

MAGAZINE GUARDIAN



WEED SEED ON FARMS

FARMERS MUST ALWAYS BE ON THE ALERT.

New and Perilous Plants are Introduced in Many Ways and Their Appearance Should be Noted at Once—Important Point Regarding Control is to Destroy All Weeds Before They Have Gained Headway.

No matter how careful a man may be in preventing weeds from going to seed on his land, most of his work will be for nothing if he permits weeds to be constantly brought to his farm from the outside.

Weeds may be brought to the farm in various ways. The principal source of introduction is through seeds.



Characteristic Root Growth of Canada Thistle, a Permanent Weed.

of these points is responsible for most of the farmer's trouble over poor seeds. Seedsmen say that they are forced to carry poor seeds in stock because many farmers will not pay for the better grades.

In improving his knowledge of what constitutes good seeds, the farmer will find the advice of the agricultural experiment stations of great assistance.

Some kinds of stock feed are free of weed seeds, while others are not. Cottonseed meal, oil meal, brewers' and distillers' grains, corn bran, feedings and the gluten feeds are practically free of weed seeds.

Nearly all purchased manure is full of weed seeds. It is hauled to the farm when fresh many thousands of weed seeds are introduced.

Two facts stand out prominently as reasons for the increased production and use of milk.

The first is that milk as purchased on the market usually supplies food material together with the growth-producing elements more economically than either meat or eggs.

The second reason is that the dairy cow is the most economical producer of animal food.

One great law of food conservation is to turn inedible feeds into edible foods in the cheapest possible manner.

The dairy cow will utilize coarse materials, inedible to humans—such as grass, cornstalks and hay—and will turn them into milk.

Other farm animals also are converters of coarse roughage into edible foods, but are not so efficient as the dairy cow.

Less Hens in Holland. According to Government figures the number of hens in Holland has decreased from 8,000,000 to 3,000,000 in two years.

Don't Starve the Bees. Those having bees are warned by the Government against taking out any much of the honey.

FEEDING THE HENS.

Proper Care Will Produce Very Satisfactory Results.

A hen laying 200 eggs in a year is not at all unusual. A four-pound hen laying this number will produce six times her weight in eggs.

The problems of poultry feeding require good judgment and keen observation. Hens fed for egg production should have foods high in the food elements which are found in eggs.

It should be remembered that one of the prime aims of poultry feeding is that the hen cannot do well, if fed on a whole grain ration.

The following are extracts from Sgt. Cutting's article, which is under the heading, "Agriculture in and Near No Man's Land."

"The agriculture of No Man's Land is mostly non-existent. By 'No Man's Land' I refer to all France that has been the scene of battle. Every foot of such land has been a No Man's Land at one time or another.

"Farming was carried on there in some sections that remained quiet long enough for preparing the soil and sowing the seed, but the swaying of the modern land, from March to September so trampled and foot, or blew to smithereens the promise of crops that the harvest was infinitesimal, compared with what might have been.

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"In definite and delightful contrast to the desolation of No Man's Land lie the fields of France behind the lines. Every effort to make increased production help with the war is being put forth by the people.

"Three things attract the eye forcibly when viewing the farming landscapes outside the villages. First is increased production help with the war.

"The second thing that attracts especially is the 'patch work' appearance of the farms. A number of various sized, shaped and colored little plots, all unfenced, appear sewn (not sown) together into a gigantic crazy quilt.

"One thing among the many that the French farmer does know is that land will not produce good crops year after year without being fertilized.

"Every pound of manure that his stables produce and that he can beg or buy (in trade) goes on the land.

"Among the interesting sights of the harvest field are clover in cocks so small that a child could lift one; hay of all kinds in cocks tied with things at the top; grain in shocks much larger than made in America.

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"I hoped to see the kind of stalks that were offered for sowing throughout the country, but managed to see only two, both of which would be disqualified in an American show ring for sheer audacity alone.

"Cattle in this part of the country are all red in color. While I have been in France, at rest or on the move in various villages, and on the move in train or bus or on foot over many miles of farming country, I have seen no more than a dozen head of cattle that were other than red in color.

