

FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS and GARDENERS

- NEWSY NOTES -

DAIRY TOPICS

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH



Silver Fox Farming

CONSERVATION

A WEEKLY COLUMN OF PRACTICAL OPINIONS OF THE VITAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE USES AND ABUSES OF NATURAL RESOURCES BY MR. LUDLOW JENKINS, MARSHFIELD.

SOME GARDENING NOTES

The Red Currants are ripe. I had rather the Black Currants than the latter are hard to grow in this district at any rate. The leaves are infested by aphids and devoured by sawfly larvae, but the fruit is all in the Currant Borer.

the time to complete your "rockery" right away.

The English gardens that we read of, attained their present perfection by each generation contributing an improvement.

AND SOME MUSICAL NOTES

"Was it Shakespeare who wrote: 'There are scores of music makes me sick and you sick, and some that is noble and grand'?" writes a British critic, who thus opens an attack on the B.B.C. general developed harmony and especially those devoted to music, give a column to open criticism of the British Broadcasting Corporation; and that august body shows exemplary patience in dealing with such complaints. Assuredly they strive to please their patrons, by remedying what is wrong; and avoid offence by offering "a perfect silence" in the bawls.

The hay crop as a general rule will not be as large in volume and much poorer in quality than that of 1932.

Many good fields of clover hay have been ruined on the swarth and in the coil owing to the continued broken weather. On the other hand fields of heavy clover containing little or no timothy, and in some cases have rotted to some extent. Delay in cutting and saving has caused deterioration in feeding value. All this is exceedingly important to the Dairy producer, and a corresponding allowance must be made in supplementary protein allowance to take care of the roughage deficiency. Incidentally care should be exercised in feeding moulded hay to animals. Serious losses have occurred from the feeding of mouldy or musty hay.

Feet should be trimmed so that they can be placed normally. For trimming feet a wood chisel or mallet is needed, also hoof nippers and a good sharp knife.

The toes may be trimmed back, while the animal is standing on a solid wooden floor. They should be chiselled on an angle rather than straight, and it will cut easier when put through the grain of the hoof. Sometimes the animal will have to be thrown in order to trim the soles. Care should be taken to leave the wall extended beyond the sole, as the sole carries most of the weight while the wall acts as a shock absorber. Too deep cuts should not be made as the sole is very thin and if blood is drawn the feet may be tender for some time.

Ring Worm

Ring Worm is a disease which appears as a rule around the eyes and muscles and often spreads to other parts of the head, neck and body. The hair falls out, the skin crusts and is noticed. This crust should be removed and the sores washed with soap and water, then bathed with iodine.

Occasionally there are outbreaks of Black-leg in young cattle and in some districts this is a common disease.

Animals usually die within a few hours. High fever and loss of appetite followed by swelling usually on shoulders are symptoms. When pressure is put on the swelling there is an odd crackling sound.

Treatment seems to be hopeless after the animal has contracted the disease. Vaccination should be practised where there is danger of infection.

Animals dying from a disease should be burned or buried deeply with quick lime. In a number of cases have been reported in the province of hemorrhagic Septicemia. Outbreaks have occurred more frequently within the last few years. There is often a number of cattle go down and soon die before the farmer notices any difficulty. Any suspicious evidence of this disease on a farm should be reported immediately to a qualified veterinary. This is the quickest way of getting results.

How About The Calves?

There is a tendency on many farms, as a labour save to let dairy calves out on pasture in the year of their birth. There is no objection to letting calves out provided they are let out at the proper time and are comfortable within two weeks has been eliminated. A further change is the reduction from 30 days, of the period within which calves come from accredited herds or areas must be tested.

It is expected that this new order of the United States Government will apply to about 25,000 cattle to be exported this year.

Among the many excellent dairy records made in the province is that of the Jersey cow "Lilly Standard" bred and owned by Mr. Harold Steed of Charlottetown.

This cow recently completed a record of (8,590) lbs. of milk and (412) lbs. of fat, the average test for 4.8%. This is a yearly record for a 3-year-old and is very creditable.

This animal is sired by the "Grand Champion Brampton Lilly Standard" and is one of many daughters from this sire that is proving his value.

The importance of the sire in many lines of production has been proven from time to time.

If sires were retained in the herds until this proper value were ascertained there would be a great uplift in dairy production in many centres.

Trimming the Feet

Evidence of neglect is often noticed in the care of the dairy cows' feet. This is a matter that is as important as that of the horse. An animal cannot stand tight, walk freely, or hold the body weight if the feet are neglected and toes are allowed to grow too long. This forces the weight back on the heels and gives the animal sickle tocks when the bottom of the feet are not even, the weight is thrown on one side or the other.

"But come, thou goddess fair and free,

In heaven's eple'd Euphrosyne— Our man was not familiar with Milton, so he made the last line: "In heaven she crept and froze her knees!" to the great astonishment of the innocent rustics who "took the paper."

Up-Helly-Ah. Last January, a Yorkshire correspondent says that there was a startling display of aurora in the British Isles. Most people had never seen such a phenomenon and hundreds of telephone messages to the police asked where the five was. Near London the folk believed Windsor Castle was ablaze.

