

# MODERN FARMER

## - NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

### The American Brant

This is a smaller bird than the common Canada Goose but its more palatable flesh outweighs the disproportion in size. Brant are very unuspicious birds, and this trait has led to the slaughter of enormous numbers in former days. Gilbert Pearson, a well-known American ornithologist, relates that he once lay in a battery (or as we call it, a blind) beside a local gunner, from 10 a.m. till 2, and in those four hours he saw 50 brant brought down. The size of the kill "caused no particular comment among the other hunters in the neighborhood." It was this "shooting for market" that first brought the birds to danger of extinction.

The American Brant, A.O.U. 173-a, Migrant, rather rare "Leaves for the north, June 1st to 20th (Birds of P.E.I., 1947). "Resembles a small dark Canada Goose without the white face-marks"—Taverner. Head, neck, and breast black, sharply defined against the grayish white of the underparts; a whitish patch, made up of little streaks, on either side of the neck. Back, wings, and tail-tip, dark brown. Like the Canada Goose, it displays a white V-mark over the tail when flying low. Length 26 inches; weight about 4 lbs.

The Brant is circumpolar in distribution but has been introduced into the New and Old World forms. The latter is popularly termed the Barnacle Goose, because, two or three centuries ago, it was believed that the birds were produced from barnacles instead of eggs! The writer has seen, in a very old book, a picture of a tree cast up by the tide; its branches were covered with barnacles, from which small geese were dropping into the water!

### The English People

Mr. George Orwell, an English writer who has come well to the front in the last few years, has written a book with the above title. Part of it, perhaps, is directed to a study of the character of a remarkable people whose habits of thought have been influenced by the climate, the soil, and the geographic position of their island. And let me say, these three factors operate on all who make that island their home. The grand-children of the displaced persons who are now thronging in, will have all the characteristics of the native English.

Now let Mr. Orwell recount those characteristics: they are not altogether pleasing in some respects, he thinks. Artistic insensibility tops the list. "Ever-growing stretches of beautiful countryside are ruined by planless building. (Too true. I saw the lovely village-green at Rytton on Tyne—with

5 pounds per head per day. Corn silage—1 to 3 pounds per head per day (Corn silage should not be fed right up to lambing time or "soft" lambs may result.) Grain—One half pound per head per day from four weeks before lambing and from one to one and a half pounds from lambing until the sheep go to pasture. A suitable grain mixture is equal parts of oats and bran or good quality oats alone. This ration may be varied within wide limits, depending on the feeds available, but if poorer quality feeds are to be fed, this should be done during the first half of pregnancy and the better quality feed saved for later on.

Water, with salt and a mineral mixture should always be available.

(Continued on page 16)

### Five Year Tests On Landrace Pigs

In order to compare the Landrace pigs with Canadian Yorkshire, a group of Landrace pigs was imported from Sweden in 1934. Tests were conducted at the Dominion Experimental Farms at Ottawa, Ont., Brandon, Man.; Melfort, Sask.; and Lacombe, Alberta. The tests included farrowing and weaning records, feed and grain information and carcass measurements with the two breeds and their reciprocal crosses raised under identical conditions. The report on the tests, just issued, summarizes the results of five years' work at Ottawa and four years at the other farms, as well as a field trial in which a number of Landrace sows were tested by farmers.

The opinion of the farmers was that the Landrace pigs were no better than their own Yorkshires, and the carcasses from the latter, when shipped to the British market as Wilshire sides, were about the same as the average run of Canadian bacon.

The report of all the five years' tests of the Swedish Landrace sows and their progeny, their disappointing litter size, the impossibility of obtaining further breeding stock, and the fact that they were no better than the Canadian Yorkshires in economy of production and carcass quality, led to the decision to conclude the tests in 1939.

