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FIGHT THE CORN BORER

How to Deal With This Very Troublesome Pest

Plough the Field Thoroughly—Bury Stubble and All Other Residues Buried—Grow Dent Corn Instead of Flint—Try a Trap Crop.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The methods of control are simple, inexpensive and not contrary to good farm practice, says Prof. E. Casper of the Department of Entomology, Ontario Agricultural College. To get a clear idea of the pest it is necessary to keep in mind that the borers winter over and remain until the end of May in any part of the corn plant above ground large enough to conceal them. Hence they will be found in the stubble, stable, cob, or any remnants of the crop left in the field or elsewhere. They will also be to some extent in stout weeds growing among the corn. Control measures, therefore, consist mainly in destroying these that the borers will be destroyed. If there is a silo this is easy, for all that is necessary there is to cut the crop low, enable it to grow the stubble under completely and not drag it up again when cultivating. The cutting knives and disintegrator will all the borers that go into the silo, and the ploughing destroys all left in the field, provided everything is kept beneath the surface.

Plough the Field Thoroughly.

If there is no silo, or if the silo will not hold all the corn, the task is sometimes a little harder. In such cases the field must be thoroughly ploughed after the crop has been removed. In addition some method must be practiced of disposing of the stalks and cobs or cobs. The best plan is to run all of them through a cutting-box or shredder, feed the silage all they will eat, throw the remainder into the manure and haul this out and plough it under before the end of May. If for any reason the stalks are fed whole, the uncombed portion should not be thrown out but separate and drawn out and burned. It is better to burn the remnants than to plough them under, because it is hard to cover them completely with the plough. The great point to keep in mind is that no stalks, pieces of stalks or even cobs should be left above ground in the field or along fence or in the barn or the hayrack or anywhere else. Moreover, all burning or ploughing must be completed by the end of May, for otherwise the borers will change into moths, fly around, and lay their eggs. (The moths appear in June and July.)

Remove Stubble and Other Residues Buried.

Ploughing down of the stubble and other corn remnants plays a great part in the control of the borers, but to be effective what is ploughed under must not be dragged up again when cultivating the field. What must be left buried, for if they are dragged up many borers will escape destruction. An example of this occurred this year in a field in Elgin County, where much of the ploughed stubble was dragged up by a toothed cultivator. In this field over 10,000 living borers were found. If the stubble had been left covered almost every borer would have perished. Hence the cultivation of the field should not be done with a toothed implement but with a disc, and a disc drill, if possible, used in sowing. Should, however, some of the stubble be brought up it will pay well, and will not take much time to pick and burn it.

The ploughing should be done with a wide-burrow plough, and should be to a depth of at least six inches. It may be done either in the fall or the spring, but if in the fall the earlier the better.

Often the stubble cannot be covered completely unless it is first rolled or disced, or both rolled and disced, or in some cases unless a split log or leveller is run over it to break it off or loosen or pull it apart. This is especially true when the corn has been planted in hills or has been cut high or beaten down by storms. Grow Dent Corn and Not Flint.

In the parts of the county where the borers are numerous it will be advisable for a time to grow dent corn instead of flint, because it is stouter and so withstands attacks better.

A Trap Crop Will Be of Benefit.

It will also help greatly in such places if a trap crop of flint—for example, smutnose consisting of about a dozen rows is planted about the middle of May and the planting of the main crop postponed until June 1st or as late as possible without running any risk. The moths then will lay their eggs chiefly on the early corn and leave the main crop largely uninfested. The trap rows should be cut low in August and fed to the cattle and the borers present thus destroyed.

The above measures involve only a small amount of extra work for any farmer. The corn crop is well worth this, and therefore we hope that each farmer will gladly do his part and encourage his neighbor to do likewise. Now that control measures have been discovered and made possible the problem of saving the industry lies with the farmer themselves.

When horses went out of fashion in some parts of the country, they took horse sense with them.

It isn't always necessary to rebuild a farm home to make it more attractive. Paint and shabby will work wonders.

A good farm paper is a cheap and effective correspondence school of agriculture. You can get more genuine good for your money in subscribing to a worthy agricultural paper than anywhere else in the world.

NORMAL TEMPERATURES

interesting figures relating to Farm Live Stock

Sheep Are Relatively Cold-blooded—Poultry Have Highest Temperatures—High Temperatures Indicate Fever—Wintering Bees—Select Sires to Give Balance.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The temperatures of domestic animals are of interest, in that each class has a normal temperature range of its own.

The horse in health will have a temperature not lower than 98.5°, or higher than 101.8°. There are exceptions, of course, to all rules, and a few animals may be normal at higher or lower temperatures than those given.

The normal temperature range for cattle is 100.4° to 103.1°, which covers the case pretty well. When a bovine animal's temperature goes above 102.1° it can be considered above normal, and that there is some disturbance within.

Sheep to be considered normal give a temperature reading between 102.2° to 104.5°. The pig's normal temperature can be looked for between 100.4° and 104°. Some individuals run high and others low, but all are steady within two degrees during period of health.

Poultry have very high normal temperatures, 106.7° to 108.8°. Such temperatures as enjoyed by poultry in health could not be endured by any other of our domestic animals for more than a few days.

