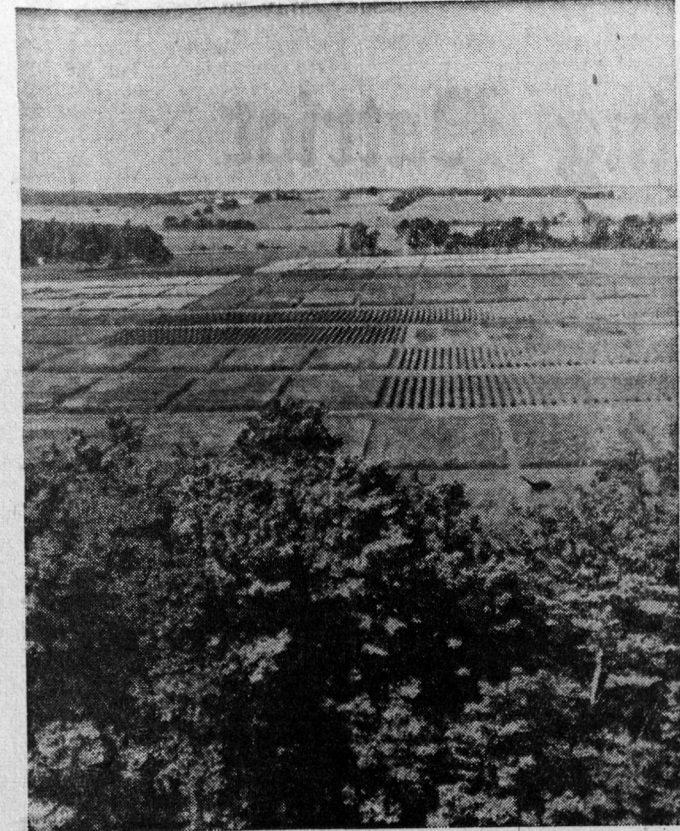


Growth Of Artificial Breeding Units Seen

Over twenty-one thousand cows have been bred artificially in Prince Edward Island. The first unit the Eastern Prince County Artificial Breeding Club commenced operation of June 6, 1955. The following year eight more Clubs were formed and last year 1957 four more giving us a total of thirteen Clubs.

This affords service province wide to all Cattle Breeders desirous of using the service. It is also interesting to note that during the same period the number of bulls maintained at the Central Breeding Unit at Fredericton has shown a marked increase. Over fifty bulls are maintained in the battery.

In addition to these sires semen in the frozen state is kept in the holding box. The services of ten breeds are not available daily to cattle owners. These breeds are: Holstein, Ayrshire, Jersey, Guernsey, Dual-Purpose



LAYOUT of soil fertility plots at the Experimental Farm, Charlottetown, is seen from the top of the screen of an open air theatre at Upton. Results from experiments such as these are a valuable aid in modern farming.

Cross-Breeding Danger Stressed

With the advent of Artificial Insemination of cattle, farmers are given the opportunity of using in their herds some of the top sires available in all the common cattle breeds.

This is a tremendous forward step from a few years ago when farmers in most districts had to rely either on the bull kept by one of their neighbours or had to keep a bull of their own for breeding their herd.

This bull was often of very ordinary breeding and sometimes not even a registered bull of the breed. The improvement of cattle in the district with this method of breeding was dependent to a very large extent on the selection of the bull. This bull would usually be kept two or three years in the district, and then be replaced by a new one.

If he turned out to be a good breeding bull then much good would be done in the district. But if it turned out that the bull was a poor breeder whose calves were poorer than their dams than much harm would be done to the herds. Now with artificial insemination it makes available many different sires.

These bulls have been carefully selected as to type and production so that the average bull in the A.I. unit is vastly superior to any that could be bought by a group of farmers for use in their own district.

WIDE SELECTION

This wide selection of breeds of sires does create at least one quite serious problem. With comparatively high beef prices farmers are inclined to cross their dairy cows with a beef bull. This practice is economically sound if all these cross-bred offspring, are sold for beef. Too often a cross bred heifer with her hybrid vigor, looks so promising that the farmer may be tempted to keep her for a breeder.

This would be an unwise thing to do because even though this cross bred female may show considerably beef type and may be a good milking cow—although usually a poorer producer than her dairy dam—the calves produced by this cow, no matter to what she is bred, will usually be much poorer than herself.

