

FOR THE DWELLER IN THE COUNTRY

GOOD REASONS FOR BREEDERS SHOWING STOCK

Prominent Breeder Emphasizes Some of the Important Points.

With the Western Fair circuit opening at Calgary on June 30, live stock exhibitors in all parts of the Dominion will soon have reports of performance in the show ring to invite them to special effort in preparing their stock for exhibitions that are to take place later in the summer and throughout the coming fall. In Eastern Canada, farming conditions are such as to make the fall the most desirable season for holding shows of farm produce and animals, but the time is already close at hand for beginning to put live stock in proper condition for exhibiting at some of the earlier shows. Some farmers question the advisability of exhibiting their stock generally on the head of the direct financial returns from the undertaking. Indirect returns are, however, worth considering, as are other points in connection with the matter of exhibiting, as shown by Alex. Hume, of Campbellford, Ont., whose expression of opinion on the matter of showing pure bred cattle, reproduced from an article in the Canadian Ayrshire Review, is as follows:

All Should Exhibit.

In writing on this subject it is difficult to make a beginning, but I would state emphatically that it is the "duty" of every breeder of pure bred cattle to exhibit them, and to do so in the fairest, large or small, the owner is to his cattle, to himself, and to the public. It is one of the very best and cheapest means of advertising your herd. Get your cattle out and let the public see what you have. It is only when you have your cattle alongside those of your fellow breeders that you can know just what you are, or whether they are up to the standard set for the breed. Comparison is all there is in competition. You may attend an exhibition and come away with the thought—"Well, I have better cattle in my own herd," but when you bring them out you may get quite a surprise either one way or the other. By exhibiting and competing with others you will undoubtedly improve your herd, for you will find where your herd is weak and will endeavor to strengthen it before another year. You will learn the art of fitting your cattle as it is certainly an art or science to have your cattle in the very pink of bloom when they go to the show. Then many growers go to feed and care for their intelligents. Then there is the showing them to the judge, which too is an art. Always keep them in position so that they will show to advantage and catch the eye of the judge. Have one eye on the judge and the other on your animal that you may know just when he is looking at your animal and so have it always in the best position.

Judges Above Suspicion. I would just like to state here that I feel our Ayrshire judges are above suspicion and if we do not always agree with their judgment it is their honest judgment just the same. I remember some years ago coming along just as a breeder was getting his animal ready to pull out for the ring. He was fondling him and talking to him, asking him "to show his best and we will win out." You not only train your animal, but you gain their confidence and your animal at this time is as good as yours. If this trained or broken as they would not be in any other way. You become a better judge of your breed by exhibiting, having to select your individuals to make up your show herd. Then there is the wider and the bigger thought which every breeder should consider—"The Sale of the Breed."

Consider the Breed.

Make the very best exhibit you can, not only for yourself but for the "sale of the breed." When there is an exhibit of outstanding and unusual merit of your particular breed at an exhibition it benefits not only such exhibitors or exhibitors but every breeder of that breed of cattle in the country. Who has not felt the thrill of pride at the ringside when a splendid exhibit of your particular breed is brought out especially when pig and sheep are making favorable comment on such exhibit. Then I repeat let every breeder do his part in making such an exhibit and boost his breed. This has been written with the hope that others more capable may take up the pen.

Modern milling of the world's best wheat, naturally produces the world's best flour.

Ask your grocer for the best and he will sell you

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Earliest Crops Are Money Makers

The early bird gets the worm, and likewise, too, it is the ear-liest crop that gets the high price on the vegetable market; the first to reach the top prices. The question then resolves itself into how the earliest crops are to be obtained.

Real earliness cannot be obtained without some means of forcing at least at the start under glass. Owing to the heavy outlay involved greenhouses are out of the question except with the larger growers. The small pyramid shaped, forcing frame is excellent but is limited to special crops and involves a heavy outlay compared with the many uses of the ordinary hotbed.

It may be argued that the hotbeds are expensive to either make or buy, but when the cost of buying plants ready to set out is figured up each year the wood putty glass and labor of the ready made hotbeds soon pay for themselves.

As to the type of hotbed used the three run frame, that is, having the glass in three runs, is better than the four run in that it gives less shade but is slightly more expensive and taken up in all the four run is probably the more popular. Another question arising is whether butted or lapped glass is the better. This, again, is really an open question. Lapped glass, with one pane lapping over the other, is not quite as bright owing to the double thickness of glass at the laps and the dirt that collects there. The butted glass frame, on the other hand, is not as tight and the dries is an undesirable factor where the damping off fungus and diseases are an ever-present source of loss. However, butted glass is slightly less expensive and probably in the long run is more used.