Further information on the tests will be found in Publication 801 "Testing Swedish Landrace Swines in Canada," by Edward B. Fraser and J. G. Stothart, Division of Animal Husbandry, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. A copy of the publication may be obtained by writing to the Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

### House Plants Add Color In Winter

At this time of year many an ardent gardener may echo the sentiments of the poet who said: "The melancholy days are come, the saddest of the year, with falling winds and naked woods, and meadows brown and grey." Aply enough, the poem is entitled "The Death of the Flowers."

But though there is a long wait before the snowdrops and crocus herald another Spring out-of-doors, much pleasure can be derived during the winter months by continuing some of the gardening indoors. Even the smallest potted plant of legonia, African violet, or geranium, adds a touch of colour to a room, and foliage plants such as ivy, aspidistra, or palms, give decorative value with little attention. For those who are ready to spend a little more time the bulbous flowers, hyacinth, daffodil, narcissus, may be grown and timed to bloom as a welcome to the New Year, or at Easter.

A useful bulletin has been prepared by the Division of Horticulture, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, on the care of house plants and on the control of insects which may attack them. It contains suggestions which may bring greater success to those who have always kept house plants, and will give valuable information and instruction to the beginner.

A copy of the bulletin may be obtained free on request to the Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. Ask for it by name: "Culture and Care of House Plants."

### Feeding The Pregnant Ewe

Ewe

(Experimental Farms News) During the winter months the profit or loss of the sheep enterprise is established. Ewes that go into the lambing season in poor condition give disappointing results when the lambs are marketed and in addition they create additional work and trouble throughout the year. A poorly fed ewe will not survive the winter, the lambs born will be smaller than normal with impaired strength bringing high mortality. The ewes will not milk well and the gains of the lambs will not be satisfactory.

Experiments conducted at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, by S. B. Williams of the Animal Husbandry Division show that for feeding pregnant ewes roughages are of value, in proportion to their legume content. When timothy, a non-legume hay, was fed, the ewes lost weight, deaths followed, the lambs were small, and one-third did not survive. With alfalfa hay, the lambs were a pound heavier at birth and deaths were cut to seven per cent. In addition the lambs from ewes fed alfalfa gained on the average about one third faster than lambs from those fed timothy. Lambs from ewes fed on mixed hay gave results that were intermediate in all respects.

It was found that the best results were obtained when corn silage and grain was added to the hay ration. A suggested ration for pregnant ewes is:

Good quality legume hay 8 to

### Many Perennial Flowers Better Sown in the Fall

Seeds of many perennial flowers may be sown this fall rather than next spring. They will germinate earlier and will have a corresponding longer growing season next year. Then, too, the weathering of winter speeds up germination in many of them which sown in the spring, are slow to appear. In fact some of them will be over a year in the ground before appearing. The irises, the gas plant, *Dicentra fraxinella*, and *dephnium* (trollius and phloxes) sometimes show these traits.

Sow delphiniums columbine, gaillardias, foxgloves, Canterbury bells, peonies, thall bellflowers, crocuses—in fact any of the hardy perennials—late till fall and save that much spring work and get better results in the way of germination. Primrose seed gives much higher percentage of germination if sown in the fall than in the following spring.

Sow the seed in rows where it may grow along until the plants are sufficient size to transplant. The one danger of fall planting is the wash from heavy rains, a danger always in planting seeds in the open. To obviate this danger, mulch the beds with some material that will not mat down solidly, such as oak leaves, pine needles, or fresh straw. In the spring the beds may be protected by frames covered with window screen or lath to break the force of driving rains and prevent the tiny seedlings from being washed out of existence. This is a method used quite widely by professional gardeners to protect their seedlings, a large proportion of which might be lost in fully exposed to spring downpours.

