

# Among The Farmers

## Federation Of Agriculture News

### Haymaking and Harvest

Haymaking lingers this year in the lap of the harvest and weather conditions for the past weeks have certainly been difficult for the farmer. Progress in haymaking depends on lengthy periods of fine weather, one or two fine days does not enable the farmer to cure and store any substantial quantity of hay.

Harvesting is now getting under way and early grain appears to be quite a satisfactory crop with heads and well filled kernels. Late varieties of oats such as Victory and Banner are showing some evidence of rust and are much more likely to suffer damage from storms. The superiority of the earlier maturing rust resistant variety such as abegweit and Erban will likely be quite marked this year.

The next few weeks will be a critical period for the potato crop and will decide whether yields and quality will be impaired by the ravages of blight; weather conditions have been favourable for the development of the great potato destroyer and the grower who has sprayed consistently will likely benefit by his labor.

### Illustration Stations

The Illustration Stations scattered throughout the province are a project of the Dominion Department of Agriculture designed to bring the Experimental Farm system out to the farmer and closer to the community.

The Illustration Stations are typical of the farms in the area and the experiments carried on are of practical value and can be duplicated on the average farm.

Farmers who attended the station field days will enjoy a profitable and pleasant afternoon and can hardly fail to acquire knowledge and information of value.

### Plowing Matches And Exhibitions

Competition in the Plowing Match at Dundas will assume more of a provincial nature with the decision of the Queens County group to assist their winners in competing at Dundas.

County Exhibitions offer our farmers an opportunity of exhibiting his livestock in a show where professional showmanship is not so important a factor as at our Provincial Exhibition.

County Exhibitions provide a show window for the average farmer to exhibit his livestock and farm products and enables him to compare his quality with that of his neighbor.

Those whose efforts and financial assistance makes possible County Exhibitions and Plowing Matches made real contribution to agricultural progress.

### Quebec Potato Growing

While Prince Edward Island was in on the ground floor in seed potato growing other provinces have been taking definite steps to improve quality and promote interest.

The Quebec Department of Agriculture in order to encourage the production and use of Foundation and Foundation A seed potatoes has been offering a subsidy of \$300.00 per carload to farmers who make group purchases through the Co-operative Federes. Such a policy promotes the production of seed and also encourages the farmer to use seed grown within the province.

### Dairy Production

In the week ending August 11th this year, Prince Edward Island produced 20,000 pounds more butter than in the same period last year. Abundant pastures will help to maintain production but as the nights get longer cattle will have less time to graze.

In the long days of June and July, after the evening milking, cattle have time to fill up before dark. In the latter part of August and in September the evening grazing period is greatly curtailed or eliminated and production suffers.

### Beef And Pork

Beef and Pork have always competed with one another for the consumer's dollar and it is interesting to note the change which has taken place in the proportion of each consumed. From 1936 to 1950 per capita consumption of beef in Canada was about 35 pounds and that of pork 40 pounds. In 1943 beef was 66 pounds and pork 61, but by 1949 beef dropped to 56 and pork took the lead at 59. For 1950 consumption was 59 pounds of beef and 60 pounds of pork.

This change does not necessarily indicate a preference by the public for pork as against beef. This trend is the result of relatively higher beef prices and is also due to the fact that hog raising lends itself more readily to mass production techniques and has made great progress in breeding, feeding and management.

### Sieckle And Flail

Scarcity of labor is forcing farmers to the greater use of machinery and to explore every possible labor saving technique. Last year in Ontario a small number of farmers in harvesting their grain crop swathed the grain on the field, left it to dry for a few days, then used the forage harvester to chop the crop and blow it into wagons. The chopped material was then put through the thrasher and the grain separated from the chopped straw.

Those who tried the system were enthusiastic about it and apparently a greatly increased number of farmers are trying the method this year. Many Ontario farmers have forage harvesters and threshers and feel they can avoid the cost of expensive combines.

# Seen At Cattle Show During Recent Provincial Exhibition



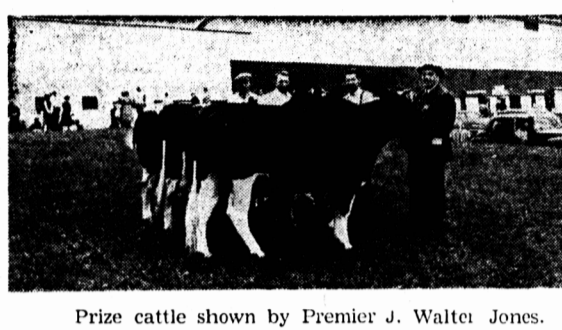
Norma Marie Pontiac, Grand Champion aged cow in milk, shown by Colby Lewis.



Lewisdale Annie, reserve champion, aged cow in milk.



Diamond Hill Vimy, Jr. Champion Female. Shown by Oswald Newson and Son, Kingston.



