

The Farm Front

This Department will be maintained by Provincial and Federal Departments of Agriculture, the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture and the Prince Edward Island Agricultural Supplies Committee. Its purpose is to assist in every possible way the expansion of farm production in this province in 1943 and thus contribute to the food requirements of our country in this time of need. Farmers are asked to forward sound practical suggestions that will assist this cause to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Charlottetown. Watch for these Departments appearing each week-end in our Island papers.

This Man Saved his Pigs

During one of the coldest nights this year, with a wind blowing over forty miles per hour one of our good hogmen had two sows farrow. Under these circumstances many litters would have been lost. Not so in this case. This man was on the job and as a result he saved twenty-six (26) healthy little suckers. How? Well, his sows were properly cared for having been fed a balanced ration which included an ample mineral supplement thus providing for strong healthy mother and little ones. But in addition, recognizing the danger of extremely unfavourable weather he transferred his charges to a chick brooder house, free of drafts, set up a pen in each end and established the chick brooder stove in the centre. The thermometer dropped to 15 degrees below and the wind howled without, but the little fellows coming into a cold, cold world didn't mind it at all. The mothers were quiet and contented. The little fellows were warm and ready for breakfast. The owner kept the brooder stove going and directed operations and by all working together in common purpose, all concerned are today prosperous and happy and doing a great job in filling our bacon quota.

This is a good lesson to every farmer. The quarters should be made comfortable for the sows, properly cared for and extra heat may be often secured if a brooder stove is not handy, by the use of a warm clothes bank, hot water bottle or bricks until little fellows have had their first meal. Nuff said.

Minerals for Pigs

The care of the brood sow is a most important phase of the daily duties at this time and the attention she receives now may decide the number of pigs and the profits the farmer may have on hogs at the end of the season. The brood sow to produce strong healthy young must have exercise, a carefully balanced ration and sufficient mineral supplement. Already reports are coming in that young litters have been low. It is the usual story something has gone wrong with the sow—she was dry when the pigs arrived—she turned on the pigs and killed them, or the little fellows were weak and could not stand the cold.

Last year between 20,000 and 30,000 little pigs were lost in this province in a similar way. Practically all losses are due to improper care. Sows that receive the necessary minerals and are carried under proper conditions will not usually rear in any of the ways. This is a year when increased production is vital. Out the losses caused by inefficient brood sow husbandry and our hogs will increase and farmers should endeavour to move their materials as early as possible to their farms and store under dry conditions to assure proper physical condition. Transportation problems and labour shortages all along the line point to the need for early deliveries and thus relieve the greater stress which occurs during the normal delivery period.

Certified Seed Potatoes
In preparing for this year's potato production there are two factors that are of prime importance in reaching increased yields. These are certified seed and fertilizer. Recent research indicates that substantially increased yields per acre have been secured from certified seed over and over again. The yield varies. Here are the actual estimates—Non certified potatoes across Canada yielded 122 bushels per acre. Certified seed yielded 275 bushels per acre. It may be seen from these figures that increased production is possible without an increase in fertilizer. While an increase in acreage is desirable in this province, the labour demands as a result may not permit of such an extension in area. The question of good seed, however, is entirely different and will not affect labour requirements.

The differences as noted above should be sufficient incentive for potato producers to locate a qualified supply of certified seed of known freedom from disease, and select the best tubers for the acreage it is intended to plant. There should be an ample supply of such seed in the province, but early action is necessary before all available supplies are exhausted as there will be a keen demand across Canada for the best seed available.

The second factor is that of fertilizer. An increase in the fertilizer application per acre should bring about a further per acre yield without little additional labour expenditure. Many prominent potato producers have substantially increased their applications within recent years, and have been convinced as a result of the advantages to be gained planting seed that was closer in the drill. They have secured increased yields, with less land, less labour, and less cost per bushel. In any event, in addition to the care that is necessary in the treatment of seed and the crop while growing, the two factors influencing production—Good Seed and increased applications of fertilizer per acre, are presented for consideration.

