

MODERN FARMER



TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

This Province will be well represented at the Amherst Winter Fair in all departments including foxes and mink. George A. Callbeck, Ernest Hill and Roy Woodcock will be the principal exhibitors of foxes. All three are breeders of outstanding animals and we will be surprised if they did not score heavily in the fox department.

The Prize List for the 20th Live Fox Show and 3rd Live Mink Show to be held at Charlottetown November 14th to 17th has been issued by the Prince Edward Island Fur Breeders Association. It is attractively gotten up and printed and reflects credit on the Secretary, Walter R. Shaw of the Department of Agriculture. There are a few changes in it from previous years for instance in class 1 for medium silvers, to be eligible for entry in 60% silver. Light medium silvers must show from 61% to 74% silver, light silvers not less than 75% and not over 80% silver. Class 4, extra light silver heavily veiled, to be eligible to this class foxes must show from 90% to 100% silver.

It will be noticed that the darker types of foxes have been recognized to some extent in the classification of mediums and light mediums. This is due to the European demand for all types of fox. Otherwise the prize list is practically the same as former years. Standard white marked silvers which comprised several classes a few years ago has now only class 6 - extra light. We notice, however, that there is a strengthening in the prices for white marked silvers and it is possible that they may have a comeback. If so it will find us very ill prepared as practically all ranches have cut down almost to the vanishing point on this type of fox.

The New York Auction Company, 226 West 26th St., New York, N.Y., has issued a circular to all ranchers and breeders of mink in the United States. Here are the top prices obtained by them this season - Standard \$55; Starlight \$41.50; Kobuk \$72; Silverblue \$46; Breath of Spring silver \$80; Royal \$79; Aleutians \$89. They end with: "Confidence is never earned for keeps - it must be re-earned every season." Their sales dates for mink in 1950 are, Dec. 5, Dec. 13, Dec. 18-19-20, Dec. 22. For 1951 mink, silver fox, etc., January 4th, mink and mutations, January 15, mink and silver fox January 20th also February 8th, and continuing dates are given up to December 21st.

Holding to the opinion that the time is ripe to promote fox fur as a fashion item, fox breeders from all of the important fox breeders States last week formed the American Fox Breeders Association, at a meeting in Milwaukee. At the same time, they adopted the trade name AMFOX, a name proposed by Harry LeDue, editor of American Fur Breeder, Duluth, Min. "to advertise and promote quality ranch foxes raised by American fox breeders." The meeting, at which Edward P. Langenfeld, of Associated Fur Farms, New Holstein, Wis., presided as temporary chairman, was the result of two previous organization sessions at which fox breeders expressed a



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Producing Quality Market Eggs

OTTAWA, October, 1950 — The important factors which influence egg quality are breeding, feeding and management.

Most market egg producers buy their laying stock from commercial hatcheries. As the owners of supply flocks for commercial hatcheries follow a breeding program approved by the Dominion or Provincial Government the purchaser is assured of being able to obtain laying stock which will lay well when properly fed and adequately housed.

Rearing is important. Pullets should have access to good feed and pasture and should be culled before being brought into the laying house. The thrifty, healthy, well grown pullets should be retained.

The feeding program will influence both the grade and quantity of eggs. A well balanced good quality laying mash, together with scratch grain, grit, oyster shell and a constant supply of clean water is essential. This will assure the best returns in number and grade of eggs produced per pound of feed consumed. High grade eggs will not be produced by hens that have free range and access to refuse heaps and manure piles.

The laying flock should be housed in well ventilated, sanitary pens. If maximum egg production is to be maintained, when extremes in temperature are experienced the importance of insulation should not be overlooked. The use of community nests saves time. There will not be as many soiled, stained or broken eggs as when individual nests are used. Nesting material should, of course, be kept clean.

Infertile eggs retain their quality longer than fertile eggs, thus if the flock is not being used for breeding purposes the males should be removed.

Eggs should be collected at least every two hours especially in warm weather. Wire egg baskets are the best containers to use for this purpose as they permit the eggs to cool more quickly. The eggs should be placed in a room that is cool and free from all odours. The ideal holding temperature is 55 degrees F. Ship eggs at least twice a week if possible. Do not market eggs that are abnormal in shape, size or shell texture, use these in the home as they will only lower your grade and cost returns.

Routine is important. A regular schedule of feeding and management will help to maintain steady production.

Why Cross-Breed Sheep?

