomach bots when turned on grass. Nodular disease of the intestines, vulgarly termed "knotty guts," is contracted on spring grass from adult worms passing out of the adult sheep and distributing their eggs to be taken in by lambs, in turn. Adult cattle, swine and sheep also harbor other parasites during winter and get rid of them in spring, to be reinfected then by the same kind of parasites, or others.

Considering these things, it is good practice to treat all farm animals for worms in autumn. Horses may be given a mixture of two parts of table salt and one part each, by weight, of dried sulphate of iron and flowers of sulphur. The dose of this is one tablespoonful to be mixed in dampened feed night and morning for a week; then stop for ten days and then repeat the treatment. Iron should not be given to a mare that is pregnant. Give her more sulphur and salt. Colts take smaller doses.

Sheep should be dosed with one per cent. solution of sulphate of copper (bluestone). The dose is three-quarters of an ounce for a lamb, and three and one-half ounces for an adult ewe or other sheep. Intermediate ages and sizes take less than the maximum dose, in proportion. The treatment should be repeated in ten days. Ewes should be treated before or immediately after service.

To hogs, give two and one-half grains each of santonin and camol, one dram of powdered area nut and one-half dram of bicarbonate of soda for each fifty pounds of body weight. Mix it in a very little slop, or give it in water as a drench, slowly and carefully from a bottle, after starving the animal for twenty-four hours. Repeat the dose in ten days. Also see to it that the hogs go into clean quarters and are fed and watered from clean utensils. Coughing pigs should be given pure turpentine in slop for three mornings in succession, allowing one teaspoonful for each 100 pounds of body weight. This helps, but is not a certain remedy for lung worms. Sheep affected with lung worms should be given the chloroform treatment by a trained veterinarian.

Cattle do not suffer much from internal parasites, but washing the back with strong salt water or a 1-50 solution of coal-tar dip will help to lessen trouble from ox-warble grubs, and also from ringworm. To keep cattle, and especially calves, free from ringworm, however, the stables should be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected, whitewashed, lighted and ventilated in autumn.

Dipping Sheep in Fall.

It is true that spring dipping of the farm flock is very important, since this gives all, including the young lambs, a clean bill, but fall dipping is still more important and should never be omitted on any farm.

The benefits of two-fold: First, all vermin and skin troubles can be very largely cured or prevented, which has a marked effect in improving the health and feeding gains of the flock; and second, the quality of the wool is improved and its growth stimulated. Shearing tests have demonstrated that well-dipped sheep will give from one pound to a pound and a half more wool per fleece than if not dipped.

Care should be taken to follow the directions which come with the dip in its preparation, and means taken to see that the whole sheep, with the exception of eyes and nostrils, gets a good application. There is really only one way to dip, and that is by submersion in a tank sufficiently deep to cover the animal standing on its feet. While for a small flock, as an emergency measure, a molasses barrel with a foot cut off one end may be used, the proper and economical vessel is a vat built about eight inches wide at the bottom, three and a half feet deep and flaring to twenty inches wide, with one end projecting to make an incline up which the sheep may walk after submersion.

A draining platform with tight bottom, which will hold two or three sheep should be arranged that when the sheep is assisted upon it the drip from its wool will not run from the platform back into the tank. The dip should be made with warm water and allowed to cool to one hundred degrees F. before being used, after which it will cool rapidly.

Any time after September 1 is a good time to dip. A breezy bright day is naturally best, but if for any reason dipping is delayed, further delay waiting for just the right day is inadvisable. Particularly when poison dips are used, the sheep should be kept off the ground affording any pasture until their fleeces have ceased dripping, three or four hours at least being required.

Our Markets Have Changed.

Livestock markets are not wide open as they were in war time, though the best still finds a ready outlet. Weight, quality and finish have never before been so important.

Profitable livestock production can best be maintained by adhering closely to the following points:—

In Hops—Breed only bacon types of the right quality; market only at right weights.

In Cattle—Breed only good beef types; feed and finish to heavy weights; get rid of the scrub.

In all Livestock—Keep up a steady, even supply of best quality.

The Essential Halves of the Livestock Industry.

1. Production and marketing of farm animals;
2. Manufacture and marketing of meat.

Keep Close to the Young.

Stave off old age by keeping close to the hear of as many young folks as you can. Live young, think young, stay young.

How to Steady the Cattle Trade This Fall.

The fall of 1921 will prove a delicate, if not a critical, time in the Canadian cattle trade. If, due to panic, there is then a rush to sell cattle it will demoralize the markets and do the very worst thing for farmers. At the same time it will load the refrigerators of the packing plants with a huge quantity of meat, probably from thin cattle that packers do not want and will not be able to dispose of to the best advantage of the livestock industry.