### Some Principles Of Seed Separation

(Experimental Farms News) Many kinds of seeds are required every year for sowing on the farm, where they are grown, or for commercial markets. These include grain, vegetable and flower seeds. There are many varieties of the different kinds of seed which vary widely as to their weight, size, shape, surface coverings and appendages. These seeds usually contain other seeds of weeds, or different varieties, and various kinds of inert matter which must be separated. The problems of separation are so many, according to H. J. Kemp of the Dominion Experimental Station, Saskatchewan, B.C., that a good understanding of the principles of separation and their application is necessary. Often considerable ingenuity is needed in the application of known principles of separation to overcome some of the cleaning and grading problems.

There are many kinds of seed cleaning and grading machines. Each within the limits of its special design, employs one or more of the basic principles for separation. When the principles are understood and applied, satisfactory separation and cleaning of most seed is usually not difficult.

The principles employed by most machines are: Separation by (1) weight, (2) size, (3) shape, (4) length, (5) appendages, (6) specific gravity.

Separation according to weight is done by a controlled air blast. This blast may be obtained by either force or suction or a combination of both. The volume of air and its velocity, are controlled by varying the speed of the fan in the machine, and the size of the air inlets to the fan, by means of nutters. With careful adjustment, the seed is actually weighed in an air stream so that only seeds of desirable weight can fall through the air stream, while lighter seeds and material are carried away. The air blast is one of the most effective means of cleaning and grading most kinds of seeds, but requires careful adjustment to obtain the best results.

Separation of seeds according to size can be done by the proper adjustment of the wind nut, but sieves or screens are generally used for this purpose. Zinc screens are pre-

ferable to wire screens for most seeds, as they do not sag so easily and retain the proper size and shape of the openings. The slope of sieves should be adjusted so that the seed will travel in a thin layer and cover not more than two-thirds of the screen at the lower end. Side shake is preferable to end shake and short rapid vibrations are usually more effective than longer and slower "wakes." Generally 1-2" to 3-4" strokes at from 450 to 600 vibrations per minute will give satisfactory results for most seeds.

Triangular shaped seeds such as buckwheat are separated by zinc sieves having triangular openings obtainable in sizes from 9/64 to 11/64 inches.

Long seeds are separated by means of pockets. Pocket machines include the Carter Disc, indent cylinders and Eicker's sifter. The depth of the pockets determines the separation to be effected according to differences in length of the seeds.

Some kinds of seeds have appendages which adhere to the nap of a blanket machine, used for separating wild oats from other seeds.

There are other principles employed for separation of certain kinds of seeds. When the seed is valuable, it is better to have it cleaned in the special machines used by large commercial seed houses.

### ALL ROADS LEAD TO Amherst AND THE 34TH MARITIME WINTER FAIR NOV. 6-12

The greatest livestock and agricultural show in Eastern Canada will display the finest livestock ever assembled in the Maritimes—Smart entertainment every night—a glamorous Horse Show—Midway—Vaudeville—Tug of War Tournament.

### Don't Miss This Major Event

### Come to the Fair.

### How To Control Thrips In Gladioli

During the past season, many growers of gladioli have raised the question as to what should be done with the corns dug from the garden where the gladioli thrips were prevalent. Some of the growers thought that these corns should be destroyed.

That is by no means necessary, says Alan G. Duxton, Division of Entomology, Science Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture. While it is true that many of the insects may be taken into storage on the corns this insect may be easily killed by proper treatment. All the thrips left in the garden will be killed by winter temperatures, so there is no fear, he says, of the old plot being infested next spring.

If at all possible, the corns should be dried and stored in a cool place. That will check the development of the thrips. It is recommended, also, that treatment be commenced just as soon as drying and ripening are completed, which will be about the beginning of the calendar year. The grower himself will have to decide what method of treatment to adopt, because the treatment will depend largely on the number of corns in his collection.