Throughout the major sheep raising countries of the world the practice of cross-breeding sheep for the production of market lambs is a general one. The reasons for this are the following: First, when two distinct breeds are crossed the resulting offspring usually are bigger, stronger and more vigorous than either of the parental breeds.

This phenomenon is known as "hybrid vigor". Secondly, there is no one breed of sheep that possesses all the desirable attributes of the various breeds and by judicious cross-breeding the superior qualities of more than one breed may be exploited. For example it does not appear that superior carcass conformation and top milk production to be found in any one breed, yet both are essential to a successful fat lamb enterprise. The use of a sort-legged, thickly fleshed breed on ewes from high producing breeds will give the desired results. A further point from the national standpoint in favor of a cross-breeding program is that hardy ewe-stock can be raised on relatively cheap areas and then utilized by farmers in more productive farming districts for fat lamb production.

Trials conducted at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, says S. B. Williams, have shown that cross-bred ewes produced 14 per cent more lambs than straight bred ewes and that these lambs reached market weight and finish 24 days earlier. In both cases the lambs were sired by rams of the same breeding. In addition, the cross-bred ewes fleeces gave 36 per cent more clean wool.

Housing Of Pullets

OTTAWA, October, 1950 — Pullets raised now-a-days have the inherited capacity to lay large numbers of eggs. They will develop into profitable producers if fed and managed properly. Observance of good management practices at the time of housing will do much to ensure high production throughout the laying year.

First to be considered is the matter of cleaning and disinfecting the laying house. This is a must in good poultry husbandry. Cleaning and disinfecting involves the removal of all litter, including that which is caked on the floor, roosts, nests and dropping boards. A very useful tool for cleaning is the garden hose. After all the litter is removed the interior of the house and all equipment should be thoroughly disinfected. One pound of lye in forty gallons of water makes a satisfactory solution for scrubbing. After cleaning with this solution the house should be rinsed with clean water before it is whitewashed.

A good commercial disinfectant should be added to the whitewash. At the Experimental Farm, Brandon, Man., the white wash is applied with a pressure sprayer. Small poultry houses can be whitewashed satisfactorily with a brush. When the whitewash has dried and clean litter has been placed in the house it is ready to receive the pullets.

The environment in which the pullets find themselves during the first few days of confinement has much to do with their continued health. It is essential that they receive plenty of fresh air during the first few days. Draughts, however, must be avoided if colds are to be prevented. The feeding of green feed such as leafy alfalfa or a little feeding fish oil is a good precautionary measure to take at this time.

Dairying Gives High Returns

Surveys made in the Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, show that the cash income from the sale of dairy products is greater than the revenue from any other agricultural product with the exception of wheat. If the returns from the sale of dairy cattle for export flocks for commercial hatcheries and slaughter are included, then the total cash income from dairying exceeds that of wheat and approximates 26 per cent of the total cash income from farming.

Another point that is often overlooked when considering dairying in the national economy of Canada, is the part that the dairy animals themselves play in helping to put agriculture on a more permanent basis.

While no one particularly likes doing chores, most farmers become attached to their animals and they soon become a part of farm life. They serve also to give children an understanding of life that proves invaluable to them and through their calf clubs and girls are given an opportunity to learn sound farming practices, and what is more important, to become good Canadian citizens.

Pasture Research In Canada

OTTAWA, — Down through history green pastures have become the symbol of stability, peace and abundance and the goal of security for mankind in every generation. This is no less true in Canada today where a blade of grass is still the basis of agriculture and thus of human livelihood. Grass means conservation of the soil and future welfare. From a purely dollars and cents standpoint grass has tremendous value and recent figures released by the Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, show that pasture and hay together are valued at \$1 million dollars and comprise about 71 million acres or more than one-third of the total agricultural land area in Canada.

Because of its great economic importance, scientists and research workers of the Department of Agriculture are continuously trying to improve and preserve Canadian pastures. Due to the varying soil and climatic conditions prevailing in the different provinces, tests have to be conducted in many widely separated areas.

Co-operating with the Department's Science Service's Chemistry Division, pasture research has long been a major project of the Experimental Farms Service at the 29 branch farms and stations in all provinces and on many of the 220 sub-stations and illustration Stations from coast to coast. Since 1932 the Division of Illustration Stations has been carrying on extensive pasture improvement tests under various soil and climatic conditions from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia, 418 yield record tests being made on 68 farms in 1949. During this same period nearly 1 1/2 million acres of community pastures were operated by the P.F.R.A. in waste areas in Saskatchewan and Manitoba as an aid to cattle producers in these regions.

