

# MODERN FARMER

## Limestone Will Increase Your Farm Income

(Experimental Farm News)

The problem of soil acidity is a common one to many soils of Eastern Canada and particularly those of the Maritime Provinces. Where this condition persists the farmer has been faced with small yields and the inability to realize economic returns in many instances. Also it has been impossible to grow certain crops such as legumes.

Limestone has received widespread use as a soil amendment to counteract acidity. In addition to correcting the acidity factor, limestone supplies the soil with calcium (or magnesium in the case of dolomitic limestone) improves soil structure, promotes bacterial activity and increases the efficiency of applied fertilizers.

Yield increases from experimental trials conducted at the Dominion Experimental Station at Fredericton, N. B., show the relative value of limestone, says A. A. MacLean. Yields of clover and timothy have increased 53 per cent and 19 per cent with yields of limed plots being 1.37 and 1.04 tons per acre respectively. In addition, this evidence is substantiated by experimental data from limestone applications on various soil types in New Brunswick. Yield increases of clover have been as high as 73 per cent in which case the limed plots gave an average yield of 20 tons per acre. All these results are for a two ton per acre application of limestone. This information clearly indicates the economic returns from the use of limestone.

Today liming of the soil is accepted as a fundamental and necessary practice by many farmers, while there are others who as yet have not accepted this viewpoint. Consequently, the limestone consumption is considerably below the amount required to bring our soils to a satisfactory lime content and maintain them at that level. It has been tentatively estimated that more than 200,000 tons annually would be required to achieve this goal. This is in contrast to the 75,411 tons applied in 1948 and 68,122 tons in 1949.

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## TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

At the Edmonton Fur Auction Sales, Ltd., held February 15th, Silverfox mink was 72 per cent sold and wild mink all sold at unchanged prices compared with December 20th. Standard and Starlight ranch mink was 32 per cent sold at a 10 per cent decline. Wild mink had a high of \$15; standard and Starlight mink, large and extra large brought \$15 to \$16; medium and small \$9.50 to \$12; twos and threes \$4.50 to \$8; Silverfox mink average size clear, \$15 to \$16.50; catty and off-color \$11, to \$14.50. Muskrat was 90 per cent sold at a decline of 5 per cent; northern Alberta large and extra large brought \$1.30 to \$1.72; medium part small .35 cents to \$1.30. Note: All muskrat prices are suffering because of large importations of Russian muskrat.

Most auction companies in the United States and Canada were quick to follow the lead set Tuesday, February 14th, by the New York Auction Company and Sampson, Fraser and Huth, Inc., in calling off standard ranch mink sales during March. Some few auction houses are proceeding with March mink dates where these sales had originally been scheduled for some time in February. In Montreal some date changes have been decided but there are no alterations in selling plans of any of the three Montreal fur auction houses. The Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company (Quebec) Ltd. will postpone their sale which was scheduled for March 6th to March 13th. Montreal Fur Sales Canada, Ltd., are not holding any February sale but they are selling mink daily by private sale. A general sale will be held in March at which foxes especially will be offered. Hudson's Bay Company general sale of furs will open February 27th and will proceed as planned with standard ranch mink set to follow wild mink on the second day of the sale. On March 2nd 10,000 silver fox and mutation fox will be offered.

A great man in the fur trade has passed on. Last week Victor Revillon, head of the International fur house of Revillon Freres of Paris, London and New York, died in Paris aged eighty years. He was the grandson and namesake of the founder of the world famous firm. Revillon Freres was established in 1783 in Paris and they were large factors in the fur trade in Canada, operating posts in opposition to the Hudson's Bay Company in northernmost parts and western parts of Canada. They also in contrast to the H. B. C. had magnificent stores in Paris, London and New York. Later a deal was made with the H. B. C. and the trading posts were taken over, and to the best of our recollection the H. B. C. also had an interest in retail stores, or at least they were quite sympathetic towards them because we remember when we were buying silver fox pelts for the Hudson's Bay Company quite a number of them we believe, went to Revillon Freres. It was a grand old concern handed down for generations and always having a reputation for honesty in business.

