

THE MAGAZINE GUARDIAN For Parents, Pupils, Teachers, Farmers, Dairymen, Horsemen

TO THE FARMER

Farmers and others interested are invited to contribute to The Farm, The Dairy, The Turf, and Good Roads departments of the Guardian either by question, correspondence or otherwise. Answers will be given by experts to all questions of general interest and space will be given to any articles that will in any way help to advance Prince Edward Island interests.

Contributors are asked to have their articles at this office early each week, as only a short emergency item can be handled as late as one p. m. Wednesday. All received after that hour cannot appear until the following week.

THE SCHOOL AND THE HOME

Contributions for this Department should be addressed to P.O. Box No. 116, Charlottetown.

NEW WAYS OF COOKING PEAS

Pea Cakes.—Boil three cups of peas in salted water until tender. Drain and mash, seasoning with salt, pepper and butter. Make a batter of a cup of milk, two beaten eggs and half a cup of flour sifted with half a teaspoonful of baking powder. Stir the pulp into the batter, mixing thoroughly, and fry by spoonfuls in deep fat.

Baked Ashed Peas.—Soak a pint of split peas overnight. Drain, cover with cold water, add a pinch of soda and cook slowly for three hours or more. Drain and press through a colander. Season with salt and pepper, moistening with boiling milk, and beat until light. Turn into a buttered baking dish and bake for an hour.

Peas and Rice.—Put one-fourth cup of butter into a frying pan, add one cup of well washed rice and cook until the rice is golden brown, stirring constantly. Add one quart of boiling water and a can of peas drained. Season with a pinch of salt and add sugar to taste. Put into a baking dish and bake until the rice is tender.

Peas à la Française.—Mix a tablespoonful of butter with a teaspoonful of flour and put into a saucepan with two cups of canned peas and a cup of water. Add six small onions and a small bunch of parsley, cover and cook for forty minutes. Take out the parsley and stir in the yolk of one egg well beaten. Season with salt and pepper, sugar and butter and serve very hot.

Pea Pudding.—Soak a quart of dried peas overnight. In the morning cook until soft in water together with a small onion. Drain, rub through a colander and beat in a tablespoonful of butter, pepper and salt to season and three eggs well beaten. Boil in a buttered mold for an hour, turn out and serve in slices.

Pea Timbales.—Mix one cup of pea pulp with two beaten eggs, two tablespoonfuls of cream, one tablespoonful of melted butter with salt, red and black pepper and onion juice to season. Turn into buttered timbale molds and bake until firm in a pan of hot water. Turn out and serve with a cream sauce to which a few drained and cooked peas have been added. Finely chopped mint may be added to seasoning and cubes of cooked carrot to the sauce.—Washington Star.

THE FARM

THE ASPARAGUS BED

There is no crop that can be grown in this climate that will give bigger returns from the garden in food or satisfaction than the asparagus bed. No vegetable requires less care after it is once started. If you are planning to make a bed, remember that it is to last for an indefinite time. Put it next to the fence, or in some place where it will not be necessary to plow or where it will not be disturbed in other ways.

The bed may be started either by sowing the seed or by setting plants from a nursery or from an old bed. If seeds are sown they must be grown one or two years in the nursery row before setting in the permanent bed. Too much care cannot be given to the preparation of the land before setting. First determine the amount of land to be set. For an ordinary family, one row from 25 to 50 feet long will be ample. The soil should be spaded or deeply plowed and have mixed with it a heavy coat of well decomposed stable manure. After the soil is thoroughly pulverized make a trench not less than six inches deep in which to set the plants.

It is important that the plants be set deeply, or the roots will be injured when cutting is done. The plants should be set from 18 inches to two feet apart in the row. If more than one row is set, the rows should be five feet apart. Cover the plants

with from one to two inches of the soil and, after the tops get above the ground, cultivate in gradually until the trench is filled to the surface. Cultivate frequently during the season.

No tops should be cut the first or second year. After that it may be cut from early Spring until June or July; then the tops must be allowed to grow during the remainder of the season to store up plant food for the next year's crop. After frost comes, the tops should be mown off and burned, and a heavy coat of manure applied to the bed to protect the plants and to supply the needed fertility to the soil.

HOUSES AND SHELTER

The first three months of the year are usually the most trying of the whole of the twelve, and if strong chickens are to be hatched in due course, housing must be on right lines. There must be adequate shelter, or all else that may have been done for their benefit will be seriously minimized. The feeding may be all that the most advanced students advocate, each element just in its correct ratio, yet it will be of small avail unless the housing is on equally sound lines. If the house is cold and draughty, the inmates naturally require more heat, which, if not assisted by proper housing, is extracted from the food; thus much of the surplus that would go to promote egg-production is used in another direction. In addition to comfortable sleeping quarters, a shelter in necessary. This need not be an expensive erection, merely something that will fulfill the function of providing protection during the daytime.—E. T. Brown, in "Farm and Home."

