

## FARM MANAGEMENT

### Shallow Plowing Upheld

O. Walker, Perth Co., Ont.

I am not an advocate of deep plowing. In plowing sod or cross plowing old sod that has returned to the native grass, we go to a depth of four inches. This, I find, makes a good mulch for roots or fall wheat. Some may ask, "How do you keep the sod from working up?" By rolling after the plow, disk, harrow and cultivator. The next fall I will strike a depth of five inches. This allows the old sod to come up in a rotten state and makes the best of a fertilizer. The next fall I would plow six inches, and then seed down with barley. I can see no reason why we should plow a depth of eight or nine inches, as I often see it done.

My reason for plowing shallow is to keep the humus of the soil near the roots as possible. By deep plowing we put the humus away from the roots as well as turn up the cold subsoil. All chemicals in farmyard manure do not go down in the soil. None of them will evaporate.

Contention is that nature has absorbed all strength from manure before it has reached eight or nine inches.

I believe in top dressing on sod as far as practical and plow accordingly.

### About Farm Yard Manure

Cyril G. Hopkins, University of Illinois

If fresh farm manure is thrown out and exposed to the weather for six months in summer, one-half of its total weight of dry matter is lost, and more than one-third of its value as a fertilizer is lost. In most newer countries there is enormous and shameful if not wicked waste of farm manure. In older countries it is the custom to save all the farm manure with very great care, although this rule is too frequently broken by the careless, ignorant, or short-sighted.

And, who, the unnecessary waste and loss of farm manure, which occurs in America each year is equal in value to several times the value of all commercial fertilizers used in this country. Sometimes the waste of farm manure and the purchase of commercial fertilizers occur upon the same farm. In such cases the commercial fertilizer used is usually a so-called "complete" fertilizer, containing acid phosphate with a trace of nitrogen and potassium too small to add appreciably to its value, and it is commonly applied in amounts which supply the plant food that the crop actually remove, the small amount of soluble plant food applied being supplemented by that which the soil would naturally give together with what can be forced from the soil by the stimulating action of the soluble corrosive acid salts and manufactured land-plaster contained in such fertilizers.

#### SAVING FARM MANURE

In order to retain the full amount and full value of farm manure, it should be removed directly from the stall or covered feed lot and spread at once upon the land. Where the winters are moderately cold and free from heavy rains there is little loss if the manure is allowed to accumulate during such weather in a small, uncovered feed lot, provided it is hauled out and spread upon the land in the early spring. Manure may be allowed to accumulate without much loss in deep stalls for several weeks if plenty of bedding is used, and then it may be hauled from the stall directly to the field and spread.

It should be the rule never to handle manure more than once. When taken from the stable or feed-

ing shed it should be at once loaded on to the spreader and hauled to the field. If manure is produced at the rate of two loads or more a week, the convenience and importance of taking this manure directly from the stable and spreading it at once upon the field will certainly justify providing a manure spreader or special wagon to be used solely for this purpose.

### More on Depth of Plowing

J. R. Philp, Grey Co., Ont.

We cannot set any hard and fast rule as to the best depth to plow that will be suitable to all conditions. If deep plowing is done at all it should be in the fall. There is land that is benefited by deep plowing by the action of frost in winter in pulverizing and making the soil friable.

Some claim that deep plowing understands the drouth much more than that plowed shallow. When we consider, however, that the average precipitation of moisture in summer is only about one-quarter of that required to produce a crop and that we have to depend on capillary attraction for the other three-quarters the extra inch or two of loose soil would not make much difference.

There are lands on which, if plowed more than four or five inches deep, a hard pan or other useless material would be turned up to the surface. This I believe to be detrimental. Experience has taught the majority of farmers that old land should be plowed lightly. Our own land is clay loam, and we make a practice of not plowing corn rape or root land, if it has been cultivated, and find this method very satisfactory both for crop and clover seeding.

### When in a Plowing Match

J. Fixter, Macdonald College

Many of our young men who have never practiced for a plowing match may find the following a great help in setting out the ridges and leveling the furrow. After the stakes are set, the first round or two furrows should be cut as near as possible to one inch deep by two inches wide; the second round by four inches deep by six inches wide; the third round five inches deep by seven inches wide; the fourth round six inches deep by nine inches wide. Those depths should give almost a level ridge.

The six by nine is to be continued until the second last furrow, when a five by seven inch furrow may be cut, leaving the last ridge to be turned about four by six inches. This should leave the furrow shallow enough to allow the mould furrow to be brought to the level of the ridge. Should the society in which the plowman lives call for different depths and widths, the same principle will apply.

### Why I Favor Deep Plowing

A. S. Minieles, Brandon Co., Ont.

I find I get more return from deep plowing than from shallow. Unless the land is well tilled, we make the ridges or lands not more than 18 ft. wide. We find that land plowed in this way is easier worked in the spring and yields larger crops. For spring plowing (which, however, I do not believe in) I would not plough so deep. Nor would I for fall wheat.

We get our plowing done in the fall, and the earlier the better. We let our plow down and get some new soil that has never seen the sun. We bring it up and mix it with the old soil on top and let the frost get in its work on it in the winter.

To refuse to give way to "the blues" and to keep cheerful, whatever happens, is a practical way of making others happy.

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He must be intelligent enough to know the tremendous importance of reforestation. He must be keenly alive to the necessity of good seed. He must be mechanical enough to utilize every possible labor-saving machine and implement in order to take the place of the hired help which appears to be growing scarcer all the time.

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### FARM FOR SALE.

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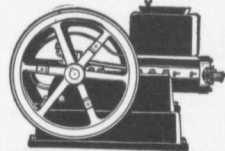
Any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years old, may homestead a quarter section of arable land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. The applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency, or sub-agency, for the District. Apply by proxy may be made at any mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of intending homesteader.

Duties—Six months residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within five miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 30 acres solely owned and occupied by him or by his father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister.

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W. W. COBY, Deputy of the Minister of the Interior. R.S.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.



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