

OUR FARMERS' PAGE.

ENTERPRISE READERS ARE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE AGRICULTURAL, HORTICULTURAL, LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, DAIRY OR "BIG CROP" ITEMS FOR THIS DEPARTMENT.

BERRY CULTURE.

Great Possibilities in Small Fruits When Properly Cultivated.

An authority says that on an acre of rich, cultivated land \$500 worth of berries may be grown, and that an acre should produce at the rate of 20 bushels.

Causes for a short crop may be laid at the door of land deficient in fertility or plant food. Such land should have composted manure applied and turned under broadcasted. Another reason is improper preparation of the soil. Plow deeply and harrow until fine, light and mellow. Again, there is a poor crop when varieties are planted that are not adapted to that particular kind of soil and climate. This can be determined either by the success of the neighboring farmers of that locality, or by testing a limited number of plants. Failure often comes from setting poor plants; only hardy, vigorous plants should be purchased. Carelessly setting out plants will also cause a shortage. They should not be exposed to the sun or wind before setting. When put out the roots should be well spread and fine dirt firmed around them.

Using imperfect fertilizers is another cause. There is a sex in plants. Pistillates (females) must have staminate (male) set with them to insure good crops. Cultivation should not be neglected. The ground at all times must be fine, mellow and free from weeds.

Both frost and drought are enemies of a good crop, and the most difficult to overcome. Berry fields well cultivated are several degrees warmer than uncultivated fields, therefore less liable to damage by frost. Retain mulching as late as possible on strawberries in spring.

Test Seeds at Home.

The Department of Agriculture, in order to aid farmers to determine for themselves without much trouble the germinative qualities of seeds has issued a short bulletin on the subject. A very simple apparatus for sprouting seeds is described. It consists of a shallow basin in which is placed a small flat of porous clay. The seeds, after having been soaked, are laid between two sheets of moist blotting paper or flannel. A pane of glass covers the dish, which should be kept in a temperature of about 70 degrees. Atmosphere of an ordinary living room is suitable for the apparatus is left near the stove at night. Several kinds of seeds may be tested at once at a trifling cost. The bulletin cautions the farmers against extremes of heat or moisture.

When Sheep Are Barren.

Sheep not in lamb may be noticed near to or in lambing time by the following signs: In fine weather they will be seen jumping and playing about; also when they are called up at feeding time it will be noticed that those not in lamb are the first to come up, but those in lamb come up much slower, says W. R. Gilbert. They are less bulky in the region of the abdomen than those in lamb. Any dirt about the tail is often a sign of barrenness. Another test is to turn the ewe up, and if she is barren she will show no increase in the size of the udder and will have a considerable amount of yellow waxy excretion on the skin around the udder. The wool near the udder is generally of stronger growth and more firmly attached than that of an in-lamb ewe.

Insects of Ancient Lineage.

The humble and not very winning cockroach can boast of an antiquity far beyond the wildest dreams of the most arrogant human family. In fact, according to the best scientific authority, the father of all black beetles probably walked the earth millions of years before neolithic man had even a black cave to offer with the remains of last night's supper for the cockroach of the period to enjoy.

The investigations of a British scientist have established the fact that in the Silurian period there were such insects, although, as the only piece of his remains found was a wing, there has been some dispute as to the exact species.

Farm Management.

Economy is wealth. Extra and unnecessary expense is a millstone around the neck of many who otherwise would succeed. Discharge the unprofitable employe. Stop every leak of unnecessary expense. Money saved is money made. Money invested in the best seeds and appliances is economy. Time wasted, labor wasted is extravagance.

A successful farmer says he does not have to inspect a farm to see

whether it pays or not. "Just give me a chance to look into the barn. The condition things are kept in is a telltale on the careless or wasteful farmer. In fact, economy in farming begins at the barn in the proper handling of food, caring for the manure, care of tools and harness and the care given to the livestock stabled there. There is always a best way to do things, and the best way is generally the paying one.

The Girl with a Hen.

A farmer in a nearby county, while in a generous frame of mind, gave his daughter a hen and a rooster and bade her run away and be a good girl, promising her that if she would look after them he would feed the increase for four years. The girl, as it were, planted those two chicks and the results, according to her father's report, is astonishing. He says she has \$64 in the bank and has 200 chickens which he had to feed last winter. According to the farmer's best calculations, his daughter will own the farm at the end of four years and will be charging him rent for living on it.

Sawdust and Soil.

Prof. W. S. Masey says sawdust from resinous pine decays slowly in the soil, and will sour the land when decayed. Even when used for bedding in stables, the manure is not worth half as much as that with ordinary bedding. Look about the remains of sawdust accumulated about abandoned mill sites that are common in the piney woods, and you will see that it takes a long time for any vegetation to start where sawdust has been scattered.

