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# Farm Crop Queries

CONDUCTED BY PROF. HENRY G. BELL  
The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of an acknowledged authority on all subjects pertaining to soils and crops. Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. When writing kindly mention this paper. An space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.



**W. G.:** What plants does the corn worm attack besides the corn?  
**Answer:** The corn-worm attacks tomatoes, cotton and tobacco buds besides corn. The suggested treatment for control on corn is to dust the green corn silks with a mixture of powdered arsenate of lead three parts, air-slack lime, or flour, one part. The treatment recommended for tomatoes is to spray the growing plants with arsenate of lead three pounds to fifty gallons. Spray heavily so that the caterpillars of the ear-worm will eat some of the poisoned foliage before attacking the fruit.

A preventative measure is to dig or plow the land late in fall, which handling will expose the pupae to frosts or will break up the winter quarters of the insect.

**C. H.:** I am interested in soy-beans for building up the soil. What is the earliest variety? Are cowpeas a success in this province?  
**Answer:** Dr. Zavitz of Ontario Agricultural College found that O.A.C. No. 81 soy-bean has usually proven superior to other varieties in tests throughout the province. This is a comparatively early variety of soy-bean which yields heavy.

Cowpeas can be grown with success in the south-western parts of the province. The varieties which did best at Guelph are Whip-poor-will and Wonderful. The cowpea is especially adapted to southern climates, however, and speaking generally Ontario farmers would do better to depend upon soy-beans and other legumes that are better adapted for growing under our conditions.

A very good compound for cleaning the radiator is made as follows: Dissolve as much concentrated lye as a quart of water will hold. Drain a little water out of the radiator and pour in the lye solution. Run the engine for fifteen minutes. Drain the lye solution out and flush the water system out half a dozen times, or until all traces of the lye are removed.

**H. C. G.:** We propose to raise a crop of alfalfa on a small piece of ground (three acres) and we would like to have your advice on the best method to get a good catch. A crop of corn was taken off the field this fall.

**Answer:** If it is not too late, plow the land before winter. As soon as it is plowed apply half a ton of seeding lime or a ton of ground limestone per acre, scattering it over the surface of the plowed land. In spring as soon as the ground will work, harrow the seed-bed thoroughly. When a good, mellow seed-bed has been obtained, seed the alfalfa with a nurse crop such as barley, using about a bushel of barley and 10 to 12 lbs. of alfalfa seed per acre. It would be good protection to obtain the alfalfa seed sufficiently ahead of time to make a germination test, which you can do in the soil of a flower pot, or by spreading 100 seeds between two blot- ters and keeping the blotters damp and in a warm place.

In order to insure a good catch and vigorous stand, at the time of seeding apply a fertilizer analyzing about 3 per cent. ammonia, 8 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 3 per cent. potash at the rate of 250 lbs. to the acre. This is applied through the fertilizer dropper of a grain drill, but if you do not have this implement the fertilizer can be scattered broadcast over the ground before the last harrowing and worked into the soil as you are working down the seed-bed. This available plant food will not only feed the growing clover, but will give material strength to the young alfalfa.

If a ten-frame colony doesn't weigh at least seventy-five pounds this fall, there's not honey enough to last the bees all winter.

Says Sam: "Farming's uncertain, but I'd just as soon be subject to the whims of Nature as of Human Nature. The weather can ruin your crops, maybe, but it won't fire you just because it has a headache."

# Is Your Farm Fit for Your Children?

BY FRANK A. WALTON  
One of the dearest prejudices in the hearts of all country-living people is that the farm is the best place to rear children. These folk believe that the country is "healthier," and produces hardier men and women; also that the moral environment is much more wholesome, since country children are removed from the distractions and temptations of the town.

In the matter of health it does not now suffice to rest upon tradition. Too many disturbing facts are coming to light. The cities have gone forward in the improvement of sanitary conditions, during recent years, while the country has practically stood still. This may be "a hard saying" but we must face it.

On the point of morality we have also had our pet beliefs called in question. Not long ago I listened to an address by one of the most experienced prison reformers in the country, a man who for years has had charge of the boys' and girls' reformatory in one of our agricultural districts. He stated positively that a much larger proportion of juvenile delinquents came from the rural districts than from the cities and towns.

It will not do, however, to tie to sweeping statements. Neighborhoods vary so decidedly that there are exceptions to every generalization. Yet the whole question is so serious that we dare not gloss it over. We ought to know the facts and face the truth, and whatever the conditions are, good, or an unwise ticket to the movies, is authorized to enter them to please his own judgment. Only let him use real judgment, be serious about it, as he fits a case of such high concern.

Here then is my score-card, which let us hope will help some of us to see more clearly what a farm home ought to be before we invite boys and girls to be born there and to make it their nursery and school.