As a result of this electric display the sensitive receiving instruments of the telegraph cables gave out distorted messages. Here is an example, from Lerwick, in the Shetland Islands, describing the festival of Up-Helly-Ah which was just being celebrated. "Stalwarve kelting with metal her mels covering flaxen hair. Earing glittering treats o' mail, and carryg baith eaxes and shield e emneelsh with nose emblemma. Mar-S. marched thro' t' ceteets o' t' northern capt tonight to celebrate Shetlands aenual fire festival o' Up-Helly-Ah."

The Shetland folk make a night of it at this annual festival. For some weeks before they occupy themselves in building a "Viking Ship" to which lumber, labor, and combustibles are freely contributed.

The festival is advertised by proclamations mostly in comic vein, and often poking fun at public or popular men. On the great night bands of "Vickings" draw the ship to the water side where it is launched and set on fire, amid the cheers of the crowd. Nobody knows where the festival took its origin, but there is a strong Norse strain in the people of the Island, and burning ships was often the funeral pyre of a dead Norse hero in the times of the Vikings.

This column sounds a note of warning to fox ranchers using a limited diet such as 90 to 100 per cent fish with cereals, or a diet of cereals and milk. There are ranchers who claim that feeding of fish and no meat is quite satisfactory.

Their pups are doing well and they believe it will save a lot of money. However, we have the word of Dr. Green that serious outbreaks of disease have occurred in ranches in the United States which feed a large amount of fish with no B-vitamins in the diet. He may have made a mistake but it does not seem likely that such is the case and it would therefore be well to vary the diet somewhat to prevent trouble.

As a matter of fact, last Saturday morning I met a rancher who had read our notes that morning and with interest interested in the one referring to Dr. Green and his fish investigations.

He himself had some pups that were going wobbly on the legs and he just remembered that he had run out of yeast flakes a couple of weeks before and that was probably the cause of the trouble.

In various parts of the Province ranchers who are feeding a diet of cereals and milk exclusively are having trouble with their fox pups.

When pressure is put on the swelling there is an odd crackling sound. Treatment seems to be hopeless after the animal has contracted the disease. Vaccination should be practised where there is danger of infection.

Instead of shearing sheep Russian scientists give them a dose of medicine that makes them moult.

The Russians do not think this discovery will take the place of shearing, but they predict a cunning way to outfit nature. This concerns sheep with "mixed" wools. These have coarse and fine hairs mixed. The mixed wool varieties are not so high. The new wool medicine, thallium, will select the coarse stuff as a fairly valuable by-product. Thallium weakens the roots so that hair falls out, but it takes less Thallium to weaken fine hair roots than coarse ones.

Dr. John R. Mohler of the United States Department of Agriculture, predicts that within a year it will be possible to do with cattle in a manner that will save the country by airplane shipments of sperm and artificial breeding.

He told how in Idaho, a Government man sent a valuable sperm to Moscow. Idaho, three hundred miles away. Four healthy, well-pedigreed lambs resulted. Dr. Mohler reported that may be the way to do with artificial breeding record. "A veterinarian successfully transmitted cattle sperm by airplane from Bettsville, Maryland, to Argentina, South America, living calves being the result."

The above discoveries open up quite an interesting train of speculation for silver fox ranchers.

It is also possible to accomplish with silver foxes, and some bright rancher may take hold of these new discoveries and turn them to practical use in the breeding of silvers. For instance, it might be possible to get sperm of ringnecks from Ollie McNeill, at Kelliker, Saskatchewan, by airplane and artificially impregnate silver fox females on Prince Edward Island. Think it over, fellow ranchers, there are dozens of other ways this new discovery can be utilized.

The July London Fur Record says with reference to Manchester, the great trading city of Northern England: "In the warehouse of Mr. Foxes, who is in charge of the fur department of I. J. Cooper, Ltd., of Dale Street, informed me that at the moment foxes were their chief prospect for sale. They are the only thing worth mentioning," he said. Foxes continue to sell well especially in split silvers. Silvers are in continued demand with dyed Arctics as second favorites. Morris Huggan of Emerson Kings, assured me foxes, silvers and blues were still the best sellers.

"Mr. John Goodwin of Moseley Street, informed me that he was finding a demand for capes in dyed ermine, squirrel, mink and fish. Two pelts fetched over \$100 and good stuff, he declared, and ermines have been very popular. Silver foxes, of course, have continued to attract and natural blues have been good with us."

Late last week some very good returns were received by fur consignment houses in Summerside. Two pelts fetched over \$100 and numerous others from \$50 to \$80. There seems to be an appreciable demand for the better grade silvers in London. There is also quite a strengthening of American fur markets and more hopeful feeling in the fur trade all around. It is quite possible that if this improvement continues that 1933 will be the best year for us till 1938, even though larger quantities of poorer grade skins will be dumped on the market, as it is a sure bet that the fur farmers producing wool gloves will quit business.