Fromm Bros. who were for many years - and probably are yet - the largest breeders of silver fox in the world with a turnout of 45,000 pelts in 1944, are now largely engaged in mink farming. Last season they cut down their breeding foxes to some 2,400 or 2,500 and we understand they are concentrating on pastel types and not paying so much attention to silvers. Just what the pastels are like we cannot say but evidently they have faith in their being attractive as they are going almost all out in that line.

The National Chinchilla Breeders Association held a field day in Montreal recently and a broadcast of it was given over Canadian stations. The claims made were very far from correct, the idea they gave was that chinchilla was a tremendously expensive fur and that there were very few pelts available and it would be quite a while before sufficient would be on the market to make them available for sale. The National Fur News, published in Denver, Colorado, in an editorial which appeared in their February issue states: "It has come to the point where chinchilla breeders are going to be forced to market some of their pelts. If two or three thousand pelts were put up at auction like the ones that went into the coat made by Willard George for Reginald Chapman and which was on display at the California and Denver shows, the breeders of those pelts might not fare so badly. It was a beautiful garment, exquisitely styled, pelts meticulously matched and quite slenderizing."

"We say that some pelts will have to be sold soon because there are reportedly 60,000 breeding animals in the United States today. If half of them are females, and if two babies a year, that would mean 60,000 offspring for 1950 or 120,000 breeding animals by the end of the year. On the same basis, that would mean 240,000 by the end of 1951, with 490,000 the next year, and so on. Even though breeding stock sales in the chinchilla industry have been fantastic, we cannot imagine that any sales effort can keep pace with this kind of production. So some pelts will have to be sold soon. The National Chinchilla Breeders Association is cognizant of this fact and recently issued an elaborate brochure with several sections devoted to plans for the setting up of quality standards for breeding stock and a well organized cooperative for orderly marketing."

"Now back to the coat which was a distinct inspiration to the writer. Beautiful chinchilla pelts were sold soon. They are beautiful they will bring a profit to the producer and, at that point, an industry has been born. No fur raised on a ranch can be classified as an industry until it is being produced on a pelt basis. Why wait too much longer to put Chinchilla pelts on the market? Why not select 3,000 top pelts now for coats under a carefully planned advertising and sales program. Why not take another 3,000 lesser quality pelts and let them be used on fur trimmed garments, again under careful direction and with proper sales, merchandising and advertising build-up?"

**SWISS EGG IMPORTS**  
During the first three months of 1949, Switzerland imported 7.7 million dozen eggs against 7.7 million dozen during the corresponding period of 1948. The main exporting countries were the Netherlands, Sweden, Poland, Bulgaria and France.

**JUNIOR FARM CLUBS**  
According to the Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Club Work, total enrolment in 1949 showed 50,000 members in 3,789 clubs, compared with an enrolment of 21,142 members and 1,216 clubs in 1931 when the Council was formed.

**T. B. PLAN IN U. K.**  
The Minister of Agriculture has announced that the plan for the eradication of tuberculosis in cattle in Great Britain will begin on October 1, 1950. The announcement was not generally expected as it was thought that under the Government's retrenchment policy, the plan would be shelved for some time. It is expected that the plan will go into operation in areas where at least 25 per cent of the total, such as Wales and southwest Scotland.

## Farm Forum Entertains

A social affair was held in Central Bedoune Hall on Feb. 20th when the members of Middleton Farm Forum entertained the members of Fernwood, Lower Bedoune, Lower Freetown and Searletown Farm Forums together with a number of citizens of Central Bedoune.