"The cows are milked very early in the morning and often not again until about nine o'clock at night. Some farmers milk three times a day. English and Scottish soldiers can buy milk at eight or ten cents a quart, even less sometimes; but in Canada and the Yanks, all of whom are considered millionaires by most peasants, are honored with a special price that ranges anywhere from twelve to twenty cents, according to the man, the maid and the amount.

"Goats also are raised extensively for milk, meat and wool. Of sheep and swine, I can say very little. The few of the former that I have seen were poor specimens, and the many of the latter were worse. There are lots of good live stock in France, pure-bred and grade, but that kind is not prevalent in districts near the war zone.

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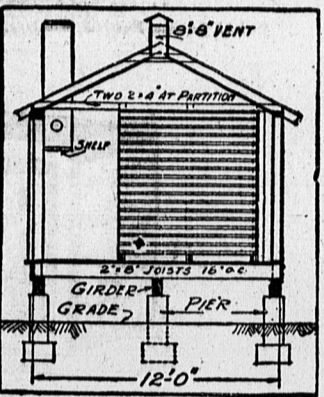
HOUSES FOR STORAGE FARMING IN FRANCE

A FEW INTERESTING FACTS FOR BUILDERS.

Wooden Structures are Preferable Because they are Cheaper and Easier to Keep Dry—They Permit Circulation of Air, But "Dugout" is Not Satisfactory on Account of Moisture.

Sweet potato storage houses may be built of wood, brick, hollow tile, cement or stone. Wooden houses are preferable, because they are cheaper and easier to keep dry than the other types. It is difficult to keep moisture from collecting on the walls of a cement, stone, or brick house.

The foundation of the storage house may be in the form of pillars or solid walls and should be of such a height that the floor is about on the level of the bottom of the wagon house dry, and moisture in the storage house will cause the crop to rot.



Cross Section of Small Sweet-Potato Storage House, 12 by 16 Feet.

carried below the frost line or to solid ground. Gridders 6 by 10 or 8 by 8 inches in size are usually placed on the pillars.

Where cement, brick or stone foundation walls are built, they should extend 18 to 20 inches above the ground level, and plates 2 to 3 inches thick and 8 to 10 inches wide should be placed on the wall. In using walls for the foundation it is necessary to provide means for ventilation under the house. This can be done by placing small windows in the foundation every 10 to 12 feet.

The space between the walls should be left open, because any material used to keep out the cold will absorb moisture. Many storage houses have been built with sawdust, shavings, or similar material between the walls, but this practice should never be followed.

Thorough ventilation is necessary in a storage house. This is provided by means of windows, doors, and ventilators in the floor and through the roof. The openings in the floor around the stove prevent overheating the potatoes near the stove.

The arrangement of the interior of the house depends upon the methods of storage used. Some growers store potatoes in boxes, crates, baskets, or hampers, while others store in bins. The smaller containers are to be preferred to bins where it is practicable to use them, because they eliminate considerable handling and reduce the amount of decay.

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HOUSES FOR STORAGE FARMING IN FRANCE

HOW IT LOOKS TO CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST.

Soldier Who Was Formerly an Expert in Such Matters Tells His Impression of the French Methods—Orchards Destroyed by the Hun Invaders are Very Sad Sight.

ONE of the best accounts of agriculture, as practiced in the vicinity of the fighting front in France, is given by A. B. Cutting, formerly an editor of several Toronto agricultural periodicals, who enlisted with a Canadian battalion at Winnipeg, and, as Sgt. Cutting, saw considerable service with the colors. His article appears in a recent number of "The Farmer."

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"Every pound of manure that his stables produce and that he can beg or buy (in trade) goes on the land.

"Among the interesting sights of the harvest field are clover in cocks so small that a child could lift one; hay of all kinds in cocks tied with things at the top; grain in shocks much larger than made in America.

"Every farmer seems to have plenty of horses, such as they are. All the good horses in the country have been commandeered for army purposes, except a number of pure-breds left in selected localities for breeding.

"The supply of seed is limited and no applicant will be supplied with more than one sample.