Probably the most important section of all is that under point No. 8 which deals with the so-called "modern conveniences." It has long been the popular reproach of the farmhouse that it was not equipped with running water and a bathroom. At the present time, however, these conveniences can be supplied in any country house wherever water is available from any source. It can easily be shown further that in nearly all cases the cost of installation and maintenance is actually less than in the city.

Vital Parts of the Farm.

Along with water supply and toilet facilities should come sewage disposal, always one of the most vital considerations on the farm.

This question must be considered in direct connection with that of water supply. On many farms the sole reliance is the farm well. The chief defect of the well is its liability to contamination. Either infected material may drain into it from the surface, or if the soil is poor there may be seep-

## THE FARM HOME

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Is the location healthful?.....  | 20 |
| 2. Is it convenient to town, school, and church?.....                     | 20 |
| 3. Is there good communication by good road, trolley, automobile?.....    | 25 |
| 4. Is the location attractive, with good outlook?.....                    | 20 |
| The House   |    |
| 5. Is the house large enough?.....  | 20 |
| 6. Is it well built—warm in winter and cool in summer?.....               | 30 |
| 7. Is it externally dignified, well painted, attractive?.....             | 25 |
| 8. Does it have the modern conveniences?<br>a. Running water?.....        | 25 |
| b. Bath and toilet?.....  | 45 |
| c. Sewage disposal?.....  | 25 |
| d. Heating system?.....   | 25 |
| e. Ventilation?.....  | 35 |
| f. Defence against flies?.....  | 30 |
| The Surroundings  |    |
| 9. Are the farm buildings well arranged with reference to the house?..... | 20 |
| 10. Are there good grounds, with lawns, shrubbery and so forth?.....      | 20 |
| 11. Are there good trees well placed?.....                                | 20 |
| Sanitation—Health   |    |
| 12. Is there an abundance of wholesome food well cooked?.....             | 30 |
| 13. Is the water supply safe?.....  | 25 |
| 14. Is the sewerage effective?.....                                       | 20 |
| 15. Is the milk supply safe?.....   | 25 |
| 16. Is there medical inspection through the schools or otherwise?.....    | 20 |
| 17. Is there a district nurse?.....                                       | 10 |
| The Neighborhood  |    |
| 18. Are there neighbors near, but not too near?.....                      | 20 |
| 19. Are they the right kind?.....   | 40 |
| 20. Is there wholesome, active intercourse between neighbors?.....        | 30 |

bad or indifferent, we want to make it better.

As to rural morality much can be said and very little proved. Every once in a while some alarmist discovers a sore spot somewhere in the backwoods and gives it a good writing up in the papers. Such degraded neighborhoods undeniably exist. But they are not typical of the open country and particularly they do not resemble in any degree the moral characteristics of the successful farming section. It is still true, in accordance with the popular belief, that in those sections where a permanent and profitable agriculture exists, and where aggressive farm families live, the social conditions are wholesome and the moral life exemplary.

A Score Card Test.

It might be worth while, on the basis of a score card, to make a comprehensive comparison between the city, the village and the country. It would need to be a thoroughgoing, scientific study, too cumbersome to be published in a newspaper but invaluable for study by serious-minded country people.

The score-card idea so took hold of me that I have worked out one which might become a kind of test between two different farms or two different neighborhoods. Sensible people cannot object to making a catalogue of those qualities which go to constitute the ideal farm home with special reference to the rearing of children. Of course, the valuation given to these different points will incite argument. Whether membership in a good rural club is worth more or less than a bath room or whether good fishing is to be preferred to a weekly agricultural journal, these are points which only Solomon might settle!

The scoring values here written down are to be accepted in the same spirit of tunility with which they are proposed and any person over 21 years of age, bearing a first class teacher's certificate, a provincial hunting license

or an unused ticket to the movies, is authorized to enter them to please his own judgment. Only let him use real judgment, be serious about it, as he fits a case of such high concern.

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# The Sunday School Lesson

NOVEMBER 27.

Paul's Voyage and Shipwreck, Acts 27: 30-44. Golden Text—2 Tim. 1: 12 (Rev. Ver.).

Time and Place—A.D. 60; on the Mediterranean Sea and at Melita, or Malta.

Connecting Link—Paul having appealed to Caesar (see Chas. 25: 10-12, 21; 26: 32), he was sent with some other prisoners to Rome in charge of a centurion named Julius. In vs. 2-13, we have an account of the voyage as far as Crete, where Paul wished the centurion to remain at a harbor called Fair Havens for the winter, while the captain of the ship advised making for Phoenix, another Cretan port. The ship was overtaken by a storm, of which vs. 13-44 give a vivid account. The lesson takes up the story at the point where, after having been driven up and down the sea for a fortnight, the ship was drawing near some land.

