



Alan MacIsaac stands on the feed trough at his father's feedlot at Mermaid, as some 40 steers enjoy a noon-time meal. These steers, and fifty others, were fed through the late fall and the winter and early spring on a ration of corn silage to which chicken litter was added for

its protein content, along with several other ingredients. Alan is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo P. McIsaac. The estimated feed cost for the steers shown here was 32 cents per day. The animals were sold a few days after the picture was taken.

## Corn silo feedlots interest expanding

A combination of steer feedlots and corn silos appear to be a development of the immediate future. The present feeling certainly points that way with deep interest stirred early this year by an Ontario man speaking here, revealing itself in enquiries as to cost and availability of necessary construction materials several weeks later.

One corn silo-steer feed lot arrangement is located on the farm of Leo P. McIsaac, Mermaid, not far from Charlottetown. He is the president of the P.E.I. Beef Producers Association that has been sparking efforts toward more and better quality production, and more recently towards more effective marketing.

There are several methods of feeding corn silage that are new. One is to mix with it a quantity of chicken litter that will bring the protein content up to the required concentration. The other is to mix urea with the silage.

Mr. McIsaac has been using the chicken litter—it's available from his own laying-house—through the winter months. He has got really good results. He has fed 90 head of steers through the winter months at an average cost of 32 cents per day, he reports, and that includes an estimated cost of the corn silage with the supplementary feed added to balance it.

## Barley growing is recommended

**By D.K. SMITH**  
P.E.I. Dept. of Agriculture  
More consideration should be given to barley production. At present there are about 18,000 acres of barley produced on Prince Edward Island. Although this might seem like a large acreage, many Island farmers could be producing more barley and other grain crops.



D. K. SMITH

By producing all of our home grown feed, the feed costs will be less and better use will be made of the land. There are several reasons why the barley acreage has increased. Animals can digest and use a larger percentage of the barley than either oats or mixed grain. The total digestible nutrients of oats is about 70 per cent. This is mainly due to the fact that oat kernels have 25 to 30 per cent hull as compared to approximately 12 per cent hull in barley.

Acreage yields for the last three years in Prince Edward Island shows that barley produced more pounds of TDN than oats.

In order to produce the same number of pounds of TDN per acre from oats, as is being produced from barley, the yields would have to be increased considerably.

For example, a 70 bushel oat crop is necessary to equal the feed value of a 45 bushel barley crop.

The average yield of Prince Edward Island barley is about 45 bushels per acre. This yield per acre can be increased easily by using better cropping practices.

Early seeding is a must. Bar-

ley should be seeded as soon as the land is ready. A thumb rule is that for each day seeding is delayed, the crop will decrease by about one bushel per acre.

Seed treatment is very important and costs only about 25 cents per acre.

### SOME POINTERS

Well drained land is the first consideration when selecting a field for barley. It must be well cultivated. Barley should not be grown two years in succession in the same field because of the danger of root rot and the barley joint worm.

The successful growing of barley will depend on the proper fertility. To obtain high yields it

is also necessary that the fields be well limed. A soil test should be taken to determine proper lime and fertilizer rates. As a general rule, approximately 400-500 pounds of 6-12-12 fertilizer should be applied per acre.

Spraying for weeds is also important.

The recommended varieties include Herta and Charlottetown 80. The Herta variety is relatively new compared with Charlottetown 80. It is generally higher yielding has a shorter and stronger straw than Charlottetown 80.

### TEST SEED

If home grown grain is to be used or sold for seed—it should be tested for germination and purity. Due to the fact that the grain samples have to be sent to Ottawa, this should be done immediately and you are asked to contact the Department of Agriculture for the address, costs and amounts of seed to send. Your home grown seed should be cleaned up to at least Canada No. 1.

It is important that good seed be used—seed with a known germination percentage and a minimum number of weed seed. Canada No. 1 seed for example has a minimum germination of 85 per cent and maximum number of 15 weed seeds per pound. Canada No. 2 has minimum germination of 75 per cent and maximum number of 50 weed seeds. The best seed is Canada Registered No. 1 and No. 2 then Canada Certified No. 1 and No. 2. Then just plain Canada No. 1 and No. 2.

In each class of seed the germination rates are guaranteed minimum of 85 and 75 per cent but total weed seeds will range all the way from three to 50 per pound and total other seeds from 0 to 150 per pound. Sow nothing less than Canada No. 1.

## Use improved stock strawberry plants

**By J.D. KILPATRICK**

Are you satisfied with the strawberry plants you are now growing? Do you find that your yields keep falling off, year after year? Your problem may be due to the fact that your plants are infected with virus diseases. Not all virus diseases can be seen—in fact, most of them

show no symptoms at all—except reduced yields.

Why not use Improved Stock Strawberry Plants? These plants are produced under a program which has been developed by the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture. This program was started to assure a supply of high quality disease-free strawberry plants with a minimum of virus infection.

In this program the Genetics and Plant Breeding Research Institute at Ottawa maintains a supply of virus-free plants, as determined by indexing. Each spring the Experimental Farm receives a number of these plants which are grown in fumigated soil in a screen house. In addition to being grown in a screen house further insect control is attempted by a complete dusting program.

The following year these elite

go to work on it, and this action breaks it down into protein, along with several other materials.

### CUD CHEWERS ONLY

This only happens when the urea is fed to an animal that chews its cud. It is of no use to other livestock for that reason.

There is urgent warning, it was explained. And this was emphasized strongly by Dr. D.W.G. MacAskill, Cyanamid of Canada Ltd. of Toronto in his talk to the P.E.I. Beef Producers Association here.

It is an unmistakably urgent warning that is vitally important to anyone using urea as a livestock feed protein supplement. Unless the urea is mixed evenly into the feed—20 pounds will balance a ton of corn—it can be very dangerous and can poison the animals that eat it, it was explained.

If the powerful urea is not evenly distributed there is danger of too much of it being concentrated in one small area, so that it can be eaten in almost pure form by the animals. And that can produce poisoning, possibly death.

This warning was sounded. It was explained, for the benefit of those who may be thinking of purchasing urea, and hand mixing it into the feed. There is no danger when the urea is properly mixed, it was emphasized. But improper mixing is just asking for trouble, it was emphasized even more strongly.



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stock plants are grown by one cooperating Nurseryman for further propagation. Elite stock is obtained each year from the Experimental Farm.

This elite stock is grown under isolation of at least 3,000 feet from other strawberry plantings. A rigid disease and insect control program is followed. The resulting stock is called Foundation Stock and is sold the following year to a limited number of Cooperating Commercial Nurserymen arranged for by the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture.

Commercial Nurserymen must obtain Foundation stock each year. This stock is grown under isolation of at least 500 feet from other strawberry

plantings. Here again a disease and insect control program is followed.

Field inspections are made by representatives of both Departments of Agriculture and upon approval by the inspectors a certificate is issued to the grower who is also supplied with tags issued by the P. E. I. Department of Agriculture stating that the plants to which the tags are attached were grown according to specifications and are known as Improved Stock Strawberry Plants.

**DISEASE-FREE PLANTS**  
The importance of planting

disease-free plants can not be over-emphasized. Following this a spray or dust program to keep them disease-free will undoubtedly pay dividends.

These plants may be obtained from the following nurserymen: Louis Jenkins—Lower Montague Parker Jewell—York George Wright—Sherwood

The following varieties are available: Early—Cavalier Mid-Season—Redcoat, Grenadier, Acadia Late—Sparkle.

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