



A Page for the MODERN FARMER



NEWSY NOTES

By AGRICOLA

MILLET AGAIN

The "Note" on Millet which appeared in this column a fortnight ago, has attracted attention in several quarters and the writer has heard of two farmers who have tried this grain during the past season. I hope to be able to lay their experience with the crop before my readers in the near future.

A reader who is greatly interested in Millet, has sent in, as a supplement to the aforesaid Note, an excerpt from the 11th edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica which reads:

Millet, *Pennisetum glaucum*, a dicotyledonous plant of the family Gramineae. It is probably a native of Egypt or Arabia, but has been cultivated in Egypt, Asia, and southern Europe from prehistoric times. It is annual, requires rich but friable soil, grows to about 3 or 4 feet high, and is characterized by its widely branched, nodding panicle. One variety has black grains.

It is cultivated in India, southern Europe, and northern Africa, and grows as far north as southern Germany.

The grain, which is very nutritious, is used in the form of groats and makes excellent bread when mixed with wheaten flour. It is also used largely for feeding poultry, for which purpose mainly it is imported into England.

The most common millet is the Hungarian Grass, (*Setaria italica*, also called *Panicum italicum*), a native of eastern Asia, is one of the most nutritious and palatable of grain cereals. It is annual, grows 4 or 5 feet high, and requires dry light soil.

German millet (*Ger. Kolbenrisse*, *Mohr*) is probably the most valuable and dwarf variety of *S. italica*, having an erect, compact and shorter spike. The grains of both are very small, only one-half that of the common millet, but are exceeding prolific.

Many stalks arise from a single root and a total spike often yields 5 times that of wheat. They are imported for poultry feeding like the former species, and are extensively used for soups etc. on the continent.

Numerous other species belonging to the vast genus *Panicum* are the largest among grasses, of which the following are among the most important are also cultivated in tropical or subtropical countries for grain or as fodder grasses; both each variety of soil, from swamp to desert, having its characteristic form.

Polish millet is *Panicum sanguinale*, *P. frumentaceum*, *Shamalo*, a Decan grass, is probably a native of tropical Africa. *P. decompositum* is the Australian millet, its grains being made into cakes by the aborigines. *P. maximum* is the Guinea Grass, native of tropical Africa. It is a perennial, grows 8 ft. high and yields abundance of nutritious grains. *P. spectabile* is the "cassia" of Angola, but has been acclimatized in Brazil and other tropical countries. Other gigantic species 6 or 7 ft. high, form the field crops on the banks of the Amazon.

Of species belonging to allied genera *Pennisetum typhoides*, *Farrea*, sometimes also called Egyptian millet or pearl millet, is largely cultivated in tropical Asia, Nubia, and Egypt. Species of *Paspalum*, *Echinochloa* and *Milium* are also cultivated as millets.

When I first came to this district, I also written *doura*, *dura*, *trier* I was sadly bothered with etc. is (also for a pearl) hence a subtracose on the butter-beans, hum vulgare, extensively cultivated seven or eight years since I've seen

in tropical and semi-tropical countries where the grain, made into bread, forms an important article of diet. In non-Arabic-speaking countries it is known by other names, such as Indian or African millet, Pearl Millet, Guinea Corn, and Kaffir Corn. In India it is called *Jowari*, *Jawaree*, *Jawari* (Hindi, *Jawari*).

So far the Encyclopaedia, and I thank the reader for copying this lengthy article for our information. The same correspondent kindly sent me the specimen plants of *Setaria* and *Panicum* grown on the Island.

It will be seen that the popular names are applied rather indiscriminately: Guinea Corn (*Setaria*) and Guinea Grass (*Panicum*) being easily confused. For clearness we may classify the millets thus:

(1) *Panicum* species, the true millets, with panicle inflorescence (whence the name *Panicum*).

(2) *Setaria* species, the Foxtail millets, with the grain in a cylindrical head or spike (from *seta*, a bristle).

(3) The *Sorghum* millets also with panicle inflorescence, but with habit and larger growth than *Panicum*.

