

# OUR FARMERS' PAGE.

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

## VALUE OF HUMUS.

Properties in Soil Necessary to Produce Paying Crops.

The principal source of nitrogen in the soil is organic matter. We must have the nitrogen to produce the crops. It is necessary to promote growth.

It is an expensive food—probably the most expensive of all the food elements needed by the plants. It is estimated that if the nitrogen had to be purchased to produce a bushel of corn, it would cost about 24 cents.

However, if the organic matter is kept sufficient in the soil, it can be supplied without cost.

Generally speaking, there is enough potash in the average American soil to produce corn for thousands of years, but as a rule it is not available as food. Many of the insoluble mineral elements are made soluble and available for the plant's need by decay of the organic matter in soils. It requires humus in the soil to make these insoluble elements available.

It is then plain that soils that have plenty of humus are not only rich in nitrogen, but in the decay of the humus the supply of available mineral elements is also increased.

Soils are ready to farm much earlier in the spring that are rich in humus than those that are deficient in it. This humus is what gives the soil its dark color, and it is a fact that anything dark in color absorbs heat more rapidly than does a light color. Soil containing humus will dry out sooner and be ready to cultivate sooner in the spring than soil that has no humus.

Moisture is better retained in a soil that has the proper amount of humus than in one that is devoid of it.

In other words, soils that contain humus are rich in available plant food, are ready to work earlier in the spring and have moisture to keep the crops growing and producing; while, on the other hand, soils that are without humus dry out and are unfit for cultivation.

## In the Vegetable Celler.

Suburban Life says apple and potato bins may be partly filled with well dried autumn leaves, which are among the best preservatives. An old orchardist declares that the leaves of the apple tree will, if well dried, keep sound, well-ripened apples in good condition until the trees come into bloom in the following spring.

Provide smaller spaces for beets and carrots, onions and other vegetables, not forgetting a deep bin for celery, which may be taken out of the ground with the roots as complete as possible and packed in boxes or the concrete bin, containing four or five inches of clean sand. One farmer says he has kept celery growing and blanching half the winter by burying the roots in clean, damp sand and tying each stalk closely with a piece of cloth. Strips three or four inches wide make the best ties for celery, which should be kept in a dark place or lightly covered with a piece of perfectly dry burlap. All of the usual market vegetables may be stored in a dry cellar and kept until early spring.

## Points for Milking.

According to some experiments noted by the Department of Agriculture, it was found that where cows were milked three times a day, morning, noon and evening, the milk was richest at noon and poorest in the morning; and when milked morning and evening the milk was slightly richer in the evening.

Milk quickly but gently, and at regular hours. Cows must be made comfortable to do well. Give cows chance to exercise in the open air when weather is comfortable. In order to be a prolific yielder of milk the cow must be a hearty eater, with good digestive powers. In milking get all the milk each time, but do not keep on stripping after you have got it.

## Heifers for the Dairy.

Don't feed the heifers that are intended for the dairy large quantities of fat producing foods, but an abundance of good hay and a limited supply of oats and corn, for the habit of laying on flesh in calfhood is liable to follow her to motherhood, and lead her to placing the results of heavy feeding on her back instead of in the milk pail.

## The Cotswold Sheep.

The Cotswolds are large, hardy and prolific sheep, and the ewes are good mothers. They furnish a valuable combing wool, and the average of fleeces is from 7 to 8 pounds. Selected

flocks produce considerably more wool. The wethers, fattened at 14 months old in England, weigh from 15 to 24 pounds per quarter, and at 2 years old from 29 to 39 pounds per quarter. They frequently are made to weigh considerably more in this country. Their mutton is superior to that of the Leicesters, the fat being less abundant and better mixed with lean meat. They are much used in crossing other breeds and varieties. They impart more hardiness, with stronger constitutions and better qualities as breeders to the Leicesters, and thicken them in the hind quarters. They give size, longer wool and more wool to some of the short-wool families. They are decidedly favored sheep with the breeders of the United States.