THE STRAWBERRY

While the back yard farm may not permit the culture of any other fruit, there is always a place for a few strawberries. Even where there is no back yard, or front yard either, home grown strawberries can be had by growing them on the verandah. One as only to get a strong barrel and bore, holes a foot apart all over the sides, fill the barrel with rich earth and put the plants in the holes and on the top. If kept well watered and in a sunny place surprising results will be secured.

In back yards this luscious fruit may be grown in rows or in hills. Some amateurs plant them in what they call "hedge rows," and this is perhaps as good a way as any. In this system, the plants are set in intervals of two feet in rows thirty inches apart. Each of the mother plants is allowed to set four new plants, two on each side, and all their runners are cut off.

All the blossoms buds should be removed from the plants the first season. The amateur should not be in too much of a hurry to get results. When planted in Spring, it takes a year and a little more before the crop should be expected. All through the first growing season the weeds must be kept loose and the weeds killed by hoeing.

When selecting varieties for planting, be sure and know or find out the sex of the chosen sorts. Some kinds have flowers that contain only stamens, and these kinds will not produce fruit unless planted alongside a variety that has flowers with stamens. There are lots of good varieties of strawberries. The best, or any locality are those that have been tried there and proven of value. Beginners should seek the advice of successful growers in their neighborhood before making their selection. If you are not now an amateur strawberry grower secure a few plants this Spring, if only a couple of dozen, place them in rich, moist soil, situated where they will get lots of sunlight, look after them properly, and you will experience the greatest delight of all in back-yard farming.

BACK-YARD FARMING.

Everyone knows what a back-yard is and everyone knows what farming is. Combining these two terms was one because there are two ways in which a back-yard may be handled, and the word "farming" is the only term that covers the whole problem. The dictionary says that the verb "to farm" means "to subject to agriculture processes," and that is what one does when he uses a back-yard for growing things or for sheltering and confining a horse, a cow or flock of poultry. It is farming in miniature.

HORSES AND CITY COW.

Within the limits of every city a great number of horses are kept in back-yards, also a very considerable number of cows and, on the outskirts, an occasional pig—if the neighbors don't object. But everyone hasn't the room and, perhaps, the means, to keep these. It would be a great agent for the health of city children probably if there were more city cows owned by their parents. Census figures show that the infant mortality rate in large cities is much higher than among children in other towns or in the country, and scientists are almost unanimously agreed that the greatest contributor behind this unfortunate condition of affairs is impure milk. The best way to secure pure milk at the least possible cost is to keep a cow yourself, if your circumstances will permit. In some cases, city owners of cows sell enough surplus milk to pay for the keep of the cows. The city family that owns, feeds and milks its own cow enjoys one of those great privileges that make the country a better place to live in than the city.

In regard to this question of health, impurities, an imperative need is stable sanitation—and this is a back-yard problem in cases where horses or cows are kept. Many factors have to do with this question, the most important being the disposal of the

manure. Unless the stable is a considerable distance from a dwelling, the manure should be cleaned up every morning and evening and thrown into a fly-proof box and hauled away as often as the box is filled. House flies breed in hot manure in preference to any other place. From a health standpoint, it is better to give the manure away daily rather than provide a breeding place for flies. From a gardening standpoint, the manure is a valuable asset. For this reason, the Winter's manure can be held, if it is put on the land as early in the Spring as the soil can be worked and ploughed under.

POULTRY AND BEES.

Where there is room enough chickens should be kept to furnish eggs for the family and an occasional bird for the table. A space of 20 by 30 feet is enough yard for 50 hens, when properly handled. Of course, intensive methods of poultry culture call considerable skill and experience in order to avoid disease and other ills. Beginners can usually get advice from successful friends or neighbors.

Hives of bees are frequently kept in cities as well as in the country. Some people keep them even on tops of buildings. I know of a young lady who has an apiary on the roof of a tall office skyscraper. They do just well there as on the ground, provided the hives are shaded from the sun. But a place can be found for one or two hives in many backyards. The important point is to now that within a radius of a mile there are plenty of nectar-producing flowers, such as fruit trees, bushes, sweet and white clover, as well as domestic animals. The honey bees are big dividends as the oney bee. She works for nothing, guards herself, supports her queen and the drones, fertilizes the blossoms for miles around, and frequently furnishes enough surplus honey in a year to buy the entire hive, bees at all twice over.