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"The cows are milked very early in the morning and often not again until about nine o'clock at night. Some farmers milk three times a day. English and Scottish soldiers can buy milk at eight or ten cents a quart, even less sometimes; but in Canada and the Yanks, all of whom are considered millionaires by most peasants, are honored with a special price that ranges anywhere from twelve to twenty cents, according to the man, the maid and the amount.

"Goats also are raised extensively for milk, meat and wool. Of sheep and swine, I can say very little. The few of the former that I have seen were poor specimens, and the many of the latter were worse. There are lots of good live stock in France, pure-bred and grade, but that kind is not prevalent in districts near the war zone.

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SOME ADVANTAGES OF DAIRY.

Sale of Products Furnishes Steady Income Throughout Year.

1. The sale of dairy products furnishes a steady income throughout the year. The farmer who depends upon crop sales for his income usually makes the bulk of his sales during one or two months of the year, while during the rest of the year he has no cash income. Such a system requires long credits in the community.

2. The market for dairy products fluctuates very little year by year as compared with other farm products. 3. Through the return of manure to the land the fertility and physical condition of the soil may be maintained.



A Good Dairy Herd Gives the Farm Many Advantages.

tained at a high level and crops increased. Even after many years a properly maintained dairy farm has constantly increasing crop yields instead of decreasing ones.

4. In dairying, labor may be utilized at a more uniform rate throughout the year than in any other farm business. The grain grower, for example, may have to employ much additional labor at harvest time, but so far as the dairy is concerned the dairyman has about the same duties to perform every month of the year.

Thus, less help is required seasonally and permanent employes may be kept.

5. Through the dairy cow many unsalable roughages may be transformed into products from which cash may be realized. Grass hay, corn stalks and other roughage which would have a ready sale as economically utilized by the dairy cow. Land which is not suitable for cultivation can be utilized for pasturage for dairy cows.

Cost of Rearing Horses. Some interesting calculations have been made at the various Dominion Experimental Farms as to the cost of rearing and maintaining horses.

At Fredericton, N.B., farm, it is said to have cost from \$90 to \$100 to raise draft colts from birth to three years of age. An extraordinarily cheap ration would, however, appear to have been used, as the feeding of two idle horses at this station from January 1 to April 1, 1917, is stated to have been only \$8.33 each.

At one of the experimental farms in Quebec the cost of maintenance of twelve heavy horses employed in heavy work was carefully kept. The total cost of feed amounted to \$915.76 for the twelve, or \$76.31 per head per year, or 20.9 cents per head per day. The total number of hours of work for the twelve horses was 32,892, and the average 1,991 hours per horse for the year, and a daily average of 6.5 hours per horse. Each hour's work, therefore, cost 3.8 cents for feed. The above figures are based on arbitrary cost values for feed, but the average prices actually paid, the total cost would be \$1,595.32 for the year for twelve horses, \$132.94 per horse, 35.4 cents per head per day. At this price an hour's work would cost 6.67 cents.

Not a Promising Prospect. The report of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Kapuskasing for 1917 does not seem to promise very well for the soldier settlements in that neighborhood. This report says:

"Over 110 acres of land was sown with oats; only about six acres of this matured. Five acres were sown with O.A.C. barley and gave every indication of a heavy crop; small patches ripened on the well-drained areas. A large area of Marquis wheat, which should have been a fair crop, was destroyed in the milk stage. The heaviest crop at the station was a mixture of Arthur peas and oats. This was cut green and fed to the stock. The root crop was a failure owing to the extremely wet spring and the very late date at which seed was sown. Two and one-half acres of well-cultivated land were planted in potatoes with untested seed of unknown variety. The total yield from the plot was 150 bushels. The failure of the crop was characteristic of the district, being caused by poor seed, weather conditions and early frosts."

A Breed Test. At the Ottawa Experimental Farm 55 dairy cows were kept in 1917. The average returns from these cows, between calving, over and above cost of feed, with labor not included on one side or manure and calf on the other, was \$95.83. The best showing was made by the Holsteins, fifteen of this breed averaging \$110.97 above feed cost, and eight grade Holsteins, \$113.25. Five French-Canadians were a close second with \$125.00 average. Nine Jerseys averaged \$86.22 over cost of feed, fourteen Ayrshires \$82.42, and four grade Ayrshires \$78.72.

