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Experimental Station

Continued from page 1

of solid construction, said Mr. Parent. He added that the Station has two upright silos with one used for corn and the other at Upton Farm for grass. Over 20 head of cattle were fed grass silage during the past winter and all are in excellent condition, added the Station Superintendent.

"There are indications that we will have quite a large number of organized groups of farmers not only from P. E. I. but the other provinces," stated Mr. Parent. "We will likely have several meetings of one or more groups under the Colombo Plan agreements and in addition we are preparing for a large number of visitors and a series of field days," he added.

Main Office Extension

The construction of the extension to the main office has almost been completed. The soil laboratory is yet to be finished but it is expected to be ready for use this fall.

One new member is being added to the permanent staff this year. He is Keith LeLachur, who will graduate from MacDonald College and who will assist Mr. D. C. Schurman in forage work commencing in May.

Five students are being employed for the summer. They are Messrs. Fred Stewart, a first year veterinary student at O.V.C.; David Hurst, medical student at Queen's University; Leonard Arsenault, St. Anne De La Pocatiere College, Quebec; Winston Smith, a graduate of P. W. C. who will enter MacDonald College this fall; and Blair Kelly who will enter O.V.C. this fall. Mr. B. Frank Tinney, Assistant to the Superintendent in Poultry, stated that the Station had dispensed with the Barred Rock flock entirely. The flock had been at the Station since 1912-13.

New Projects

Two new projects are under way this year, he reported. The first project with White Leghorns is a more intensive system of selection for production purposes based on the family group system of selection.

To do the most satisfactory work for this type of selection large numbers of birds are necessary, stated Mr. Tinney. The Charlottetown Station is one of six cooperating stations with records available each year.

Four different strains of White Leghorns are being used in this work and interesting results are anticipated, stated Mr. Tinney.

The second project at the local station involves a new breed not yet available to the public. For the present this breed is called Broad Breasted Whites and is developed at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The development of a superior type of meat bird was the initial objective of this experiment. To this end considerable dark Cornish blood was used and an excellent meat type bird has resulted from the crossing and selection work

at Ottawa. In addition it has been discovered that quite fair egg production is available.

The flock at the Charlottetown Station consists of pure Broad Breasted Whites, pure New Hampshire Whites and a cross of the two breeds. A certain number of birds were killed at the twelve week broiler stage. A further number of cockerels were carried through until they were six months of age and killed as roasters. The pullets are now in laying quarters completing their first laying year. In all cases it is possible from the record to compare the two pure breeds and the cross.

The objective of the work at Charlottetown, stated Mr. Tinney, is to retain the excellent characteristics of the Broad Breasted White, select for egg production and at the same time determine if this new breed will prove valuable in crossing with some of the present standard breeds in developing a top quality, fast growing broiler bird.

Soil Survey Program

Mr. G. B. Whiteside, Assistant to the Superintendent in Soil Analyses and Soil Survey, outlined a four point program for the coming summer.

The first point is the conducting of a detailed survey of the organic peat and muck soil deposits in the Province. In this phase of the soil improvement program an attempt will be made to learn the extent of the peat. Representative examples with the object of learning if they can be utilized for adding humus to the soil, will be obtained and studied. The accessibility of the peat will also be determined.

Another detailed survey which will study the effect and rate of erosion in the Province will be undertaken by Mr. Whiteside. This survey will be confined to the west end of Queens County and will take in a 20 square mile block in the Hunter River-Wiltshire area.

Both these experiments will take two or three years, stated Mr. Whiteside.

In addition to these tests, the field plot experiments with grain to study the response of the different fertilizer treatments on the various types of soil, will be carried out. This work is done in the greenhouse as well as outdoors.

The soil advisory work for farmers in the spring and fall will also be continued. Mr. Whiteside reports that an increasing number of farmers are taking good advantage of this opportunity to have their soil analyzed.