So think again before keeping that cross bred heifer. A better plan would probably be to always breed some of your best dairy cows to a bull of their own breed and cross the poorer producers in your herd with a beef bull. For herd replacements keep the good straight bred heifers and sell all the cross bred calves for meat.

Farm Problems Of 1837 Discussed

A pioneer organization in promoting improvements in farm methods in Prince Edward Island was the Eastern Agricultural Society. A report of the sixth annual meeting of the Society, held in Georgetown, Jan. 18, 1837, makes interesting reading today. Mr. Alexander MacDonald was in the chair.

The report regrets the injury to crops by early frost and commends the Legislature for assisting the needy by providing seed.

There is reference to a partial failure of the potato crop owing to some disease. "An idea seems to prevail," it adds, "that the potato is worn out and requires to be produced from seed."

A writer in the Dumfries Courier says: "It is recommended to apply common soot to the set before planting rather than hot lime". There is a strange coincidence in this singular visitation, that it should appear about the same time in places 3,000 miles distant across the ocean, not in the habit of exchanging the seed of the potato."

A Mr. Braddock is commended for his introduction of a threshing machine run by horse power. "It can be used for driving a threshing, winnowing, chaff-cutting or other machine, turn a grind-stone, a malt mill or grain breaker."

The report advocates the use of a straw cutter, "as it has been found cut straw is more nutritive than uncut straw although no reason can be given why it should be."

Optimism is the prevailing note in the report. "It has been asserted we are poor. If so, whence the abundance of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick notes, dollars and British silver which circulate so freely among us?"

Were they not received in payment for our vessels, our horses, grain and potatoes, and for the wages and labour of our young men? and will not our exports increase rather than diminish—especially should the intended Bank equalize our currency?"

"Many of the indications of increasing prosperity through-out the Island, especially in the capital—the privileged capital—of the colony, where merchants have the supplying of a larger population than most towns of the adjoining continent."

In Nova Scotia numbering about four times our inhabitants about numerous the towns. The comparatively rapid progress, too, of our incipient Georgetown, gives earnest of her future prosperity, although it has been popular to denounce her, and retard her advancement."

"Your committee rejoice at the importation of a superior seed and congratulate the Society on the introduction of a superior wheat in

Shorthorn, Beef Shorthorn, Hereford, Abredeen Angus, Reid Poll and Charolais.

PAY FOR SEMEN

The P.E.I. Department of Agriculture pays for the cost of semen on all these bulls that is the bulls maintained in the battery at Fredericton and the Red Poll, Aberdeen Angus and Charolais. If sires outside of those mentioned are required the cost of the semen will be paid for by the breeder. When you decide to use a certain sire other than those maintained in the Fredericton battery let your inseminator know and he will see that the semen if obtainable is order and shipped ready for your use.

Milk production has jumped fifty percent, said Dan McGrew, Extension Dairyman in the state of Ohio when he spoke at a Dairy Day. He also related that every fourth cow being milked in Ohio was artificially sired.

THREE OBJECTIVES

McGrew pointed out three objectives of artificial breeding. 1. Safer. 2. Cheaper. 3. To improve individuals and the herds. The 1940 figure in Ohio was 4600 pounds of milk and 200 hundred pounds of fat. The average production in 1956 was 6930 pounds of milk and 267 pounds of butterfat.

The Extension Dairyman gave a number of reasons for the stepped up production. They are: 1. Artificial breeding. 2. Better hay. 3. Amount of Alfalfa hay fed per cow when doubled. 4. Increased silage fed. 5. Increased hay fed. 6. Cows are in better hands now.

Let us for the moment consider the situation here in Prince Edward Island. Recently I was

talking with officials of our dairy division and they stated, that the average milk production per cow in Prince Edward Island was approximately 5500 pounds and that the average butterfat production was around 200 pounds. It is then very obvious that if the production of both milk and fat is increased by using better sires and better management the financial productivity of the individual cow will increase correspondingly.

HERD IMPROVEMENT

The inauguration of the new Dairy Herd Improvement Programme recently will materially assist breeders in finding out exactly what status each animal falls in. It is impossible to know the production of both milk and fat of an individual unless routine weighing and testing is carried out.