As a precautionary measure, therefore, packers believe that producers should carefully guard against a heavy rush to market in the fall months. The state of the packing trade is very much like that which faces farmers themselves—labor costs, upkeep, and all other charges still comparatively high, yet with a declining market for the output.

A glut in the freezers this fall would inevitably bring about that which packers are as anxious as farmers to avoid, i.e., a disastrous slump in prices. The basis of agricultural prosperity in Canada is the live stock industry, and a slump could not do other than injure producer, manufacturer and consumer.

Alone, packers cannot prevent this; with the co-operation of farmer-producers, much may be done to steady live stock market prices this fall. Farmers would be wise to get together and by co-operation with all organizations plan to spread their cattle shipments cautiously over the late summer and fall months, and to hold all cattle on the farms that are not well finished.

What appeals to the packer, from a business standpoint, is that the comparatively low prices at which feeders will probably be available this fall should be attractive to every farmer who has winter feed. While no one can positively foretell market conditions next spring and early summer, the history of past price depressions and advances make packers believe, if faced with the same condition in their own business, they would be justified in taking what risk there is and holding their stocks for the better conditions of next spring if it were feasible. But packers cannot hold fresh beef in the coolers long enough to protect the farmer in the market. If loaded heavily this fall, they would have to freeze the meat, adding expensive holding charges, and bringing this into competition with fresh meat next spring.

It is probable that both railroad and ocean freight rates next spring will be much more favorable. Spreading the marketing of live stock over the fall, winter and spring will, therefore, prevent what may otherwise result in serious conditions.

The early harvesting season should enable farmers to get a good lot of fall plowing done before the freeze up this fall.

Danish Government rules governing the bacon industry in that country permit curers to export only such bacon as has been graded No. 1 by a Government inspector. Nothing else is exported to Great Britain. Hogs that grade No. 2 and No. 3 are sent to the fresh meat market, chiefly in Copenhagen, according to a recent market report.

The Secret of Winning Red Ribbons

It takes a lot more than just a good animal, well bred, to win a red ribbon at a fair. A few years ago I buttonholed the men who were showing prize stock at the National Fair, and asked them the secret of winning red ribbons.

After getting a great deal of free advertising about the superiority of certain lines of breeding, one man was honest enough to say: "Go ask my herdsman; he did the work."

The story I got from the herdsman emphasizes the point I want to make—that there is no hocus-pocus by which a man can win a red ribbon any time he wants to. "We pick out a better animal than anybody else, then put him in a little better shape," said the herdsman. "Sometimes our animal isn't any better than other fellow's, but it looks better. The judge has to pin the ribbons on what he sees and feels."

In other words, if you want to win red ribbons, you must work for them. The first thing to do is to get the right kind of an animal—that has bred type, good quality, and is built right from the ground up. If there is any doubt as to whether an animal has these good points, time spent in fitting it for the show-ring will likely be wasted. Hence these pointers:

In all show animals the feet and legs must be well set under the body and perfectly straight. The bones must be strong, clean cut and the joints well defined. The shoulders should be smooth and well knitted, so as to leave no depression behind them which would indicate coarseness or lack of heart girth. The ribs should be long and well arched, so as to insure width of back and depth of body. The loin must be broad and the flanks well let down, while the hind quarters should be strong, broad and well carried down. The skin and hair must indicate quality and be pliable to the touch, while the carriage must be graceful and easy.

Exercise is most important factor in conditioning show stock. If not

properly exercised, the animals get stale, their appetites pall and they soon begin to fall off in flesh. Horses should be exercised regularly. Cattle should be turned out over night, and hogs should be compelled to walk from a quarter to a half mile daily. Sheep require exercise to make their flesh firm to the touch. Horses and cattle, too, should be thoroughly groomed, especially during the last two months of feeding. In fitting show animals, the object is to have them in the highest possible bloom when led before the judge.

Sheepmen begin to trim the fleece about three or four months beforehand. Hogmen usually begin to wash their animals about a month before show time. Show cattle are best not washed too often before show time, because the hides and hair get harsh. Likewise, the legs or horses lose their freshness by too frequent washing. The horns of beef cattle should always be polished when the animals are shown, so as to present a neat and attractive appearance. In scraping and polishing horns, be careful not to expose the core and thereby cause bleeding. The shell should never be scraped and polished until a red appearance shines through it. After cutting and filing the horns, use a piece of emery paper, then apply some oil and polish with a woolen cloth. The hoofs should also be cleaned before entering the show-ring. A piece of oiled flannel is perhaps the best for that purpose.