As to the size of the bed, that of course depends on the grower and his requirements, but the size most generally adopted is 6 feet long by 3 feet wide if a single frame bed or the bed may be made of greater length with cross braces at intervals to support the frames. The size of lumber most generally used is 2 in. material, 24 in. wide for the front and 30 in. for the back with the ends graduated from 24 in. at one end to 30 in. at the other.

With regard to the getting up of the bed, the pit type of hotbed has its advantages but on account of the ease of working over a higher bed set up on not in the ground and the better drainage secured the style of hotbed built on the ground is almost everywhere preferred to the pit type.

Horse manure is the material most commonly used, enough results have been secured with cowshits in some parts of Ontario and with spent hops in certain other sections. The manure must not have been heated and should not be too strawy. The rule is that at least about six weeks manure is required for each week's heat. The words a pile when tramped from 2 feet to 30 inches high will be required for getting a three week's start. Two to three weeks must be allowed for such a pile to break after tramping. After the centre has heated, usually six to eight days are required till the whole pile is turned over, top and sides are turned in replacing the centre which has heated. In order to get the bed heating evenly, care must be taken to have the manure fine, well shaken and thoroughly tramped. After the manure base has been thoroughly prepared and after the frames have been put in place, the soil is put on to a depth of 6 inches. That the soil should be fairly rich, fine without lumps or stones and perhaps have some sand added goes without saying. One thing often neglected is the necessity of turning the soil in the centre of the bed. The soil should be turned up in the ratio of one forkful of hops to 6 of manure. The usual cure for frozen manure is hot water poured on in a quantity just sufficient to thaw out the manure.

Suggestions For The Small Fruit Grower

Shippers Should Use Square Box—Hints for Cultivation of Strawberries.

With the picking season here the small fruit grower should have in mind the fact that his produce is to be shipped to distant markets. The grower who intends shipping to Montreal would do well to consider a change to the square type container. The fact is that the round box is not so strong as the square one and the latter is more easily packed. The grower who intends shipping to Montreal would do well to consider a change to the square type container. The fact is that the round box is not so strong as the square one and the latter is more easily packed.

The disease is usually well marked on the fruit. At first the stem and leaves develop a slight yellow-green mottling, which gradually becomes a dark green color. These protuberances vary in size and number and are usually of a dark green color rising from a yellow-green or mottled body. This gives the fruit a mottled and distorted appearance. The disease is extremely infectious and may be readily transmitted from diseased to healthy plants in the field. It is spread by the cucumber aphid, and by the striped and spotted cucumber beetles and possibly other insects. It is also spread by persons picking the fruit when diseased plants are in the field.

The cause has not been determined but it is undoubtedly closely related to the virus causing other mosaic diseases. Little is known concerning the overwintering of the causal agent. Experiments indicate that it is rarely, if ever, carried from year to year in the seed or soil or refuse from infected fields. It occurs on some of the wild cucurbits, and probably is carried from these to the cultivated varieties during the early summer.

Control Measures:

Control measures so far suggested or discovered are not entirely successful, since the disease is carried by the cucumber aphid and beetles, first from the wild Cucurbits to the cultivated crops in early spring and later from diseased plants to healthy plants in the field, and since it is also spread by the pickers, certain measures may be taken towards reducing the amount of infection. These are:

(1) Control of aphids and cucumber beetles.

(2) Destruction of wild Cucurbits.

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CARE NEEDED IN THINNING OF ROOT CROP

Stand of Plants Should Allow for No Waste Space in Row at Harvest.

No single process in connection with the growing of field roots—mangels, turnips, carrots, etc.—is more important than that of thinning. The individual roots depend largely on cultivation and fertilizing, but there being equal, the total weight of the stand of plants left after what are considered the surplus ones have been removed. Not only proper distance between the plants is necessary, however; the thinning must be done in proper season, if the crop is to attain the greatest possible growth and full maturity before harvest time.

To the fact that the British farmer and his help are experts in this matter of thinning may be credited the greater average yields of field roots in that country than in Canada, or very largely so. Not many Canadian farmers make a regular practice of growing roots on any extensive scale, but those who do may be credited with giving a good deal of thought to the matter of thinning and the state of cultivation of their soil for that purpose, as does the average British farmer.

No Hard and Fast Rule.

