Of Interest to Farmers

(Continued From Page 9.)

the entire area, never receive any application of manure whatever. Such land is usually far removed from the farm buildings; it is left in hay and pasture for several years, then ploughed, planted to oats and seeded down to hay again.

Casual observation, as well as the foregoing statistics, confirm the widespread extent of this practice.

Now, what is the best method of handling such land? It is useless to say "apply manure" because the farmer has already applied elsewhere all the manure that has been produced. As the land is usually far from the buildings and often poorly drained, it would be unwise to plant corn or roots and to include it in the rotation used on the land near the buildings. The present practice is more profitable than that but is the present practice the best possible ones.

There is much reason to think, from the results of definite experiments, that an improvement can be made in the present practice which will result in increased profits. One improvement which is widely known but poorly followed is surface drainage. The removal increases the crop yield. Another materially improves the tilth of the soil and, in some years, greatly increases and advances to ripeness. Another improvement which may be adopted in many districts is the growing of alfalfa. It a few pounds of alfalfa are included in the ordinary hay mixture, one can learn at small expense whether alfalfa will grow profitably. If it will grow it will be found to materially increase the yield of hay. Finally, as there is not enough farm manure commercial fertilizers may be used.

At the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, commercial fertilizers have been used in comparison with farm manure and unmanured land for over ten years. The results have shown a large profit accompanying the use of the commercial fertilizers on a four year rotation of mangels, oats, clover hay and timothy hay, application of fertilizers were as follows: on on the mangels, 200 pounds superphosphate, 75 pounds muriate of potash and 100 pounds nitrate of soda; on each of the oats, clover and timothy crops 100 pounds of nitrate of soda per acre were applied. For the five year period, from 1916 to 1920, the total cost of these fertilizers on four acres of land was $142.02; the value of the fertilizers on four acres of land was $277.69; the net profit was $135.71. Figured on the basis of one acre, the net profit was $33.75 per year.

When one considers the extensive areas of land which never receive manure, it might be well worth while to plan to use some commercial fertilizers. If a small area were tried first, it would enable a farmer to decide whether such applications were profitable. The most profitable use of commercial fertilizers requires prudent buying and intelligent practice in making applications to the land. Persons desiring information on this subject are invited to correspond with the Field Husbandry Division, of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

E. S. HOPKINS,
Dominion Field Husbandman.

DAIRY FARMER NEEDS A SILO

For dairy purposes corn silage is second to none and its value as a dairy feed is no longer an experiment with successful dairymen, it is an absolute necessity.

No silo which was properly built and filled with corn at the right stage of maturity has ever been discarded. Neither is there any farmer who has had a silo on his farm and used it, succulent, nutritious feed who is willing to do without one.

In addition to being a nutritious succulent feed, corn silage is one of the cheapest feeds for dairy cows. According to the best authorities corn silage made from corn ensiled at the proper stage of maturity contains 22 pounds of digestible crude protein and 354 pounds of total digestible carbonhydrate equivalent per ton. A farm in the average state of fertility will produce from 6 to 8 tons of silage per acre. Many farmers produce 12 to 14 tns per acre on good soil.

Corn should be ensiled at the proper stage of maturity to get the best results. If it is allowed to get too ripe it will be too dry and difficult to pack.

KKEEP THE AIR IN THE HOUSE MOIST

During the winter months when the house is artificially heatde, it is most important that the air be kept moist. When the human body is surrounded by dry air, it undergoes an exaporating process which makes the persons feel cool. If the air is moist the persons is warmed much easier. In case of an air furnace there is provision made for placing pans of water in the furnace. In steam heated houses the humidity may be promoted by allowing steam to escape into the room at intervals. In hot water furnaces, pans of water should be placed and kept filled on the top of the radiator or somewhere where they will get enough heat for evaporation. A simple test for humidity is to watch the windows in the rooms. If they frost over readily there is moist air in the room. If the house is kept properly humid furniture will not come unglued and the wood in the floors will not be apt to shrink.

CHOICE EGGS FOR MARKET

Following are five rules which suggest will be observed by all farmers and poultrymen in handling their poultry and eggs:

1. Keep the nests clean; provide one nest for every four hens.
2. Gather the eggs twice daily.
3. Keep the eggs in a cool, dry room or celair.
4. Market the eggs at least twice a week.
5. Sell, kill or confine all male birds as soon as the hatching season is over.

