



A SAMPLE OF POM-POM DAHLIAS

Poultry Flock Provides 12% Of Farm Income

According to statistics, 12 per cent of farm income on Prince Edward Island is derived from the raising of poultry. This phase of agriculture has been profitable over the years and will continue to be so even in days of greater competition in all lines of agricultural endeavour.

Poultry was once thought to be a woman's job. Her's was the privilege to care for a dozen or so hens to provide groceries in some farm homes and spending money in others. Of late, things have changed. Someone has said that "no industry changes as fast and uses as many modern techniques in mechanization, breeding, and feeding as does the poultry industry." The small flock of 25 is gone. Farm flocks average between 100 and 1,000 with a number in the 3,000 to 5,000 bracket. We realize that no one has capitalized on poultry in a big way here either in meat or eggs.

It is with these facts in mind that we should view the situation from the general farmer's standpoint and attempt to determine how valuable is poultry in a mixed farming setup and what the farmer should attempt to do to stay in the business.

Some profit can be made in poultry by using the old fashioned methods, but it is advisable for even a small operator to give some thought to the following: 1. labor saving devices, 2. breeds or crosses that will produce eggs on less feed, 3. improved methods of marketing, and most important 4. keeping of records on the amount of profit, i.e. the overall profit of your poultry enterprise.

LABOR SAVING DEVICES

With a flock of laying hens much time can be saved if the laying house is so designed to care for the birds with little effort to start with, have large pens, e.g. 500 birds in one pen rather than 100 in five pens. Install automatic water fountains. It costs too much to carry water. Deep litter is a must. Start it deep enough early in the fall and it will keep dry even if your ventilation system is not the best.

Have feeders that will hold a day's supply of feed and so designed that the birds cannot waste feed. Feed costs money. Locate nests in a group if possible, near the door to cut time gathering the eggs. Keep them clean and fewer eggs will have to be cleaned. In the right setup, gathering and packing eggs in the biggest job and no one objects to this.

Proper Feeding Of Pigs Stressed

The cost of feeding pigs just weaned is not great but it is very important that they are adequately and properly fed at this time. It is cheap insurance. Later on when they attain some size and age coarser and cheaper feeds may be fed more safely. The food provided for weaning pigs should be easily digestible and the following recommendations will serve as a guide in feeding and will prevent the occurrence of crippling.

The feed mixture should be low in hull or fibre. If common oats are used, they should be ground and shifted or put through a fanning mill to remove the hulls. If hull-less oats are available and ground they are most acceptable.

FEEDING IMPORTANT

Newly weaned pigs should be fed three times a day but do not overfeed them and the amount they get should be gauged by their appetites. There should not be any feed left in the trough by the time of next feeding.

Wherever skim milk or buttermilk is available it should be given to them because they are particularly valuable for the young growing pig. Care should be taken not to make abrupt changes from skim milk to sour milk or vice versa. If no milk product is available a protein mineral supplement should be added to the grain mixture.

During the winter, and even in other seasons, if the pigs are kept closely penned a standard feed of either type A, or B, containing 1,000 units of Vitamin A and 200 units of Vitamin D, should be added to the feed once a day. This is to safeguard against crippling.

At any time when changes of feed mixtures are contemplated, it should be done gradually rather than abruptly. This should be done to avoid digestive disturbances which sometimes follow quick changes in the diet.

Silver Charolais Have Good Future

They are known as the Silver Cattle with the Golden Future. They are a creamy white in color and their skin is slightly pigmented.

The Charolais is not by any means a new breed for it originated in France more than two centuries ago. These animals were originally used for draught purposes in France and it is for this reason that they are usually well muscled and possess a mazing size and bone.

The Charolais breed originated in the Province of Charolais and the Herd Book was established at Nevers, France, in 1887.

The history of the Charolais breed on the North American continent is comparatively recent. Late in the 1930's a herd of 40 Charolais, 10 bulls and 30 cows, were exported from France to Mexico.

Ontario, owned by Murray Little was the first in Canada and one of his bulls is on loan to the Central Ontario Cattle Breeders Association. The Waterloo Cattle Breeders Association brought in a Charolais bull from Texas last spring for their artificial insemination unit. A yearling born January 1954, it weighed 1,230 pounds at 13 months.

Be Most Careful Of Grass Fires

Much property damage is caused every year in early spring by grass fires that get out of control. The grass is tender and will burn quickly if a lighted match is accidentally dropped after lighting a pipe or cigarette. Many landowners start a fire to burn old grass or have a bonfire to get rid of rubbish. It may get out of control and run in the dry grass, causing damage to fences, buildings, plantations and woodlots.

May forest pinatations have been ruined by spring grass fires that have burned over the area and practically all the trees have been killed. There is usually a heavy mat of several years growth of grass that has accumulated and a very hot fire results.

The smoker should not throw matches and cigarette butts out of car windows but they should be placed in the ash trays.

It is advisable to plan in advance if the grass on a vacant lot or field is being burned off. Burn the grass when several eole are around with shovels or water to keep it under control. The tractor or team with a low could be ready to low a furrow as one or two furrows will stop a grass fire.

Require Proper Fertilizer For Growing Of Potatoes

One of the most important causes of reduced grade quality of potatoes on the Canadian market arises from mechanical harrowing at harvest time. Up to 70 per cent of the grade defects in potatoes reaching the consumer may be traced to mechanical injury.

