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Results for Farmers

Experiments at Lethbridge---Fruits-- Grain varieties---Corn---Steer und Lamb Feeding

By E. A. WEIR, B.S.A.

In these days of bumper crops like last year and abnormal grain market quotations, or when stirred by war news, or disgusted by political talk, we run danger of overlooking temporarily some of the most effective educational work here and there over the country. When everyone is raising 50 bushel wheat or 100 bushel oats the work of an experimental farm which has been raising remunerative crops over a series of years loses some of its weight temporarily. But during all this time results are being secured that will be even more valuable after the pendulum swings back to normal or below again. Such is the work on the Lethbridge Experimental Farm under the direction

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tinuously. Strange to say tho the yield is low it is still high enough to be profitable, which cannot be said of all the other rotations. B is summerfallow and grain alternately; C is summerfallow and two years of grain. Other cultural rotations including corn, peas and oats for green feed, winter rye, etc. None of it is long enough established as yet to give any definite results. The valuable horticultural work carried on has been handicapped this year by the en-listment of the gardener, Richard Paris, a very efficient man. Field roots under dry land conditions are giving yields of 14 to 20 tons per aere. Special atten-tion is being given to cultivation methods rather than to varieties of these crops.



Part of the garden at Lethbridge Experiment Station, where numerous variation of small fruits are grown very successfully. Note the artistic arrangement

of W. H. Fairfield. Four crops in two years and prices that make it as good as five or six normal crops in two years is a pace that is apt to dim the memory of any farmer as to some of the lessons being demonstrated at his door. Nevertheless the work at Lethbridge is being just as thoroughly and consistently pursued as even the second that 's going some. The work at Lethbridge in field crops is divided into frigation and that under dry farming methods. While valuable results have been secured in both it is part to give much information of a definite make tended to discount or at least put below par the information of a definite method in the second of the last two seasons being value of irrigation with the average farmer of southers. The inordinate nature of the last two seasons being value of irrigation with the average farmer of southers. The inordinate nature of the last two seasons being value of irrigation with the average farmer of southers. The isother divisions mentioned above, while value of grain, pasture and corn crops as well as fuel ending, bog pastures and lamb feeding, hog pastures and been ended to discount or at least fuel in the sease of the work is a bove, interval within both divisions mentioned above, and the seasons mentioned above, and the seasons mentioned above, and the seasons device the last is seasons are defined above.

Apples and Small Fruits

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The Squaw Corn Very interesting work is being done with squaw corn. In 1914, when there was no crop of other grains off stubble lands, squaw corn gave a yield of 16 bushels 10 pounds of shelled corn per acre. It ripens every year, and very careful selections are made of the earliest ripen-ing ears in order to shorten the season for this crop, which promises to be very useful to Southern Al-berta. A little plot is planted separate from all other grain or corn so that there will be no danger of cross fertiliza-tion. This squaw corn, not Indian corn (there's the same difference as between squaw winter and Indian summer)

the same difference as between squaw winter and Indian summer), grows very low and squatty. It seems to lose little moisture from the soil thru excessive evaporation and the ground on which it has been grown has usually yielded a better crop of wheat than has summerfallowed land. Valuable hog pasturing experiments have been carried on at Lethbridge this summer. Alfalfa pasture formed the basis of each. Steer and lamb feeding work has also formed a large part of the last winter's opera-tions and unusual success has been secured with bees.

Grain Variety Tests

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the lowest yield on the irrigated land. Gold Rain, Irish Victor and Banner gave 159, 151 and 143 bushels respectively in 1915 and had a three year average on non-irrigated land of 87, 85 and 85. Victory was slightly higher than any of the three just mentioned for the three year period. Irish Victor and Gold Rain did best on the irrigated land. Daubeny, which gave a much lower yield, ripened in thirteen days less than Irish Victor.

Irish Victor. Twelve varieties of barley were tested on both dry and irrigated land and were sown on April 16. On the dry land the varieties were sown on summerfallow, and on the irrigated land on soil on which roots had grown the previous season. The yields were higher on the dry land than on the irrigated land, due to the fact that the grain lodged worse on the latter. Gold, Odessa, Mansfield and O.A.C. No. 21 were the best on non-irrigated and on irrigated land Claude, Swedish Chevalier, Invincible, Gold and O.A.C. No. 21 gave the best yields over a three year period, running 90 to 82 bushels per acre and varying little in the date of ripening, which was August 10 to 13.

Tests of Peas and Rye

Tests of Peas and Rye Nine varieties of peas were tested on both dry and frigated land. The yields were particularly satis-factory. Peas are a crop that should be more extensive-by raised in Alberta. The seed was sown at the rate of 2 bushels to the acre in the case of the small peas and 2½ bushels to the acre in the case of medium to be expected in a normal year, but after peas have been grown on land for one season, or if the seed or of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is the blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow about badly of the high winds the crop is apt to blow

A plot of winter rye was sown September I, 1914, and spring rye on April 15, 1915. The yields were particularly high. The usual results with spring rye so far as yield is concerned have not, however, been particularly satisfactory. Spring rye is often sown by new settlers for green feed, it being selected because it can be sown late. The experience at Lethbridge has been that oats will produce more green feed than spring rye. On the other hand, winter rye does partic-ularly well for green feed. When sown on summer-fallow about the first of September it comes on early and produces considerable crop even in very dry seasons. The yield in the 1915 season was 65 and 53 bushels respectively for fall and spring rye, very remarkable yields indeed for this crop.



Part of a bunch of 93 closes field alfalfa hay last windor and made a profit oven when the hay was valued at \$12.00 s tor. The Lathbridge station has done must valuable work in store and lamb feeding.

Another experiment in winter steer feeding was carried out last winter at Lethbridge. An attempt is being made with these experiments in the feeding of steers, as well as those with lambs, to solve a market problem for the hay growers on irrigated lands which is becoming more acute each season. It is a generally conceded fact in the district that the most profitable crop a farmer can raise on irrigated land is alfalfa, provided he can dispose of it readily at a reasonable price, and the acreage of alfalfa is steadily increasing. Continued on Page 22

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