



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

School aids farmers : University of Wisconsin makes effort to develop "cut-over" lands, many experiments tried 1908

Wisconsin. State Board of Immigration

Madison, Wisconsin: State Board of Immigration, 1908

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/5O3FZUY5UTABO9D>

Based on date of publication, this material is presumed to be in the public domain.

For information on re-use, see

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

02
sc

Pam 57-2173

SCHOOL AIDS FARMERS

University of Wisconsin Makes Effort to
Develop "Cut-Over" Lands.

MANY EXPERIMENTS TRIED

Professor Delwiche in Charge of Work. Advice
to Settlers

THE SUNDAY RECORD-HERALD, Chicago, July 26, 1908.

The plan of farming to be followed by a new settler in Northern Wisconsin "cut-over" land should conform to the conditions of the land, the demands of the market at hand, and also to the amount of ready money at his disposal. There are certain things, however, which are common to all, or nearly all, new comers; some of these we propose to discuss in the present article.

We will suppose our farmer, or would-be-farmer, arrives on his land in early spring. He at once builds a small log house and a barn; these ordinarily, he can construct from timber found on the land. Sawed lumber for floors, roofs, etc., can ordinarily be purchased at the nearby mills. He should provide himself with a team; a yoke of oxen will give good service on stump land, and is less expensive to feed than a team of horses. The latter, however, will be of greater value if the settler intends to do much hauling during winter.

As soon as the necessary buildings are put up, and perhaps before they are entirely finished, he clears a piece of land for garden truck and potatoes. Ordinarily this can be done rather rapidly, if a spot is selected where the timber and brush is already burnt and partly cleared. Potatoes may be planted on new land without removing any but the smaller stumps, in which case, cultivation is done by hand. If proper care in keeping down weeds and potato bugs is given, yields from 90 to 150 bushels per acre can be secured. Much larger yields than these have been obtained. There is a ready market for potatoes and garden produce, and settlers ought to avail themselves of the opportunity of raising crops that give good yields on a small area of land. Rutabagas are also a good crop to put on new land as they may be sown late in the season, they command a fair price, and are excellent feed for cows, sheep, and hogs. If the land can be plowed oats may be sown between the stumps and cut for hay before fully ripe. With the oats, sow clover seed, using from 10 to 15 pounds per acre. Clover is the most valuable crop that can be grown in northern Wisconsin, and every effort should be put forth to obtain a good stand. In many cases it grows wild on the "cut-over" lands. It is a good plan to sow clover on burnt over land so as to get the land to producing tame hay and pasturage. This may be done by going over the land after burning with a spring tooth or disk harrow and then seeding to clover. Many fine hay fields have been started in this way.

02
sc

Wisconsin Hist

Every settler should get at least one or two good cows. During the summer months the cows, ordinarily, can graze on adjoining wild lands, and thus yield good returns for the care they get. With proper feed and care a good cow will give a net return of from \$50 to \$75 a year. Sheep are a good help to clearing land. When kept on land where the brush has been recently cut they not only keep down foul weeds and brush, but pay a good profit every year. Some farmers in northern Wisconsin known to the writer have made from \$3 to \$5 yearly from every ewe kept on the farm. Clover is the best feed to give to sheep during the winter months. Begin with a few sheep at first; do not get too many.

Chickens, too, pay well, and every farmer should have a small flock. Eggs at from 20 to 35 cents a dozen pay well. A few pigs also should be raised to furnish at least a part of the family's meat supply. It is well to keep all the stock that can be fed on the farm, taking care, however, that all rough feed be produced on the farm.



Fattening on Meadows in Northern Wisconsin.

In clearing land much valuable timber is removed as a rule. This is cut into cordwood, box lumber, railroad ties, saw logs, etc., for which there is a ready market. Cordwood sells for from \$3.50 to \$4.50 a cord at the railroad side track. Ties sell for from 25 to 60 cents apiece, at the railroad right of way, and saw logs at the mills for \$6 per thousand feet and up.

One advantage at the command of the settler is that he can take his team to the woods and earn good money at hauling wood either for himself or for others. The best way is for the farmer to clear and break land till snow covers the ground, and then go to the woods and earn ready money. Many settlers earn from \$200 to \$300 during the winter months; some earn much more. It will be seen that in this way the farmer provides a good living while getting his land in shape for crops.