Prize cattle shown by Premier J. Walter Jones.



General view of show ring during one of the many classes.

—Photos by Garnhum.

safe means of control. A great many tests have been conducted with insecticides but those that promised some control produced very objectionable flavors in the turnips or were dangerous to the lives of the operators. A few years ago a promising insecticide had to be rejected when it was discovered that it was readily taken up by plants in sufficient quantities to be injurious to warm-blooded animals.

### Resistant Varieties

Clubroot, a slime mold disease which attacks turnips and many species of the crucifer family of plants, first appeared in Great Britain in 1860. A variety of turnip known as "The Bruce," supposed to be a natural hybrid between the turnip and the rutabaga, which was highly resistant to clubroot appeared in Scotland in 1820.

The seed was grown in Aberdeenshire, and carefully guarded because of its resistance to disease. Unfortunately, because of its unstable hybrid ancestry, the roots were not uniform as to colour, shape, firmness of flesh, size of seed or resistance to disease.

This is probably due to the fact that while such turnips as White Milan have ten pairs of chromosomes, rutabagas (Swede turnips) such as Dittmars have eighteen pairs of chromosomes.

These two species readily cross, but many of the plants of the first generation are sterile. One plant

proved to be fertile; these all had the chromosome number of 34, and were highly uniform in outward appearance.

At Charlottetown, Bangholm and Williamsberger, clubroot resistant turnips, were grown for years. These both have lost much of their resistance, or maybe new strains of the clubroot disease have developed that have overcome the resistance of these varieties.

Crossing the two species mentioned may yet develop a turnip resistant to root maggots, as was done with wheat when "Rescue" was developed with a solid stem that baffled the wheat saw fly and made wheat-growing possible again in areas that had been destroyed by insects.

### Carloadings

Carloadings on Canadian railways increased during the week ended Aug. 18 to 82,953 cars compared with 78,217 cars for the previous week, but were below the 83,817 cars for the corresponding week a year ago.

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

The Hudson's Bay Company have released dates for their auctions as follows: General furs including Silver Fox and Blue Fox, 17th September; special mink sales, 18th December and Silver Fox, Platina and Blue Fox sale 8th January, 1952.

Fairly good interest was displayed for standard ranch and mutation mink at Lampton, Fraser and Huth's auction in New York last week. Lampton's reported that 20,542 ranch mink brought a \$36 top for a lot of extra dark and dark, with 40 per cent sold and 2,977 seconds and low grades brought a \$22 top for a lot of skins; 9 per cent were sold. These offerings were an end of the season collection and declined in average 10 per cent with the males sold to better advantage than the females as compared with the sale of June 12th. A collection of 6,000 Scandinavian mink was withdrawn the limits being above the market.

Dressed EMBA mutation mink: 6,181 Royal Pastels, top \$34 for light and medium, 37 per cent sold, males unchanged, females down 10 per cent; 1,647 Aleutians, \$52 top for a lot of dark, good colors, 57 per cent sold, firm; 1,716 Breath of Spring and Stewart silver blue, top \$49 for a lot of Breath of Spring light mediums, 76 per cent sold, firm; 3,027 dressed silver blue, \$36 top for light medium, 70 per cent sold, unchanged, with females slightly changed; 210 white mink, miscellaneous types, 76 per cent sold, firm. Raw EMBA mutations: 1,658 Royal Pastels, \$49 top; 589 silver blue raw, \$28 top. For these offerings all color phases small late season collection, best goods sold at values similar to the dressed offering compared to May.

There was a wide variance of opinion in the salesroom, which was well attended, regarding prices of goods that were sold in the morning sale of standard skins. Quite a few dealers said that female appeared to be cheaper, some stating that they felt females were off 10 to 15 per cent. Others said that considering comparable quality, females were sold, were not much cheaper than the most recent sale. Males appeared to show more strength, especially in comparison to females. Some of the few better lots drew fairly spirited bidding. One of the reasons why males were in better demand was lack of European interest in females. In addition, males, because of their use in stoles, have been in better demand all season.

There is quite a controversy going on in the United States as to whether mink should be offered at auction raw or dressed. The Mutation Mink Breeders Association at their meeting did not adopt a suggestion by the Mink Traders Association that the bulk of mutation mink skins be offered raw. The reason being that they wished to permit each breeder to sell his goods as he saw fit. On the other hand,

Harold W. Reed, Elkhorn, Wis., prominent mink breeder, was of the opinion that mutations should be offered dressed because quality is more evident than when presented in the raw state. Those who were present at the meeting of the International Fur Conference held here will remember Mr. Reed. He is a very forceful individual and his opinions carried a lot of weight.

