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Field Crop Competitions

Having in view the excellent results obtained in 1907 and 1908 in stimulating a greater interest in the production of better seed grain. Agricultural Societies will again be assisted in the holding of competitions in standing field crops during 1909. Three lots of prizes are offered: First, for the standing field competitions, second, for the sheaf exhibit at the Industrial Fair, Toronto, and third, for the seed grain from standing field competitions to be held at the winter fairs at Guelph and Ottawa. The regulations follow.

Competitions will be limited to one crop, to be selected by the society, which should be the one of most importance to the farmers of the district. Entries for competition must consist of not less than one acre. Selection must be made from the following crops: Spring, Fall or Goose Wheat, oats, barley, rye, corn, peas, alsike, clover, red clover, potatoes, beans or any other staple crop produced for seed in Ontario.

Competition shall be limited to members of an agricultural society, and the fields entered must not be more than 15 miles from its headquarters. Competitors shall be allowed to make entry in only one society and but one entry can be made by each competitor. Societies desiring to enter this competition must notify the Superintendent not later than the first day of May, and must make not less than ten entries nor more than 25.

INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES. All individual entries must be forwarded by the secretaries of the societies to J. Lockie Wilson, Superintendent of Agricultural Societies, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, before the first of June, 1909. Societies may, if thought advisable, charge competitors an entry fee of not more than one dollar. An amount of not less than \$50 must be offered in prizes by each society, to be divided as follows: \$15, \$12, \$10, \$8, and \$5. Of the above amount the Ontario Department of Agriculture will contribute \$30. The balance is to be contributed by the society, and this \$20 can be counted as expenditure for agricultural purposes in the yearly financial statement. The Ontario Department of Agriculture will furnish expert judges free of charge.

Large prizes will be offered by the Department for two bushel sacks of grain at both Guelph and Ottawa Winter Fairs, the competition for which will be confined to prize-winners in the Standing Field Crop Competitions. Full particulars will be furnished later to the prize winners.

AWARDS.

In addition to the above arrangements have been made by the Directors of the Canadian National Exhibition, to be held in Toronto August 28th to September 13th, to donate \$240 in prizes for a sheaf exhibit of grain from the fields, the owners of which were awarded prizes in the Standing Field Crop Competitions. For this Sheaf Exhibit the Province has been divided into three districts and prizes amounting to \$80 will be awarded to competitors in each of the three divisions mentioned below for the following kinds of grain:

	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye
First Prize ..	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Second Prize ..	50	50	50	50
Third Prize ..	40	40	40	40
Fourth Prize ..	30	30	30	30
Fifth Prize ..	20	20	20	20

Division 1. Includes Muskoka, Parry Sound, Haliburton, Nipissing, Manitowlin, Algoma and other districts in New Ontario.

Division 2. All counties east of York and Simcoe.

Division 3. York, Simcoe and all counties west and south-west of same.

Each sheaf entered must contain not less than 1,000 stems and must

be boxed and shipped C. O. D. to the Superintendent of Agricultural Products, Exhibition Park, Toronto, not later than August 20th. All entries for this exhibit must be made to J. Lockie Wilson, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, before August 2nd, 1909.

Raising the Dairy Calf

C. F. Alward, Digby Co., N.S.

There are two ways to get good dairy cows. First, buy them if you can, second, breed them. When one goes to buy another fellow's best cow the owner would indeed be slack in his upper story, if he would sell her cheap. He wants a fancy price for her, in addition to what she is worth, and justly so. In most cases it is impossible to buy good cows, therefore, we must raise them. One therefore gets better satisfaction by raising his cows himself. Every farmer has two or three good cows; these are the ones to raise the calves from. As to the breed, one should select, that must depend on one's individual taste, though it should be governed by the breed of cattle most largely raised in one's community. By co-operating in this way with one's neighbors it is much better for all. One likes any herd of cattle for the money that is in them, not because they are a particular breed; and when many of the same kind are to be had in the same district they are worth more money to all. Pure breed sires should always be used as half the resulting blood is half of the sire. In this way one soon grades up his herd to a high standard.

To raise a calf right is quite a task. It should be fed on whole milk for at least three weeks. One should not be in a hurry to make it drink. Let it get good and hungry and it will soon take its food. In this way there is no need to give the finger for a fortnight. Care must be taken not to overfeed. Many calves are given scours by overfeeding or by feeding sour milk alternately with sweet milk. The calf can be readily taught to eat by having a handful of oatmeal handy as soon as it is through drinking, rubbing it on its nose. The calf should be fed well and well developed, and kept thrifty from the start. A heifer should be milked as long as possible during her first period of lactation, even if she does not give much milk. When allowed to dry up at six months she will go dry every time at the same period when a cow. Heifers are very susceptible to education in this respect.

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