In preparing land for crops it is not necessary or advisable to blast or pull out all the large stumps at once. If left to rot for a few years the stumps will come out more easily. For maximum crops, however, the land should be cleared of stumps and other obstructions. Hence every settler should aim at clearing thoroughly a few acres every year and increase the productivity of the land already under cultivation. Right here it may be said that many settlers make a mistake by trying to cover too much ground. It is well to have a good deal of land partly cleared for pasture, as this can be done with little expense. But for actual cultivation, it is not necessary to have

a large farm. A farm of say 25 to 40 acres, if made to produce its best, will pay better for the labor put on it than one three or four times this size. The writer knows of farms in northern Wisconsin having less than 60 acres under the plow which produce a gross income of \$2,500 to \$3,000 per year. Small dairy farmers known to the writer produce 300 lbs. of butter per cow per year. One man, the



"Some" Hay.

owner of six grade cows two or three of which were heifers, sold 1,700 lbs. of butter during the past year. This man has about 25 acres under cultivation and less than 15 acres of this is free from stumps. Besides this he keeps about 100 hens and raises a colt every year. He also sells fruit and garden vegetables. This man cleared "cut-over" land thickly covered with stumps. He now has good buildings, several head of stock, machinery, etc., and makes a good living from his farm. Where returns as noted above are had, no hay or grain is sold but fed on the farm. Everything is turned to butter, milk, or cream, garden produce or fruit, and sold at a good price.

As indicated at first, the kind of farming and the crop to raise are to a great extent governed by the soil and market conditions.

On sandy land and near a railroad siding potato raising is very profitable. Especially is this true in the northern counties where potatoes command a good price. Here clover should be grown and fed to stock and the manure returned to the soil. Under such conditions yields of 200 bushels per acre are not uncommon, and some as high as 400 bushels per acre have been reported.

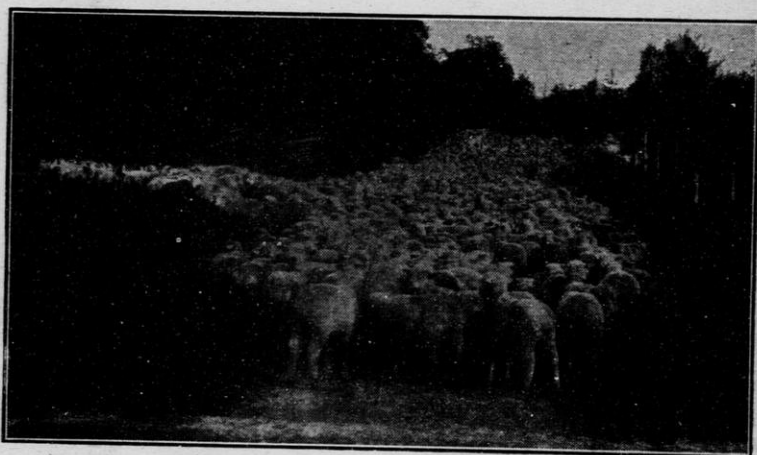


A Home Earned in Northern Wisconsin.

On light soils the grain sown should be rye, oats, or barley, and in all cases clover should be sown with the grain. If the season is at all dry, cut the grain before ripening and make it into hay. In this way a good catch of clover is assured, while the hay thus made is very nutritious. Clover grown for seed is very profitable. Yields of from three to eight bushels may be obtained.

On heavy clay soils clover raising also promises to pay good returns. Yields of from three to eight bushels per acre have been had with alsike clover, and from two to five bushels with medium red. On this type of soil field peas do exceptionally well where the drainage is good, yielding as high as 40 bushels of dry peas per acre. Where settlers are grouped in colonies it will be found profitable to raise peas for canning purposes. In Door county during the past year some farmers received as much as \$100 per acre for factory peas.

On soils ranging in texture from clay to the sandy type, the system may partake of the nature of the two outlined above. Where help is abundant sugar beets are a good crop. Especially is this true in the loamy types of soil. Farmers in the northern counties this spring contracted for sugar beets at the rate of \$4.50 per ton F. O. B. on the side track.



A Profitable Bunch of Sheep.

It is impossible to give in detail all the possibilities of northern Wisconsin agriculture within the limits of this article, so to conclude we append a few short hints:

1. Grow clover on your land; it is the best crop you can raise.
2. Cultivate well at least a part of your land; do not attempt to clear too large a farm at once.
3. Dairy cows and sheep should be on every northern Wisconsin farm.
4. Grow cultivated crops, as potatoes, root crops and corn, on at least one-fourth of your land.
5. Strawberries and garden vegetables pay well if near a market or shipping point.
6. Improve some land every year.
7. Do not spend too much money on buildings at first, but see that they are comfortable.
8. Adapt farming to your location.
9. Rotate your crops, say in this order; (1) Clover; (2) Cultivated crops; (3) Small grains, and back again to clover.
10. Remember that all useful permanent improvements are additions to your capital.

For further information address:

STATE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION,
Madison, Wis.

Room 401, Capitol.

G902
SCH

16

Pam 57-2173

SCHOOL AIDS FARMERS

University of Wisconsin Makes Effort to Develop "Cut-Over" Lands.