Arrangements had been made for the demonstration of a projector, and a number of educational and entertaining films were shown. A radio was also installed and the Farm Forum program was heard. Mr. William Cairns acted as chairman, as the topic of Soil Conservation was discussed. The main business of the evening was the appointment of committees from the several school districts represented to endeavor to raise funds for the purchase of a projector for this locality; the following persons were named for Middleton. Wilfred Craig, Melbourne Wright, and Mrs. Bert Hamill; Searletown, Kenneth Mutart, Walter Wright, and Mrs. Tinson Newson; for Fernwood, Sherrill MacFarlane, Arthur Sherrill, and Mrs. Chas. MacFarlane; Lower Bedoune, Hudson Jeffery, Robert Waugh and Mrs. Douglas Affleck; Central Bedoune, T. J. Inman, Leith Schurman, and Mrs. Edith Wright; Bedoune, Arthur Murray, Irving Tombs and Miss Alberta Noonan; Lower Freetown, William Cairns, Walter Bernard, and Mrs. Allison Proffitt; North Bedoune, Lorne MacCaull, Mrs. Clark Baker and Mrs. Brewster Waugh. Another meeting will be held soon for the committees to report their success or failure in the case of Middleton. The Middleton ladies enjoyed a generous lunch to the gathering, which was acknowledged by a hearty vote of thanks.

## Growing Carrots For Profit

(Experimental Farms News)

Carrots which were introduced into this country during the early colonization period, have long been an important vegetable. In recent years increased production has been increased because of the recognition of their vitamin value. Where a few simple cultural rules are followed, carrots should prove to be a profitable crop, says E. W. Chipman of the Dominion Experimental Station, Kentville, N. S.

Soil for carrots should be deep and loose, particularly for the long-rooted types. All classes of soil, except the clays are satisfactory. Excellent roots may be grown in muck. Carrots will grow well over a wide range of soil reaction but a pH value of 6.0 - 6.5 is considered ideal.

A good state of soil fertility is a necessity for a successful crop. Manure, when used, should be well rotted, as coarse manure is likely to cause prongy irregular roots, especially if applied immediately before the crop is sown. Fertilizer requirements would be 1000 pounds of 5-10-10 with manure and up to 1500 pounds of seed, plus 1000 pounds of 5-10-10 fertilizer. A desirable amount of available nitrogen is desirable as a side dressing (especially in rainy weather for the late fall crop).

Planting commences in the early spring when freezing danger is past and may be carried on until July. Row spacing of 16-24 inches, suitable for a wheel hoe, would require three pounds of seed and a 30-36 inch spacing for horse cultivation. Two pounds of seed, plus the germination of the seed is known to be good, a light seeding will make thinning unnecessary.

Carrot plants are very delicate and grow slowly at first. Where cultivation is necessary in the heavier types of soil, a wheel hoe can be used to advantage. In the loose types of soil, cultivation would not be necessary. Weeds may be controlled by the use of oil sprays at the rate of 50-80 gallons per acre (overall spray) or 20-40 gallons (row) only applied when the seedlings have from 1-4 true leaves.

When carrots are one inch or more in diameter they may be pulled and tied in bunches or 4-12 roots depending on size. Other harvesting methods are to short trim, 4 inch or less of top, or to completely remove the top. Roots from these two latter methods are sold by weight.

Where storage is necessary a moderately moist atmosphere is desirable with a temperature of 32 degrees - 34 degrees Fahrenheit. Since the sugars are largely stored in the outer tissues of the carrot, those with a relatively small core so-called coreless types, are therefore of highest quality.

Imperator with long cylindrical roots and a strong top and Nantes with a cylindrical blunt end and weak top are highest in quality. These varieties are gradually replacing Chantenay and Danvers Half Long. Insects - Carrot Rust Fly burrows into the root and in severe cases the foliage becomes rusty. The most satisfactory control measure is a late planting after June 15, to escape the first brood.

