

### Cost of Raising Wheat in Saskatchewan

WHERE one has an old neglected orchard of 50 per cent or more of sound trees it will be more satisfactory to renovate and secure immediate returns in fruit than to plant a new orchard, says the Indiana Farmer. The advantages of renovating an old orchard are that the trees are already set and established in the soil and that often a good crop of choice fruit may be secured the first fruiting season after the orchard has been rejuvenated. Also, if the trees are not too old and diseased, often the cleaning up and starting the trees to fruiting anew the old orchard may bear profitably for almost as long as a new one.

One of the first things to do in restoring an old orchard is to go through it and find out what trees are too decayed and diseased to be of any future value. These should be cut out, root and branch, and consigned to the fire to destroy the insects and germs which caused the trouble. Cutting them out will not only make the orchard cleaner and freer from insect pests and disease, but it will give soil room for the good trees and the extra open spaces will let in more light and allow better circulation of air. Leave these spaces open for cultivation and the growth of cover crops.

#### Young Trees in Old Orchards.

It seldom pays to replant an old orchard with young trees. The soil is already occupied with growing roots of older trees, which makes it difficult for the younger tree to extract nourishment from the soil, light and air are cut off by the larger trees, and there are more chances of diseases and insect pests. After all the decayed and undesirable trees have been grubbed and burned, go over the remaining trees and cut out all the dead branches, burning them in the orchard as soon as removed from the trees. Saw these branches off with a sharp, fine saw, smooth with green wood so that healing over may take place, if possible. If convenient, paint these scars over with a thick coat of oil and lead paint to seal up the cracks and pores for excluding water and the germs of disease.

A scar on any tree is a fruitful spot for infection, which may affect the large branch or body of the tree, causing hollow rotting. Cover the wounds with paint and induce healing by trimming close to green wood, for this will prevent further decay. No further pruning will be necessary unless the tops of the trees are very thick with live branches. In such case, trim out the thickest portions of small branches, and remove all interfering ones. Do not cut out many large branches, as the trees may receive a shock to defeat the purpose of which the work is intended, and do not reduce the height of the tops of any trees except peaches.

### Well Bred Stock is Easily Fattened

FROM SOME of the remarks overheard during the recent visit of the cattlemen to the experiment station feeding yards, it would appear that at least some of the visitors failed to appreciate the desirable qualities possessed by high-class, pure-bred animals, says the Kansas Farmer.

A farmer was overheard commenting on the fact that he could see no reason why the breeding herd of cows were kept so fat.

A well known gentleman of the state, who for years bred Shorthorn cattle and is now feeding cattle, remarked that stock bred as these were, kept in high condition easily. The skeptical visitor, insisted that cows could not be kept in such condition without being heavily fed on grain.

The facts are, however, that these pure-bred Shorthorn and Hereford cows which were the cause of this discussion, have been kept through winter on silage and a little alfalfa. Only the cows suckling calves have received grain, and these only about three pounds a day. The tendency to make good use of the feed consumed is one of the strong

points of well bred cattle. Many breeders of pure-bred cattle have found that it was at times really difficult to keep their breeding cows from getting too fat.

The skeptical farmer who was questioning the condition of this breeding herd, was apparently still of the belief that he had not been told the whole truth as to the feeding of this breeding herd. Some men seem determined not to learn of improved methods of farming and handling live stock.

### Selecting Brood Mare For Farm Purposes

IN SELECTING a brood mare for farm purposes the Percheron or Shire will generally prove the most satisfactory. They need not be too large, because a heavy-footed, clumsy beast is to be avoided always.

A mare that weighs 1,400 or 1,500 pounds is big enough for any use.

She should have a clean, bony head, a prominent, bright, intelligent eye, good legs and large hoofs.

Her barrel should be roomy, but symmetrical, with broad hind quarters.

Avoid a mare with any suggestion of "cat hams."

A good disposition is essential, but does not mean that a brood mare must be stupid or a bungler in harness.

Better pay \$300 for a first-class brood mare than \$100. The difference will be made up in the first two colts, provided the right kind of a sire is used.

With a brood mare of this description a farmer can every year raise a colt that will sell for from \$150 to \$300 and get good service in farm work out of her besides.

### Stable Manure is Not Advised For Trees

THE COMMON PRACTICE of using stable manure in planting fruit trees, is one which cannot be recommended, says J. G. Moore of the Wisconsin College of Agriculture. When a tree is planted its activity should be the development of a strong and extensive root system. If large amounts of fertilizer are placed around the roots of a tree the root growth will naturally not be so extensive as under normal conditions of its searching far for sustenance.

When such a method is followed and the supply of food materials provided at planting by the addition of stable manure is exhausted, the root system will not have grown sufficiently to secure food enough to keep up normal conditions in the growing tree. What was done with the idea of helping the tree will thus only serve to retard its growth.

Under ordinary conditions little or no benefit is derived from watering newly-set trees. If water is applied it should either be put on before the top soil is filled in around the tree or if applied to the surface, the soil should not be left to become baked, but must be stirred to a depth of about two inches and put in good tilth. If this is not strictly adhered to more moisture is likely to be lost than was added at planting.

AN OLD gentleman, now deceased, never seemed to be satisfied unless he had several cases pending in court. He had just one a case in the Justice Court, when the loser, in a very combative frame of mind, exclaimed, "I'll law you to the Circuit Court!"

Old Gent—I'll be thar.  
Loser—And I'll law yo to the Supreme Court!

Old Gent—I'll be thar.  
Loser—I'll law you to 'ell!  
Old Gent—My attorney'll be thar.



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