

Making the Little Farm Pay

By C. C. BOWSFIELD

When the average revenue per acre is compared to returns which are secured by studious and expert farmers there seems to be a strange discrepancy. The time has come when business farming must take the place of old fashioned methods and give land owners a fair and adequate return on their investments.

The way to most quickly reach a money making basis is to adopt a system of crop production which will supply commodities returning the maximum of profit at a minimum of labor and risk. These articles we see in the common fruit and vegetables. There is an attractive opportunity in the cultivation of grapes and berries. These products pay enormously, and when the small investment and simplicity of cultivation are taken into account the wonder is that the market is not over-



GRAPEVINE WHEN FRUIT IS SETTING, supplied. Grapes are especially recommended, because they allow plenty of time for marketing.

It is easy to propagate most varieties of grapes. The ordinary way is from cuttings. These are made from mature wood of the last year's growth, cut from the vines almost any time when there are no leaves on them, or from November to April. The wood should be of strong growth. The cuttings should be about eight to ten inches long and with a bud near each end. They are best buried in the ground after being tied in small bundles and left until the time for making early garden, when they should be set in nursery rows in good soil. They can be set by a spade or set in a trench made with a plow and filled in with a hoe, leaving one bud above ground.

Good cultivation should be given. Varieties that will not root from cuttings are layered, which is done by covering a part of a living vine with soil and leaving it so during the growing season. It is a mistaken notion that their culture requires special skill and knowledge. They do best in warm, well drained and fairly fertile soil, yet there are few farms where they may not be grown successfully. A southern exposure will usually give satisfaction. The roots should not be deeply imbedded in the soil, as they ramble to a great distance in search of plant food. If the soil is hard and compact it will be difficult for the roots to find a proper food supply to produce satisfactory crop. Among the cheapest and best fertilizers for the vines are unbleached wood ashes and well decomposed manure. Leaves, soapuds and lawn rakings are also beneficial to growing vines.

To save time and trouble we may obtain the vines we want from a reliable nearby nurseryman who knows which varieties are best suited to our locality. If the farmer grows his own vines from cuttings the first step in transplanting will be to dig them from the nursery, using great care so that the roots will not be mutilated. Grape roots are sensitive to the sun and wind and should be protected until placed in the ground.

The proper width of the rows for field culture is seven or eight feet. Strong growing varieties, however, such as Concord or Niagara, will require a little more space, but more feeble growers, such as the Delaware, may do well on less space.

During the first year a well cultivated and trained vine should be about five or ten feet long and may be supported on any temporary structure. In the fall it should be cut back to within two feet of the ground and from then on it should be pruned annually, preferably in early spring when the wood is not frozen and before the sap begins to flow.

The principal diseases affecting the grape are black rot, mildew and anthracnose and the best treatment for these ailments is bordeaux mixture. Clean the vines and surroundings and burn all clippings, etc., upon which germs of disease may be living. Before the disease is checked it may be necessary to spray five or six times during the spring.

Raise Plenty of Beans.

There is no reason why nearly all farmers should not grow an abundance of beans for their own use. They are wholesome and nourishing and are satisfactory substitutes for meats when the latter are difficult to obtain.

Scientific Farming

PROFIT IN POULTRY.

A Quick Growing Crop That Furnishes Speedy Returns.

There are few investments from which returns can be got as quickly as from poultry, says the editor of the Western Poultry Journal. In seven to eight months after setting the eggs the profit commences to come. In fact, something can be realized earlier than this, though the income may not exceed the outgo. The cockerels will be ready to sell as broilers at three months or less, and later the pullets will come to laying.

There are not many things in the live stock line which bring in returns so quickly. While most grain crops will grow in a shorter period, we can grow but one crop a year, and this may be destroyed by unfavorable season. But the chick crop is not affected by weather conditions to any great extent and is a sure crop in the hands of the man who knows how to grow it.

Market ducks make a little quicker returns than laying hens, but the duck



BORN COME MINORCA COCK BIRD.

industry is confined to certain localities and is not proving as profitable, as it once was. Under right conditions they are a never failing crop every three months. In 1913 the orange groves in a section of California were put out of commission by a severe freeze. This gave a great impetus to the poultry industry in that section, as the orchardists went to work to secure large flocks of layers to insure them an income until the orchards were again in bearing. White Leghorns are the fowl of that section, and they argued, and rightly, that they could buy baby chicks and have a large flock of layers bringing them in an income in six months.

I have known of several instances where parties establishing commercial apple orchards have used laying hens to produce the income and fertilize the land until the trees came into bearing. The poultry houses were set in the newly planted orchards, and both trees and hens were benefited by the presence of the other.