Shall I Sell?
Think well before letting your

HOGS
Monday (all day) — — George Dingwell, Souris
Tuesday until 1.30 P.M. — Justin Larkin, Five Houses
Tuesday until 2.30 P.M. Dingwell & Rossiter, Morell
Tuesday until 3.00 P.M. — Earl Jay, Mt. Stewart
Tuesday afternoon until 4 P.M. Frank L. McNally, Tracadie.

The above loading Hogs weekly until further notice.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

For some time there has been a controversy as to the relative value of raw or cooked cereal rations. Many breeders have told us they get better results from the raw. Now we are able to publish an authoritative article by Dr. C. K. Gunn which will set at rest all arguments. Thanks Doctor on behalf of our ranchers.

RAW OR COOKED CEREALS IN FOX RATIONS

Dominion Experimental Fox Ranch
 Dr. C. K. Gunn, Superintendent

An experiment to determine the effect of the same cereal when fed in the raw or cooked state was carried out at the Dominion Experimental Fox Station in Summerside, P.E.I.

The plan of the experiment was such that foxes were divided into comparable groups according to age, size and body weight, etc., with the comparative groups maintained under similar housing conditions.

The cereal mixture was composed of finely ground whole wheat, ground cornmeal and cracked corn mixed together. Half of each mixture was cooked and the remainder used in the raw state. (Composition of cereal mixture and different seasonal rations used are given below.)

Both the raw and cooked cereal were then incorporated into other identical fox-rations and fed to fox pups and adult animals throughout the 1941-42 season. In this way the effects of raw and cooked cereal were studied in the following different phases of fox ranching procedure:

1. Growth of young fox pups up to 10 weeks of age.
2. Growth of fox pups from 10 weeks of age to maturity.
3. Maintenance body weight of adult males and vixens.
4. The condition of foxes, quality of fur produced and felt prices.
5. Time of onset of oestrus in vixens.
6. Mating activity of male foxes.
7. Average litter production in vixens.
8. Comparative digestibility of raw and cooked cereal rations by fox pups and adult animals.

The weights of comparable groups of 65 fox pups between 9-10 weeks of age, which received raw and cooked cereals in their rations were studied. The average weights at this age showed a significant difference between the raw and cooked cereal groups with the greater weight of the raw cereal group. This difference was also reflected in the average weight of the vixens at the end of the season. The raw cereal group showed a more efficient absorption of its fats. The latter was shown by digestibility studies.

Growth curves of male and female groups of 35 fox pups, based on weekly body weight taken until the fox pups reached maturity, showed no real difference, however, between the raw and cooked cereal fed animals. Similar findings were also recorded with groups of 40 male and 40 female adult foxes receiving the same maintenance ration in which raw and cooked cereal was incorporated. To determine the effect of raw and cooked cereal upon fur quality and condition of foxes, comparable groups of adult foxes were allowed to fur out on an identical ration other than the raw and cooked state of its cereal content. The condition of the fur was evaluated, the fur quality of the comparative groups of foxes, the services of an outside expert grader were used to score the fur of the raw and cooked cereal groups. As a further check upon the scoring of the quality of fur of received raw and cooked cereals in their rations, the average prices received from the ranch stocks were as follows: 34 pelts from raw cereal rations brought \$20.43 as compared to an average return of \$19.77 for the remainder of the pelts from the raw cereal group.

It will not doubt be attractive, but producers should take into consideration the price for the finished 200 pound hog finishing foods under the present policy are not high, and every pound of these grains processed through your hogs, increases the fertility of your soil and reduces your costly commercial fertilizer requirements.

Taking all kinds of grains and feeds imported into the Island last year under a Free Foreign Policy would amount to about 1,000,000 bushels of grain. A large livestock population and increased quantities of feeds will eventually solve our fertility problems.

foxes which had received cooked cereal in their diet.