I. The Land, 30: 39.

V. 30. The shipmen; Rev. Ver., "the sailors." About to flee? Had they, were seeking to flee? Had their plans for escaping been successful, the passengers and soldiers would have been left to their fate. Let down the boat; hoping in this way to save their own lives, regardless of the others whose lives depended upon them. How differently they acted from the way in which British sailors act when their vessel is in danger, looking out first for the safety of the passengers and last of their own. Under color; under pretence. Lay out anchors; (Rev. Ver.), that is, at the full length of the cable. The writer of Acts uses a sailor's expression. The sailors pretended that the vessels needed anchors out from the bow as well as the stern, and that they must go off in a boat to carry them out to a cable's length, rather than drop them out, as in v. 29.

Vs. 31, 32. Paul said. The apostle had gained such ascendancy over all about him that every one was ready to listen to him. To the centurion and soldiers; who would be able to stop the intended desertion better than the captain of the vessel. Except these abide in the ship. God (see v. 24) had revealed to Paul that all on board the vessel would be saved, but at the same time, every human effort must be made. Cut off the ropes; taking the matters in their own hands, and thus foiling the plot of the sailors.

Vs. 33, 34. While the day was coming on; before it was light enough to see what was best to be done. Paul besought them. In spite of his words in vs. 21, 22, they had not taken sufficient food. To take some meat; Rev. Ver., "food." For your health. There was great danger that, in their weakness for lack of food, their strength and nerve would fail them when the critical moment for exertion came. Fasten their day; tarried... fasting; not able to take sufficient food in their intense anxiety lest they should suddenly run ashore unawares. Their bread would be all the greater after the soundings had been taken, v. 26. The coolness and sagacity of Paul in preparing his companions for coming effort is worthy of note. Not an hair fall from the head; a proverbial expression for complete deliverance.

Vs. 35-37. When he had taken bread. "At such a time the force of example is its greatest" (Century Bible). Give thanks to God, etc. Some interpret this action as marking Paul's reverence towards God in the presence of the Gentiles around him. All of good cheer. "For a second time compare vs. 22-25) Paul had restored their courage by his faith and prudence; the event had already shown that he deserved confidence, and it is evident that he inspired it" (Expositor's Greek Testament). Took some meat; sorely needed after their long absence. Two hundred threescore and sixteen; a large number, but nothing is told us about the size of the ship.

V. 38. When they had eaten enough. The Greek means "having satisfied themselves with food." They lightened the ship; a sailor's term. This was the third time this had been done (compare vs. 18, 19). The sailor's object may have been to diminish the depth of water which the ship drew, so as to enable them to approach nearer to the shore before striking. Or, the vessel may have been sinking so

thousands of neighborhoods no means of recreation for young people remain. For its own social self-protection every neighborhood ought to provide most carefully the necessary recreation facilities, especially for young people with a preference for such types of recreation as are native to the country. This means out-door picnicking, ball playing, swimming, fishing, hunt-

ing, community pageants and plays. This process of examination can be applied by each family to its own home. After one has made up the score in this way for his own farm he will be able to see more clearly what its deficiencies are. Possibly by focusing attention on these shortcomings the means of removing them may be found.

## Poultry

R. G.: We have some four months' old pullets from eggs of a flock that showed signs of tuberculosis. Do you think there is any danger of these pullets developing the disease if they were put with a healthy flock?

We doubt very much the advisability of your keeping the hens affected with tuberculosis or the pullets hatched from their eggs, as the two chief means of spreading this disease is through the excrement of the diseased hens and through their eggs. Although the pullets may not show the trouble at present, it is likely to develop later and even if it doesn't develop, it may show itself in the next generation. Tuberculosis is one of the most serious diseases which attack poultry. It causes greater loss than any other disease, and is one of the most difficult to handle.

A farm flock which is affected with this disease should be entirely disposed of, and then the poultry house and its surroundings should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected be-

fore starting with new birds. In making the poultry house sanitary, one should collect all the droppings and litter for fertilizer. The floors, walls and ceiling should be thoroughly scraped so that no dust or dirt remains. All the hoppers, drinking fountains, nests and roosts should be removed and cleaned and everything in the poultry house and yard should be saturated with a good commercial coal tar disinfectant. Another application of the disinfectant should be made within ten days.

All places where hens might stray, such as under corn cribs and hog pens, should be boarded up, sink holes and wallows should be filled with fresh dirt and, if possible, places where the chickens have been allowed to run should be plowed and cropped.

We believe that it would pay you to be thorough in the eradication of this disease rather than to continue with the birds you now have on hand.

"Fur" in kettles and boilers is due to the action of boiling the water, making certain carbonates in the water adhere to the vessel used.