Co-operative Stockyards. Saskatoon has organized a co-operative stockyard company, and application has been made for a charter for the Northern Saskatchewan Union Co-operative Stockyards Co., Ltd. A large number of the most prominent citizens of Saskatoon and farmers of the district are the backers of the new company, which is to have a capital of \$125,000, divided into five thousand shares of \$25 each, and no individual may subscribe for more than \$1,000 worth of shares.

One Case of Western Success. At the recent convention of Saskatchewan agricultural societies, Mr. E. A. Craig, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Alberta, said there was a man present who came to Saskatoon several years ago with 25 cents in his pocket. The same man sold a \$5,000 crop last year.

Interested in Canadian Stock. The Rumanian Vice-Consul in England has written to Canada that he is preparing a study on Rumania's economic recuperation for publication in that country, and that he would like to reproduce in some form, in color, many of the old Rumanian cattle and of Percheron and farm draught horses.

Conserved Moisture. Weeds use up moisture. When they grow in a crop they compete with the crop for the moisture, and weeds usually keep on growing after the crop is cut, thus using moisture that should be saved up for next year's crop.

REVIVE FRUIT GROWING.

Experienced Orchardists Will Resume Planting.

Among the branches of agriculture that are due to benefit from the restoration of normal conditions of production of products, fruit-growing is not to be the last by any means according to the predictions of those who are most interested in the industry. Although many orchards have been sacrificed on account of labor conditions, and the want of demand that existed during the war period those that have survived are evidence of either unusual skill on the part of their owners or the fact that they are specially well located as regards soil and climatic requirements—whether the latter circumstance is due to wise selection of the site or to good fortune. A good opportunity for planting is being presented in the fact that these orchards have not been replanted, and the fact that they are specially well located as regards soil and climatic requirements—whether the latter circumstance is due to wise selection of the site or to good fortune. A good opportunity for planting is being presented in the fact that these orchards have not been replanted, and the fact that they are specially well located as regards soil and climatic requirements—whether the latter circumstance is due to wise selection of the site or to good fortune.

In view of the severe losses of trees that occurred in orchards of tender fruits last winter, the crop of these that may result next fall, even under the most favorable conditions of planting, will be greatly reduced. Prices on the home market, while the more staple fruits, especially apples, may be expected to find an outlet via the export route in addition to that which is sure to be provided in the home market when the purchasing power of our people as a whole has been increasing, the openings for remunerative employment presented by the undertakings for reconstruction that are contemplated on every hand.

The following of hard times for orchardists, so soon after the boom in planting which preceded the war, will doubtless have effected a permanent discouragement of many who were starting in the fruit-growing business, but it is more than likely that the old hands will seek to increase their output of fruit as early as possible, and so will undertake the planting of many trees, as well as next spring, and for these men the success or failure of certain varieties under the adverse conditions existing in the past few years can be taken as an indication of the suitability of certain varieties to certain locations. Of course, the market places an important part in determining the possibilities of profit from fruit-growing, to a marked extent, and it is often found possible to offset the advantages of a naturally good producing district by paying parting prices for the orchard less favorably situated in that regard, and taking full advantage of better marketing facilities. The improvement of highways and the general increase of facilities for transportation that may be expected in the near future, are sure to put producers more on a level as regards their marketing opportunities, and it will be then that the importance of adopting the class and variety of the crop to the character of the soil and climatic conditions will be fully realized.

An effort to impress farmers in all lines with the importance of following the indications of nature in selecting the crops for their farms is contemplated by the Ontario Agricultural Department. It is intended that, following the survey of the soil survey, which has been in progress some time, the department will establish demonstration plots of reasonable size at points where the peculiar producing possibilities of the soil are recognized, and will conduct the cultivation of these plots in a manner calculated to produce a maximum possible economy; using at the same time such crops as are shown by the findings of the survey, compared with previous experience, to be the best suited to the particular kind of soil existing at each demonstration point. The importance of the crops will not be overlooked in these demonstrations, but the general trend of the operations will go to indicate the possibilities of the district in which the demonstration plot is situated. Desirable methods of cultivation, will, of course, so far as important part of the demonstrations.