In exhibiting, always aim to make an animal stand naturally. If the animal makes a good showing, it is due to its having been trained for months ahead of time at home. Study each animal. Some animals show better with their heads high. Some animals show better with their heads low. The best showmen are those who keep their eyes on their animals and on the judge at the same time. Never try to deceive the judge by hiding some fault. At a rule, when you hide one fault, you expose two or three others on the animal.

How to Get the Best Results from School Fairs

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I believe that one of the most useful things the school fairs can accomplish is to make the agricultural profession more popular and better respected among country boys and girls, to train them for their future duties as progressive farmer citizens, and make them realize the benefits that can be got out of farming when it is intelligently done by interested people. The school fair gives the finishing touch to the work of agricultural teaching. It is a community demonstration, where everyone receives a reward for his labor and where all unite in giving mother earth a token of gratitude and respect. This testimonial creates a lasting impression on the mind of the children and corrects any false ideas that they may perhaps have entertained regarding the farmers' calling.

In order to accomplish this purpose, it is necessary that the school fair should be successful. As the first agricultural school fair (French section) of the Province of Quebec was held in our district, at St. Casimir (Portneuf) on September 12, 1914, and as we have been successful in organizing each year since an average of six school fairs in the county, I might point to the following as being the main factors of success:—

(a) Educational propaganda among the parish authorities (school, civil and religious) showing the usefulness and the benefits of the fairs, in order to secure their sympathy in the work as well as their active co-operation. Generally speaking, the community follows the leaders of the parish in a movement of this kind.

(b) Making the teachers and school trustees realize that the school fair is the crowning of their agricultural teaching work, and that they will be given the credit for this work by the parish.

(c) An essential condition for success (probably the chief) is to establish good school-home gardens, of a size proportionate with the age and capacity of the children, to visit them

carefully, and create a healthy rivalry among the pupils, and even take the parents to their children's gardens and make them see the benefits of the fair.

(d) Organization of a boys' and girls' gardening club, the young members of which do some agricultural work at school and at home, as the members attend to many of the details during the fair. Pupils thus get a training in co-operation, in responsibility, and their spirit of initiative is developed. The pupils, teachers, and school trustees should be made to understand that the fair is their work, and that the efforts of every one, from the humblest to the most influential, are required to make it a success.

(e) Nothing should be neglected to make the fair attractive, and the parish authorities should be invited to visit the exhibits of the pupils. The co-operation of the priest, mayor, school trustees and officials of the Agricultural Association should be secured. The children should see that agriculture is honored by everyone. The fair should be a parish Educational Day, in every sense of the word. This is the day for the young farmers, a never-to-be-forgotten day, and to the advantage of agriculture.

(f) School trustees and other persons who understand the advantages of such a day should grant prizes for the winners of the competition. Judges should always be fair, so that every one may be satisfied.

(g) The real factor of success will always be the qualified teacher, who teaches agriculture to the children, according to the best pedagogical principles. The school and the teaching are only what the master makes them.

Good agricultural elementary education is the best work in rural and social reconstruction that may be accomplished by an intelligent citizen. Progressive agriculture will never enter an old brain, poorly formed in the beginning.

Preparing Bees for Winter.

We take good care to provide food and protection for ourselves and our livestock in winter but too often the bees, which need them just as much for their survival and comfort, are neglected. Thousands of colonies die every winter and many more are badly weakened for want of timely care in the fall. Every colony saved will produce, at a low estimate, ten dollars' worth of honey the next year, if well managed.

Three things need special attention in preparing bees for winter:—Protection, Strength and Stores.

Protection—The beekeeper should decide early whether he will winter his bees outside or in a cellar. Roughly speaking, in British Columbia, Southern Ontario and the Annapolis Valley, N.S., outside wintering is advisable. For the rest of Canada use a well insulated cellar, deep in well drained ground. Much, however, depends on whether one has a good cellar or a yard well sheltered from winds for outside wintering. Bees have been wintered outside successfully as far north as Healeybury, Ont., and at Lethbridge, Alta. The cellar should be fairly dry, with a steady temperature not exceeding 50 degrees nor less than 40 degrees.

For outside wintering place the hive in a case with packing between. For packing use planer shavings or well dried leaves, moss, etc. Cases may be made to take one, two, or four hives each. There should be 2 1/2 to 4 inches of packing at the sides and beneath and a cushion on top 6 to 8 inches thick. Cases in which the floor section is separated and has slides extending above the entrance holes save labor in packing. In the four-colony case the side sections may be hooked together. Have the cases made in time to pack the hives at the middle of September. On the Pacific coast, where the winters are mild and damp, the side and bottom packing should be omitted and the roof should be well ventilated.