Diseases - The following diseases are most prevalent in carrots. Back Rot (Alternaria radicina) may be controlled by the standard seed disinfectants. Soft Rot (Sclerotinia sclerotiorum) occurs in storage. One control measure is to avoid planting carrots on land previously cropped with beans, Yellows (Caulimorphus), where this

## - NEWSY NOTES -

### THE VESPER SPARROW.

The Vesper Sparrow is fairly abundant everywhere, and it is a singular circumstance that Bain does not mention it in his "Birds of P. E. I.", 1891. Are we to suppose that this pleasing songster did not visit the Island in those days? It was listed in the 1915 Bulletin, and the late Mr. Ludlow Jenkins marked it as "common and increasing" in 1934. I examined and described a dead Vesper Sparrow, Sept. 4, 1944.

This bird gets its name from its habit of "tuning up" as evening closes in. "Song, a clear ascending series of whistles" - Reed's Guide. It is otherwise known as the "Eg-winged Sparrow," or the "Grass Finch." The white outer feathers of the tail, best seen in flight, are the surest marks of distinction.

As for diet the birds and their nestlings consume large numbers of insects; while later they turn to a diet of weed seeds. They are thus exceedingly valuable to the farmer. There are, however, two great hindrances to their increase: first, they make their nests in meadows and fields, where the eggs and young are easy prey for predators; and second, since the increase of poison-sprays, caterpillars must often be poisonous to the nestlings as well as to the old birds.

The Vesper Sparrow Breeds from our latitude south to N. Carolina, and Nebraska and winters to the Gulf Coast and Texas. Eastern Vesper Sparrow. AOU, 540. "Common and increasing" (1934). Upper parts brownish gray streaked with black and a little buff; eye-ring white; wings with bright chestnut shoulders, and two dull wing-bars; tail with white outer feathers, next one to these broadly tipped white, the rest dusky. Breast and sides streaked black and buff; underparts white. Length of adult about 6.15 inches.

### Ten Years Ago.

If you have access to the Bulletin of May 4, 1940, you will find these words in Newsy Notes: "(1) The agriculturist produces one-half of the total raw material of the nation. (2) He produces one-quarter of the total commodity production. (3) He is responsible for one-third of Canadian exports. (4) Farmers and their families, I presume, comprise one-third of the population of Canada. (5) But collectively they get only one-twelfth of the national income."

These figures were given in a public address at Moncton, N. B., and no politician or statistician attempted to controvert them. The paragraphs 4 and 5, can be illustrated more pointedly thus: 33 farmers and 67 industrialists share \$1.20 each per paragraph. The farmers get \$1.00 among them; the industrialists get \$1.00. Therefore out of \$1.20 each farmer gets \$3, while each industrialist gets well on to \$17. (Fractions neglected).

Therefore again, where one takes home \$68, the other takes home \$12. And remember this had been going on for 20 years. Why? Well, one school of thought lambasted the poor farmer for his inefficient production. When he did so he was told of over production (as an excuse for offering him low prices). The farmers could not see the logic of this, and protests whereupon they were dubbed "Jeremiahs" (author of "Lamentations") by a prominent business man who dealt in farm products.

Incompetency, among Island farmers, as I saw them, did not exceed 4 or 5 percent, which is about the average of mistakes in any trade or profession. To quote The Guardian once more - "The fact that agriculture is depressed is not due to any fault in the production line, but to the fact that farmers 'will not stand together,' as one of our legislators tells us. Real co-operation - 'Each for all, and all for each' - is the remedy we need" (End of Quote). Now we have at last seen the light, let us heartily support all the organizations which make for our betterment. This is our testing time.

### The Sky in March.

In March says the Naturalist's Calendar, the appearance of the sky changes; the gray blanket of storm-clouds disappears, and cumulus clouds by day tell us that Spring is near. Before a thaw stratus clouds streak the horizon. The Sun is getting power, and as it crosses the line of mistlets in any trade or profession. To quote The Guardian once more - "The fact that agriculture is depressed is not due to any fault in the production line, but to the fact that farmers 'will not stand together,' as one of our legislators tells us. Real co-operation - 'Each for all, and all for each' - is the remedy we need" (End of Quote). Now we have at last seen the light, let us heartily support all the organizations which make for our betterment. This is our testing time.

