

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

This is a quotation in a monthly letter from the National Fur News, Denver, Colorado: "Future Market Possibilities—Ranch Mink (Standards-Mutations). As far as this season is concerned, there is no doubt the current crop will have disappeared by next pelting season. Technically, it would appear that a strong demand will prevail next December. We caution breeders not to be unduly optimistic from the long point of view. During these abnormal times many influences can develop that may temper or interfere with future consumer demand. Silver Fox—it is still too early to secure market possibilities. There is a general feeling among the retail trade that price levels of furs are too high. Up to the present time they have exceeded a great deal of caution, and consequently orders placed in the market have been on a conservative basis.

Trouble ahead—For the past several years, the American and Canadian fur farmers have transacted a most lucrative business selling live, ranch-bred, fur-bearing animals, particularly mink, to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Russia. These countries have proved themselves skilled fur farmers and now the American fur ranchers are finding that some of their chickens are coming home to roost. Thus far the American market has been consuming all of the imports of mink without any trouble. However,

with present price levels holding firm, it is safe to assume that imports from these foreign countries will greatly increase, which is bound to influence the American market."

Shutting the door against the entry of Russian and Chinese furs into the United States is wonderful news for the fur farmers in the U.S. The National Fur News, Denver, states that the amendment which has brought this about may well be considered the fur farmers' declaration of independence. The question that is now being asked by Canadian fur farmers is will these furs that are being shut out of the United States be dumped in Canada. As far as we are aware there is no plan to prohibit them from being brought into this country to the very great injury of the entire fur farming industry and also to the injury of the great number of trappers in Canada.

Another thing the fur farmers in the United States have to crow about is the passing by the House of Representatives of the Fur Labeling Bill. This legislation was sponsored by the National Fur Farmers Board and contested bitterly by dealers, producers and some retailers. It requires the true labeling of furs and fur products. The passing of this legislation will help to restore public confidence in fur garments at the retail level and prevent cheap foreign furs from being

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

LOSSES AND REMEDIAL DEVICES IN MAKING HAY

Many are unaware of the enormous loss in food value that occurs in making hay during unfavorable weather. Conversely, the loss of nutrients in curing grasses and clovers under favorable conditions is very much greater than is generally known. The United States Year Book, 1950-51, page 80, states: "Probably the biggest single agricultural loss in this country occurs when fresh cut grass or alfalfa is allowed to dry slowly in the field and Morrison, Feeding," by Henry and Morrison, page 217, states: "Exposure to the sun reduces the palatability of the hay by bleaching and causes the loss of aromatic compounds, dew works injury, and rain carries away the more soluble portions."

Comparative Analysis

In "Forage Plants," Headen (Colorado Experiment Station) states that he analysed alfalfa before and after exposure to three rains aggregating 1.8 inches. It lost 7.7 per cent of its crude protein and 5.1 per cent of its nitrogen-free extract. The fiber was also increased 12.3 per cent. He also re-

ported that: "31.7 per cent of the total dry matter was lost. The actual damage, however, was even greater, for the nutrients lost were those most soluble and hence most easily digested."

Field Losses

From the time the hay is cut until it is dry enough to keep in storage, there are at least three sources of loss: (1) Fermentation and Respiration. These are both chemical and bacteriological. The forage when cut is still living material in the field and plant enzymes are active, destroying the plant sugar. These continue to act while they have sufficient moisture, but cease before the forage has dried out. (2) Mechanical damage, including the shattering and loss of leaves and the finer particles of the forage, when it is not carefully handled. Moisture evaporates from the hay swath more rapidly from the leaves than from the stems. Because of this, the forage should be turned as soon as it has wilted to expose the stems to the drying action of the wind and sun retard the drying out of the leaves.

(3) Weather damage. Bright sunshine on hay, wet with dew or rain, bleaches it, rapidly destroying its color and carotene content. The moisture from the dew or rain enables the enzymes and micro-organisms to continue the destruction of the nutrients. This may cause up to 15 per cent loss of the protein and dry matter.

Loss From Maturity

At the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario, an acre of timothy was cut in the early bloom stage and produced 98 pounds of digestible protein more than an acre cut when the seed was nearly mature. This was equal to the digestible protein in 293 pounds of oilcake. The indications from this experiment were that the nutrients secured from 1 acre of early cut hay were equal to those produced from 2.3 acres of late cut hay. In the Atlantic Provinces, due to the ground being cold and wet, or there is unfavorable weather conditions, there is frequently considerable difficulty in saving early cut hay. The same is often true in regard to the saving of second cut clover or the late cuts of alfalfa.