Strength and young queens—Unite all weak colonies in September so that each hive will contain enough bees to cover at least the equivalent of 8 Langstroth frames; enough bees to crowd on ten frames is better. See that each colony has a young fertile queen, if possible not later than the end of July, so that many young bees will be raised in August.

Stores—A sufficient supply of wholesome stores is most important. Feed sugar syrup (two parts refined sugar to one of water) during September (first week in October in Southern Ontario) to bring the weight of stores of each colony up to 40 pounds. A ten-frame Langstroth hive, without the cover, should weigh between 70 and 80 pounds. In places where the honey gathered is not perfectly wholesome for winter, at least ten pounds of the stores should consist of sugar syrup. Where it is likely the honey is decidedly unwholesome or will granulate hard in the combs in winter, at least half of the stores should be sugar syrup. If necessary remove outside combs of honey and place empty combs in the middle of hive. The following stores have been found unwholesome: honey gathered in certain marshy places in the Mari-

time Provinces, from aster near Lake Erie, in Manitoba when there is a short crop in a dry summer, dandelion honey and honey containing honey dew or fruit juice. The best honey is that from alfalfa and white clover. Honey from alfalfa and from sweet clover is inclined to granulate too hard in cold regions. Ordinary ten-pound honey tins with small holes punched in the lid will do for feeding. Feed rapidly. Preferably pack the hives in the cases before feeding.

A Grandfather Plants Trees for Profit.

An elderly farmer some years ago walked into the office of a Canadian forest engineer and said, "I have sixteen acres on my farm that will not grow anything but trees and I have come to you to tell me what kind I should plant to get the best results." "Let me first ask you," replied the engineer, "are you planting these trees for pleasure or profit?" "For profit."

"How old are you?" "Seventy-four next birthday." "Then it is my duty to tell you that there is no species of trees which will grow quickly enough to return a profit in your lifetime." "Yes there is, and you can help me to find the right kind." "How do you make that out?" "I have a good farm, and each part is devoted to the use to which it is best adapted—meadow, pasture, arable land, garden—but right in the middle is that eyesore of sixteen acres. That sixteen acres grew good timber when my father settled on the land, and no doubt, it will grow good timber again. I have not many years to live and I want to put my property in the best possible shape for my heirs. At present the sixteen acres is a blot that will injure the sale of the farm, but if it were covered with a growth of the best sorts of trees for the locality, even if it were only four years old, it would complete the farm and increase its value."

The forest engineer admitted the argument was sound and advised as to the best kinds of trees to plant and how to plant them. The old farmer before he died had the satisfaction of knowing that the farm had been increased in value by the young trees.

Now Is the Time To

- Fill the silo.
- Send your boy or girl to college.
- Co-operate with your neighbor.
- Fight Hessian fly.
- Take a vacation, if you haven't done so. Farmers deserve vacations, the same as other folks.
- Kill every rat—use cats, dogs, traps, poisons; in fact, anything and everything that will rout the rats.
- Pick seed-corn from the field as soon as the kernels are well dented.
- Put a bathroom in the house.

Rancid bacon: A satisfactory treatment for rancid meat is to put the meat into skimmed milk; there should be no butterfat in the milk. Soak the meat in milk for twelve hours, change the milk and let stand for twelve hours. By this time the meat is fit to eat.



A Wise Song Sparrow.

Scientists tell us that animals are not capable of thought; but, when I consider a song sparrow that last year nested near my home, I am inclined to doubt the learned professors. This song sparrow was either late starting housekeeping, or it was her second brood; however, the little brown songster was determined that her August babies would not come to sorrow through accidents caused by bad boys, stray cats or other enemies. So for her home she selected a spot where at a moment's notice she could summon hundreds of soldiers all armed with bayonets to protect her nest. In other words, the wise bird built in a honeysuckle vine above a big hornet's nest.

Did the bird that planned this well-protected home know of the vicious instincts of the hornets when re-

ling marauders? Well, I leave that to you, but this warning which I received from a boy may throw some light on the subject:

"There's a bird's nest in that vine," said the little fellow, "and I was trying to see the eggs when (he rolled up his sleeve to show me the hornets' stings) a bunch of hornets came after me. You had better stay away from that nest."

Did this song sparrow raise her babies? Indeed, yes. I watched the three little birds learning to fly.

To a Hero.

We may not know how fared your soul before Occasion came to try it by this test, Perchance, it used on lofty wings to soar: Again, it may have dwelt in lowly nest. We do not know if bygone knightly strain Impelled you then, or blood of humble clod Defied the dread adventure to attain The cross of honor or the peace of God.

We see but this, that when the moment came You raised on high, then drained, the solemn cup—the gall of death; that, touched by valor's flame, The kindled spirit burned the body up.

—Oscar C. A. Child.

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