

# MODERN FARMER



## NEWSY NOTES

By Agricola

The modest-plumed yellow-rump, "so conspicuously marked by the bright yellow patch on its rump, exposed by each wing, and the general blue of its plumage—comes first of May, searching for insects about the hedges and farm buildings. Its song is slender and lonely, but the bird is robust and fearless, staying with us till the last chill days of October."

This Warbler is certainly fond of insects and has been observed to catch them after the fashion of the Flycatchers: making a sudden dash from a perch, snatching a flying insect, and returning to its perch all in one movement. In the year it feeds on berries, those of the Myrica cerifera (or Wax Myrtle) being preferred. These last account for the name Myrtle Warbler. I have examined many of these Warblers from time to time, and consider them common. Mr. Frank Sterns adds—"and increasing." Last specimen brought in Oct. 2, 1950.

Myrtle Warbler. AOU. 655. Summer Resident. Adult Male: Upperparts bluish-gray, streaked black; yellow patch on the crown, rump, and on either side of the breast; throat white, and two white wing-bars on each wing; breast heavily barred with black; belly white; tail marked with white spots on the inner vanes, near the tip. Feet similar but duller, blue with a brownish tinge and less black below. Length of adult 5 to 6 inches.

### A REALLY DANGEROUS GAME

Some years ago Sir Arthur Keith world-famous doctor and scientist, lectured to the students at Manchester University, and concluded with the dictum: "Man lives only when he lives dangerously." We of a much earlier generation than Sir Arthur, knew that full well, and, as schoolboys, played games that boys of his day might well look upon with misgivings.

Such a game was "Duckstone," which must have originated in prehistoric times. We know that the schoolmaster objected to our playing it in the playground, but in a colliery district there are always plots of derelict land near the mine, and one of these was quite near our school. There we set up our duckstone, a block of stone about 18 inches high; and on it was placed the "duck," another block about double the size of a man's fist. A guardian for the duck was chosen by means of the old Celtic rhyme of "Eeny, meeny, miney, mo," a counting-out formula. Then each boy in turn stood at a mark and threw a big stone (or rock) at the duck to knock it off its perch. As a rule the rock hit the duckstone, not the duck, and the guardian dodged the rock as it rebounded. When it came to rest, the thrower came and stood by it. His idea was to pick up his rock and run back to the mark for another throw, but this could not safely be done while the duck remained on the duckstone; for the guardian could chase and tag him. So the pitching went on, and the rock ricocheted all over the plot, the boy laughing and dodging them. At last a lucky marksman knocked the duck off its perch and raced to the mark. The guardian was obliged to replace the duck on its perch before chasing the thrower, or his "tag" would not be legal! The boy who was tagged, became the new guardian, and the game went on.

I never heard of any accident in this rough game. We certainly enjoyed it, and never heard of any parental opposition to it. It was played only in the country. I suppose it is not played at all now. Times have changed.

### A GRATIFYING LETTER

I have just received a very gratifying letter from South West, Lot 16. It reads: "Last spring I received a generous sample of Navy beans from you. I planted them

## Judging Contests At Toronto Fair

TORONTO, Nov. 18 — (CP) — Two youngsters from Borden, Sask., have won a beef judging championship contested in conjunction with the Royal Winter Fair, which got under way during the week.

Donald Dyck and Algar Thieszen were the winners in the competition conducted by the Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Work. They piled up 1,033 points, defeating teams from every Province except Newfoundland.

Second place went to Vernon Butterfield and Roy Vold, from Ponoka, Alta., with 1,019 points. Saskatchewan teams placed second in dairy cattle, swine and poultry contests.

Muriel Haight and Murray Haight of Saskatoon placed second to Molly Bennett and Mary Armstrong of Spencerville, Ont., in dairy cattle. Donald Ford and Leslie Walker of Goubern, Sask., were second to William Ferguson and Richard Van Camp of Nestleton, Ont., in swine judging.

In the poultry classes Jean Olliver and Ruth Haight of Saskatoon finished five points behind the winners. Mary Matheson and Millen Johnston of Binscarth, Man.

In the seed grain project, Arnold Blackenridge of Millbrook, Ont., and Harold Hammond of Bowmanville, Ont., combined to place first.

The Manitoba team of John Bullied and Firmin Michels, both of Holland, was second.

The Quebec team of Jean Paul and Jean Guy Cote, both of Neutville, won the garden project, with Glenn McLeod and Baudouine Korne of Oakbank, Man., second.

British Columbia won the potato judging, with the team of Robert Bose of Surrey Centre and Sargit Singh, Cloverdale. Second place went to the Nova Scotia duo of Emerson Thorpe and William Tupper of Canning.

Alberta won the final two contests—in clothing and food. Opal Keller and Norma Stephenson of Cayley took the clothing project and Betty Brown and Helen Wagner of Naton the food.