It is hoped before long to give a "Note" on the cultivation of millet on the Island.

RED BARTISA
From a reader in the neighborhood of Kinross, comes a weed for identification. This is the Red Bartisa or Brownweed, *Oenothera rupestris* Gilib. The last in a series of variations for Jean E. Gilibert, the botanist who named the plant as above.) Before it comes into bloom it rather resembles one of the most common weeds, the *Stachys*, but the spike of rosy flowers dispels the likeness. Here is a short description.

Oenothera rupestris Gilib. Red Bartisa or Brownweed. An annual much-branched, scarious-pubescent herb, from 1.5 to 5.0 d. m. high. Leaves opposite, sessile, oblong, linearly, remotely serrated, 1-2 long. Fl. two-lipped, small, rose-red, loosely disposed in elongated spikes.

Not much is known about the Bartisa, and even that little to its credit. It belongs to a Knavish group of plants which get their living by robbing their neighbors as root-parasites. Cattle are said to avoid eating the Bartisa and to refuse grass growing round it.

NOTES FROM THE GARDEN
The tomatoes which were remarkably free from "Blossom-end rot" till about Sept. 7th, were immediately and seriously affected with it after the rain on Sept. 8th. This is in line with the belief that this malady is caused by a fungal or bacterial disease, but the fruit, rupturing them and enabling mold spores to get in their dirty work.

The white "navy beans" cast their leaves too early because of the drought, consequently the pods were not well filled. Of the Australian millet, its grains being made into cakes by the aborigines. *P. maximum* is the Guinea Grass, native of tropical Africa. It is a perennial, grows 8 ft. high and yields abundance of nutritious grains. *P. spectabile* is the "cassia" of Angola, but has been acclimatized in Brazil and other tropical countries. Other gigantic species 6 or 7 ft. high, form the field crops on the banks of the Amazon.

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CONSERVATION

A WEEKLY COLUMN OF PRACTICAL OPINIONS OF THE A VITAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE USES AND ABUSES OF NATURAL RESOURCES BY MR. LUDLOW JENKINS M.A.S.P.F.

WILDLIFE

GULLS, TERNS, AND SKIMMERS

Gulls and terns breed chiefly on islands and beaches, but their nesting fowl and from time to time several kinds may be seen in the salt marshes. Some are rare or difficult to distinguish and are best omitted from an account like the present. All those here mentioned are protected by Federal law.

The most common gull on the Atlantic coast from fall to spring is the Herring or Lesser gull, (*Larus argentatus*). It is somewhat larger than a crow. The back and most of the wing are pearl gray; the head, neck, and tail, white; and the tip of the wing is barred black and white. The species breeds from Massachusetts north and west and winters along the whole coast, from which in fact it is entirely absent only a few weeks in summer.

A similar-looking but somewhat smaller species, the Ring-billed gull (*L. delawarensis*), present during the same season, can be easily identified in the field by a black cross bar near the tip of the bill.

The laughing gull (*L. argentatus*) and the Herring gull (*L. argentatus*) are common throughout the coast. The laughing gull is larger and has a broad dark line from the eye around the neck. The crown feathers are elongated so as to form a slight crest posteriorly, and the tail is more or less deeply forked. The bills of terns are more slender and pointed than are the stout beaks with down-curved tips of the common gulls and are pointed more directly downward when the birds are on the wing. (*Sterna antillarum*), less than an inch long, is the only tern that in summer has a bar of white on the forehead in front of the black cap, breeds on islands beaches from Massachusetts east and winters from New England and both species winter from the South Atlantic coast southward.

The common tern (*S. hirundo*), from 14 to 16 inches in length, occurs along the coast in migration. The former breeds in New England and both species winter from the South Atlantic coast southward.

The Caspian tern (*Sterna bergii*) and the royal tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) are another pair similar in appearance. They are larger birds, about the size of crows with reddish-orange bills, the former having the tail about twice as deeply forked as the latter. Both may be seen on the South Atlantic coast in winter and both breed north to Virginia. The Caspian tern occurs farther north also in migration to and from breeding grounds in the northern winter.