In my opinion one of the better practices is first to determine the productivity of the animal then breed straight dairy to

Maggots In Sheep Can Cause Death

Sheep are apparently very susceptible to maggot infestation. Maggots are the larvae stage of a fly, which are found in the vicinity of stables and barnyards. The adult fly deposits the larvae on the surface of the wounds, where tissues have been injured or torn in some way. They work their way into the skin causing excessive sores, which may result in the death of the animal. The tails of undocked lambs are favourite locations for maggot infestation.

There is considerable irritation manifested by the animal rubbing the affected part. This area has a lifeless and spongy appearance, and when it is opened the

living parasites are quite easily found in the decomposing tissues. This condition occurs only during hot summer months.

tissues as well as the parasites should be removed carefully. The area should be washed with a solution of carbolic acid one to 20 parts of water.

Many recommend the application of kerosene, and some spirits of turpentine. The latter should not be used on raw wounds as it will cause too much irritation. A mixture of ether and sweet oil is probably one of the most effective remedies.

Solutions of Creolin, Kreso or

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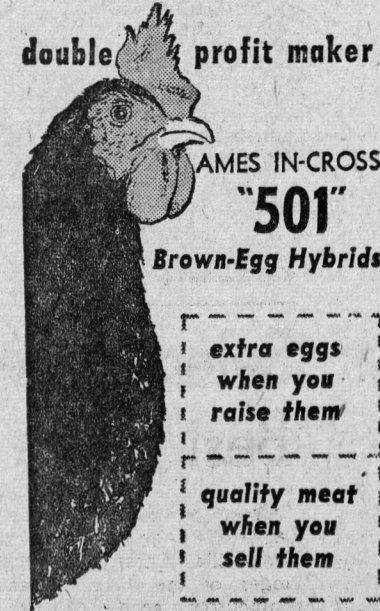
Solutions of Creolin, Kreso or

Izal may be used. Prevention of this trouble should be the first consideration and in cases of injury the application of pine-tar or equal parts of lard and sulphur will prevent the larvae from gaining entrance into the body.

The raccoon is found only in North and Central America, from Alaska in the north to Costa Rica in the south. It is common to the whole of the United States.