MANY EXPERIMENTS TRIED

Professor Delwiche, in Charge of Work, Advice to Settlers

THE SUNDAY RECORD-HERALD, Chicago, July 26, 1908.

Practical work now being done under the direction of the University of Wisconsin is bringing about remarkable results in the northern part of the state, where the farmers are being shown how they can obtain profitable returns from land that has heretofore been undeveloped.

This work is done chiefly by the College of Agriculture and the experiment station connected with that institution. In addition to maintaining an experimental farm on its own grounds, the university has established substations in the northern part of the state and at these, experiments are made in seed selection, soil chemistry, as well as cultivation and propagation of crops. These experiments are proving of practical value to the men who are transforming the upper section of the state from a wilderness into a rich agricultural region.

That work of this character, a work that has a practical as well as a scientific basis, was needed is shown by the fact that the tide of migration for two generations has followed the line of least resistance and passed by, first, the heavily timbered region in the northern half of Wisconsin and her sister states, Michigan and Minnesota, and more re-

cently the cut-over lands of those states.

HOMESEEKERS SKEPTICAL.

"How can I make a living should I go to the wild lands of Wisconsin?" or "How can I make this land, covered as it is with stumps and brush and trees, left by the lumbermen as unfit for their use, support me and my family while I am clearing it and preparing it for cultivation?" are some of the questions asked even now by prospective homeseekers in Wisconsin.

It is in this connection that the work of the Wisconsin College of Agriculture counts. Professor Delwiche, a member of the faculty who has had personal charge of the substations in the extreme northern part of the state, is probably even better qualified to answer these questions than the farmers who have succeeded in winning independence and prosperity in that region. Professor Delwiche has made a careful study of all the conditions in this region and when asked to give the results of his observations, furnished the following:

"The plan of farming to be followed by a new settler in northern Wisconsin 'cut-over' land should conform to the conditions of the land, the demands of the market at hand, and also to the



G902
SCH

WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
LIBRARY

amount of ready money at his disposal. There are certain things, however, which are common to all, or nearly all, newcomers; some of these we propose to discuss in the present article.

ADVICE TO SETTLER.

"We will suppose our farmers, or would-be farmer, arrives on his land in early spring. He at once builds a small log house and a barn; these, ordinarily, he can construct from timber found on the land. Sawed lumber for floors, roofs, etc., can ordinarily be purchased at the nearby mills. He should provide himself with a team, a yoke of oxen will give good service on stump land, and is less expensive to feed than a team of horses. The latter, however, will be of greater value if the settler intends to do much hauling during the winter.

"As soon as the necessary buildings are put up, and perhaps before they are

small area of land. Rutabagas are also a good crop to put on new land, as they may be sown late in the season, they command a fair price, and are excellent feed for cows, sheep and hogs.

CLOVER A VALUABLE CROP.

"If the land can be plowed, oats may be sown between the stumps and cut for hay before fully ripe. With the oats, sow clover seed, using from ten to fifteen pounds per acre. Clover is the most valuable crop that can be grown in northern Wisconsin, and every effort should be put forth to obtain a good stand. In many cases it grows wild on the "cut-over" lands. It is a good plan to sow clover on burnt-over land, so as to get the land to producing tame hay and pasturage. This may be done, after burning, by going over the land with a spring tooth or disk harrow and then



entirely finished, he clears a piece of land for a garden truck and potatoes. Ordinarily this can be done rather rapidly, if a spot is selected where the timber and brush are already burnt and partly cleared. Potatoes may be planted on new land without removing any but the smaller stumps, in which case cultivation is done by hand. If proper care in keeping down weeds and potato bugs is given, yields from ninety to 150 bushels per acre can be secured from such cultivation. Much larger yields than these have often been obtained. There is a ready market for potatoes and garden produce, and settlers ought to avail themselves of the opportunity of raising crops that give good yields or a

seeding to clover. Many fine hay fields have been started in this way.

"Every settler should get at least one or two good cows. During the summer months the cows, ordinarily, can graze on adjoining wild lands, and thus yield good returns for the care they get. With proper feed and care a good cow will give a net return of from \$50 to \$75 a year. Sheep are a good help in clearing land. When kept on land where the brush has been recently cut they not only keep down foul weeds and brush, but pay a good profit every year. Some farmers in northern Wisconsin, known to the writer, have made from \$3 to \$5 yearly from every ewe kept on the farm. Clover is the best feed to give to

sheep during the winter months. Begin with a few sheep at first; do not get too many.

"Chickens, too, pay well, and every farmer should have a small flock. Eggs at from 20 to 35 cents a dozen pay well. A few pigs also should be raised to furnish at least a part of the family's meat supply. It is well to keep all the stock that can be fed on the farm, taking care, however, that all rough feed be produced on the farm.