Through the kindness of D. O. Stewart, Executive Secretary, Canadian Fur Farm Advertising Committee, we have received a copy of a report submitted by W. M. Ritchie, Ottawa, on the Lille International Fair which took place in that city, opening April 29th and ending May 20th. These are extracts... "The Canadian fur exhibit was a co-operative effort. While the arrangements for the display, including space, backgrounds, stands and furnishings were made by the Department of Trade and Commerce, the entire fur exhibit was loaned by the fur organizations and members of the industry...

"Local members of the trade kept bringing their customers to our stand where we would model the garments. This in itself was evidence of the interest created by the quality and design of our garments. Every day hundreds of people would ask the price of our fur garments and when they were informed that they were not for sale they would ask if we had an agent in France, or where they could be purchased. I met quite a number of the trade who have been dealing either direct with Canada or through American brokers. The majority seemed satisfied with their purchases. On summing up the Fair as a whole I candidly feel that the contacts made were more genuine than at any of the previous trade fairs which I have attended...

"At the conclusion of the Fair I visited Brussels which is only two hours from Lille, getting in touch with members of the trade. Stocks of fur on hand were small but the prices they were asking were a good 30 per cent higher than Canadian levels. From Brussels I proceeded to London. Here, I visited the auction house and members of the trade. Business in London during my visit was extremely quiet. I secured on loan for the im-

## NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

Swede turnips, known also as rutabagas, are the second largest cash crop grown on Prince Edward Island. The average yield and value of this is listed as "turnips, range, and the tendency to pack oversized roots for the grade one in shipping is one of the common causes of rejection. The problem of pithiness and water core caused by brown heart has been quite generally overcome by the application of boron. This is usually mixed with the fertilizer used on the crop.

The trade requires as little trimming as possible. The Act defines "well-trimmed" to mean: "That the top is trimmed to not more than a maximum of 3-4 inch in length, that unattractive, secondary rootlets have been removed and that any objectionably long or coarse tail-like part of the root has been cut off except that for the waxed product the stalk and root only may be cut back and the lower half of the turnip smoothly but not deeply trimmed to remove surface blemishes." Mechanical turnip trimmers have been devised, but have proved unsatisfactory.

In pulling and trimming table turnips in the field when harvesting, a sharp well-balanced butcher knife or root trimmer will cut off with one stroke the tail end of the root, one to one and one-half inches below the butt; then rub off any small side roots with the back of the blade, cut off the top with another single stroke, leaving 1-4 to 1-2 inch of neck, but do not cut into the body of the turnip.

Pull and trim two rows at a time. For waxing, these turnips would require further trimming as defined in the Act, but any that require deep trimming to remove surface blemishes, etc. should be discarded. The most difficult problem in growing table turnips is caused by root maggots, that have been responsible for most of the rejection of shipments in recent years.

Regulations and Standards

The regulations and standards for "Canada No. 1" turnips were set up by the Canadian Government on the recommendation of the Canadian Horticultural Council and the representatives of the Provincial Growers' Association. These were included in the Fruit, Vegetables and Honey Act (Chapter 82 of the Statutes of 1955).

This act was revised in 1947, and amended in 1948 and 1949. It states that turnips shall be packed to one or another of the following size ranges: Small, 2"-4"; Small Medium 3 1/2" - 5"; Medium 4" to 6"; and Large 5 inches and up; (except that until August 31, inclusive in each crop year a size range of 3 inches to 5 1/2 inches is permitted).

It describes "Canada No. 1" turnips as those with similar varietal characteristics: firm, fairly smooth; fairly well shaped and well trimmed; and are free from soft rot and practically free from damage caused by freetring, pithiness; water core; black rot, dry rot; disease; insects, growth cracks; dirt; cuts mechanical or other means; and shall be properly packed. "Similar varietal characteristics" means that the turnips in any package are of similar colour and shape; i. e.: bronze top not mixed with purple top, nor long type with globe type.

In order to comply with the peral Institute, a quantity of furs and the display was quite attractive. I also visited the fur exhibit at the Festival of Britain held in Beaver House, the premises of the Hudson's Bay Company...

"Although there were only four other exhibits of fur and these were by French dealers, it gave many members of the trade an opportunity to discuss first hand with a representative of Canada the prospects of doing future business. There is undoubtedly a splendid opportunity for Canada to obtain a greater share of the world's markets and I believe this can be accomplished only through personal contact with members of the trade and participation at trade fairs and display of this kind which show the quality and beauty of the furs that Canada produces"

Insect Injury

The cabbage root maggot, the seed corn maggot are the most serious pests of turnips. It would seem that these insects, which formerly in most cases made burrows into the interior of the turnips, causing their rejection by the trade. Entomologists are greatly interested, but up to the present they do not have enough information concerning the life history, suitable insecticides or effective parasites to control these insects.

Each of the known root maggots may require different treatments at different seasons. The scientists working on this problem agree that our own entomological laboratory, under the division of Science Service has done the most work on these insects; but they all agree that at the present time there is no effective or cheap and

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