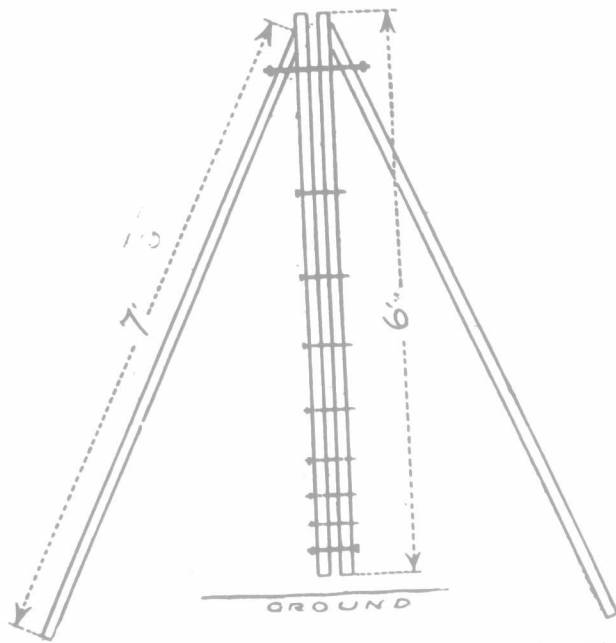


and no smut was found. In 1907, again, the seed was left untreated, and the smutted heads were: Early Ripe, 0; Joannette, 2; Siberian, 1; Banner, 3; Black Tartarian, 3; Early Champion, 11. A great deal depends on weather conditions, a damp, muggy season being favorable to smut development. The tests seem to indicate that Early Ripe is practically immune. As yet, we have no definite data regarding many popular varieties.—Editor.]

To Stretch Woven-wire Fence Over Hilly Ground.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

To hold a woven-wire fence upright, and stretch over a hill-top or into a deep hollow, the accompanying device will be found very useful: Two pieces of 2 x 4-in., 6 ft. long; two pieces of 2 x 4-in., 7 ft. long; any good timber will do. Lay the 6-ft. pieces together flatwise, and, commencing at one end, bore a $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. hole through both for each wire in the fence to be stretched, and spaced same as wires in the fence. Bore large hole through all four pieces at top end, and put bolt through, as in sketch. It would add to the strength and prevent splitting to drive several nails through ends outside of large hole.



In using this device, raise the fence upright, set the rig astraddle of fence, raise top wire to the upmost small hole, and pass a six-inch wire nail through both sticks and under the wire; do this with each wire, using a bolt for the bottom wire to prevent the spreading of the sticks. This rig, on a hill-top, will hold a fence upright and clear of the ground, and will follow the stretcher. A pair of sticks similar to center ones placed on the fence and tied to anchor-post in a deep hollow will keep the fence down just where it ought to be. By using these devices, a very long stretch may be made over uneven ground, thus saving anchor posts and braces along the line.

Brant Co., Ont.

WM. SHEARER.

Results of Selection.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Our experience in the selection of seed grain has been to clean and reclean until we get it as nearly perfect as possible, by taking out all light and inferior grain.

We pickle all the grain that we sow, with the exception of peas, with bluestone. The quantity used for every 10 bushels is $1\frac{1}{4}$ pounds for wheat, 2 pounds for oats, and 3 pounds for barley. The liquid is put on the grain from 12 to 24 hours before using, to give it a chance to dry.

We find that, by adopting the method of thorough cleaning, it takes less seed, and we get a better crop, the grain being of a more uniform quality, and ripening more evenly. Many farmers might improve their crop by having a good fanning mill, and using it well.

We have been growing Dawson's Golden Chaff wheat for some 15 years in succession, and can produce a better sample than when we first started.

LAUCHLIN KENNEDY & SON.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

Levels Road When Dry.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I used the split-log drag last year on two miles of road, levelling it three or four times—the first time as soon as dry enough in spring, and whenever it was cut up badly. We levelled it last late in fall. We drag the road dry; did not have good results when wet, for so much travel cut it up before it got dry. I am commissioner on our road, and the council paid me for dragging it. They have not taken any action that I know of. I like the split-log well.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

E. H. MARSHALL.

THE DAIRY.

Criminal Carelessness in Handling Milk.

Twelve years ago my youngest child took scarlet fever, and investigation revealed the fact that it was contracted from milk we were using, although, in our opinion, it was the best obtainable in the city. Besides the case in my own family, there were some 19 other customers of this same dairy in whose homes the disease had broken out. The dairy was at once inspected by the Toronto Health Department, and the disease found to have been spread from one of the employees of the dairy, whose child was ill with scarlet fever. I do not know how many died; I do not know whether any of those infected died, but I do know that there were twenty homes quarantined for several weeks, causing much anxiety and expense to those afflicted. I know that in my own home, although by a kind Providence my boy was spared to us, he has never been the same lad since, and he will be compelled to go through life burdened with a handicap that no medical skill can remove, and all this on account of criminal carelessness in handling milk.—[W. K. McNaught, M. P. P.]

Patrons, Makers, and Proprietors.

At the annual convention of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association, last winter, G. A. Putnam, Director of Dairy Instruction for the Province, urged concerted action by proprietors of factories, makers of butter and cheese, and farmers who produce the raw product, in an effort to solve the problems that confront the dairy industry each season.

"Proprietors," he said, "should realize that there are too many small factories. Something should be done to establish central factories, where a competent maker can be paid a fair wage, and kept as a life-worker. Too many look only at one season's profit, instead of building on a permanent basis. Makers, if thoroughly equipped, can command reasonable pay, and, by co-operating with the proprietor and the farmer, can accomplish much. Turning to the producers, we find that many cows are kept at a direct loss, because of low production. Fodder crops are not sufficiently in evidence. We must have fodder crops, if we are to maintain the milk flow throughout the season.