DAIRYING IN THE FAR WEST.

Many Sections Await Coming of Live Stock to Become Prosperous.

For several years the federal dairy division has been building up dairying in the far west, particularly in such sparsely settled regions as the reclamation projects, says the Country Gentleman. Independently of extension funds recently made available by the Smith-Lever bill, the division has succeeded in doubling and often in tripling the number of silos in such sections.

Wherever alfalfa is grown in abundance, as on irrigated lands, the division has preached dairying as the logical industry to utilize this feed. With the Smith-Lever funds available experiment stations in the western states are co-operating with the federal department of agriculture in dairy extension projects.

There are many sections of the west that only await the coming of livestock to become prosperous. Cheap feeds, especially such roughage as alfalfa, are produced in abundance in the irrigated valleys. Often the price is so low that unless the hay is fed on the ranch it will be disposed of at a loss. Five dollars a ton for alfalfa delivered to the railroad has been a common price, while at the same time many growers claim they should have \$8 or \$10 a ton in order to make a profit. According to these figures the average crop requires the assistance of cows, hogs and sheep in order to return a profit.

Why Chicks Die in the Shell.

If eggs are to be held before sitting, they should be kept at a temperature of from 40 to 60 degrees and should be kept covered so the albumen will not evaporate. When the chick comes out of the shell it is made out of the albumen or white of the egg and has used little or none of the yolk. If the albumen has evaporated too much there is not enough material to build a chick large and strong enough to get out of the shell. This is one of the causes for chicks dying in the shell. This evaporation may take place either before or during incubation.—Western Poultry Journal.

Washington Good Roads Day is Set.

Olympia, Wash.—Governor Lister proclaimed Saturday, May 15, for state-wide celebration as good roads day in conformity with a plan for designation of a uniform date throughout the Pacific Northwest.

SHOULD GUARD AGAINST DESEASE

Some timely advice relative to hog cholera that may prove valuable to the farmers of the Lower Snake and Payette river valleys, has been issued this week by W. W. Howard, the new county agriculturist. While there are no known cases of the disease on the Oregon side of the river, there have been several cases reported from near Payette, and every precaution should be taken to eradicate the dread disease. His communication follows:

There is great necessity at the present time for the farmers of Malheur county to use special precautions to prevent an outbreak of the dreaded hog cholera. There are outbreaks of the disease near Weiser and Payette, Idaho, and these two places are so located that it makes it necessary that special care be taken to prevent the disease spreading to the Oregon side.

The spread of the disease could be checked with the use of serum if introduced, but even then there would be some loss and some expense which it is hoped can be avoided.

Sanitary methods will go far in preventing the introduction of the disease. Hogs that are running in an open field are less liable to contract the disease than those penned up, largely because of the natural sanitary conditions. If it is necessary, however, to confine the hogs in small pens, these should be thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed. It is also a good plan to make a practice of spraying the pens at frequent intervals, for it will not only lessen the danger from hog cholera but will also help control the many other diseases that are so troublesome to the hog raiser.

spray pump and a supply of some of the cheap coal tar preparations should be part of the hog raisers' equipment at all times. This is a good time to make a general cleanup around the hog lots.

There are a few other measures that should be put in force at the present time. These practically amount to a quarantine against any person or animal that may act as carriers of the germs. These germs can be carried for miles by people, dogs, cats or even by birds. All persons that go near the hogs should be closely questioned to find out whether they have been near infected places. Dogs and cats should not be allowed to roam about for they are apt to bring it home with them. The birds are the hardest element to control, but an effort should be made to keep the crows away, for their habits make them especially dangerous.

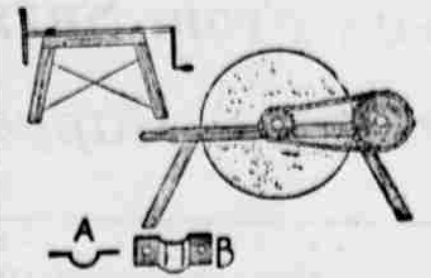
Farmers should not go near any neighbor, if his hogs are sick, for it might be cholera. All persons are asked to report any sickness among hogs that comes to their notice to my office here in Ontario so that it can be taken in hand immediately. A serious outbreak of the disease may be prevented in this way.

W. W. HOWARD,
County Agriculturist for Malheur County.

(Small text block, likely a letter or notice, partially obscured and difficult to read.)

Chain Propelled Grindstone.