Studies to determine the relative effects that raw or cooked cereal rations might have upon bringing foxes into "heat" early or late in the breeding season gave the following results. Here again the raw or cooked cereal was incorporated into an otherwise identical breeding ration to the extent of 15 per cent of dry weight of the total ration. 26 vixens receiving cooked cereal in their ration came in "heat" on an average of 20.68 days after the first mating of the 1941 breeding season, where as 31 vixens receiving raw cereal came in "heat" on an average of 21.36 days from the same date of reckoning, thus showing no real difference in the time these controlled groups of vixens were in "heat."

Mating activity of the male foxes showed that some of the most active dogs were in the raw cereal ration group. Although this evidence here did not eliminate the contribution of other factors which might contribute to the production of sexually active males, nevertheless it demonstrated that raw cereals in a fox ration were not inimical to good mating activity on the part of the male foxes.

From groups of 18 and 19 vixens fed raw and cooked cereals in their rations throughout the summer, breeding and gestation seasons, an average vixen litter production of 4.83 and 4.84 respectively was obtained, showing no difference from the effects of the raw or cooked state of the cereal mixture used in the seasonal rations given below.

Digestibility studies carried out upon the growing pups and the summer adult maintenance ration, containing raw or cooked cereal in their composition, showed no very important differences. Here the other extract fraction or crude fat from the rations contained in the raw cereal mixture was significantly better digested. A difference in the digestibility of dry matter and organic matter was slightly better advantage, but this difference did not quite reach statistical significance.

COMPOSITION OF CEREAL FEED

(a) Summer Ration — Fed during June-August
Ground whole rice, 400 lbs. 50 per cent.
Ground whole wheat, 100 lbs. 12.5 per cent.
Ground whole oats, 100 lbs. 12.5 per cent.
Ground whole barley, 100 lbs. 12.5 per cent.
Ground cornmeal, 100 lbs. 12.5 per cent.

(b) Fall and Breeding Ration — Fed during September-March.
Ground whole rice, 200 lbs. 25 per cent.
Ground whole wheat, 400 lbs. 50 per cent.
Ground whole oats, 50 lbs. 6.25 per cent.
Ground whole barley, 90 lbs. 6.25 per cent.
Ground cornmeal, 100 lbs. 12.5 per cent.

COMPOSITION OF SEASONAL RATIONS

1. Growing Ration for Pups:
50 lbs. horsemeat, meat offal, beef or pork
12-12 lbs. ocean white fish
25 lbs. fresh cow milk
25 lbs. cereal mixture
5 lbs. ground green bone
6-1-2 lbs. vegetables (ground green grass)

2. Late Fall and Breeding Ration:
35 lbs. horsemeat or pork and rabbit
25 lbs. tripe, meat offal, canned chicken and fish
1 lb. liver or brains
2 lbs. cereal mixture
8 lbs. wheat germ, 2 lbs. dried brewers' yeast, reduce these ingredients 50 per cent if commercial cereal is used.

3. Gestation Period Ration:
20 lbs. horsemeat, or beef and rabbit
15 lbs. tripe, meat offal, canned chicken

4. Litter Minerals (green bone meal 9 parts, salt 1 part).
1 lb. finely ground vegetables, green and sprouted grains.
Total 100 lbs.

The amount of feed found satisfactory was from 10-12 oz. dry weight daily in one meal. These amounts, however, vary with male and female foxes as well as with the amount of exercise the foxes take. Some animals which tend to put on weight readily were given less than the above quantities while others required more feed to remain in good condition.

5. Gestation Period Ration:
20 lbs. horsemeat, or beef and rabbit
15 lbs. tripe, meat offal, canned chicken

6. Litter Minerals (green bone meal 9 parts, salt 1 part).
1 lb. finely ground vegetables, green and sprouted grains.
Total 100 lbs.

Here 8-12 ounces (dry weight) were fed daily in one meal. The amount was varied so that the vixens according to age and condition did not become too fat and



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Red Cross help to shipwrecked sailors is essential, thoughtful, immediate. Homeless war orphans—our own kin and those of our allies—sick and starving men and women in many lands—millions in Russia, Greece and China and other peoples of the United Nations—need more food, medicine and comforts from the Red Cross.