Here are a few astronomical items for March: March 4, Full Moon. Mar. 6, Moon in Perigee, distant from the Earth 226,400 miles; also Moon in conjunction with Mars very early, (on 30m), Look for Venus, now at its brightest. Moon in Last Quarter, Mar. 10. Moon in conjunction with Venus (mid-day) Mar. 14. March 15, Moon in conjunction with Jupiter; (usually accompanied by rain or snow). New Moon, Mar. 16. Spring begins March 20. March 22, Moon in Apogee, distant 262,100 miles; Mar. 26, Moon in First Qr., Mars nearest Earth, but still sixty million miles away. Virus disease is being spread by the leaf hopper in July and August, spray with DDT.

### Moon in conjunction with Saturn March 31.

### More about Orion.

As related, Orion is one of the most striking groups in the southern sky this month. Many legends have gathered about this constellation, and it is now impossible to separate the truth from the false. Orion, says one account, was a famous hunter of gigantic mould, who aspired to the hand of Merope, the daughter of Oenopion, King of Chios. The King did not approve of the match, and kept putting off his decision till at last Orion, as might be expected in olden times, carried off the lady. The angry King, with the help of Bacchus, put out Orion's eyes. (Perhaps there is something figurative here: Bacchus is the god in many cases of blindness.) However, the hero, in response to an oracle's advice, expelled his eye-balls to the rays of the rising sun, and so regained his sight. The account of his subsequent life, and of his death, are conflicting. The one most favored is that Diana became enamoured of Orion, and that Apollo, her brother, was greatly chagrined at her favoring a mere mortal. Since she was the goddess of hunting and an expert with the bow, Apollo challenged her to hit a distant object floating in the sea. It was the head of Orion, who was enjoying a swim, but the arrow pierced it with a fatal wound. After his death Orion was placed among the stars.

Now for a few astronomical facts. The star marking Orion's right shoulder, as he faces us, bears the name "Betelgeuze", meaning "the armpit of the Central One." This star is irregularly variable in brightness. The left shoulder is marked by the star Bellatrix, so named by the warlike Romans. The star in Orion's right hip is unnamed, apparently. Rigel is the corresponding star in the left hip; astronomers say it is 18,000 times as bright as the sun.

The three stars forming Orion's belt, were traditionally called "The Three Kings," or the "Belt Wand," (a cloth-measure). It is the sword hanging from them which merits most attention. In the middle of it, and visible to the naked eye, is a "faint hazy patch," is the Great Nebula or Orion, most beautiful of all nebulae. Almost any astronomical work will show photographs of this mass of glowing gas; but with a good field-glass you may see much of its detail yourself.

### Local Publications.

With some of the newer varieties of potatoes it is necessary to kill the vines earlier to avoid losses in storage, and for other reasons. There has just come to hand a tractate "Potato Vine Killing in P. E. I.," an authoritative guide to the process by Prof. L. C. Calbeck, Assistant Plant Pathologist at the Experimental Station. The farmer who secures this booklet is forewarned against possible discoloration of tubers and so on.

"Our Island Story" by Miss Carmel Holman of Summerside, is a most interesting little book, being a collection of historical lectures broadcast over OJOY in the winter of 1948. Such a choice collection of facts, presented in such entertaining manner, makes "Our Island Story" a necessity in every home library, and a welcome reminder to every Islander abroad.

I have long intended to refer to "Historic Bedoune," written by Mr. George A. Leard, and published by the Bedoune United Church. This remarkable work may truly be termed a labor of love, and must have taken an immense amount of research. There is a series of portraits of the Superintendents of the Bedoune Circuit, beginning with the Rev. William Black (1755-1825) and ending with the Rev. W. Burton Crowe, M. A., (1947). This is a fine series of full-page portraits, and is followed by two portraits of groups of officials, connected with the Church. My attention was especially attracted to the extensive index which will be a valuable guide to future genealogists and antiquaries, containing, as it does, references to everybody, past and present, in the history of Bedoune.