High Temperatures Indicate Fever.

Any deviation from the normal temperature is taken as a source of information regarding the state of health of our domestic animals. High temperatures indicate feverish condition, while sub-normal temperatures indicate decline and weakening of the individual to a point of grave danger. Exercise raises the temperature, and rest lowers it, hence we get higher readings in the evening than in the morning.—L. Stevenson, Dept. of Extension, O. A. College, Guelph.

WINTERING BEES.

Every Colony Should Have a Queen—Have Enough Bees—Keep in a Naturally Protected Place.

Every spring beekeepers find from 5% to 50% of their colonies have died during the winter, or are very weak. There is no reason why the winter loss should be higher than 2% or 3%, provided the beekeeper will prepare and pack the bees properly. So says Prof. Eric Millen of the Ontario Agricultural College.

Every Colony Should Have a Queen.

The first step is to make sure every colony has a queen. As it is too late to queen now, queenless colonies should be united with those having a queen. Place a sheet of newspaper on top of a strong queen-right colony, and place the brood-chamber of the queenless colony on top. Leave them for a week, and then shake the bees into the lower broodchamber and remove the upper broodchamber. It is taken for granted that no American foulbrood exists in the apiary. Otherwise, colonies should not be united, but rather destroy the queenless colonies and combs, if diseased.

Have Sufficient Bees.

The next step is to see that each colony has sufficient bees to cover at least three frames on both sides, if examined on a cold morning when the bees are clustered. This will insure enough bees to come through the winter, provided the stores and protection are adequate. A very important factor of wintering is the question of food. Many beekeepers give every colony ten or fifteen pounds of sugar syrup made in the proportion of 2½ of sugar to one of water, and fed in an inverted feeder over the brood frames. This is done in many cases regardless of the amount of stores the colony has. Every colony should have at least 45 pounds of food to ensure successful wintering, and an opportunity to increase in strength in the spring.

Keep in a Naturally Protected Place.

Bees should be kept in a naturally protected place for winter, or a board fence should be erected around the apiary to form a wind protection. Colonies may be packed singly, two in a case, four in a case, or in any other way desired by the beekeeper. Three or four inches of packing should be placed all around the colony, and not less than eight inches on top. Dry leaves, planer shavings or cork chips make satisfactory packing material. If the beekeeper will see that his colonies are put away for winter in good condition, the winter loss will be negligible.

Select Sires to Give Balance.

If the dairy herd is made up of low testers and poor producers, a bull from good producing and high testing ancestry should be chosen. If the females are too leggy, select a male that is compact and close to the ground. If the sow is rough in the shoulder and short in the side, select a boar with compact, well-muscled shoulder and with length and scale.

The foundation of any enduring structure, whether of a business, a farm, or a life, is thrift.

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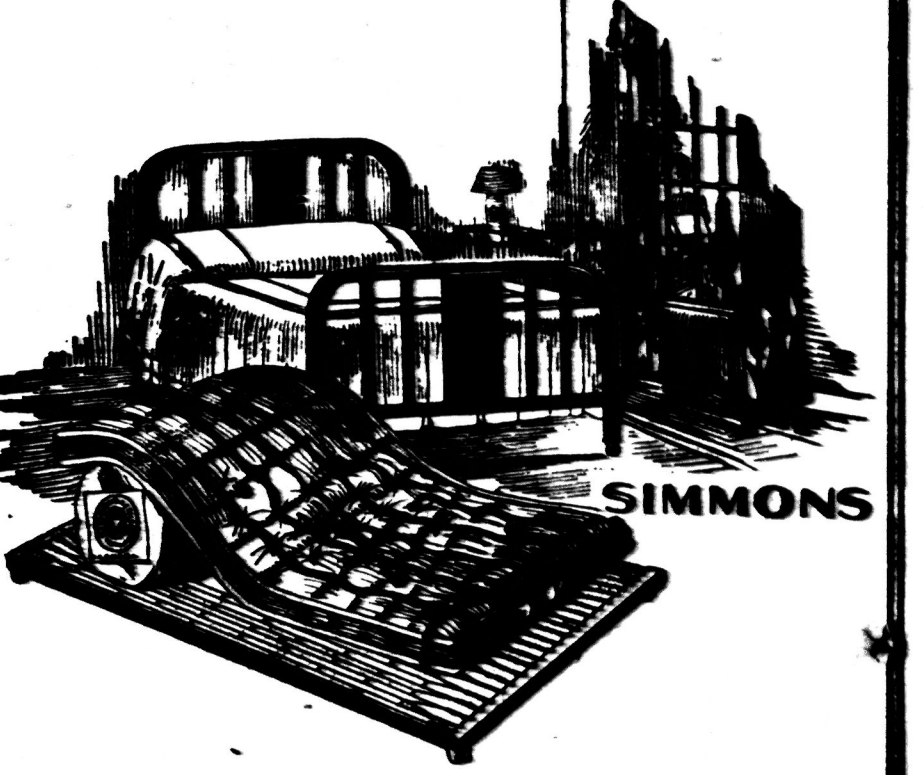
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