## Devon Cattle for Export



During the first week in October many of Britain's finest Devon bulls, cows and heifers were on show in the cattle market at Exeter, in Devonshire. The occasion was the 105th show of the Devon Cattle Breeders' Society. Picture shows a row of fine tuberculin-tested Devon bulls, with, in the foreground of this group of Class 1 bulls, Robert William's Devon Bull "Colleigh Captain Currie" (No. 8), who won 1st prize, and Champion Male. He was purchased by Harry Hobson and Co., for 650 guineas, for export to Australia.

## Efficiency In The Laying Pens

High labour efficiency in the laying house has been an outstanding achievement of poultry management in recent years. Large insulated pens with controlled ventilation, have made possible many of the laying pen innovations which are giving excellent results.

The use of deep litter has been a great aid in reducing labour. Instead of changing the litter frequently throughout the year, poultrymen now place about six inches of shavings on the floor when the pullets are first placed in the laying pens, and then he adds straw to the litter every two or three weeks until it is built up to a depth of ten or twelve inches. It is not necessary to chop the straw before using it. If grain is kept in the litter, the hens will feed it stirred up and in good condition, providing no water is spilled around the drinking fountains. It is not necessary to change the litter for at least one year, at which time it has a high fertilizing value.

Manure pits have also helped to streamline laying house management. They need only be cleaned once or twice a year and, as a rule, there is no objectionable odour from them. Manure pits also lend themselves to good habits, for it has been found that practically no trouble is experienced in training pullets to roost in orderly rows when roosts, with wire underneath them, are placed over the manure pits at right angles to the back wall. The current practice, in some types of pens, of eliminating roosts entirely, has not found favour with many poultrymen who have tried this system. Losses from smothering have occurred where no roosts are provided and other disabilities from crowding are suspected.

Other devices such as automatic drinking fountains have also proved their worth. At the present time mechanical feeders are being given a trial and they may prove to be of considerable value on large establishments.

At the Dominion Experimental Station, Fredericton, N. B., deep litter, manure pits, and continuous flow water fountains are all giving excellent results. Advantage can be taken of these practices, even in old houses which can often be remodelled satisfactorily at reasonable cost.

## Cheese Hints From Culinary Experts

For centuries, cheese has been one of the standbys of cooks. In fact, cheese has played more than one vital role in the making and breaking of empires. An example is Welsh Rabbit, born of a total absence of game when the menu of an ancient baron in Wales called for rabbit at a banquet of political importance. His chef, extremely clever, melted cheese and served it on toast, christening it Welsh Rabbit.

Canadian Cheddar cheese can be put to advantageous use on today's menu. For instance, with an almost universal taste for cheese with apple pie, the culinary experts of Canada's Kitchen (the ladies of the Consumer Section, Canada Department of Agriculture) suggest adding cheese to the pastry or laying thin slices over the top after the pie is baked, letting it melt as the pie re-heats just before serving.

The Consumer Section specialists continue with these cheese suggestions: grated cheese in cream of potato, onion and corn soups; cheese bread; cheese muffins; cheese mixed with bread-crumbs to top a vegetable casserole or a fruit crisp; grated cheese with grated raw apple for a sandwich filling; a sprinkling of grated cheese on scrambled eggs;

Cheese with cooked white navy beans, made into a loaf as a meat alternate; spread grated Cheddar, mixed with a little salad dressing, on half-inch-thick slices of red-skinned apple, and serve as an appetizer; stuff big, plump prunes and use as an appetizer; open-faced sandwich — on toast place a thick slice of tomato, pour on hot cheese sauce; use cheese in tomato jelly for a luncheon salad; potato cheese puff — add cheese to potato mashed potatoes and brown in the oven.

At grated Cheddar to salad dressing for tomato or plain lettuce salad; add grated cheese to beef stew; sprinkle top of baked apple with shredded Cheddar, return to oven until cheese melts;

These are only a few suggestions. For more details and actual recipes for cheese dishes, an application to the Consumer Section, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, will bring copies of booklets and folders covering the subject thoroughly.

breeding programmes involve the growing of large numbers of seedlings and selecting from these the most promising individuals, says B. R. Wilkinson, Dominion Experimental Station, Morden, Man.

Fruit harvested for seed should be left until "dead ripe". This allows the seed to reach full maturity and simplifies the seed cleaning process.

If the seed is to be stored or shipped it may be dried, although drying is not essential to growth, and some authorities believe it to be somewhat detrimental.

Most seeds require a "rest period." This may be defined as a stage in the life cycle of the plant when, due to internal physiological factors, it cannot be induced to grow. The rest period normally occurs while the plant or seed is dormant, due to climate influence, consequently it is often overlooked by the inexperienced grower.

In the case of our temperate climate fruits, a period of chilling is required to break the rest period. This explains the need for "stratification" or "after ripening" of most seeds.

Stratification may be carried out as follows. Seeds may be mixed with damp sand and placed in cold storage at 34 degrees Fahrenheit, or in a root cellar where hard freezing does not occur. Where a root cellar is not available seeds may be buried outdoors in a box of moist sand, beneath about 2 feet of well drained soil. They are removed in the spring and sown in the usual way.