In back-yards where these classes of live stock cannot be kept, or where grown-up folks cannot be bothered with them, a place should be given to the boy or girl who wants to keep pets. Rabbits, pigeons, and especially bantam chickens are dear to the heart of every child. Let the kids have full responsibility, and the results will take care of themselves. Where pets are not desirable, parents should at least provide the kids with a plot of their own for gardening. Nothing serves to make home interesting to developing kids so much as pets or a garden of their own.

SELECTION OF EGGS IS IMPORTANT

The best hens to breed from are the active, bright eyed and good laying birds when they know that some of eggs with strong fertility. The poor emaciated hen will produce weaklings. The hen deformed from birth will be likely to produce deformed chicks. Be sure to have your breeding pen composed of the best of your stock. If you have quite a number of birds from which to make a selection of a breeding pen, choose carefully and do not breed from all of the birds. Some breeders do not seem to think that they should make careful selection in this way, but will use the eggs from all the birds when they know that some of them are very inferior specimens. Careful selection means better birds and fewer cullets the next year.

DON'T PASTURE TOO EARLY.

(By J. S. Cotton.)

Farmers are inclined to turn their cows on pasture too early in the spring. County agricultural agents could do much good in using their influence in checking this practice. The plant food taken from the soil and air is manufactured into substances that can be used in making further growth by small green bodies (chlorophyll bodies), which are located in the leaves. If there is a meagre green leaf surface and this is kept constantly cropped, the plant will be unable to manufacture much material for further growth and will be unable to extend its roots system in order to get a new supply of plant food. The growth of such a plant will be extremely slow and the plant will eventually become greatly enfeebled. Under such conditions the carrying capacity of the pasture will be low and will gradually diminish. The best grazers know that the carrying capacity of the pasture during the growing season is much greater if the grass is three or four inches high before stock are turned on. A grass leaf four inches long is in position to manufacture food doubly as fast as one two inches long and four times as fast as one of only an inch in length.

The increased carrying capacity resulting from early protection presupposes that the pasture is not too closely grazed the rest of the season or if close grazing is practiced and this is for short periods at stated intervals. Farmers who, because of an insufficient supply of forage, are obliged to turn out early or obliged to stock their pastures to the maximum, will get more feed if the pastures are subdivided into two or three areas and the stock changed about frequently. Experimental evidence showing the increased feed that can be practiced is not available. However, general experience shows that the carrying capacity is much greater, some farmers claiming that it is doubled where the method is practiced.

Another serious result from too early grazing is the injury from compaction of the soil. Stock allowed to trample on wet soil containing clay so compact these soils that the best pasture plants can no longer exist.—Dover's Journal.

POTATO NOTES.

To secure an early supply of new potatoes next season plant the tubers of any good early variety in pots and start them in the house. Four or five inch pots can be used, filled only about two-thirds full of soil, leaving room for a top dressing of soil to be supplied as the plants grow, after the manner of hilling up potatoes when grown in the garden. One potato is sufficient for each pot.

Time the planting so the plants will be well started in the pots when they are to be transplanted in the garden at the time the tubers are usually planted outdoors.

If there is a well ventilated, cool, light place, such as a cold frame or cool greenhouse, in which to grow them potatoes can be raised in pots and full sized tubers developed very much earlier than the first crop from the garden.

Ten inch pots will be sufficiently large. Rub off all the eyes except the strongest for pot culture.

RASPBERRY ANTHRACNOSE.

Raspberry growers are not unacquainted with the small pale colored spots with very definite margins which appear on the canes during the summer and autumn. This is known as Anthracnose and does considerable damage to the black varieties especially, but it is not rare even on the reds. In extreme cases these diseased areas or spots become so prevalent as to even girdle the cane. This causes a marked decrease in the crop and a diseased and unhealthy condition of the berry plantation throughout.

So far, best results have been obtained from the cleaning out of the old canes as soon as the berries have been gathered. This doing away with the old canes removes a source of infection for the young shoots which grow on later into the fall. Some experiments have been carried on at the University of Cornell and it is found that sprays on the dormant plants had very little effect, but a spray of one to one solution of sulphate of iron in the summer when the young shoots are about ten inches high and again after the fruit has been harvested is efficient and will reduce the percentage of diseased canes from 90 to 15 percent.

BROODING HINTS

Ventilation is of great importance in brooding. The warm air should come in over the backs of the chicks and the foul air escape at the bottom. Frequent cleaning and disinfecting is necessary to destroy disease germs. Never allow a dead chick to remain in the brooder any length of time. If disease gets into the flock, remove the birds to another brooder until the first has been thoroughly cleaned.

A few early chicks may be successfully brooded by using a large jug filled with hot water. Fill this jug the last thing at night, place it in a box and cover with a woolen cloth.

