

Agricultural Department

Prepare to Sow Winter Wheat

We cannot urge too strongly upon our farmer readers in Nebraska to at once give due consideration to the matter of winter wheat raising.

We would urge those in such sections of the state as have not yet become famous for winter wheat that they prepare their ground and sow from ten to fifty acres of this cereal this fall. All of the state of Nebraska is adapted to the growth of winter wheat. It is the surest crop that can be raised in the state if the ground is properly prepared and the seeding is done at the proper time. Not only is it our surest crop, but our soil and climate is specially adapted to it. The acreage yield of winter wheat in Nebraska is greater than that of any other state in the middle west although the total yield of Kansas exceeds that of Nebraska on account of its much larger acreage, but Nebraska leads in per acre yield.

Many who have tried winter wheat have not made a great success of it for the reason that they did not prepare the ground as it should be prepared and did not put their wheat into the ground in the proper way or at the proper time. Winter wheat should be sown before the 15th of September. The seed beds should be made as fine and as firm as possible and the seed put in with a press drill instead of being sown broadcast. Experience has proven that seed put in with a press drill yields on an average ten bushels to the acre more than seed sown broadcast; in this one item can be found the difference between success or failure.

Good results are often obtained from seeding done as late as the middle of October and sometimes even later, but such is due to the accident of a favorable season and conditions which cannot be depended upon. The way to

make a success of the winter wheat crop is to prepare the ground early and put the seed into the ground in time to catch the early fall rains and have an abundant time to grow and develop its root system.

A winter wheat crop is worth on an average double as much as an oat crop and is not so hard upon the land. This is proven by the fact that one crop of wheat can succeed another for a series of years on the same land without diminution in the yield which is not true of oats in this country or any other. Again all of the farms can be cleaned from noxious weeds such as cockleburrs, etc., by raising two or three crops of wheat in succession on the same land.

An objection will be found to substituting wheat to oats in the minds of many farmers on the ground that the oat straw is much more valuable for feed than the wheat straw. But when it is remembered that four or five acres devoted to sorghum as a forage crop will furnish an abundant supply of as good if not better forage than straw of any kind, it will be seen that the forage question need not cause any farmer to determine in favor of the doubtful and less profitable crop, oats, against the surer and more profitable crop, winter wheat.

In urging the matter of winter wheat upon the farmers of Nebraska we desire to lay great emphasis upon the importance of early seeding. Remember that The Independent does not urge that winter wheat is a sure crop in Nebraska unless the seeding be done early, in which case we hold that the crop is proof against all accidents in this climate except of hail alone.

DRY FARMING

Last fall a man of our acquaintance thought he would do a little dry farming, but instead of following the Campbell system, he struck out on a plan of his own. He followed the harvest with the disk. As soon as the ground was in condition he disked it again and then began plowing. He plowed five rods wide around a forty-acre piece and then for some reason stopped for a while. During this time an enormous growth of weeds came up on the unplowed piece. The field was literally covered to a height of fifteen inches. Then he went on with his plow and turned the weeds under as a fertilizer, but the weeds had sapped the moisture from that ground, so that it broke up into lumps. He worked this piece thereafter exactly the same as the strip around the outside. At harvest time the outside strip had two and one-half times as much grain as the inside. This man never thought he was doing anything to make such a radical difference. In the early plowing the ground was moist and falling back, it settled down firmly, which is the secret of success. —Field and Farm.

EXPERTS ON CATTLE

Most of the surplus cattle of the United States are exported to the United Kingdom, and by far the greater part of the cattle imported into the latter country come from the former. During the year ended June 30, 1905, two-thirds of the cattle exported from the United States were consigned to English and Scotch ports, and of the total beef cattle imported into the United Kingdom during the year ended December 31, 1905, nearly three-fourths came from the United States, the other fourth coming from Canada. The cattle, both domestic and Canadian, exported from Atlantic ports of the United States to Europe are consigned chiefly to Liverpool and London. During the period from July 1, 1905, to May 20, 1906, inclusive, the


shipments from the United States Atlantic coast to Europe numbered 365,000. It will be seen in the table below that London is the principal destination of cattle shipped from New York, Philadelphia, and Newport News, while the consignments from Boston, Baltimore, and Portland are sent mostly to Liverpool. The 41,245 cattle consigned to "Other United Kingdom ports" include 17,245 sent to Glasgow, 16,323 to Manchester, 4,148 to Bristol, 2,921 to Hull, and 687 to Cardiff.

HORSES ON GRASS ALL RIGHT

Much is being written these days and published in the farm papers about the care of farm horses, and the great consideration seems to be the maintenance of flesh. It is, indeed, gratifying to a man to know or to see his horses keep up in flesh during the work season, and it is one of the most

difficult things the average farmer has to contend with. If we succeed in keeping up the flesh and also getting a satisfactory amount of work without overheating or impairing the digestive system, we ought to be proud of the work. A man that can do this is competent and should be licensed to run a school to teach the proper care of the horse. Thousands of horses each year die in the early spring from indigestion after beginning the spring work in apparently the best of condition. Now, in all the advice given to owners on the care of work horses I have not found one that

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