Useful Bob White.

James Burbank, a Missouri farmer, was recently saying a good word for the antiquated shooting law, and advising our citizens not to kick against it. One day last winter he shot four quails and his children in cleaning them found in their craws great wads of dead cinch bugs. They soaked one wad out, and counted 380 bugs, besides a lot of other insect matter which is undoubtedly injurious to crops. And this is why Mr. Burbank will never again willingly kill a quail.

Bees Race Pigeons.

It is not generally known says the Reader, that bees are swifter in flight than pigeons—that is, for short distances. Some years ago a pigeon fancier of Hamme, Westphalia, laid a wager that a dozen bees liberated three miles from their hives would reach home in less time than a dozen pigeons. The competitors were given wing at Rybern, a village nearly a league from Hamme, and the first bee reached the hive a quarter of a minute in advance of the first pigeon. Three other bees reached the goal before the second pigeon. The bees were also slightly handicapped, having been rolled in flour before starting for the purpose of identification.

Pruning Fruit Trees.

In trimming trees it should be remembered that the wound made by cutting off a limb close to the trunk of a tree will soon heal over, while the wound made by cutting off the limb two or three inches from the trunk leads to decay and sometimes causes the ultimate loss of the tree itself.

Starting Blackberries.

The easiest way to start a blackberry plantation is to dig the roots in November, cut them up into 6 to 8 inch lengths, bury them in sand layers through the winter and plant out (one piece in a place) next spring.

A Good Word for the Catalpa.

The catalpa tree is ornamental, a fast grower, hardy, and its wood is becoming of value. It makes the best of fence posts, is fine furniture wood, and recent experiments have proved that it is the best material for making paper. The cultivation of the catalpa is liable to be a paying industry in this country in the near future.

Fence 2000 Miles Long.

In West Australia, after five years' work, a great transcontinental rabbit-proof fence has been completed. Its length is 2036 miles and the cost of its erection has been nearly \$1,215,000.

It is furnished at intervals of five miles with systems of traps, in which hundreds of rabbits are captured and destroyed daily.

On the eastern side of the fence the animals are teeming and vegetation is almost completely absent. Inside the barrier there appears as yet no trace of their presence.

Notes.

Roosts should only be a foot from the ground.

Build your poultry houses so that they can be easily cleaned.

Soft shelled eggs are a sign of want of lime in the soil.

The Leghorn is the common fowl of Italy.

The man who has the milking of a cow the first year of her milk production determines her value as a milker ever afterwards.

It is just as much scrub farming to waste or give away part of the fat from a high-bred milk cow as it is to waste fat by feeding a scrub.

Experiments made by German scientists show that butter keeps best when preserved with from 3 to 5 per cent of salt. If the proportion is higher than that, the results are less satisfactory.

By the use of the separator the cream can be more thoroughly separated from the milk than by skimming and perfectly fresh cream and skim milk are produced.

There are so many trottingbred mares in every neighborhood that there is a wide-spread demand for German and French coach stallions wherever the farmers have learned to bred good mares to a good coach stallion, they grow into high market prices.

Your fowls can't do without animal food in the winter time.

Keep nothing but pure bred fowls, let the breed be what it may.

It is the cow that is up in good flesh that does her best. When she is thin and hungry all the time, she will surely put the biggest part of what you give her to eat on her back. That means less for you in the pail and in the butter tub.

If you have good stallions in your community, get a pair of pure-bred mares and get into the most profitable horse-breeding. You will soon breed into a handsome income every year.

The cost of its production and keep are comparatively so slight that the farmer who raises a first-class colt is more certain of profit on his work than the producer of any other kind of young stock.

Work up a trade for your eggs and dressed poultry among those that are willing to pay an advance over market price for strictly fresh eggs and guaranteed poultry. It can be done and is done in many localities.

Pick out market birds a few days ahead of sale, and fatten on a little old corn, and some pudding of oat chop with middlings or boiled potatoes, the whole mash mixed up with warm skim milk.

With geese their feathers are a regular source of income while the surplus birds find a ready market at remunerative prices at certain seasons of the year.

The cow with a long body is apt to be a better feeder than one with a short body. Look over your herd and see if this will not hold good; the big body denotes big capacity for food.

The successful swine breeder does not keep hogs, he makes the hog keep him.

There are only two strictly bacon types of hogs, the large Yorkshire and the Tamworth. The fat in an ideal bacon must be evenly distributed, and the under cut must be as nearly as possible the same thickness as the upper cut.

An aged sow that has proved herself a good breeder and suckler should not be made way with to make room for a young and untried sow as long as she will raise a large litter of good pigs.