Production costs of various farm crops have been given careful study at Ottawa and co-operative tests in the Divisions of Animal Husbandry, Chemistry, Field Husbandry and Forage Crops have shown that the cost per acre of producing permanent pasture herbage is low compared with the cost of producing nutrients in other crops. With no cost for tillage and harvesting operations, tests show that permanent pasture herbage can be produced for \$6.30 per ton of dry matter, timothy hay at \$7.60, alfalfa hay at \$6.85, alfalfa silage at \$8.50 and corn silage at \$16.60 per ton.

Experiments conducted by the Department show that while certain crops may be more economical to produce than others, their economy in the final analysis must be measured by the returns they bring for the produce sold when fed to farm animals. Corn silage, for example, when fed for milk production was found to give a lower ration of returns to cost than did pasture herbage.

Since grass is consumed directly by the grazing animal, with no attempt to cure it or process it in any way, its nutritive value and economy of utilization takes on added significance. In Canada the grazing season is extremely short, usually less than 150 days, and officials of the Department have been studying various methods to make the best possible use of pastures in different parts of the country. Intensive study is being given to increasing the carrying capacity of pastures used for different purposes and in Eastern Canada for example, a gradual increase in carrying capacity is being brought about, approximately four acres per animal unit and a dry matter production of 1800 pounds now being obtained per acre.

Research has helped toward establishing successful, high producing pastures in some districts, but conditions in Canada vary greatly from one area to another and the Department research workers have found that different areas may require different treatments for best results. Under some soil and climatic conditions some grasses will not stand up under competition and will be crowded out of the mixture. In this way some highly nutritive grasses may be lost for pasture or hay purposes, and some

NEWSY NOTES

The Yellow Warbler

This pretty little songster early attracted the attention of Francis Bain (1891), who wrote "The Yellow or Summer Warbler (dendroica aestiva) in his gilded livery, comes much about our gardens and shade trees. Its song is sprightly and pleasing, one of the most agreeable that enlivens our garden bowers. It nests in low thickets, like raspberry or rose shrubbery. Its brood is raised in July, and like most of its family, it is away with the August suns to a fairer clime."

I have seen the Yellow Warbler many times and consider it common; Mr. J. Frank Sterns has this one for the Souris district, where he says it is common and increasing (1947). I have seen it in my own orchard, and in the trees on the outskirts of the City. It cannot be mistaken, for it is all yellow, even to the spots on its duller tail!

Yellow AOU. 652. Summer resident, increasing. Male in summer: Yellowish olive-green above; breast yellow streaked with rufous below; inner web of tail feathers yellow; (spots); wing quills edged with yellow. Female without the rufous streaks on the breast. Length of adults 5 inches.

Ancient Furniture

The Journal of the Royal Society of Arts (Sept. 1950), contains a most interesting paper on tables, presses, cupboards and dressers, as they appeared in former times.

In mediaeval times as framed picture hanging on the wall was a "table", what we call a table was then known as a "board." The board was supported on "stretches", and might be covered with carpet or cloth, or left bare, as occasion required. Variations such as dressing-board, oyster-board, pastry-board, and upon which food was dressed, oysters were served, pastry made, or which held the drinking cups. The term survives in "bed and board", and in the boarding-houses, but I assume that "boarding schools" have lost ground.

The original cupboard was not the boxed in structure that we know it was truly a board, with trestles or leg-like supports, which carried the articles of food and wine-cup and later a ewer of water, and a napkin; since forks were unknown, folk used their fingers, which needed washing at the end if the meal. The cupboard was in charge of a "cupboard keeper" who supervised the drink something like the modern barman. No man might fill the cups but he—"the muft" (must) know which be for Beer, and which be for Wine, for it were a foul thing to mix them together." The next step was to peg the supports firmly to the "board" and put in a shelf lower down. More shelves were added during the late fifteenth century, and when these were enclosed, the cupboard was nearly as we know it.

The poets talk of "sitting round the festal board" but the ancients didn't do it. They sat along one side of the board, leaving the outer side free for the attendants to serve the food.

The closest cupboard, with a shallow rack above it, was in Victorian times called a Welsh Dresser. The rack served to hold dinner-plates set on edge.

A tall cupboard was called a "press", but why, our author doesn't say. He, however, tells us that Samuel Pepys (author of the famous Diary) talked about his "book-presses."