No hard and fast rule as to distance apart of plants in the row can be given, though distance apart of the rows in the case of each different type of root is more or less established. In any case, the distance apart of the rows, in regular farm practice, is sufficient to allow the roots to make full size without crowding in that direction, and no great amount of experience in root growing is needed to the grower if he is making the mistake of planting his rows too far apart. It is in the matter of spacing in the row that most careful calculation is necessary and this calculation must be made on the strength of average size attained by the particular type and variety of root grown, when that kind of root is in condition to supply the greatest possible amount of feed value. That is, of course, considering roots from the standpoint of their value as stock feed, during winter.

Soil is a Factor.

Time spent in specially careful preparation of the root land is largely wasted if the soil is not allowed to reduce the possible yield by several tons per acre, and this is easily possible. Going by a rough estimate, say in the case of the field root for turnips, does not allow of taking full advantage of the capacity of a particular soil to grow roots. Knowledge of the productive capacity of a soil in the root field, and the effect of fertilizers used to best advantage, necessary in order to secure production of the greatest possible yield, regard must be observed for the size that the roots may be expected to reach at harvest time, yet with the plants just far enough apart to allow of their ripening properly, is what is desired, are conditions that are having a big influence to convert many of the larger "staple food" producing farms into a greater number of "luxury food" producing farms. Hence we see a big increase in glass house equipment, small fruit plantings, ornamental stock, poultry, etc., for instance, on the one-man or family-labor scale. This small farm business will be profitable so long as it does not overtax the local market for luxury crops, such as flowers, fruits and poultry. The small farm with its more intensive culture, with its higher percentage of human labor, chargeable to each unit of production, is quite a different undertaking from the large farm which is run on a different scale. The small farm may be used in a large way as an adjunct to low cost of "rotue" etc.

TEACH CHICKS TO ROOST.

It is often advisable to teach the chicks to roost when 8 to 12 weeks of age. When they are allowed to remain on the floor, it is difficult to keep them clean and to keep them from crowding. If wire roosts—3 to 4 inches—are used, there is but little, if any, more danger of crooked breasts than if the chicks are allowed to roost on the floor.

The chicks can generally be taught to roost by putting the perches in the house when they are 8 to 10 weeks of age. If this plan is in convenient, where a large number of chicks may be placed on the perches after dark for a few nights until they are used to the idea. When the chicks are brooded together around a brooder stove it is a good plan to place the roosts in the house when the chicks are 4 or 5 weeks old, so that the larger and stronger chicks will start using the roosts while the weaker chicks still stay around the brooder stove.

SCRUB HERDS BAD.

Cattle are supposed to double in numbers every five years. This cannot be the case with pure breeds or the supply would begin to catch up with the demand here. What this country most sadly needs is a breeding of profitable purebred milkers and a vast reduction of scrub herds. Until we attain to such a condition in the dairy world, the consumer will pay too much for milk while the producer receives too little.—Canadian Ayrshire Review.

He Needed To.

Customer (yelling loudly)—I wanna get a pair of socks.
Clerk—Well, you think that and die?
Customer—No, I'm tryin' to make myself heard above these ties.

Particularly those known to be susceptible.

(3) The destruction of infected plants as soon as detected. This is not entirely reliable as diseased plants are infectious some time before the symptoms appear.

(4) Avoid picking the fruit from heavy plants after handling diseased plants.

Sanitation, crop rotation, selection of seed or spraying with bordeaux are not likely to prove of any value.

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Plant Pathologist.

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How To Treat Tip Burn of Potatoes

A trouble which is widely distributed and very prevalent in some seasons, and to which the name "Tip Burn" has been given, is to be found among our potato crops. This trouble takes the form of a gradual burning and drying-up of the leaves of the plants, often commencing at a comparatively early stage in their growth and, in many cases, if allowed to go on unchecked, slowly but surely involving the whole of the plants so that they die down a considerable time before the tubers are fully developed.

The appearance of this trouble in the fields is often mistaken by growers for Late Blight. There is, however, a marked distinction between the two, for Late Blight may commence by attacking any part of the plants—leaves and stems alike—has a dark, water-soaked appearance and, in its early stages, is damp to the touch, while Tip Burn invariably commences at the margin or tips of the leaves and has a decidedly dry appearance and touch with the exception of after rain. It also appears much earlier in the season than Late Blight has ever been recorded and does not cause the death of the plants so rapidly. Nor has it ever proved so destructive as Late Blight, although evidence has been obtained that in seasons when it is severe and where no effort is made to check, a considerable reduction in the yield of marketable tubers, due to the premature death of the plants from this cause, may result.