The raising of poultry, collecting and marketing of eggs, etc., has always been left to a large extent, to the farm woman. But in too many cases poultry raising on the farm has been considered a side issue, and the care of the chickens and the gathering of the eggs has often been left to the children. As a result no one knows just how many working hens there are. Often the eggs are gathered from stolen and dirty nests and taken to town and traded for groceries. If the eggs are sold on a "loss off" basis, by which only the good eggs are paid for, these eggs gathered from stolen nests will be candled out and the farmer will receive pay for only a small part of the eggs which he has brought to town.

The question of the marketing of the eggs should be carefully studied by the farm woman, and she should see that only fresh, clean eggs are put upon the market. The work of the United Irish women in Ireland is very informative in this respect. There, the women have combined for increase of their supply of eggs and for profitable and proper market methods. Egg depots have been established in many rural districts. The women have formed themselves into societies. Each society elects a governing committee, secretary, etc. A certain amount, of share capital is subscribed, according to the number of members.

A collecting store is found, and on one day of each week the members send in their week's supply of eggs. The plant includes packing boxes of an approved make, with account books, stationery, etc. One experienced member undertakes the management at the beginning, and gradually each member can take it in turn, to test, pack and arrange each week's supplies. In this way the responsibility is equally divided. A knowledge of the work and time involved becomes personal to all, as does the desire to send out no single egg taht is not up to the standard. And the making and dividing of profits is as much the business of one as of another.

WHOLE MILK FOR THE YOUNG CALF

The calf should always receive its mother's milk at first, as this stimulates the calf's stomach and other digestive organs to action. Most dairymen prefer to keep the calf with the cow for 48 hours after birth, although it is always easier to teach the calf to drink that has never sucked. When the calf is in its second week, it should begin to receive crushed grain and, when one month old, it should eat about half a pound a day. After this time the quantity of grain may be gradually increased, feeding all that the calf will eat until three pounds a day is reached, probably during the third month. This is liberal feeding designed to get maximum growth. Grain fed to supplement separated milk should never be mixed with the milk, according to experts in the United States Department of Agriculture, and experimental work both across the line and here prove it questionable whether the preparation of grain in any way such as soaking or boiling is advisable. At birth a 50 lb. calf should have about eight pounds of whole milk a day, while a 100 lb. calf (and calves of the Holstein breed frequently reach this weight) should have about 12 lbs. For the first four days milk from the dam should be fed, then than from any of the other cows in the herd, but preferably not from any that are nearly dry. Milk containing more than four per cent butter fat should be diluted with water. Ot the beginning of the third week or even in the second week if market milk is being shipped, separated milk may be substituted forthe whole milk at the rate of one pound a day. The daily ration may be increased from three to four pounds, depending on the vigor of the calf. When the calf does not drink eagerly, the quantity should be cut down. At the end of the third week, the milk should be one-half whole and one-half separated and by the end of the fourth week, only separated milk may be fed, unless the calf is very delicate. With especially vigorous calves, the change to separated milk can be made a week earlier. The quantity fed can be increased gradually but never to more than 18 to 20 lbs. a day. It is assumed that by the time the calf is getting only separated milk, it has learned to eat sufficient grain to replace the butter fat taken out of its ration.

SHOULD FOWL BE DRAWN

It is the general practice now for poultry dealers to instruct producers of table fowl to ship dead stick undrawn. This has been the subject of much discussion among consumers as well as dealers and various opinions and reasons have been expressed on the subject according to the taste or experience of the individual. Of course the fresh killed bird is the ideal food but this cannot always be had so the question of the best method of dressing is a practical one, from the standpoint of health as wel las enjoyment of the food consumed. There are strong arguments on both sides.

Dr. P. T. Woods, some years ago, user a strong argument against drawing market poultry. "In dealing with market poultry we have to deal with many unknown factors," says Dr. Wood. "So far as I am concerned, I would rather take my chances on an undrawn fowl, no matter how poorly handled before being killed, than to have a fowl that has had the filthy fingers of some person unknown (perhaps diseased) scratching about, tearing out the entrails, and following up the operation with yashing out the carcass with not overclean water. The chances of infection from such sources are far more numerous than any that may exist in the intestinal contents. Again, if the intestines are left in, you may have the opportunity of learning something about the fowl's condition at the time it was killed and whether or not it was healthy."

The general argument against drawing fowls, or cutting off their heads, when shipping to market, is that such practices permit the air to get inside the carcass and cause the flesh to become tainted. If the head is cut off, it should be done with a sharp knife or hatchet, and then the blood carefully washed off, the skin drawn forward over the neck and tied.