Nature Notes

Dr. Norman Gosse, of Halifax, (I read) has just stated that life expectancy has doubled in the last 50 years. Once the average person could not expect to live beyond 34 years; now he has a reasonable chance to reach 67 years. (People did not, as a rule, attain the allotted span of 70 years, in the 19th century. If you have a Hymnal giving the composers' names and dates, try a few subtraction sums, and you will be satisfied that the great majority died comparatively young.) In the course of the last twenty years, the present writer has given out many cuttings and seeds of north-while plants. Few of the recipients have written to say what the plants, etc., have done under their care. It is pleasant to learn from Mrs. W. M. Stavert that a cutting of wild Riverbank Grape is now big enough to provide a basket full of fruit—and that the fruit is well received.

Mrs. B. MacLean, of Souris, was glad to hear, has two good specimens of the Golden Good Weeping Willow, grown from cuttings supplied.

The brook began to flow again yesterday, Oct. 27, after a "drought" beginning July 20th. A lady who often visits this Province, sent in a jar of Elderberry jelly the finest preserve that the writer has tasted. There are great quantities of this fruit in Prince County, but she thinks we do not utilize them. I looked up "Elder" in my old dictionary, and found recipes for Elder Ketchup, Brandy, and Wine, pickled elder-berries, and elder-flower vinegar, but no elderberry jelly. There is a note saying that the elderberries are used in soups in Germany. It is the blackberry plant that is used.

early spring grasses may also be best for early grazing. In order to provide sufficient herbage throughout the grazing season, tests are now under way at Ottawa and at various experimental stations to see if the strip planting of different grass varieties across a field may not help in solving this problem.

not the red-berried species. There is a specimen Asiatic tree, the Phellodendron amurense, growing here—probably the only one on the Island. It was cut for fuel this summer, for the second time in 25 years! The wood is quite heavy and possibly contains some form of oil, for it burns well. I think it is called the Cork-tree in some places; I cannot see why. It was raised from seed, but readily sends up shoots.

Britain's Position To-day (2)

Last week a brief review of Britain's manpower was attempted in these Notes. Today it is proposed to give a review of Britain's economic position, and of the events leading to it. The Socialist Government appear to be taking a very optimistic view of the situation, whereas, on the contrary, one can see a gradual deterioration of that Kingdom's position, over the past 70 years. Ever since the 1870's, the British people have been selling less abroad than they needed to buy. They paid the balance from the interest on their previous investments abroad, and even made further investments from the same sources. The march of events up to about 1931 cancelled Britain's ability to make foreign loans, but she was still able to buy food and raw materials, by means of the interest on her investments. Then came the Second World War, and the price of her survival was the liquidation of all her foreign investments, and the Government now carries on by means of aids, loans and gifts supplied by the generosity of others. The present writer in presenting these facts, relies upon the British press for their accuracy, and can see no reason to doubt it. The world is becoming a more highly industrialized competitor and increasingly does not need to purchase British goods. The people of Britain are making wonderful heroic efforts to turn the tide, but the rising prices of raw materials (which must be imported) and the ageing of the population, with the younger workers getting fewer, all delay their success.

Possibly, like Ancient Greece after Rome became Mistress of the World, Britain will continue to lead in things of the Spirit and in inventions for the use of mankind. (Continued)

Now for a brief glance elsewhere. The non-white peoples of the world are still in an early stage of the cycle. They have a high replacement rate and are kept youthful by high mortality. When they have the standard of living, the education, and the knowledge of birth control, that the white races now possess, their increase will fall; but that won't happen for several generations.

Mechanical Egg Breaker

First of its kind to be introduced into Canada, a mechanical egg breaker is being tried out by a creamery in Western Ontario, according to a recent report of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. It has been found to reduce the actual labour cost by about one-third and increases the amount of the product obtained by a pound and a half per case of eggs handled.

Federation Of Agriculture

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETINGS

Friday - November 10th. at 8:00 P.M.

Meetings to be held in all School Districts for the purpose of nominating delegates to attend Annual County Meetings this month, and the discussion of Federation Policy in relation to Farm Problems.

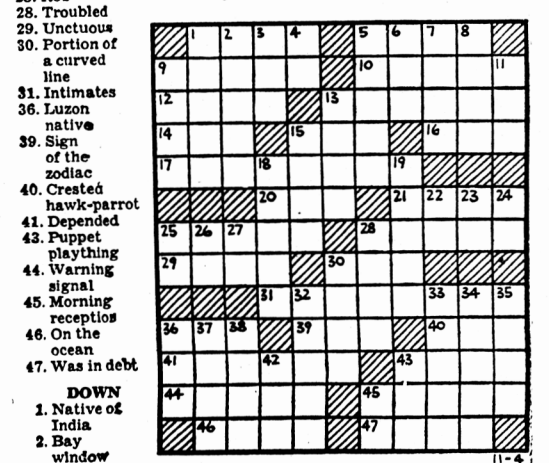
Place of meeting to be arranged and announced by district chairman and secretary, preferably in school.