Barley Testing Program

Mr. Bruce MacLaren, Cerealist, stated that a feature of his work this summer would be the testing of barley variety for resistance to the Joint Worm. Since 1946 the Joint Worm has been increasingly severe in Queens County and a good portion of Kings with the result that at least a few farmers are planning to discontinue growing barley.

So far no varieties known to be resistant have been tested at the local Station and before a breeding program can be properly established resistant material must be found, stated Mr. MacLaren.

"To this end we are testing 318 varieties and strains this season," he added. Plots used will be small but will be replicated four times in an effort to get a true picture of possible resistance.

In oats attention will be directed to increasing the supply of registered Abegweit, he reported. The strain of Abegweit approved for registration has given appreciably higher yields than the original and it is hoped that a limited quantity of registered seed will be made available to farmers in the spring of 1953, added Mr. MacLaren.

In addition the regular variety test of oats will be conducted and a number of hybrid lines with the improved Abegweit string as one parent will be under observation, it was stated.

The variety test of oats will include plots at four Illustration Stations in addition to those grown at Charlottetown.

There are no particularly new developments in wheat other than that a considerable quantity of Acadia will be grown for distribution next spring provided that it does as well under field conditions as it has in small plots, said Mr. MacLaren.

Purity Tests

A new feature of cereal work this season will be purity tests of samples of wheat, oats and barley provided by the Plant Products Division. Some 75 samples drawn from commercial lots of grain will be grown in row plots and checked for purity to determine the quality of grain offered for seed in commercial grades.

Mr. Graeme Boswell, Agronomist, reported that the Beach Grove Farm soil fertility projects which began during the last two years will be continued.

One of these projects, stated Mr. Boswell, is designed to study the relative merits of various types of organic matter where production of potatoes and subsequent crops are in rotation.

The organic materials being compared are: Cow manure with straw bedding; cow manure with straw bedding stable-phos; cow manure with shavings as bedding;

cow manure plus woody peat in the gutter; compost; cow manure from pen barn; alder mud; an additional plot of cow manure plus an additional amount of straw equivalent to that produced by grain crop of the same area; and sea weed.

Another experiment involves the growing of potatoes continuously on the same ground in comparison with the growing of potatoes in three year rotation, stated Mr. Boswell. Each series is subjected to various soil fertility treatments.

Another project which is being started this year will see the studying of different rates and forms of fertilizer for potatoes in three year rotation. In addition to fertilizing the potato crop, the subsequent grain and hay crops will receive an additional amount of the fertilizer formula which was applied to potatoes on that plot. It is hoped that this practice of fertilizing all crops in rotation will result in more home grown high quality feed for Island livestock, stated Mr. Boswell.

Pasture projects studying the use of single species of grasses for pasture were begun last year and these grasses will be rotationally pastured this year as they come into production.

Illustration Stations

Mr. Norman Black, Assistant to the Superintendent in Illustration Stations, stated that there are now seven such stations in operation throughout the province. These stations are located at Alliston, Iona, Monticello, New London, O'Leary, Rose Valley, and Urbainville.

A new pasture fertilizer experiment entitled "Manure versus chemical fertilizer for pastures," is being established for the first time this year, stated Mr. Black.

This project comprises six plots, four of which were manured at the

rate of 10 tons per acre before seeding out to a pasture mixture in the spring of 1951, he said.

Plots receiving initial application of manure are to receive subsequent light applications once every three years. Manured plots are to receive supplementary applications of a 5-10-10 fertilizer at 600 lbs. per acre annually.

One plot is to receive fertilizer in the fall; one in the spring and a third manured plot is to receive 300 lbs. of 5-10-10 per acre in the fall and an additional 300 pound application in mid-July when the lush spring growth has begun to fall off.

One plot is being reserved to study the effect of manure alone and an additional plot is being treated with 600 lbs. of 5-10-10 per acre to study the effect of fertilizer in the absence of manure.

A chemical plot receiving neither manure nor fertilizer has been established so that farmers may

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