There should be a regular rou-

When one who has been a hard hunter all his life asserts "I yield to no one as a conservationist," he is merely being totally ridiculous.

Such statements as are best of work, but it is the only way and no matter what the cost in time, trouble and money, must be carried out. Watch your foxes for treatment of earmites and if they show signs of shaking their heads or pawing their ears, use a good earmite lotion, repeating in eight days.

Fleas multiply very quickly in hot weather so evidence of scratching indicates fleas and they should be dealt with vigorously by powdering with pulxer or some good flea powder and thorough disinfecting on the floors with a strong-smelling disinfectant. Drinking pans should be cleaned out frequently and fresh water placed in them every day or twice daily if it is used up.

Tip or tail biting may be caused by an insect which enters the bait and is not noticed as a small black spot.

Sometimes pupae three weeks old will show that black spot and that is the proper time to treat by dipping in a solution of Church's linoleum of iodine or a good earmite solution. It is pretty difficult to deal with in adult foxes but dipping the tip in one of the solutions of Ial usually proves helpful. Tip biting as a rule is caused by a hot stomach, something similar to heartburn in a person. If we have heartburn we get some baking soda and water and neutralize the acid condition of the stomach. The same procedure can be used for the foxes, either add baking soda to your water mixture in solution or cow salts, which is sulphate of soda. The only difficulty with baking soda is that tomato juice in the feed mixture causes fermentation with the baking soda but not with the sulphate of soda. In mixtures either cow salts or baking soda for foxes, figure one teaspoonful for six foxes. Dissolve in hot water and mix with your food mixture, taking care that it is thoroughly distributed throughout. Two or three doses will usually stop the trouble.

But you will have to change your diet a bit. Cut down on fats or if you are feeding whole milk change to separator milk. If you are grinding green bone and it contains a lot of rich marrow you will have to swing to a variety of bone that has less marrow.

The Department of Agriculture has secured the services of G. C. Bishop, who has had three years training in the Ontario Veterinary College, to assist W. Fred Burke, government Fieldman, in a parasite survey of foxes in the Province. All Club members will have an opportunity to submit samples taken from foxes and these will be carefully examined by microscope to see if parasites such as hookworm or lungworm are present and a report given to the rancher. Various centres will be set up throughout the Province where this work will be carried out.

A new regulation of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association fixes September 15th as the final date for marketing foxes. This is one month later than recent years and it is a fine idea to extend the date. A still better move would be to permit the rancher to mark his foxes any time up to October 1st or even October 15th, because then he would be in a position to size up approximately the quality of his entire pup crop.

Internal parasites furnish one of the biggest problems that the fox rancher has to contend with. No matter how his foxes are cared in regard to sanitation, parasites will be present. Proper treatment is therefore necessary and the use of a good reliable fox capsule is indicated.

Muskkrat has taken on a new lease of life now that it is being dyed and blended to imitate best fur mink. Furriers say that it is startling to see how accurately the mink color is reproduced on muskrat fur. The dyed skins are worked into coat shells and then the fur is turned over to the washers, strippers and blenders who complete the job. This does not appear to us to be heartening news for mink ranchers.

Because of a kind deed which he did for his uncle forty years ago, George Robinson, a sixty-two-year-old farmer of Edmonton, Alberta, now owns a \$250,000 fox farm in Alaska and a \$50,000 ranch in Montana. Back in 1888 Mr. Robinson trustabst his uncle so that his latter could prosper in the Klondyke. He had not heard from him from that time until recently, when he received a letter from a law firm informing him of his uncle's death. Anent the above-mentioned fox farm, Robinson says there is an old adage—Never look a gift horse in the mouth. What do you think, neighbor foxmen? Is there a grave chance that that quarter of a million dollars' worth of foxes is being lost to the thinking to much smaller proportions?

KILLING FOR FUN

The postcard vote called for in our last issue (p 160) on the question of completely closing the season on waterfowl (ducks and geese), versus continuation of an annual open season, met with sufficient response, we think, to be fairly significant. The vote was 23 for a closed season of at least two years' duration; some were for a much longer closed period. Only one vote was received from any person vocationally identified with a state or federal agency engaged in game administration, although several votes were cast by persons who were free-lance naturalists; and for the most part these are field observers in the West. Speaking now for the one person whose initials are appended, the declaration of a prolonged closed season seems the only practicable method in sight of saving the rarer species from extinction—from joining the limbo of the Labrador duck. It is believed that the present factor of shooting is the dominant one against ducks; but if reduced nesting ground be the most important adverse factor, then, say, a 3-year season in the West, speaking now for the one person whose initials are appended, the declaration of a prolonged closed season seems the only practicable method in sight of saving the rarer species from extinction—from joining the limbo of the Labrador duck. It is believed that the present factor of shooting is the dominant one against ducks; but if reduced nesting ground be the most important adverse factor, then, say, a 3-year season in the West, speaking now for the one person whose initials are appended, the declaration of a prolonged closed season seems the only practicable method in sight of saving the rarer species from extinction—from joining the limbo of the Labrador duck. 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