The climate and soil of the United States afford unequalled facilities for fruit culture, both in the orchards and in the gardens.

A handful of bone-dust mixed with the soil at the roots of a tree or grapevine will show its beneficial effects for a number of years.

Candy or Intoxicants.

"Give children plenty of pure sugar, taffy and butterscotch, and they'll have little need of cod liver oil," says Dr. Wood Hutchinson, in the Christmas Woman's Home Companion.

"In short, sugar is, after meat, bread and butter, our next most important and necessary food. You can put the matter to a test very easily. Just leave off the pie, pudding or other desserts at your lunch or midday dinner. You'll be astonished to find how quickly you'll feel 'empty' again, and how 'unfinished' the meal will seem. You can't get any working man to accept a dinner pail without a pie in it. And he's absolutely right. The only thing that can take the place of sugar is beer or wine. It is a significant fact that the free lunch counters run in connection with bars furnish every imaginable thing except sweets. Even the restaurants and lunch grills attached to saloons or bars often refuse to serve desserts of any sort. They know their business! The more sugar and sweets a man takes at a meal, the less alcohol he wants. Conversely, nearly every drinking man will tell you that he has lost his taste for sweets. The more candy a nation consumes the less alcohol.


"The United States government buys pure candy by the ton and ships it to the Philippines to be sold at cost to the soldiers in the canteens. All men crave it in the tropics, and the more of it they get, the less 'vino' and whiskey they want.

"In fine, the prejudice against sugar is born of puritanism and stinginess, equal parts. Whatever children cry for must be bad for them, according to the pure doctrine of original sin; besides, it costs money. I know families in the rural districts yet where the head of the family groans over every dollar's worth of sugar that comes into the house as a sinful and 'unwholesome' luxury."

Prof. Koch Makes Discovery.

Professor Robert Koch, upon whom Emperor William conferred the title of excellency in recognition of his services in discovering the origin and treatment of the African disease known as "Sleeping sickness," has set forth in an official report the details of his prolonged investigations into the Victoria Nyanza region. He supplements the general results previously cabled by giving a statistical comparison showing that only about 8 per cent of the sleepers treat-

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ed with an antoxyl injection died, whereas the great majority of the untreated sleepers who arrive at the mission stations died.

Professor Koch's investigations showed that the fly which causes the sleeping sickness subsists on the blood of reptiles and animals, and cannot live without it for more than three or four days. The microscope showed that the blood sucked by the flies was chiefly of crocodiles. The professor therefore recommends a bounty on crocodile eggs in order to enable the natives to exterminate them. It would be comparatively easy, since the crocodiles have certain well marked breeding grounds in the Nyanza district, where the eggs can easily be collected.

Professor Koch also suggests clearing away the timber around the watering places near the forts and villages where the natives gather, because the flies cannot live out of the shadows of the trees.

STATE NEWS.

The University of Oregon is experiencing the largest demand in its history for graduates, both men and women, to take principalships and positions as teachers in the high schools of the state. Of the 53 members of last year's class, 20 are teaching in the high schools and colleges of Oregon and the Northwest, and the demand was much larger than the supply. At the present time there are a number of positions vacant because there is no one available who is adequately prepared to take them.

Two men tried to rob the Albany postoffice last week but were frightened away by a citizen living opposite who was awakened by the noise made in removing the iron shutters to the rear windows.

The Portland-Salem electric road is to be extended to Ashland in the near future.

October and November statistics for wheat and flour shipments from Portland and Puget Sound ports are particularly interesting as showing the immense resources being converted into actual cash in Oregon and Washington. 7,434, 691 bushels of wheat and 640,012 barrels of flour are the exact figures, yet it must be remembered that the crop is only just getting under way in earnest.

The Treasury Department has decided to station a revenue cutter at Astoria as soon as the McCullough, which has been assigned to the post can be repaired.

Boosters at McMinnville are trying to make the military company there, Co. F, Fourth Infantry, O. N. G., the best in the State. Oregon City's crack company may have something to say as to which company shall be the best in the State.

The Government snagboat Mathloma has been detailed to remove snags and improve the channel in Grays River on the north side of the Columbia.

The finance committee which has been investigating the affairs of the city of Boston report that the net debt of the city at the close of the last fiscal year was \$111,848,755, instead of \$68,821,359, as reported by the City Auditor.

Recruits for the Fourteenth Infantry continue to come in rapidly at Vancouver. It is the opinion of the regimental quartermaster that the regiment will be filled to the maximum strength of 875 within the next few days. The slight depression in the labor market has had its effect on the Army. A great number of recruits have enlisted in the past month in nearly every Army post in the United States. Reports from the Navy Department show that the Navy also is gaining its quota of enlisted men.

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