The need is world-wide; this year the cost will be greater than ever. The work must go on. Obey the dictates of your heart; open wide your purse and be generous. Remember, you are the Red Cross!

RED CROSS OFFICE

62 Prince St. Telephone 210

CANADIAN RED CROSS

GIVE—human suffering is greater than ever

1 lb. cod liver oil.
One feed daily—all that the pups can nicely clean up.
2. Summer Maintenance Ration for Adult Foxes:
35 lbs. horsemeat, beef, meat offal or
70 lbs. ocean white fish
30 lbs. cereal mixture
10 lbs. vegetables.
Feed 10 oz. (wet weight) daily in one feed.

3. Late Fall and Breeding Ration:
35 lbs. horsemeat or pork and rabbit
25 lbs. tripe, meat offal, canned chicken and fish
1 lb. liver or brains
2 lbs. cereal mixture
8 lbs. wheat germ, 2 lbs. dried brewers' yeast, reduce these ingredients 50 per cent if commercial cereal is used.

15 lbs. fish (not caplin or mackerel). If fish is not available replace with offal meats.
5 lbs. liver or brains (on alternate days).
5 lbs. ground green bone
5 lbs. cereal mixture
5 lbs. wheat germ, 4 lbs. wheat bran, 1 lb. linseed meal, 5 lbs. brewers' yeast, 1 lb. iodized salt, where a commercial cereal is used, reduce these quantities by 50 per cent.
1 lb. cod liver oil
5 lbs. finely ground vegetables, greens, sprouted grains and canned tomatoes.
Total 100 lbs.

were always keen for their feed. Pig vixens usually require more feed than adult females.

Smelts Wanted

Buying daily, Fresh Smelts, Tom Cods. Highest Prices Paid, Prompt Returns. Ship Express to Summerside, P.E.I. JENKINS BROS., Summerside, P.E.I.

OUT OUR WAY

YOUR SISTER ASKED ME IF SHE COULD BORROW MY IRON AND IRONING BOARD THIS AFTERNOON, SO I TOLD HER TO TAKE IT OVER—IT WON'T HURT YOU TO DO HER A FAVOR JUST THIS ONCE!

JUST THIS ONCE? WHY FIRST I TOOK OVER A COUPLE EGGS—THEN IT WAS A SACK OF FLOUR AND A BASKET OF POTATOES—NEXT SHE'LL BE WANTING THE PIANO OR THE WASHING MACHINE! FROM NOW ON TELL HER I'VE GONE IN TO THE MOVING BUSINESS AND SHE'LL HAVE TO PAY ME THE REGULAR HALL'IN' RATES!

By J. R. WILLIAMS

THE GO-BETWEEN

OUR BOARDING HOUSE WITH MAJOR HOOP!

HERE'S YOUR PANTS UNCLE BULG!—GAM COULDN'T FIND A PATCH TO MATCH! HE SAID THE CLOTH WAS DECAYED FROM OLD AGE—ALSO THAT YOU OWNED HIM \$3.45 FOR REMODELING THE SAME SUIT IN 1931, SO YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO PARTICULAR!

GREAT CAESAR! AN HOUR LATE FOR MY ACT WITH THE MAGICIAN—THE SPUIT! THAT MEANS NO \$20!—EGAD, MY TROUSERS! MY TAXES!

WHY NOT KEEP THE PANTS, MAJOR, AND SEND THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT YOUR SHIRT?

WAGGE, DARLIN—IS GO OUT FOR A LITTLE WHILE!

NO!!

BRINGING UP FATHER

WISSER YOUR PICTURE—NOW I'VE GOT IT FULL OF DUST.

DAUGHTER—DO YOU THINK WAGGE WILL GO OUT?

WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER RIGHT NOW? SHE'S PLAYING ONE OF HER SENTIMENTAL SONGS—SHE'LL BE IN A GOOD MOOD.

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P. E. I. AGENTS
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