Hay Curing Aids

There are a number of mechanical devices that may be of great assistance in field curing hay under unfavorable conditions. Three that have proved very useful are: (1) Tripods. These are made by cutting six poles eight feet long. Three poles have 1-4 inch holes bored six inches from the top and are wired together with No. 9 galvanized soft wire so that the poles will fold up snugly for storage. Thirty inches from the lower end of the three tripod legs 1-4 inch holes are bored for 9 inch spikes on which the three cross pieces are laid so they will project out about 9 inches at each corner. Wire can be used to fasten these joints, or the three cross pieces can be wired into a triangle with the ends projecting 9 inches and be slipped over the tripod after it is set up. All poles should be 2 1-2 inches in diameter at the small end. The tripods are set up, from 7 to 10 per acre, according to the crop. The hay is first piled on the three corners; then along the cross poles and up the sides and well over the top. It is important that the sides

couple of days if care is not taken. It is difficult to understand why wheat germ oil should ever be given in preference to whole wheat germ. Reference to the above may say that years ago Holman's Ltd. and others imported large quantities of wheat germ meal and we and other ranchers used it extensively in the feeding of our silver foxes, we believe with good results. Then along came the wheat germ oil, concentrated Vitamin E, and we spent hundreds of dollars on that preparation with the idea that we would get a larger production of foxes. Honestly speaking, we cannot say that we did as we have found just as large a production when we have not fed any Vitamin E oil. However, it may be different with mink and it might be a wise precaution for any mink rancher to feed Vitamin E in concentrated form and certainly a very wise precaution to feed it in the meal form.

Lately we hear reported a strange disease affecting mink in a ranch in King's County. He no doubt has been feeding a lot of fish and there is probably a deficiency of Vitamin B—Thiamine Hydrochloride. This would be shown in weakness in the hind legs and ungainly movements. It can be corrected fairly easily and is one of the penalties paid where fresh water fish are used, but we have not known of it where salt water fish are fed, probably it occurs that way also. Then again it may be a deficiency of Vitamin E and that is where wheat germ would come in. Years ago we called in to see a rancher's foxes that were suffering from Vitamin B deficiency. We gave him treatment which in a short time fixed up his animals. In raising silver fox or mink there are constantly new problems turning up from time to time and it is only by close observation and careful feeding that bad results can be avoided. Our fur farmers in Prince Edward Island have the opportunity of a lifetime before them if silver fox again makes the headlines. In a press survey of the Dominion of Canada we have noted that the largest number of registered foxes are owned in the Garden of the Gulf and we trust that those in possession of them will not get discouraged.

Island Army Cadets Rewarded For Service

HALIFAX, July 27—Sixteen specially selected Maritime army cadets, part of 150 chosen from all parts of Canada, are now well into their first week of the three-week "holiday camp" at the Banff National Cadet Camp.

As a reward for highest efficiency during their cadet service, the cadets attending the camp in the heart of the Rockies will enjoy special cadet training mixed with thrilling mountain-resort activities. The camp is located about three miles from Banff on Lake Minnewanka Road at the foot of

are kept well filled so that when the hay settles there will not be any hollow places to catch rain. In shape, a well built tripod should be tall and comparatively slender. A good cap of fairly long hay should be placed on top. The sides should be combed to shed water. These tripods will hold 1000 to 1200 pounds of green hay. When possible the hay should be well wilted or cured, but hay can be put on tripods much greener than it would be safe to put it in roll. This is particularly true of the second cut in September when showers may be frequent and the days are short.

(2) "Finn" poles. These originated in Finland where they have damp weather conditions. The "Finn" pole is eight feet long and 3 inches at the small end. Both ends are sharpened, 1 inch auger holes are bored about 30 inches from each end and old broom handles may be used for cross pieces. These holes are bored at right angles to each other and the broom handles cut to two feet long. With the aid of a crow bar the "Finn" poles are set 18 inches in the ground. The hay is placed on the bottom cross piece and piled till near the top, then the second cross piece is placed and the hay is piled on till the pole is well loaded. This soon settles in place and will stand heavy rain without much damage to the forage.

(3) "Perch." This device, used in parts of the United States, is very similar to the "Finn" pole except that the two cross pieces are nailed at right angles to one another so that they will be about 12 inches above the ground when the "perch" is set up. Unless the cross pieces are removed, it is not so convenient to store as the others. These mechanical devices make possible the saving of good quality hay under favorable conditions. They do, however, add to the cost and the labour, and are used when other methods are sure to cause wastage and loss.

BRACKLEY POINT W. I.

The July meeting was held at the home of Mrs. George Shaw. Nine members were present and five visitors.

It was decided to hold dances weekly in the hall during the summer, the directors to engage music, members divided into three groups for providing lunches to sell.

Miss Lillian Shaw entertained the members with a piano solo, the "Merry-Go-Round."