HOW TO KEEP HENS FROM EATING EGGS.

One quite frequently notices inquiries in poultry columns from those having trouble with hens eating eggs. The following idea will remedy or rather prevent, any such trouble: A nail keg half filled with straw and fastened to wall on end makes a good nest and also one in which the smartest hen finds it impossible to destroy an egg. While this makes a good nest for the laying hen, do not set a hen to hatch in one, as it is too small and confined.

WHEN AND HOW TO SPRAY.

For apple scab, black spot, canker, leaf spot, codling moth, and other biting insects, blister mites and aphids. Shortly before the buds burst use 180 lbs. sulphur (fine grade), 50 lbs. fresh stone lime, 40 gallons of water. Put 10 gallons water in boiling outfit; stir until it is pasty, then add remaining water, and when nearly boiling put in lime. Stir frequently whilst slacking. Add water from time to time to keep up to 40 or 50 gallon mark. Boil an hour, and strain through a screen of about 30 meshes to the inch to storage barrels. Cover well to keep out air.

Just before blossoms appear use same mixture to which add 2 lbs. arsenate of lead.

Immediately after blossoms have already all fallen, and before the calyxes close use copper sulphate (blue stone) 4 lbs., unslacked lime 4 lbs., 40 gallons of water. Dissolve blue stone in hot water in wooden barrels and add cold water to make twenty gallons; slake lime in hot water, and add cold water to make twenty gallons; stir both barrels well and pour lime into copper sulphate barrel.

(never mix the concentrates of either together). Ready now for use.

Cut out and paint all cankered areas. If aphids are present just before leaf buds burst, spray at once with Black Leaf 40 or Whale Oil Soap.

Follow the same method for pears. Scab or cracking, blight, codling moth, scale insects, blister mites, psylla or slug.

THE DAIRY

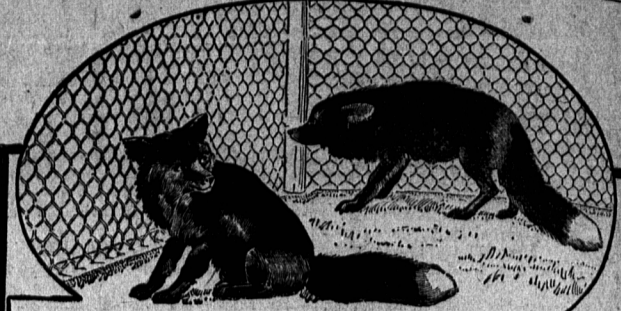
STERILIZED SKIM MILK FOR CALVES.

The value of sterilized skimmed milk as calf feed has been investigated by Prof. D. H. Otis of the Wisconsin College of Agriculture. He finds that it is better than the sterilized skimmed milk, as calves fed upon it are less subject to scours, and consequently "off feed" less than others. It has sometimes been said that the feeding value of milk was seriously affected when it is sterilized to prevent the possibility of its being a medium for the spread of tuberculosis or other diseases. The necessary heating, frequently accomplished by injecting live or exhaust steam into the milk, adds from 8 to 15 per cent. of water, which it has been thought lowers its value as a calf feed. Experiments on six calves, which were fed sterilized milk, and seven that were fed unheated skimmed milk fresh from the hand separator for 142 days, show that they both made practically the same daily gain per head, 1.35 pounds.

A UNIFORM, RICH CREAM BEST

If tests were made of the cream taken from the separators on the farms of the country, we venture to say that they would vary anywhere from slightly over 15 per cent. up to above 40 per cent. fat. Some precautions should be taken, especially during the summer months, to keep the percentage of fat in the cream as uniform as possible. To do this care must be taken in the turning of the separator that the speed be maintained throughout. One of the best American authorities on the subject states that every person should be cream during the hot weather in summer. Heavy cream will keep better and besides it allows of a great deal more skim milk for calf feeding on the farm.

Another strong point in favor of rich cream is that it will cost less, during the season, for transportation charges and also there will be less wear and tear and expense in handling. Regardless of all this, however, the main thing is that the quality will be much better. This same authority recommends and rightly so, that cream should always be purchased according to quality making a difference of at least two cents per pound butter fat. He recommends that No. 1 cream should test 36 per cent. or over, be smooth and sweet or almost sweet to the taste with an acid content of not more than .4 per cent. No. 2 cream should test at least 22 per cent. and with an acid content of not more than .7 per cent. Around 40 per cent. is quite a rich cream, but as stated here is a great saving in skim milk or the calves in transportation and handling. Care must be taken, however, not to get the cream too rich as there is danger of loss if the separator is not working properly.



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