Afterthe carcass leaves the hands of the poultryman, and is on its way to market, it passes beyond his control, if it is drawn, and has any distance to go, it may mold inside. Even if a fly does not "blow" in it, there is a large exposed surface hidden from sight, which may become infected by some means during transit. If moldy, sour or fly-blown, it is no longer desirable as food.

Investigations made by the United States Department of Agriculture show that undrawn poultry decomposes more slowly than does poultry which has been either wholly or partly eviscerated; "full drawn" poultry, completely eviscerated with head and feet removed decomposes the most rapidly. These deductions apply to dry-picked, dry-chilled, dry-packed, unwashed fowls, which have been marketed with despatch which teh market would call "prompt."

SHEEP RAISING POINTERS

Willingness to pay proper attention to the flock at the critical times of the year.

Production of lambs of early maturity.

Control of parasites in the flock by the sale of early lambs, rotation of pastures and flock management.

Protection of sheep from dogs, by community interest in sheep, by enforcing dog laws and keeping sheep in protected quarters at night.

Use of pasture to the greatest degree.

Feeding of corn silage or roots with clover or alfalfa hay, supplemented with grain, to the breeding ewes in winter.

Selection of breeding sheep that possess merit in wool, as well as in mutton character. Constitutional vigor and health as a result of breeding and care are essential in a foundation flock.

A pure-bred ram of a desirable type and quality to sire the lambs.

Cheap equipment, which offers protection, plenty of ventilation and a dry bed.

Marketing of products of wool and mutton with an understanding of market to feed them in the proportion of about 10 per cent.

Econ my In Feeding

Some time ago the Department of Agriculture published an article on economy in feeding at present prices of farm and mill feeds, giving comparative values based on the Scandanavian Feed Unit System, which is used by the Danes, who are considered amongst the best feeders in the world, and who annually use thousands of tons of imported mill feeds. We have had many requests to have this article reprinted as it was overlooked by a number of interested stockmen. The figures given below are the comparative values of these feeds in themseleves, but if a farmer were supplied with home grown roughage such as hay, straw, oats, and turnips oilmeal would be worth more for the purpose of balancing this ration due to its higher protein content that is given in this statement. However, the figures are approximately correct:

When Corn is worth $36.00 per ton.
Linseed meal is worth $39.60 per ton.
Bran is worth $32.40 per ton.
Timothy Hay is worth $12. to $14.50 per ton.
Oats is worth $32.40 per ton.
Peas is worth $35.00 per ton.
Oats Hay is worth $18. to $20.00 per ton.
Turnips is worth $3.00 per ton.
Skim Milk is worth ½c per lb. or 60c per cwt.
Whole is worth 1½c per lb.

When Hay is worth $30.00 per ton.
Bran is worth $72.00 per ton.
Corn is worth $75.00 per ton.
Oil Cake is worth $90.00 per ton.
Oats is worth $75.00 per ton
Oats Hay is worth $45.00 per ton.
Oat Straw is worth $15.00 per ton.
Skim Milk is worth $1.80 per cwt.
Whole Milk is worth $3.00 per cwt.
Turnips is worth $6.00 per ton.
When Oilcake is worth $55.00 per ton.
Timothy hay is worth $14.80 to $17.50 per ton.
Oats is worth $44.00 per ton.
Bran is worth $44.00 per ton
Oat Hay is worth $20. to $22. per ton.
Corn is worth $49.50 per ton
Turnips is worth $4.75 per ton.
Skim Milk is worth 90c per cwt.
Whole Milk is worth 2.2c per lb.

It will be noted that Skim milk is shown to be more valuable than is generally credited this by product of the dairy, and while it will cost considerably more to winter dairy cows and other farm animals than it has formerly done, those who have good dairy cows in milk made at the present price of milk feeds not only make the animals pay for their keep but at the present price of butter show a satisfactory profit, as mill feeds are lower in comparison to the present price of butter than they were in the winter of 1921, and where feed must be purchased to winter any class of farm stock it is very much cheaper to purchase bran and oats than hay. The average farmer feeds horses entirely too much hay. In fact, it is hard to get some men to believe how much more hay they are feeding than is necessary, or that horses may be wintered with very little roughage at all. We know of instances where horses have been kept in "splendid condition for months at a time on a mixture of bran and oats with a few roots. When bran could be purchased at from $25. to $30 a ton or even at the present price of $36. to $32 per ton it is about three times as cheap as hay. Young cattle and dry cows can be kept in fair condition with a surprisingly small amount of hay or straw by the addition of a little bran or oats.