Investigators of this trouble are not yet in agreement as to the cause. The observations of some have led to the belief that a period of hot, dry weather during the growing season causes the leaves to throw off moisture more rapidly than it can be furnished by the plant; the result being the appearance of Tip Burn. This theory seems, however, to be disputed by the fact that the trouble is not found in the hot regions of the Western States where the temperature often becomes excessive and the air is especially dry.

More recent investigations lead to the belief that this burning of the leaves is probably caused by the depredations of sucking insects. These investigations are not yet complete, but enough evidence has been produced to serve as a warning to potato growers to keep these insect pests thoroughly under control in an endeavor to avoid Tip Burn.

We have found in our experimental work with potatoes that Bordeaux mixture will to a large extent control this trouble. In 1918, when it was extremely prevalent, we had several plots to which, for the purposes of experiment, Bordeaux mixture was not applied. These plots suffered from a severe attack of Tip Burn and the plants were all killed down by the second week in August, while other plots on the same land, and to which, for the control of Late Blight, Bordeaux mixture was regularly and thoroughly applied, suffered to a very slight extent only, the plants remaining green until frost came. Bordeaux mixture acts as a repellent to the Leaf Hopper, as well as a protection to the plants. Many other cases, in addition to that referred to, have come to our attention, bearing evidence that regular and thorough spraying with this mixture will reduce to a minimum the ravages of Tip Burn.

GEORGE PARTRIDGE,

Assistant Plant Pathologist, Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Efficient Use of Labor Gives Profit

Relationship Between Size of Farm and Use of Labor Vital to Farmer.

In the developed agricultural areas of British Columbia the average of values placed on land is considerably higher than in the undeveloped areas. Production costs, other than use of land, are also high. With these two production factors at a high level the farmer is faced with a serious problem. The trend of farm acreage has been toward the smaller working unit, two acres or less, the one-man or family-labor scale. This small farm business will be profitable so long as it does not overtax the local market for luxury crops, such as flowers, fruits and poultry. The small farm with its more intensive culture, with its higher percentage of human labor, chargeable to each unit of production, is quite a different undertaking from the large farm which is run on a different scale. The small farm may be used in a large way as an adjunct to low cost of "rotue" etc.

The small area farm does not offer the larger room for the expansion of the larger labor saving machines and power, neither will it permit such capital cost. Many products, few machines and much human energy are the requirement for the small farm.

If labor on a farm be kept fully employed and moving at a speed that will give maximum production, some hope may be entertained for profit. With labor not employed to the limit, all production will be absorbed in maintenance; there will be little or nothing in either cash or produce that can be called profit. The large farm, if well organized as a producing business, offers greater opportunity of ways and means of keeping labor employed to the limit. The size of a farm, to be profitable, must be determined by its location, the energy and ability of the individual operator. No farm should be so small as not to keep the operator and his family fully employed, using the best tools and power, during the entire year. No individual should operate a farm of larger size than his managing ability warrants.

A farm business that entails too much labor for one man and yet not enough for two men is out of balance and not likely to be as profitable as it should be. A farm business just large enough to keep one man fully employed, but on which the labor of two or three men is being expended, can not be profitable, since efficient use of labor can only be secured by adjusting the individual to the farm or the farm business to the individual.

L. STEVENSON,

Superintendent, Experimental Station, Sidney, B. C.

Might Be Too Hot for Sister.

"Margaret, where is your little sister?"

"I just hurried away from her, mother, 'cause I felt sure I was going to lose my temperature."

PROPER TIME OF YEAR TO CULL A FARM FLOCK

How to Read the Signs of High Producing Ability in Flocks.

The hatching season should now be over on the well regulated poultry plant and attention directed to culling the flock to make room for the growing youngsters.

In the first place there should be vigorously culled from the flock all birds that show any physical defects such as crooked beaks, backs or breasts, excessively long toe nails, sunken eyes and long "crow" head, knock knees or other signs of poor stamina and low "vitality."

Discard the Boarders.

At this season, if they have not already been discarded, the hens over two years old, unless possessing the character of extra high production and retained as breeders on this account, should be marketed as soon as they stop laying, show signs of broodiness or moult.

When trap nests are used, this condition is readily noticeable, but if not the hens that have stopped laying can be easily distinguished by their shrinking comb and fading color of face and wattles, also by the contraction of the pelvic bones.

These bones, slightly protruding on each side of the