The corns may be dusted, dipped, or fumigated, all these methods giving almost perfect control. Among the dusts, DDT is the one most generally used. Lysol or corrosive sublimate are favourite dips, and fumigation with naphthalene flakes has long been the most popular with the larger growers. Full directions regarding these methods, are given in a publication entitled "Standard Control Recommendations for the Gladioli Thrips". This is known as Processed Publication, No. 69. Copies may be obtained by applying to the Division of Entomology, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

### Pigs Profitable In The North

(Experimental Farms News)

In order to find the returns from raising pigs in the Kapuskasing district of Ontario a complete record of feed consumption, cost and returns from pork sales was kept for 218 pigs raised during a six-year period (1940-45), at the Dominion Experimental Station, Kapuskasing, Ont., says J. U. Plon. In the test, 108 pigs were killed at an average of 220 lb., after 110 were killed as sheep hogs at 160 lb. All were sold on the local market at prevailing prices, which averaged over the period 17.1 cents per lb. of dressed pork.

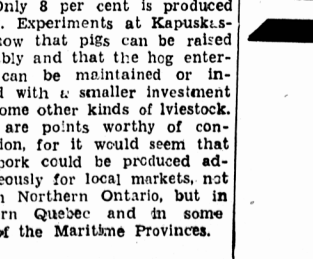
The pigs averaged 40 lb. at weaning and were valued at \$37.50. They were fed indoors a mixture of barley and oats, supplemented with a protein mineral mixture. The feed was charged at prevailing local market prices of \$1.81 per cwt. for barley, \$1.92 for oats, \$3.50 for protein supplement and \$2.18 for minerals.

The average feed, consumption per pig to time of slaughter was, for bacon: barley, 300 lb., oats, 265 lb., and protein mineral supplements, 52 lb., at a total cost of \$12.21. The total returns over feed cost and in that value of the pigs averaged \$9.61 per pig. With the shop hogs, which were ready for market 29 days earlier, the feed consumption averaged 197 lb. of barley, 198 lb. of oats, and 38 lb. of protein mineral supplements, costing \$8.60 per pig, leaving a net average return over cost of feed and initial value of the pig, of \$7.74. These costs could have been reduced somewhat if whey or skimmed milk had been available.

In this test, \$100 worth of feed used, gave a total return of \$169.57 for bacon hogs and \$162.96 for shop hogs, a better return than for some other livestock operations. During the same period, the return for \$100 of feed for dairy cattle, was about \$140.

The consumption of pork products in Northern Ontario is more than 6 million lb., valued at \$1 million. Only 8 per cent is produced locally. Experiments at Kapuskasing show that pigs can be raised profitably and that the hog enterprise can be maintained or increased with a smaller investment than some other kinds of livestock. These are points worthy of consideration, for it would seem that more pork could be produced advantageously for local markets, not only in Northern Ontario, but in Northern Quebec and in some areas of the Maritime Provinces.

Provincial milk breeders are arranging a field afternoon for Wednesday, November 5th, at one o'clock, Provincial Fox Show Building, Exhibition Grounds. Breeders are invited to bring four mink of any kind they have, adult male, one adult female, one kit male and one kit female. Standards, Silverblu, Black Cross or any other mink variety they are to be brought in crates 15" long by 6" high and 6" wide, wood ends and wire sides. Mr. George H. Mayers of Lampson, Fraser & Huth, Inc., New York, will be present and will go over the points and give information to those present who wish it. This is an exceptional opportunity for mink breeders here to determine the correct types and qualities to breed. Mr. Mayers handles hundreds of thousands of mink and is probably the greatest mink expert in the world.



### RAW POULTRY

We are interested in heavy well finished Chicken, but at the present time do not want any of the lighter grades.

### The Royal Packing Co.

J. D. JENKINS (Prop.)

### TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Lampson, Fraser & Huth, Inc., report on their October auction has reached us and is as follows: Ranch Mink, 7,811 skins, top price \$4 for a lot of males, dark and dark brown. It was an end of the season collection containing mostly odd lots of which 65 per cent were sold. The market is practically clear of raw pelts and the trade is now awaiting the new crop which will be well received.