The black tern (*Gygis alba nigra*), easily recognizable by its generally sooty color, breeds chiefly inland and is rather rare in spring on the Atlantic coast. It may be more numerous in late summer but then is very different dress.

Terns seldom exhibit the carrying or eating propensities of gulls but capture their prey alive either on the wing or, if in water, by plunging. A variety of insects are snatched in air, and small fishes, shrimps, and aquatic insects are taken by partial diving. The black tern is more pronouncedly insectivorous than the other species.

The black skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*), a peculiar and striking bird, related to terns and as large as any American species, may sometimes be seen about salt marshes. It breeds on beaches and here islands as far north as New Jersey and winters from Florida (occasionally South Carolina) southward. It is dusky brown above, with the forehead and crown white, and the hind border of the wing feathers as seen in flight, feature, is much longer than the fore feathers, and the side of the bill, with the lower part projecting considerably beyond the upper. The bird often flies over the water with the wings raised, a habit that has suggested the name "outwater" and "shearwater". The food is small fishes, so far as is known of kinds not used by man. Skimmers are wonderful good fliers, and flocks carry on elaborate maneuvers in swift unison. One is tempted to call the flocks "packs," as a common call of the birds sounds like the yelping of dogs.

Indications of the trend of fur market prices were shown by recent sales in Montreal, Yesterday's week minus signs ranging from 5 per cent to per cent ran through the entire list on the third and concluding day of the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company general sale of furs, 64 percent of the catalogue was sold. American buyers were more in evidence than in the previous two days of the sale. Greatest interest was shown in the muskrat and 250 persons were present when that offering was presented for bids. Montreal and Toronto buyers predominated but New York took a share of the muskrat, ermine, blue fox, white fox, cross fox and a few lynx.

The following is a brief account of the sale: MUSKRAT — (107,224 73 percent sold, declined 5 percent compared with the June sale, Alberta springs from \$2.12 to \$2.28; Eastern \$1.92; Lake of the Woods \$1.90 to \$2.90; Manitoba, \$1.88 to \$1.90; Ontario \$2.04 to \$2.48.

ERMINES — (28,314) 30 percent sold, declined 20 percent. Prices from .72 cents to \$1.28.

LYNX — (639) 46 percent sold, declined 15 percent, prices from \$31. to \$99.

CROSS FOX — Silvery large \$35. to \$36; medium \$24; Dark medium \$9.50 to \$14.50.

FREAK CROSSSES — \$19. to \$35. Wild cross \$19.00.

RANCH MINK — declined 15 percent and RED FOX was 10 percent lower than at the June auction. Highest red fox prices were paid for ranch ring-necked freaks at \$24 to \$35. Northwestern reds brought the top price of \$16.75 in the wild cross Labrador \$14, Quebec \$17.00.

In New York Fromm Bros. stated a mink sale last week. Their offering approximated 31,000 ranch mink. About 70 percent of 22,000 mink for the account of the Great Lakes Mink Association was sold at a high price of \$19.25 for extra dark selected large males and an average price of \$8.97 for the offering. About 6,000 Federal mink and 3,000 Canadian mink had a combined turnover of about 80 percent. The top price was \$13.25 for Federal mink. The average price was \$7.33. Only about thirty dealers and manufacturers were in attendance.

"It's an ill wind that blows nobody good," is an old and very true saying. We understand that certain manufacturers of fox feeds such as the Purina and Sun-Glo people, are working day and night to fill orders for cereals combined with concentrated meats either ground or in the form of cubes. Ranchers who cannot get meat—and there are many of them—say that their only recourse is to buy the cubes, turning to these feeds and others like them in their hour of need.

Many of them say that their foxes are getting along as well if not better, than other seasons, so the change may be permanent.