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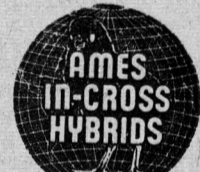
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ABLEWAY 3—2:09.4
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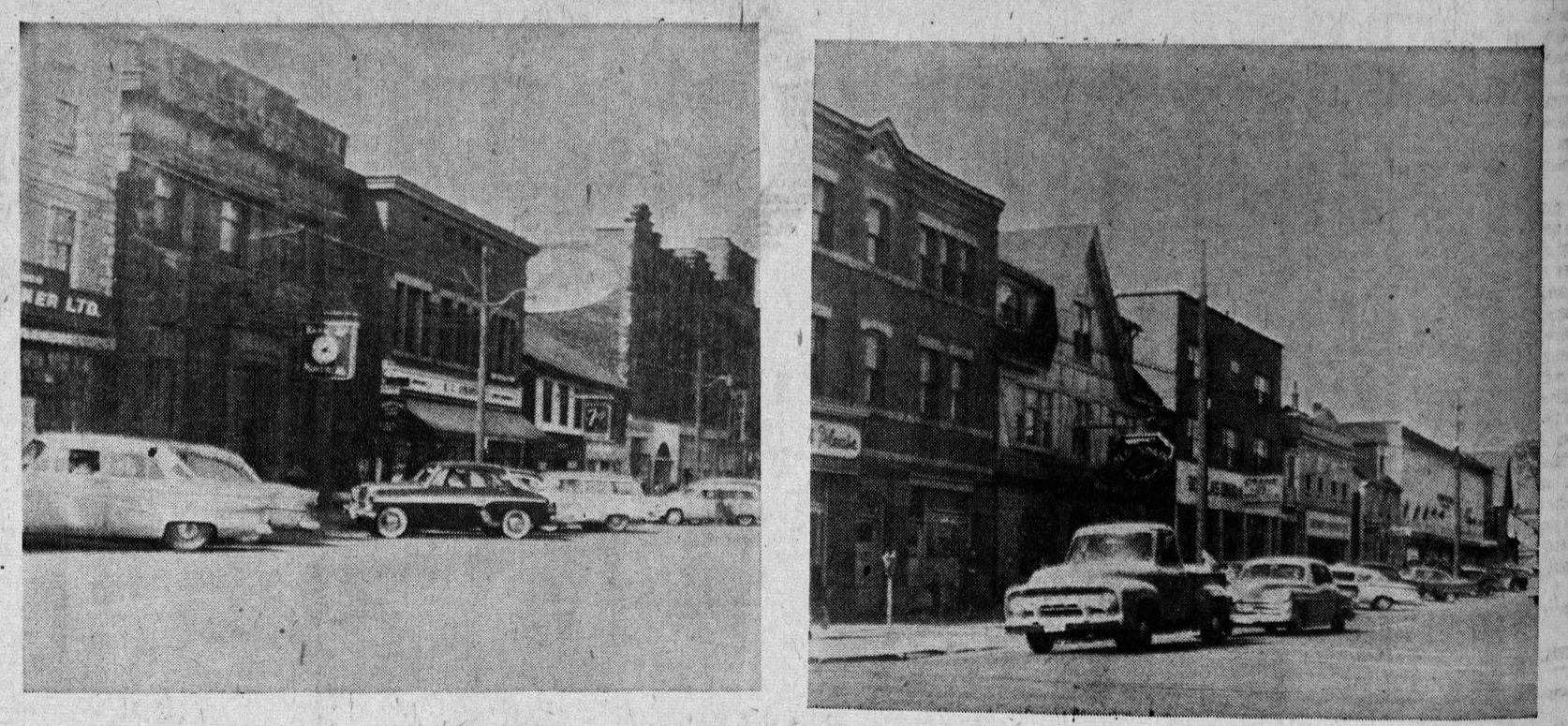
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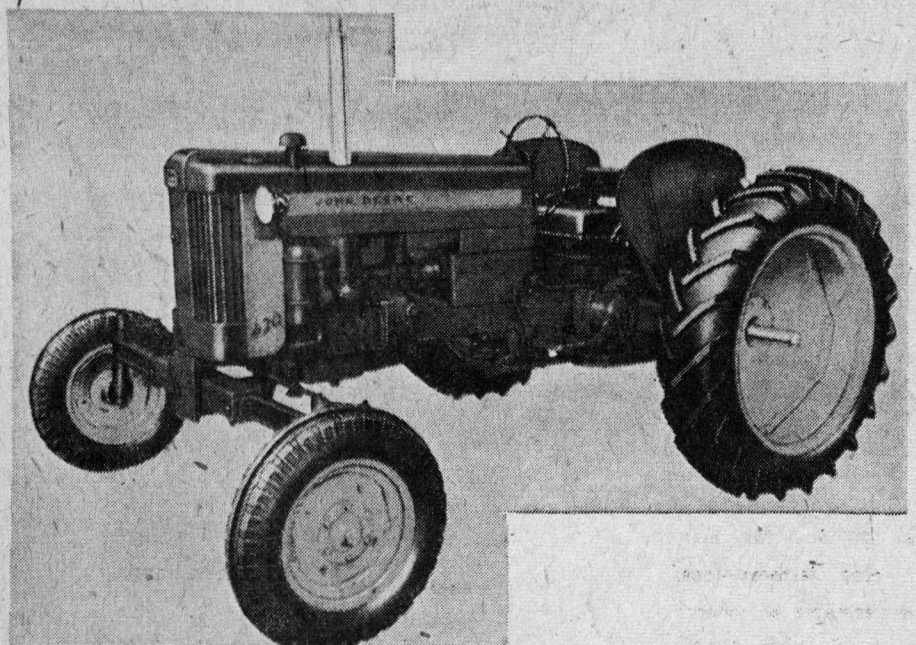
And in its pride acknowledges that ever behind the continued growth and prosperity of our city is the Island's foremost industry "AGRICULTURE" and the countless farmers who make our city their trading and shopping centre.

Our congratulations to the Guardian - Evening Patriot on this splendid Farm Edition and our best wishes to Agriculture and the Farmers of the Province, for bountiful crops and good prices in the years ahead.

CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN

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