I took two sprocket wheels, one smaller than the other, off an old binder. I put the smaller wheel on the shaft of the grindstone where I took the crank off, says a writer in Farm and Fireside. Then I put the larger wheel at one end of the frame. To make boxes for the



shaft of the larger wheel I took two pieces of sheet iron and bent them (A) and drilled holes in each side (B). I then took the crank and placed it on the end of the shaft of the large wheel. A chain from the binder was placed over both wheels. This device is very handy for grinding mowing machine knives, as the person turning is out of the way.

Spare the Birds; Save the Crops.

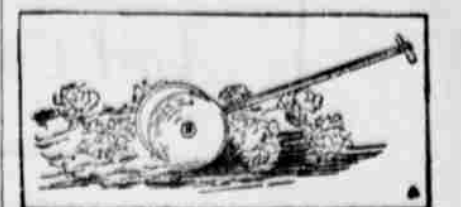
Bird hunting if carried on under restraint may be legitimate sport, but bird slaughter is merely a means of inviting calamity. Take as one little instance the "scalp act" of Pennsylvania, which paid in bounties \$100,000 for the extermination of hawks and owls. These "pests" were destroyed, but the small rodents upon which they fed turned on the farmer and did almost \$4,000,000 worth of damage. Our bird friends possess infinitely more than sentimental and food values. Were it not for their intervention the insect hordes would blot mankind from the face of nature.—Country Gentleman.

Italian War Party Riots.

London.—Great demonstrations in favor of Italian intervention in the war led to serious disorders at Rome, and collisions with the police, according to a dispatch from the Italian capital.

To Cut Strawberry Runners.

When strawberries are not allowed to run over the bed, but are cultivated in hills, an implement for cutting the runners is a necessity. One of the simplest as well as one of the best is shown in the figure. The cutters are old disks from a disk harrow or cultivator and must be kept well sharpened to do their best work. The axle may



DEVICE FOR CUTTING RUNNERS.

be made of any bolt of suitable size threaded on both ends so that a nut and washer may be placed on each side of the disk. This clamps the two disks firmly to the axle and prevents them from revolving independently of each other. The handle should be made similar to a lawn mower handle.

The disk can be set at various widths, depending on the size of hills desired, about eight to ten inches being usual. By setting the plants in check row fashion the tool can be run in both directions, making the operation of cutting the runners a short one even over a large extent.

1656 Miles Battle-Swept.

Paris.—Troops of the allies occupy battle fronts whose length totals 1656 miles, according to a compilation made by the Matin.

In the western arena, according to these figures, the French occupy 540 miles of trenches, the British 31 miles and the Belgians 17 miles.

In the eastern theater the Russians face a front of 851 miles, while the Serbians and Montenegrins are fighting along a line which measures 217 miles.

SAVE
\$2.50

Great Sale of White Beauty Hoosier Cabinets Ends Saturday

PAY
\$1.00
ONLY

The great sale of "WHITE BEAUTY" Hoosier Cabinet will end Saturday at the latest, perhaps tomorrow. If each of the 1000 towns where the Hoosier Company has permitted this sale does as well as we have here, there will be no trouble about the quick doubling of "White Beauty" Sales. There is every indication that the limited number allotted us for this sale will not last till Saturday night. We can obtain no more to sell at the present low price. Most likely you will see these cabinets in the homes of some of your nearest and dearest friends. Why wait until then and regret that you missed the opportunity that is offered to you as to them!

Tomorrow Pay Only \$1.00--Try the "White Beauty" in Your Own Kitchen

This chance of a lifetime to secure a Hoosier Cabinet at a \$2.50 reduction from a low cash price, on terms of only \$1.00 down and \$1.00 weekly, may never occur again. The Hoosier Club plan of payment has proved amazingly popular with the foremost women in this community. Some of them tell us it is the same way that they have bought fine editions of rare books. Yet it costs you nothing extra to enroll in the Hoosier Club if you come tomorrow. No interest. No fees of any kind.

Exclusive Features

See the wonderful shaker flour sifter; the Hoosier accounting system, the cook book holder; the food guide; the want list; the pencil holder; the money tray; the emergency shelf and other labor-saving devices, 17 of which are entirely new.

Decide Now. Saturday May be too Late

Other women are making up their minds tonight to come tomorrow and select a Hoosier Cabinet while they can save \$2.50. It won't take five minutes to decide when you see it.

Come early—for when this lot is gone no power on earth could get you another "White Beauty" at this price.

Ontario Furniture Company

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TO THE PUBLIC: We authorize this sale, limited to "White Beauty" Hoosier cabinets, at \$2.50 less than the fixed cash price of these cabinets, this week only. THE HOOSIER MFG. CO., New Castle, Ind.

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