## Twists in Tree Trunks.

Curious twists are observed in many tree trunks, and the inquiry just begun in Europe suggests the surprising conclusion that they are produced by the earth's rotation, like the twists of storms and the whirls seen in water. Van den Broeck, the Belgian geologist, points out that if conditions of growth were the cause the torsion should follow the sun's apparent path. In at least 999 out of 1000 trees the reverse is true, and it may be that the twist is usually to the left in the Northern Hemisphere and to the right—or with the clock—in the Southern Hemisphere, like the turn of the cyclonic storms and water vortices. This difference is due to the earth's rotation, says the Bulletin of the American Forestry Association. Jean Brunhes notes that it was shown some years ago that the winds due to the earth's motion blow steadily at a season when vegetation is active and sensitive, and a slight continuous bending and turning then would be likely to affect the tree permanently.

## Swiss and Irish Goats.

It shows what can be accomplished by organized and well directed investigation that the British Goat Society has made discovery of a particular species yielding over a full gallon of milk per diem for many months in succession. This remarkable animal—it is of Swiss lineage—has been personally and exhaustively tested by the honorary secretary at a farm in Essex, such a yield from any species, at home or abroad. That controversy being ended by his experiments, the society will no doubt add to the value of its previous efforts on behalf of the rural laborer's children by promoting importations of this profitable breed. Among its supporters there are some men of large wealth and many acres, who have afforded repeated evidence of their desire to give the goat a higher position in English estimation as an economical food producer. But the English farm hand requires a deal of talk before he is convinced that in many details of human life new ways are better than old. This pervasiveness of conservatism has broken down, odd to say, in the sister isle; the Irish goat, well tended and carefully bred as it usually is, ranks far higher than the English as a milk producer, and the society finds little difficulty in securing the co-operation of the peasantry in further improvements.

## Breeding Tip for Eggs.

The Maine experiment station has discovered a hen that laid 250 eggs in one year. In fact, she laid 251 eggs in a year counting from Thanksgiving day to Thanksgiving day. This hen came from a selected family of 200-egg layers as the original foundation. In the same family there were a number of hens that laid over 240 eggs in a year.

## Pollination of Flowers.

It is not only insects that serve for the pollination of flowers, but several species of birds perform a similar office for certain flowers. Among these are humming birds and sun birds. With their long tongues these birds procure nectar, and with it pollen, from flowers which are practically inaccessible or distasteful to insects. The pollen is distributed to other flowers during the successive visits of the birds. There are some tropical plants which flourish only if these birds abound.

## Corn and Cholera.

"Cholera" is a sure thing again at this time of the year, when corn is fed liberally to the hogs. There is no doubt about cholera being a germ disease, but it is a fact that we rarely hear of this disease in quarters where corn is not fed hogs too freely.

## Notes.

Cracks in the soil and fruit trees are outlets for their life.

The boar should have abundant exercise and a continued variety of food.

Do not clean the stable just before milking. Try to have the air pure at that time.

Well managed winter dairying is the most satisfactory dairying to the shrewd producer.

Every time a cow is abused or frightened her butter machinery is thrown out of gear.

A cow that is a heavy milker enjoys having her milk drawn. It is a great relief to her.

It is mistaken economy to put off feeding the cows in the stable until everything in the pasture is consumed.

You can only crowd fruit trees at the risk of getting reduced crops of undersized, inferior and badly colored fruit.

It is the freezing and thawing that injures the strawberry plants in winter. Mulching well in good season will prevent this.

A bull is about as dangerous a pet as a grizzly bear, and the man who handles one without a nose stick is risking his life everytime he does it.

Even if a farmer cannot afford a pure-bred herd of cows he can afford a pure-bred bull, and in time, with the right selection he can have a good herd.

If eggs are not desired for hatching, it will be better to separate the cock from the hens. The eggs from hens by themselves will keep longer than those that are fertile.

Coal oil and lard are excellent for scaly legs caused by parasites. A scaly-legged fowl is a detriment to any flock, and this is the time of the year when they are apt to be overlooked.