The freight on these concentrates is also so much less than hay, and their quality is generally more uniform than we find in the average baled hay on the market, much of which through poor curing is very inferior feeding value, and would not be worth even as much as is credited in the figures given in this statement.

Corn is also one of the cheapest feeds, and may yet be purchased at about $40. a ton in quantities, which makes it a very much cheaper feed than hay at from $25 to $30. The indications at the present time are that hay will be somewhat cheaper. It has fallen considerably in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick markets and as mill feeds there have been largely substituted and everybody is saving, the prospects are that we will have a larger quantity offered during the late winter and spring months than was thought possible durfng the early season.

Let every stock feeder in the Province study carefully these figures before deciding what is most economical under the circumstances for him to purchase.

CANNED ON THE PLANTATION

The best part of a grapefruit is what is found when a car of grape fruit is procured from the grocer and opened. All of the bitter skin and rind removed, only sections of the fully ripe fruit and the juice left, ready to be served at breakfast (if the un-opened can is put in the ice-box over night) or to make into a salad or fruit cup.

If you have ever been the one to prepare the grapefruit and know how much trouble it is to cut it out and keep the sections whole, not to serve a hacked pulp, you will appreciate having this done for you. This is what is offered in the can of grapefruit hearts packed in Porto Rico on the fruit plantations, using the ripe fruit.

The one-pound four ounce can will make about five portions which compare favorably with fresh grapefruit prices. Half of the can, roughly speaking, is fruit juice, s would be the case if you yourself removed the fruit from the rind.

Farmers Should Advertise

C. E. MacKenbie.

In these days of high cost of living, advertisements are looked upon as news; the prizes offered by some papers have not only induced the children but the grown ups to read ads.—and I am sure if in these advertisers, were asked they would be sure to tell you they have brought results.

In these times when one is puzzling over the problems presented by the high cost of living ordinary going to the village store and buwing a few pounds of this and a few yards of something else is cut out to a certain extent and the ad. columns of our daily papers are carefully scanned and as a result people are buying in larger qauntities and for cash thereby effecting a consicerabe saving.

This applies to our buying end of the business and if we would stop to think the city consumer is doing the same thing and inquiries are made from city people who would like to buy almost any kind of farm produce from the farmers. It looks that in the long run the present condition of affairs might be a blessing in disguise. If it serves the purpose of putting business, some good, at least, will have come out of it.

The fact then is clear that in not a few instances the advertisement is bridging the space between the producer and the consumer.

Large firms and dealers in our cities have adopted this means to reach the farmer a proof of which is their extensive advertising program consisting of catalogues and personal letters, and nearly always special inducements on large orders. Now why not we farmers use similar methods to attract urban customers. This sort of trade news would be interesting these days and might be done as a community then the cost would not be so large as it would be if done individually.

Of course to advertise extensively costs; particularly if one wishes to use a medium most likely to catch the eyes of city friends, but business connections thus established, would be profitable and permanent in character. To establish this would take more than one season, but get all you can always keeping an eye on local trade as well.

The farmer who starts advertising locally reaps a direct benefit and also gains experiences which will be of value to him in finding a more distant customer.

Generally when a man has goods for local market he seldom attempts to boost his goods, he merely tells his neighbors he has so many bushels of say timothy for sale and lets the news travel as they will and possibly a buyer may turn up. Depending on this method is, as most of us know, not very satisfactory. The possible customer is not likely to get the news in a way that impresses him, hence he is likely to let the article he really wants, slip by because certain good qualities have not been emphasized.

Contrast this method with the man who undertakes to sell his goods on a distant market, he prefers to do his own talking therefore he leaves no good qaulity of his products out when he advertises. The same principle should apply to round home territory.

There are different ways by which the farmer may make known what he has to sell. As most every one subscribers for one of our local papers round home sales are possible, easily made through the "For Sale" column which I believe will bring results nine times out of ten and there is no cheaper medium.

Another spendid scheme, used by our friends of some of the other provinces is the bulletin board at the farm gate. After during the busy season, one does not find time to drive to town with vegetables, eggs, berries, etc., these can be written on the bulletin board so as to catch the eye of the passerby. Of course these sales may not be large but they pave the way for greater things if your goods are what you represent them to be they make satisfied customers which in turn bring their friends.