Attend yourself. Bring your neighbor.

P. E. I. FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

DAILY CROSSWORD

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 3. God of pleasure | 23. French article (abbr.) |
| 1. Traveling workman | 4. Bone (anat.) | 24. Editor (abbr.) |
| 5. A season of the year | 5. Small face of a gem | 25. Thus |
| 9. Title of respect (pl.) | 6. Tree | 26. Kind of palm tree |
| 10. Of Asia | 7. Falsehoods | 27. Any powerful duty |
| 12. Cuckoos | 8. Narrow roadway | 28. Jason's ship (Myth.) |
| 13. Small, dry, one-seeded fruit | 9. A Levant ketch | 30. Matured Council (Moh. state) |
| 14. Fish | 11. Dry | 33. Push |
| 15. Part of "to be" | 12. Dry | 34. Covered with tile |
| 16. Stitch | 13. Gully person | 35. Auction gives zest |
| 17. Gully person | 14. Beeches | 36. Constellation |
| 20. Free | 15. That which gives zest | |
| 21. Wan | 16. Mulberry | |
| 25. Rob | | |
| 28. Troubled | | |
| 29. Unctuous | | |
| 30. Portion of a curved line | | |
| 31. Intimates | | |
| 36. Luzon native | | |
| 39. Sign of the zodiac | | |
| 40. Crested hawk-parrot | | |
| 41. Depended | | |
| 43. Puppet plaything | | |
| 44. Warning signal | | |
| 45. Morning receptors | | |
| 46. On the ocean | | |
| 47. Was in debt | | |

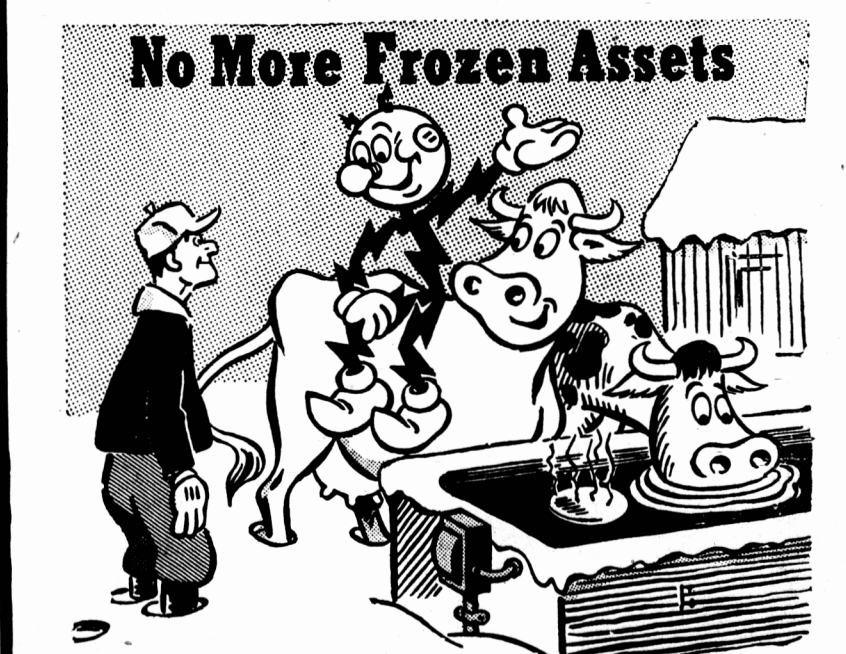


DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:

AXYDLBAAXR
LXNGFLEWR
One letter simply stands for another. In this example A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation
MSDC IFBB AGM BFPD, NAH H G
AGM RAGI SGI MG HFD-VDADEN.

Yesterday's Cryptogram: THE LEAVES LIVE FOR LOVE AND EVERY HAPPY TREE LOVES IN HIS SEASON, CLAUDIAN.



I'll Keep Your Cows Drinking!

Outdoor water tanks are no problem with me on the job. If I'm on your payroll all you need is an electric de-icer. There are several excellent makes available. Your cows will give more milk (after all, milk is about 88% water). You will save time and labor. Just think—no more coal to buy, no ashes to empty, no valves to stick and no more empty tanks!

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