Mrs. Alexander Beaman invited the meeting for August; roll call to be answered by passing in five two-cent stamps.

Collection was \$3.51. Following the meeting a demonstration on nylon plastic was given by Mrs. Gallant, who displayed a wide variety of articles, and explained the many uses and advantages of this new product. Lunch was then served by the hostess and committee, and the

PROTECTION

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meeting closed by singing "Good-night Ladies". One female codfish will spawn eight or nine million eggs but only a few are fertilized.

DITHANE Sprays & Dusts The Best Answer To The Potato Blight Problems

A REPORT TO THE POTATO GROWERS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Farm tests with Dithane on the Island last summer demonstrated in every test that blight can be controlled and yields substantially increased by using Dithane Sprays and Dusts.

Dithane treated plots increased yields by an average of 49 bushels per acre!

Dithane is easy to mix, does not corrode the Sprayer nor clog nozzles.

Dithane extends the growing season and increases yields by keeping vines green and healthy longer.

Ask the growers who have used it.

Ask your dealer for Dithane Sprays or Dusts and for D.D.T.

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Phones 296 - 1275 CHARLOTTETOWN Grafton Street East Distributors of Dithane Sprays and Dusts and D.D.T.

SAVE YOUR POTATOES!

Potato acreage is down 30 per cent in P. E. Island and greatly reduced in the U. S. A. Prices should be much higher this year. Your crop was worth planting, it is worth saving. Protect it carefully and safeguard your investment of hard work and money. There are early indications of blight in this Province.

PROTECTION IS WISE IT PAYS OFF IN DOLLARS

We can save you losses from Early Blight, Bugs, Leaf Hoppers, Late Blight. Your insurance against loss and guarantee of LARGER YIELDS, BIGGER PROFITS, BETTER QUALITY is the

SPRAMOTOR SPRAYER

A powerful scientific weapon against potato crop failure, easy to operate, cheaper than dusting and more effective. It is possible to top hill with spray only. No other method can do the job. Spramotors are the largest manufacturers of sprayers in Canada.

NO PRICE RISE

There has been no increase in the price of Spramotors. Two models are available—

50 Gallon Size \$255.00 100 Gallon Size \$355.00

A complete stock of parts always available—No holdup; No waiting.

WEED SPRAYING Mr. Hoover, factory representative, will be at W. R. Jenkins' office, Great George Street, SATURDAY, JULY 28th, to discuss problems with any interested parties.

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Sprayers and parts available at the following dealers: McLEOD & GIBBEN, Montague; JOE SMITH, Millview; W. V. ANDERSON, Morell; ALEX DUNNE, Murray River; LENA DAWSON, Crapaud; ED. TURNER, O'Leary; E. C. DITTE, Tignish; P. J. NOY, Hunter River.

REGISTRATION OF POTATO GROWERS FINAL NOTICE

All growers are required to register their Potato acreage with this Board. We shall obtain all the necessary information on the Seed Potato acreage which is already listed with the Seed Potato Certification office therefore all that is required is a record of your Table acreage not yet listed as Seed.

Growers are requested to report such acreage to this office at once.

GROWER'S NAME (acreage for table only) ADDRESS (variety) COUNTY (last year's acreage) SCHOOL DISTRICT

This information is necessary. PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS BY MAILING THIS FORM.

P. E. I. POTATO MARKETING BOARD. 123 Kent Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

FACTS ABOUT POTATO BLIGHT CONTROL

Here's How Your Neighbors Stopped Blight and Increased Yields—in the "Blight Year" of 1950!

DITHANE increased yields an average of 49 bushels per acre.

Ask any of the 16 P.E.I. potato farmers who tested DITHANE in the "blight year" of 1950, and that's what they'll tell you. Tested side-by-side with other dusts and sprays, DITHANE controlled blight in the field and in storage. And DITHANE-treated plots consistently out-yielded those treated with other materials—by an average of 49 bushels per acre!

Not a single serious loss from blight by DITHANE-users.

Late blight struck hard in 1950, and losses were heavy in unprotected or poorly protected fields. But in every case where DITHANE sprays were used properly, control of foliage infection was excellent and vines stayed green much longer!

Easy to use—harmless to plants and equipment.

Growers who tested DITHANE used it with their regular equipment. All of them agree that DITHANE is easy to use and does not clog or corrode their spray rigs. And all of them agree that DITHANE gives season-long protection—keeps vines healthy until digging time—and will not stunt or damage vines or foliage.

Here's the Result of DITHANE Tests on 16 P.E.I. Potato Farms

Table with 5 columns: FARMER, POTATO VARIETY, DITHANE Bu. per A., OTHER MAT'L'S Bu. per A., DITHANE +/- or +/-

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