Mink breeders in the United States are having a great deal of trouble with a parasite fly which deposits its larvae on the young mink. This in turn burrows through the skin into the tissues. Here it develops from a microscopic maggot into a considerable size in from four to ten days. If the animal dies it leaves the carcass and burrows into the ground where it later pupates in about two weeks into a mature fly. These flies can easily be raised for observation by placing

Some dealers are of the opinion that if silver fox pelts were pushed and advertised the next few months that there would be a good demand for them. They find that the tendency to buy fur coats and other expensive furs is "off" but that no such feeling exists regarding the medium priced furs in which category silver fox including silver fox jackets, would be placed. Once again we believe that there is a good opportunity time to get after business.

A large scale concentration of fur trade interests is under serious consideration in London, according to the British Fur Trade, an English publication. It reports: "The fur trade may see the biggest combination of manufacturing furriers who have pooled their quota, depleted their resources and established their business on an economic structure in order to serve the trade profitably. What is un-economic can never survive. Combinations must be formed to cut down overhead."

Dealers from Dayton, Ohio, claim that there has been a tremendous demand for 32 inch coats, especially true around the \$200. range, with South American spotted cats a favorite fur and silver fox and wolf furs following in that order of preference. Filled coats were dismissed by buyers as of little importance.

One fur store proprietor asked if fitted coats are selling replied, "No, not at all."

Commenting in general upon the situation so far one buyer had this to say: "I had an idea that this was going to be a good year for fur scarfs and neckpieces because of the emphasis on suits. I wanted to go heavily on scarfs but a manufacturer recommended that I watch out because casual coats are in for a good year and I might be stuck by over-stocking on fur pieces."

The Progressive O'or Phase Silver Fox Association which was formed last season, held their annual meeting in Milwaukee recently. Very little has been given about what happened but it appears there will be an endeavor to have most of the American breeders of the new types in the Association who graders from the Association will place the various colorings in their proper categories.

Among those attending the annual meeting of the Associated Milligan and Morrison Fur Fairs, Inc. at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 20th and 21st, we note the name of Frank Andrew, Gladstone, Michigan. Mr. Andrew is a son of John B. Andrew, a well known Royalty. He formerly ranched foxes with his father but left about 1923 for Michigan where he conducts a large and very successful fox ranch.

The American Angora Rabbit Breeders Cooperative, which began with 12 members in July, 1938, now has a membership of over 700. It maintains a central warehouse in Palmer Lake, Colorado, which will handle close to \$100,000 worth of four to ten days. If the animal dies it leaves the carcass and burrows into the ground where it later pupates in about two weeks into a mature fly. These flies can easily be raised for observation by placing

aid of machine shearers which are manipulated by experts who make anywhere from \$10 to \$30 a day. The goats are sheared twice a year and the wool brings a good price. A champion lambs angora goat will fetch up to \$1,500.

One of the great troubles mink farmers are up against is urinary calculi, or in every day language, bladder stones. Why mink should be particularly susceptible to these is not known, but it would seem reasonable that the disease must be a lot of lime in the water. Gastro-enteritis or inflammation of the stomach and intestines is another trouble that mink breeders are up against and that no doubt is a dietary one, probably due to too much roughage being used. We ourselves remember when we were in the habit of using too much roughage and similar diseases developed among our foxes. Now it is practically non-existent. Malnutrition due to rickets and Vitamin B deficiency, scorch worm infestations, fur chewing and outbreaks of infectious diseases, leave the water, if stations are added conditions the mink breeder must deal with.

In the Toronto papers recently there was a very striking advertisement by a Toronto furrier suggesting that the ladies of Toronto in their purchases of fur wear for service uniforms and wear furs, stressing the fact that furs are not only warmer but more beautiful as well. The above is taken from Fur Trade Journal of Canada, September number, which incidentally is a very attractive publication containing a wealth of interesting material.

Now that the scent of skunks can be noticed from the precincts of the most luxurious homes of our city it may be interesting to note that the scent of a skunk is a very good preservative for many of the products of this potent element is sufficient. The party who recommends it says it is somewhat hard to carry in a liquid form without getting badly odorized, but it can be mixed with lard and carried in an old vaseline jar or small jar with cover top. This may be all right for covote trappers, but the writer—and we don't believe any of our readers would care to carry round anything like exclusive circles.