"In clearing land much valuable timber is removed as a rule. This is cut into cord-wood, box lumber, railroad ties, saw logs, etc., for which there is a ready market. Cordwood sells for from \$3.50 to \$4.50 a cord at the railroad side track. Ties sell for from 25 to 60 cents apiece at the railroad right of way, and saw logs at the mills for \$6 per thousand feet and up.

"One advantage at the command of the settler is that he can take his team to the woods and earn good money at

of the land already under cultivation.

"Right here it may be said that many settlers make a mistake by trying to cover too much ground. It is well to have a good deal of land partly cleared for pasture, as this can be done with little expense. But for actual cultivation it is not necessary to have a large farm. A farm of say twenty-five to forty acres, if made to produce its best, will pay better for the labor put on it than one three or four times this size. The writer knows of farms in northern Wisconsin having less than sixty acres under the plow which produce a gross income of \$2,500 to \$3,000 per year.

"Small dairy farmers known to the writer produce 300 pounds of butter per cow per year. One man, the owner of six grade cows, two or three of which were heifers, sold 1,700 pounds of butter during the last year. This man has about twenty-five acres under cultivation, and less than fifteen acres of this is free from stumps. Besides this he keeps



Clearing Land. Note the Piles of Cordwood.

hauling wood either for himself or for others. The best way is for the farmer to clear and break land till snow covers the ground, and then go to the woods and earn ready money. Many settlers earn from \$200 to \$300 during the winter months; some earn much more. It will be seen that in this way the farmer provides a good living while getting his land in shape for crops.

CLEAR MORE LAND YEARLY.

"In preparing land for crops it is not necessary or advisable to blast or pull out all the large stumps at once. If left to rot for a few years the stumps will come out more easily. For maximum crops, however, the land should be cleared of stumps and other obstructions. Hence every settler should aim at clearing thoroughly a few acres every year and increase the productivity

about one hundred hens and raises a colt every year. He also sells fruit and garden vegetables. This man cleared 'cut-over' land, thickly covered with stumps. He now has good buildings, several head of stock, machinery, etc., and makes a good living from his farm. Where returns as noted above are had, no hay or grain is sold, all being fed on the farm. Everything is turned to butter, milk or cream, garden produce or fruit, and sold at a good price.

"As indicated at first, the kind of farming and the crop to raise are to a great extent governed by the soil and market conditions.

POTATOES ON SANDY LAND.

"On sandy land and near a railroad siding potato raising is very profitable. Especially is this true in the northern counties, where potatoes command a good price. Here clover should be

grown and fed to stock and the manure returned to the soil. Under such conditions yields of 200 bushels per acre are not uncommon, and some as high as 400 bushels per acre have been reported.

"On light soils the grain sown should be rye, oats or barley, and in all cases clover should be sown with the grain. If the season is at all dry cut the grain before ripening and make it into hay. In this way a good harvest of clover is assured, while the hay thus made is very nutritious. Clover grown for seed is very profitable. Yields of from three to eight bushels per acre may be obtained.

"On heavy clay soils clover raising also promises to pay good returns.

take of the nature of the two outlined above. Where help is abundant sugar beets are a good crop. Especially is this true in the loamy types of soil. Farmers in the northern counties this spring contracted for sugar beets at the rate of \$4.50 per ton f. o. b. on the side track.

"It is impossible to give in detail all the possibilities of northern Wisconsin agriculture within brief limits, so to conclude are the following short hints:

"Grow clover on your land; it is the best crop you can raise.

"Cultivate well at least a part of your land; do not attempt to clear too large a farm at once.

"Dairy cows and sheep should be on every northern Wisconsin farm.



Yields of from three to eight bushels per acre have been had with alsike clover, and from two to five bushels with medium red. On this type of soil field peas do exceptionally well where the drainage is good, yielding as high as forty bushels of dry peas per acre. Where settlers are grouped in colonies it will be found profitable to raise peas for canning purposes. In Door County during the last year some farmers received as much as \$100 per acre for factory peas.

SUGAR BEETS THRIVE.

"On soils ranging in texture from clay to the sandy type the system may par-

"Grow cultivated crops, as potatoes, root crops and corn, on at least one-fourth of your land.

"Strawberries and garden vegetables pay well if near a market or shipping point.

"Improve some land every year.

"Do not spend too much money on buildings at first, but see that they are comfortable.

"Adapt your farming to your location.

"Rotate your crops, say, in this order: (1) Clover, (2) cultivated crops, (3) small grains and back again to clover.

"Remember that all useful permanent improvements are additions to your capital."

Address Inquiries to A. D. CAMPBELL, Commission of Immigration, Madison, Wis.

State Board of Immigration: Jas. A. Frear, Secretary of State; J. D. Beck, Com. Labor and Statistics; B. J. Castle, Chief Clerk State Land Office; A. D. Campbell, Commission of Immigration.