The usefulness of the bulletin board should not hire. In these days of automobile travel motorists frequently inquire for other household necessities such as poultry, butter etc. There is no reason why a farmer should not take advantage of a situation that is fast becoming almost an every day occurence and put forward any other article he has suited to these city customers. This leaves only the two necessary parties, to translation. And the customer gets his article fresh and pure and possibly without the profit of one or more middlemen.

When a great many people think of buying they generally look beyond the local vision as it were and in the majority of cases they buy from a man who has built a reputation for himself by a good system of advertising. Now the nearby breeders or farmer may have just a good a stock of goods for sale, but the buyer does not know it. Farmers as a class are modest, but it will only be when they cease to hide their lights under a bushel that they will get the share of prosperity that is due them.

In stock advertising first class farm journals are of course the best mediums and are sure to bring results. Ordinary farm products will bring better returns if advertised in city dailies having a good circulation.

The initial advertisment of a beginner may not make a sale but it is pretty sure to have been noticed by some one. When it appears a second time that person will remember having seen it before and if the ad. is run along regularly it tells the public that this man is always on his job and probably a good one to do business with. Sooner or later orders will come in from those who were watching his ad. after the first order it is easier.

Money paid out for advertising should be looked upon as an investment not as an expense. Once the advertiser gets the good will of the public. This done dividends are sure. Fellow farmer think it over as I believe it will help us round many an awkward corner whereby increasing our income and reducing the cost of living to the other fellow.

A WINTER Crop

C. E. MacKENZIE

The ice harvest is here again. The cold days and frosty nights have been gradually thickening the ice over the ponds and streams. As soon as it is thick enough to make a fair sized block, it is advisable to store away a few tons for the coming summer's use.

No good farmer would delay the harvesting of ripe grain, so it is with ice harvesting once it is ready to cut. When this job is left too long the ice is so thick it is hard to handle and entails much more labor. A good thickness is about one foot as it then makes ideal blocks easily stored and when you need it, is it broken up with much less waste.

As yet comparatively few farmers and dairymen lay in a supply of ice, and as a result have considerable difficulty in keeping milk and cream sweet during the hot days of July and August.

It frequently happens that as much milk or cream is soured and rendered useless or of second grade to the factory or creamery during the summer, as would pay for putting in the ice which would have saved the loss.

It is also a great convenience to the housewife to have ice handy. It enables her to keep the butter in a firm condition, and permits her to make and keep various dishes which taste good to the palate, but are impossible without ice.

The cost of putting up ice is not great. Different types of ice houses are frequently described by our many farm papers.

An elaborate building is not necessary but there are certain rules which must be adhered to. I have seen ice put up in out buildings which kept well through the summer.

In building a permanent ice house location has a great deal to do with the keeping of the ice stored therein. If possible build on the north side of some building where the sun's rays do not strike it directly. If you happen to have a natural grove to the north of the dwelling, clear a spot and build your ice house there. Good drainage is necessary, as under the most ideal conditions ice will melt somewhat during the summer, and if this water cannot get away it tends to spoil the balance of the ice.

Another point to bt noted in the construction is ventilation at the base of the building. This can be helped by ventilators on the roof and a opening at the eaves. If your ventilaton is poor, you are sure to have greater waste, so it is well worth looking after.

Care should be taken that the ice is cut from a pond where the water is pure. Disease germs in impure water are not necessarily destroyed by freezing.

When ice is used for cooling milk about one ton should be stored for each cow in the herd. If you are in the cream busisess you will not need nearly so much in fact about one third as much as you would need for milk; to this you should add about two tons for domestic uses.

To give some idea of weight of ice a close estimate would be that twelve inches thick and blocks of twenty two inches square, ten of these make about a ton.

The wastage of ice through melting during the summer will depend a good deal on how well it is packed. A good bottom is necessary, usually of saw-dust from eight to ten inches thick. Care should be taken when cutting to have all the blocks the same size and cut square then they will fit close together and in this way will stop wastage. In packing. Fill all the crevices with either sawdust, snow or crushed ice and between the layers of ice as well to have a thin layer of sawdust as this helps when taking the ice out in summer. Be sure to pack the outside sawdust firmly after the ice is packed and when you have the required amount put in you should have at least one foot all over the top.

Harvesting the ice crop may require a day and some extra help this winter, but once it is stored it needs no more attention until it is needed for use during the hot summer.

The convenience of having an ice supply amply repays for the work and expense of putting it up.

Then let every up-to-date farmer and dairyman make it a point to have a goodly supply put up for next summer's use.