The length of the stratification period required varies with the species. Apple and pear seeds require from two to three months; apricot, two to three months; Nanking cherry, three months; native plum, five months; sour cherry, five months, and Korean cherry, three months.

An alternate after-ripening method, which usually gives satisfaction, is to sow the seeds in autumn, as soon after harvest as practicable.

### CLYDE RIVER W. I.

Clyde River W. I. met at the home of Mrs. Reginald MacKinnon for the October meeting.

The president presided and the meeting opened with the Institute Ode and Collect repeated by all.

Nineteen members answered roll call with several visitors present. Roll call for November meeting is to be answered by each member donating a cup for the Institute, a start on Institute dishes.

Each member was asked to make three articles during the winter in preparation for a future bazaar.

A demonstration on tanning was given by Mrs. A. MacLean. Mrs. John Beer is to give a demonstration on punch work at the November meeting, which is to meet with the president, Mrs. George Dixon, on Nov. 30. Mrs. R. D. Matheson was chosen to keep a scrap book of all endeavours in the Institute. The programme consisted of readings by Mrs. John Darrach and Mrs. Eric MacPhail.

A letter was read asking for blood donor volunteers. This matter was left to the members themselves to get donors.

The meeting closed by singing the National Anthem.

A delicious lunch was enjoyed in the social hour which followed the meeting.

## Tree Fruit Seed

OTTAWA, 1950—The importance of tree fruit seed to the horticulture industry is obvious. Most fruit trees being sold at present are budding into seedling rootstocks. Fruit



A Korean army nurse, undismayed by the lack of porters, hoist her baggage to her head and carries it to her station. The loads Korean women carry sometimes weigh as much as the women themselves.

## Value of Protein Value

The desirability of including a minimum of protein of animal or marine origin in swine rations has been emphasized in most swine feeding recommendations.

A feeding experiment was conducted at the Dominion Experimental Farm, Nappan, N. S., to obtain information on the minimum use of these feeds in swine rations. The results are of importance because of the conflicting evidence in support of the protein supplementary value of these feeds and the shortages of feeds of animal origin which have occurred in the past. The proportion of animal protein in the ration was reduced by replacing tankage with linseed oil meal so that four protein supplements consisting of these two feeds and containing respectively, 50; 25; 10; and 0 per cent of tankage were compared. In addition, one group of hogs received a protein supplement consisting of equal parts of linseed oil meal and soya bean oil meal. Barley constituted the entire basal ration for all hogs.

There is very little difference in the average rate of live weight gain of the hogs among the five ration groups. The hogs receiving protein from vegetable sources only showed the same average rate of gain as those receiving tankage. The average feed efficiency as measured by the meal consumed per unit of live weight increase and carcass gain, was only slightly lower for the hogs receiving linseed oil meal alone or with soya bean oil meal as with the protein supplement.

All carcasses were graded in the two top rail grades and there was no consistent difference between ration groups in the average total carcass score.

These results, comments C. D. T. Cameron, Research Officer at the Farm, would seem to indicate that the tankage fed in this experiment did not improve the results over a balanced ration in which all the protein was derived from vegetable sources.

## At Royal Winter Fair

Youngsters from all over Canada joined in national competitions held prior to opening of Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. Youngsters represented best of more than 54,000 others who are members of young farm clubs across Canada. Above, Irma Trueman, Aulac, N.B., one of the provincial champions at Toronto Winter Fair.



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roll call with annual dues there were two visitors present.

The minutes of monthly meeting were read and approved, and the minutes of last annual meeting were also read. The annual business report was given by Secretary showing a balance on hand of \$30.34.

The sum of nineteen dollars was passed in being collected by Miss Mary Toombs and Miss Jean Carr for the Cancer Campaign. The committees then gave their reports. Mrs. Read Stevenson reporting for school said a black board compass was needed. It was moved and seconded that teacher buy some and present bill to Institute.

Following are new committees—Sick—Mrs. Read Stevenson and Mrs. Ernest Bulman. Lunch—Mrs. Garfield LePage and Mrs. Noel Hooper. School—Mrs. Ernest Bulman. Correspondence was read and discussed.

Secretary was asked to procure Annual Capsules for any parents in districts who wished to buy some for their children.

Members attending Amherst fair were asked to see Model Farm



This trio of neighbors "cooked up" the scheme to aid the De Jong's, who come from Holland. They are: Jack Richardson, left, swarmed to the farm from as far away as eight miles. Motto: "We won't see him stuck."



Neighbors in Hopeville, Ont., and children, in Canada just three years. Farmers' wives joined goodwill cavalcade to cook a feast for neighboring plowmen who furrowed 80 acres in one afternoon. Aboard tractor, with Mrs. G. McNally at wheel, are Mrs. N. Campbell, Mrs. G. Black, Mrs. W. Wright, Mrs. De Jong, Mrs. I. Wright.

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