Recent experiments at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, showed that injury in the field during harvest could be reduced to 2.5 per cent or less when potatoes were mature and equipment was operated properly. But, injury may be 15-30 per cent when the machinery and equipment are not carefully operated. Handling from the field, storing and grading operations can also seriously injure the potatoes. To keep the mechanical injury

Beef Population Decline Produces Higher Prices

(By Harold C. Hearts)

Recent activity in the Beef Trade is not confined to this local area, in fact, it is evident right across the nation. Prices have been strengthening and the consumer and others concerned with the movement of cattle and calves to various markets are wondering what is behind it all.

Cattle populations, both in Canada and the United States (our export market) seem to raise and lower in cycles while the human population increases more or less steadily.

ALL TIME HIGH

Canada reached its all time high in cattle and calf population in 1945 at 9.6 million head. Our last low was in 1951 when prices soared above 30 cents a pound on the hoof for medium cattle. In 1957 there were on Canadian farms 11.3 million cattle, and calves, but by January 1958 a decline was evident.

Meanwhile, in the United States peak numbers of cattle and calves reached 96 million in January 1956 while just 94 million were recorded in the same month of 1958. In other words, potential beef marketings declined in the United States about a year before we passed our peak in Canada, leaving a favorable market for Canadian cattlemen.

Prices for Canadian cattle are closely tied, grade for grade, with those of the United States. In 1956 the peak year of American cattle population thousands of United States cattle were sold in Canada, the United States beef producer receiving the Canadian price less charges to reach our distribution points.

Right now cattle in Canada are worth the United States price less charges to reach American centres. This is because we are exporting to the South far more than we are importing. The price of beef as with the price of other commodities is affected by the consumer buying power, the price of pork or other competitor products which may replace it on the consumer's table.

QUALITY

The National Carcass Grades for beef were amended recently and the important change insofar as Maritime producers are concerned is the breakdown of the old commercial grade.

Before the change, steers and young heifers of fair to medium quality, heifer cows of medium quality and better, and overfats were all lumped in the broad "Commercial" grade. Under the new setup, steers and young heifers of top medium quality are placed in the "Standard" grade. This is a grade that is expected to be quite acceptable to Maritime consumers, the majority of which seem to prefer leaner beef than their counterparts in Central and Western Canada. That which is left of the old Commercial grade is classified as follows:

Commercial Class 1, steers and young heifers of fair to low medium quality.

Commercial Class 2, heifer cows of medium or better conformation, finish and quality.

Commercial Class 3, steers, heifers and young cows overfat and wasty.

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More large operators who purchase weanling age pigs and feed them to market weight are in evidence. The other specialist, the producer of weanlings for sale at around 30 pounds, is often not concerned with the potential quality of the carcasses when they reach market weight.

Specialization is economically sound but until the buyer of feeder pigs becomes discriminating and does some grading on his own with an eye to the genetic makeup of what he is feeding, hog quality may suffer.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Compared to beef and pork, the production of lamb and mutton is a declining industry. Quality is not improving and it is

noted that vigorous steps are being taken on the island to improve quality for the 1958 market.

The relative lack of vigor in sheep production is not confined to this area or to Canada. The last most review of the Commonwealth Economic Commission revealed here that the sheep population in that year some 74.8 lbs. of beef, 46.2 of pork, but only 2.7 lbs of lamb and mutton. Back in 1938, increased only 4 percent since 1938.

Holstein Cow Sets All-Time Milk Record

A new record for lifetime milk production has been set by this Holstein cow, Glendine Opal Pésch. She has produced 228,455 pounds of milk containing 7,450 pounds of fat. This is enough to provide an average family with enough milk, two quarts a day, for 125 years. Her owner, E. L. Anderson of Campbellford, Ont., credits much of Opal's performance to the loving care she receives from his daughter Linda.

Lack Of Top Soil Depleting Wealth

That a country's wealth is in the top six inches of its soil is a platitude, but one containing a truth with great pertinence to Southwestern Ontario generally. Because that wealth is being depleted.

The worry is not so much about lack of fertility in the soil as lack of humus, the mould of decaying vegetable matter which is necessary to hold moisture. Lack of fertility can be corrected by wise use of fertilizers, but humus presents quite another problem. The soil has become heavy and hardens easily.

Swine Breeding To Be Artificial

The development of Artificial Insemination in Swine has been going ahead rapidly in European Countries as well as on a research basis in the United States and Canada, at the Ontario Veterinary College. More recently Dr. D.G. Moore, Manager of the New Brunswick Central Artificial Breeding Co-operative has been conducting investigations in this regard.

In all probability in a short period of time, we will be using Artificial Breeding in hogs here on Prince Edward Island.

Pasture Yield Will Increase

Yield and carrying capacity of non-productive old pastures, usually weedy and low in valuable legume content, can be increased by modern tillage, fertilizing and re-seeding in the fall or spring as indicated by results of a three-year study, with the series of tests showing that a renovated pasture provided enough nutrients to enable dairy cattle to produce 5,300 pounds of milk or about 51 per cent more than the 3,500 pounds produced from the plot not renovated.

Greatest benefit from renovation comes from the complete usage of herbage produced, including hay or silage, from the extra growth in the spring, for feeding later in the season when grazing is short, or during the winter months.

How To Build Flat For Seeds

The following advice is given on rearing a flat for seeds.

Secure a fish falt (box in which finnan haddie is shed.) Bore several half-inch holes in the base if the bottom boards are close together, to allow drainage. Cover bottom with a half-inch of crushed stone, such as is used on driveways. Place a layer of, to within half an inch of the top, of well-rotten humus, one-third of each. Plant seeds with care about two inches apart. Cover lightly with sell sifted soil from above mixture or of building sand. Place in cold frame. Thin out seedlings to permit better growth. Water in morning. Shade during heat of day. Transplant after second set of leaves appear. If desired, or at stage when it is safe to plant outdoors.

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