

**REPORT**  
OF THE SUNBURY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR  
1844.

In coming before the Society with our third Annual Report, we still find reason to complain of a want of a more general interest and support from the whole County, and we necessarily feel the want of a great market town, like Fredericton or Saint John for our Shire Town, where independence and numerical influence would not fail to give effect to our exertions.

We are again under renewed obligations to render our grateful thanks to the Almighty for another fruitful season and remarkably fine weather for securing the Hay and Grain crops, which have never been more abundant or better secured.

How far our Society's efforts have been instrumental in producing an abundance we submit to those to decide who have most carefully investigated the subject.

Considering the very great depression in the farmers' markets of Fredericton and Saint John, it is rather a matter of surprise that so great a surplus is produced to be slighted by such ungrateful consumers.

The price of fresh meat in our market bears no proportion to that of other provisions as compared with other countries, and the misguided policy of our traders in giving a preference to foreign produce should induce our farmers to barrel their Beef and Pork rather than send it fresh to market, and thereby prevent such large importations from the United States.

A small experiment has this season been made in raising Broom Corn, which although failing in part in consequence of an attack of grub-worms, and also the badness of the seed, yet has proved that it is not more difficult to raise it than other corn; and since the brooms are well manufactured in this Province, it will be as imprudent to import American Brooms in future as it has been to import Hay from New York, because they had a peculiar method of screwing it into very nice bundles.

The experiment of sowing wheat on very poor land, and covering it with straw has also been repeated this season, and as far as we have learned with good effect.

Our articles of domestic manufacture are of a respectable description, and our implements of husbandry are such as to render manual labor very light in comparison with that of former years.

The appearance of the Weevil in our Wheat in August caused some alarm, but its stay was transitory, and the damage sustained by it in this County is generally reported to be very small.

The great importance of Agriculture does not seem to be understood by some whose selfish views stimulate them to clinch fast all they can procure rather than risk the broadcast seed upon a fertile soil exposed to all the chances of an uncertain season.

The result of the various pursuits, occupations and speculations of the inhabitants of this Province for the last twenty years have been decidedly in favor of Agriculture.

Many have doubted the well authenticated reports of the Flemish farmers success in his profession; but we have the satisfaction to see in this County a man commencing on a poor piece of upland, and making it fertile and productive from its own resources; while on the other hand we see others commencing on a rich soil and making it very poor by injudicious management.

It is very pleasing to observe an increasing attention to draining and improving farms; but

much remains still to be effected—for within two miles of this fertile spot on which we now stand there is more than one thousand acres of valuable alluvial yet unreclaimed; and this is not a solitary case—many such unreclaimed tracts may be found throughout the county.

The importance of inviting capitalists into this fertile County, where capital may be most profitably invested, should engage the attention of the friends of Agriculture and improvement; and the great importance of giving encouragement to mechanics and labourers ought not to be lost sight of.

Great complaints have been made that this Society does not import an improved breed of Stock, while those who complain most do the least towards enabling us to do so.

The low price of Beef and the number of our imported breeds seem to preclude the necessity of a further importation of Neat Cattle; but the scarcity of good horses in the market and the large sums paid for them annually from the United States and Nova Scotia, renders the subject worthy consideration whether this Society had not better import a good Canadian Entire Horse.

We have found the English Dray Horse too inactive for our ordinary business, and the Race Horse too delicate; but both the Coach Horse and Hunter very useful. But it is every where evident that too little pains are taken to bring the animals to perfection. The best animals being generally purchased for early use instead of their being retained by the farmers to improve their Stock.

At the Cattle Show and Fair held at McLean's in Maugerville, the following persons had Premiums awarded them for the following Stock, &c., viz:—

To T. O. Miles, Esq., for the best Bull; John Duffy, second best do.; Stephen Burpy, third do.; Arch. McLean for the best Cow; T. O. Miles, Esq., second do.; Mr. Stirling, third do.; C. L. Hatheway, for the best Ram; Isaac Burpy, second do.; John Duffy, for the best Boar; A. McLean, second do.; and to R. Cowperthwaite, for the best Home-spun Cloth; Stephen Estabrooks, second ditto.

C. L. HATHEWAY, Secretary.

Maugerville, Oct. 8, 1844.

N. B.—Further premiums for produce, &c., to be awarded on the last Saturday in December.

**TAINT OR DRY ROT IN THE POTATOE.**—From the experience I have had in the cultivation of the Potatoe, I have come to the conclusion that the taint or dry rot owes its origin entirely to an injudicious method of planting the seed; and after mature consideration, I have adopted a system of planting, which I have practised for twenty years with such success, as never once to have had an instance of dry rot among my Potatoe crops during that time, although they were growing sometimes in direct contiguity to other Potatoes, which, from being planted in a different manner, were labouring under the effects of the disease. It shall now be my endeavour, in as simple and concise a manner as possible, to lay this system before my readers, convinced that they will in practice find it a most effectual remedy for the disease in question. The chief cause of this disease I consider to be the prevalent error in planting the potatoe, of placing the seed in a quantity of dung laid in the middle of the drill. He who knows anything of the qualities of dung, knows it is of itself incapable of promoting vegetation, or sustaining vegetable life, until decomposed and incorporated with a portion of earthy soil, and it is not therefore to be wondered at that disease and failures in the Potatoe crops are