Mutation Mink, Silverblu Mink offered 885 skins, top price \$58. These were also an end of the season collection containing many inferior skins. It was 79 per cent sold. White Mink—offered 179 skins, top price \$32; Royal Koh-I-Noor Mink, offered 6,589 skins, top price \$29. It was a fair collection with a number of good quality well marked lots. The top price was for a lot of uniform males and females of light medium colors. Stray and spotted pelts were very difficult to sell.

Blu Frost Mink—offered 3,056 skins; top price \$19; 78 per cent sold; a mediocre collection which contained only a few lots of good quality pelts, the top price was for a bundle of slightly silver, good colored skins. Silver Fox, Platinum Fox—offered 1,645 skins, which were 62 per cent sold; top price, \$55 for good quality, large skins. The collection was fair and sold freely at about last August basis. White Marked Fox—offered 1,645 skins; 21 per cent sold; top price \$23 for fine, pale blue skins. Practically no market and where sold could only be moved at very low figures. Full size, over 6,108 skins; 58 per cent sold; top price \$27 for selected pale silvering skins. At the low basis prevailing this article sold quite freely. There are still fairly large quantities of silver foxes being carried in this country as well as in other producing centres and until there is some radical change in style trends no material advance in value can be expected even on the fresh crop.

A survey of the popular furs in the United States during October shows that mink stayed in top place in retail store advertising. Full length mink coats predominated in a variety of styles. Most of the advertising was concentrated on

The Amherst fox show in connection with the Amherst Winter Fair will be held November 7-10 and we understand that George A. Callbeck and Lloyd Lockyer will be among the ranchers representing this Province with exhibits George H. Mayers, Manager Lampson, Fraser & Huth, Inc., New York, will judge the foxes and mink. The following week Mr. Callbeck will act as judge at the Ontario fox show and return to Prince Edward Island to judge the provincial Fox Exhibition at Charlottetown the week of November 17-21.

In a telegram from George A. Callbeck the following results of the Canadian Fur Auction, Sales Company, Ltd., auction of silver foxes and mutations Tuesday and Wednesday was received: Platinum 58 per cent sold, average \$23.41; Silver 50 per cent sold, average \$13.58; Pearl Platina 40 per cent sold, average \$13.20; White Marked Silvers 25 per cent sold, average \$10.85; selected Full Silvers 50 per cent sold, average \$14.63; regular Fulls 40 per cent sold, average \$11.52; one-half to three-quarter Silvers 75 per cent sold, average \$12.85; inferior types 46 per cent sold, average \$7.54; low grades 56 per cent sold, average \$2.41; total sale 45 per cent sold at an average of \$11.91.

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### GARDEN ISLE MINK

A FIRST CLASS INVESTMENT FOR THE FOX RANCHER HOLDING ON FOR ANYONE WISHING AN INTERESTING AND PROFITABLE SIDELINE

Silverblu, Halfblood Silverblu and Sno-Whites (Recessive) of a strain which has for years been bringing a higher than average price on the Pelt Market.

PRICES REASONABLE FOR HIGH QUALITY 10% DISCOUNT ON QUANTITY LOTS INSPECTION INVITED In the same ranch—"HILMUTT FOXES" UNEXCELLED FOR HERD IMPROVEMENT

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Phone 367-1



RAW FURS

The season is now open on all raw furs. We are interested as usual in Mink, Muskrat, Coon, Red Fox, etc. Highest Market Prices. Prompt returns.

J. D. JENKINS care of THE ROYAL PACKING CO.

FOR SALE FOX AND MINK FEED

We have a quantity of Fox and Mink Feed made from Chicken by-products, both canned and frozen, at very reasonable prices. The frozen feed is packed in twenty and thirty pound boxes, and the canned in 16 oz. tins.

THE ROYAL PACKING CO. J. D. JENKINS, Prop.



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Tired Feet

Soothe them with MINARD'S LINIMENT

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3c Rub on freely and gently. Rub on freely and gently. Rub on freely and gently.

35c