"If we could have concerted action, with attention on the part of each to details, a vast change would result in the Ontario dairy industry."

Herd Competitions in Western Ontario.

The Dairymen's Association of Western Ontario will conduct dairy-herd competitions during 1909 along similar lines to that of 1908, offering \$100 in cash prizes: First prize, to the patron sending the largest amount of milk per cow to any cheese factory in Western Ontario, from May 1st to October 31st, 1909, \$15 in cash, and possibly a cup or medal; second, \$15; third, \$10; fourth, \$6; fifth, \$4. Also, first prize to the patron who furnishes the largest amount of butter-fat per cow to any creamery in Western Ontario, from May 1st to October 31st, 1909, \$15 in cash, and possibly a cup or medal; second, \$15; third, \$10; fourth, \$6; fifth, \$4.

The rules of the competitions will be the same as last year. Patrons should make such preparations as they desire before May 1st. Later in the season, prize lists and entry forms will be sent out to the different cheese and butter makers for distribution among their patrons. These competitions have been the means of stimulating the production of milk, and a larger number of entries are expected this year.

The rules governing the competition are as follows:

1. No herd of fewer than eight cows will be allowed to compete.
2. Figures must be taken from the cheese factory or creamery books, and the number of cows and the total and average amounts of milk or butter-fat must be certified to by the cheese or butter maker, and the secretary of the cheese factory or creamery.
3. The average amount of milk or butter-fat per cow must be calculated on the basis of the total number of cows from which milk or cream is sent to the factory during the season of six months, May 1st to October 31st, 1909.
4. No substitutions of one cow for another will be allowed.

Applications should be made to Frank Hens, Secretary Western Ontario Dairymen's Association, London, Ont.

Alfalfa for Dairymen.

At the dairy meetings held in Ontario last fall and winter, Henry Glendinning lost no opportunity of sounding the praises of alfalfa hay for dairy cows. At Prescott he stated that, after several years' experience, he had concluded that any soil that was suitable for red clover would give satisfactory results with alfalfa. A clean soil, rich in humus, and containing plenty of lime, dry, and with natural drainage, was best. Nitro-culture should be used with the first seeding, in order to inoculate the soil. Twenty pounds to the acre was good seeding for average conditions.

Q. How do you advise sowing it?

A. With three pecks of barley to the acre, and the alfalfa seed dropping in front of the drill, gives best results.

Q. How many tons to the acre is a good crop?

A. I get five or six tons from three cuttings.

Q. When do you give the first cutting?

A. Usually about June 12th—just when about one-tenth of the crop is in bloom.

Q. About how late in the season should the last cutting be made?

A. Not later than Sept. 15th or 20th.

Q. Do you sprinkle salt on alfalfa in the mow?

A. Not of recent years. Hay of any kind comes out of the mow dark in color when salted; besides, it is so dry that the leaves fall off too readily.

Q. How would you break alfalfa sod?

A. Alfalfa should not be used in a three or four year rotation. Turn the stock on in the fall and eat it off bare. During winter, if a soft spell comes, turn on horses and colts. Then, in May many of the plants are dead, and it can be turned by a sharp share. Sow to corn. I look upon alfalfa sod as better than red-clover sward.

POULTRY.

Makeshift Brooder.

No matter how careful one is to have everything ready at the proper time, it sometimes happens that things are not ready, says the poultry editor (Mr. Elford) of the Montreal Witness. Occasionally the poultryman will realize this. No person buys an incubator these days but he provides himself with a brooder, hens, or something by which the chicks will be looked after. Still, sometimes the accommodation is limited, or something has happened that there is no brooder or hen to take charge of the young chicks, and a basket by the stove, or something similar, must be resorted to.

The water jug that holds water cool in the summer will also hold water warm in the winter, and may be made to construct a temporary brooder that will keep the young chicks quite comfortable for a few hours, or even a day or two.

Take a small packing-box, a bushel measure, a basket, or almost anything of the kind that comes handy, and put the water jug, filled with hot water, into it. Around the lower part of the jug tie a towel or piece of flannel, high enough to keep the chicks from coming into direct contact with the hot bottle, and throw a blanket or sack over both bottle and box. The hot water will keep the box quite warm, and the young chicks can be put into the box, where they will be kept quite comfortable for a limited period.

Poultry Producers Organize.

With the prime object of bringing producers and consumers together, and assisting those who raise poultry to dispose of their products to best advantage, organization has been effected in Eastern Canada, under the name, Poultry Producers' Association of Eastern Canada. At a meeting held at Macdonald College, recently, officers were selected as follows:

Hon. President, Dr. Jas. Robertson; Hon. Vice-President, A. G. Gilbert; President, A. P. Hillhouse; Vice-President, Bro. Liguori; 2nd Vice-President, Peter White; Auditors, G. O'Hara and T. Ward. Executive Committee—Messrs. L. T. Ogilvie, Brockville; L. P. Shorthall, Washburn; A. G. Taylor, Dewittville; J. G. Morgan, Stanbridge; George Robertson, Ottawa; and Messrs. Chapman, Cochrane; K. Fisk (N.B.) and H. Baird. The Executive appointed F. C. Elford, of Macdonald College, Secretary-Treasurer.

During the meeting, it was pointed out that there has been an absence of co-operation among poultrymen. They had been afraid of one another, and worked without system. Among the ideals set forth in the newly-formed organization are: To arouse a co-operative spirit among poultry producers; to encourage the adoption of the best breeds and types of utility poultry; to induce small producers to form local branches, or circles, for mutual assistance and co-operation in selling; to aid in establishing a uniform and