COUNTER PROPAGANDA
STOCKHOLM — (C.P.) — To stir up confusion on the Norwegian home front the Nazis are issuing an underground newspaper of their own. "The Fight for Freedom" to excuse certain of Quisling's activities.

FOR SALE
Choice registered boars, breeding age, also young boars, all home bred, one hundred and more sires and qualified imported dam. Apply Frank McAulay, Souris, 9-18-42.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH

Silver Fox Farming



Attention Sheep Breeders

Owners of early and well developed ewe lambs, who wish to dispose of such for breeding purposes, should notify either the Provincial Department of Agriculture or the Dominion Live Stock Branch, Charlottetown, at the earliest opportunity.

A few of these maggots in ordinary aid of machine shearers which are manipulated by experts who make anywhere from \$10 to \$30 a day. The goats are sheared twice a year and the wool brings a good price. A champion lambs angora goat will fetch up to \$1,500.

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Feed Full-O-Pep Vitamin Pig-N-Sow Feed and see how pigs thrive and fill out.

FULLOPEP PIG-N-SOW FEED

HERE'S an excellent feed to condition sows for farrowing, and to promote health and vigor in pigs and sow both, until weaning time. Provides rich sources of minerals and proteins, along with the famous Full-O-Pep Vitamin-Boost for health and thriftiness.

ORDER TODAY FROM

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AUTHORIZED QUAKER FEED DEALERS

Charlotteville, Summerside, Souris

PERFECTION DAIRY, Summerside, P. E. I. SOURIS CREAMERY, Souris, P. E. I.

FOR SERVICE

Registered YORKSHIRE BOAR

Grand Champion at CHARLOTTETOWN EXHIBITION

HENRY JENKINS Mount Herbert

OUT OUR WAY By J. R. WILLIAMS

OUR BOARDING HOUSE WITH MAJOR HOOPLE

SAY, I PACKED THAT LUNCH AND PUT PLenty IN IT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO PUT THE THERMOS BOTTLE NOW?

YOU KEEP TH' LIQUID FER AFTER-NOON TEAS--US GUYS IS TRYIN' TO WIN THIS WAR!

MARTHA TELLS ME YOU'RE DEACAYING FOR WANT OF A JOB, MAJOR! AS YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW, I'M GOING TO DO YOU A FAVOR AND TRY TO FIND YOU SOMETHING-- IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO EXTRA WELL, OUTSIDE OF STUMBLING OVER FIREPLUGS?

EGAD! SHOULD I FLY INTO A FURY OR TREAT THIS CAD WITH THE COOL CONTEMPT OF AN ICE-BERG? HM!

THANK YOU LOADS, TOM! BUT DON'T WORK YOURSELF INTO A LATHER MINDING MY BUSINESS! I AM INTERESTED IN MY LOFTY INTELLECTUAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS WHICH YOUR DOLLAR-A-DAY NATURE WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND! HAR-RUMPH!

SUCH AS TWANGING THE BULL FIDDLE?

NOOMP!

BRINGING UP FATHER

I'VE GOT TO GIT THAT DOCTOR TO LET ME SMOKE-- GOOD SUN-IF HE WILL SAY I'M TO CONSIDER HIS PROPOSITION--

I'LL CALL HIM UP AND HAVE HIM COME OVER WHILE MAMMIE'S OUT-- PERHAPS HE'LL PERSUADE HIM TO CONSIDER MY PROPOSITION--

OH--HELLO--MAMMIE'S HERE--SO WELL--I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO PLAY BRIDGE--

THE BRIDGE GAME IS OFF--HE'S SURPRISED LOOK ON YOUR FACE?

AH--MR. JISS--HERE I AM--YOU'RE LOOKING BETTER--BUT YOU MUST STOP SMOKING-- THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT--

YES--DOCTOR!

By George McManis