### ARGENTINE FRUIT

Early in 1948 the United States placed an embargo on Argentine fruit because of the Mediterranean fruit fly, but later arrangements were made for pre-cooling in a manner satisfactory to U. S. authorities. The situation drew the attention of the Argentine Government to the need for protecting their own fruit industry against similar infestation. New regulations regarding the entry of fresh fruit into Argentina have just been issued.

## ANNUAL MEETING P.E.I. POTATO GROWERS ASSOCIATION

CANADIAN LEGION HALL 57 Grafton Street, Charlottetown

THURSDAY, MARCH 2nd, 1950

2:30 P. M. and 7:30 P. M.

**AFTERNOON SESSION—2:30 P. M.** The Annual Meeting of the P. E. I. Potato Growers' Association for transaction of general business will be held. All debenture holders are entitled to vote. Action will be taken on reorganization of the Association if the membership so directs. New marketing legislation will be discussed.

**EVENING SESSION—7:30 P. M.** Educational Meeting.

1. Special films will be shown.
2. Reports from Inspection, Entomological and Pathological Service.
3. Discussion on Seed Potato Production and market prospects led by Mr. J. W. Scannell, Assistant Chief, Division of Plant Production (Seed Potato Certification Service), Ottawa.
4. General discussion of Potato marketing problems—price support, etc.

Both meetings should be of great interest to Potato Growers.

By order of Directors.

## P.E.I. POTATO GROWERS ASSOCIATION

### Plan Grounds To Suit Location

As each individual property suggests a different style of landscaping, only general rules for ornamental planting can be made. It must be left to the individual to assess the possibilities for beautification—and the defects—and emphasize the former and screen the latter by the proper use of shrubs and trees.

The type of architecture of the house, the position and character of trees and shrubs already on the grounds, the slope and general characteristics of the land and any natural element of beauty must be taken into consideration, when working out the overall plan, says W. T. Blair, in charge of ornamental gardening, Dominion Experimental Station, Kentville, N. S.

Certain views within the grounds, such as boundary fences, garage and back areas, as well as views outside of the grounds of the same nature, should be either wholly or partly screened by ornamental plantings. On the other hand, pleasing vistas outside the grounds should be preserved in such a manner that they can be viewed from the position of the house and grounds where the family spends most of its leisure time. Ornamental plantings then should conceal defects and emphasize those elements which are most pleasing.

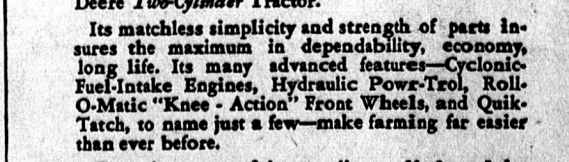
Avoid straight lines wherever possible and strive to produce a natural and graceful effect rather than an artificial, man-made effort. Plant the shrubs in groups using several specimens of a few varieties only, rather than one specimen only of a number of varieties.

Avoid meaningless, isolated specimens about the lawn. Naturalistic groups give character to the design, each group consisting of several plants. It is advisable to use the same varieties in repeated groups, but slightly different combinations. Plantings should be massed about the base of the buildings, leaving about one-third of the foundation visible; also grouped about the curves and junctions of walks and drives, and massed about the boundaries and corners.

Do not plant too close to buildings. Three feet is about the minimum distance. Shrubs which when planted seemed to have plenty of room often show signs of crowding at maturity. If all the shrubs required cannot be purchased immediately an alternative is to supplement the first planting with native species, such as spruce, pine, hemlock, replacing these with flowering shrubs as occasion permits.

Finally, plant as early in the spring as possible so that shrubs may become established before the heat of summer.

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The new chart above shows the four American products most frequently requested by Marshall Plan countries during 1949. Under each item is given the number of "purchase authorizations" issued by the Economic Cooperation Administration for that product and the total amount of money spent for it. All Marshall Plan products issued by ECA in 1949 totaled \$6,977,800,000 in value.

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