Eggs are sold by weight in Iowa, as they should be everywhere. It is not justice for one man to pay the same price for a dozen measly little eggs as the man who gets a dozen large ones.

Just because a male pig is a fine specimen is no excuse for retaining him if he came in a coarse breed litter. There will be no uniformity in the offspring unless the male is a thoroughbred.

Where a more vigorous growth of wood is desired it is obtained by pruning in the season of growth; where a development of fruit buds is wanted, pruning when in the dormant period will produce the result.

The principal object in pruning shade trees is to give them symmetry or shape and the better plan is to begin on them while they are young. A finely shaped shade tree adds much to the appearance of the yard.

Two eggs per day per hen sounds like an impossibility, but the Maine experiment station has proved that it is possible. In a test one hen laid two eggs a day, and a strain may be developed that will do double work.

The eighteen months old fat hog weighing 350 to 400 pounds is no longer in demand, and, even though he were, it would be foolish to grow such expensive individuals for no more is paid, nor even so much, as for handy weights—250 to 275 pounds.

An old fruit grower says that the pick is the best tool he ever used around apple trees when the ground has become too hard. He sinks the pick eight or ten inches into the soil and merely pries the dirt loose, without disturbing the roots at all.

Currants as a market fruit are becoming more popular every year. On account of the increased cost of starting and longer time required to come into bearing many have been slow in planting. But at the price they have commanded the past few years they are a very profitable addition to the fruit farm.

## OSWEGO.

Last Saturday the Oswego Grange elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Master, C. C. Borland; overseer, Wilbur Wilmot; lecturer, Mrs. Helen M. Ewing; secretary, Paul Dickinson; treasurer, C. T. Dickinson; chaplain, Oscar Eaton; steward, A. J. Thompson; assistant steward, Allen Dickinson; gatekeeper, Robert Wilson; A. S. Miss Maud Childs; Ceres, Mrs. Flora Jarisch; Pomona, Mrs. Mary Workman; Flora, Mrs. Anna Fischer; trustee for three years, J. W. Stone. In the afternoon a programme was rendered. Among the most interesting numbers were the discussion on "The Spirit of Christmas" and "A Christmas Pie."

Joseph Bieher, Jr., is ill and under the care of Dr. Rossiter.

Mrs. Rutherford, of Peoria, Ill., is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Burton H. Jones. Mrs. Rutherford expects to visit Europe in the near future.

A son was born recently to Mr. and Mrs. Went.

Dr. James, of Beaver Creek, is very ill at the home of Mrs. Evans, on Seventh street. It is not expected that he can live more than a short time.

Mrs. Hamilton, sister of Mrs. P. H. Jarisch, is quite ill at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland.

Thomas Daniels, of Beaver Creek, was in Oswego Wednesday to see his old neighbor, Dr. James.

Miss Ethel Blazer is on the sick list. A surprise party was given Miss Bessie McCutcheon Sunday evening.

Thursday evening, December 26, a special school meeting will be held at the school building, to levy a tax for school purposes for the next year and to elect one school director to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Director Waunker.

Friday afternoon school will close for the Christmas holidays, to reopen on the first Monday in the New Year.

Governor's Mother Injured.

Mrs. P. H. Chamberlain, aged 86 years, mother of Governor George E. Chamberlain, came near losing her life Monday night by falling down the basement stairs at the residence of the Governor, in Portland.

She was returning to her room for the night. In some manner she became bewildered, and thinking she was entering the door of her bedroom stepped in to the doorway of the basement, and fell headforemost

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to the bottom of the stairs, a distance of about 10 feet. She was badly bruised and suffered considerably from the shock, but it is believed that she received no injuries of a serious nature.

## MIXTURE TO RELIEVE

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## MANY WAIT TO LONG

Druggists Here in Town Say They Can Supply the Ingredients or Make Up the Mixture.

Get from any prescription pharmacist the following:

Fluid Extract Dandelion, one-half ounce; Compound Kargon, one ounce; Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla, three ounces.

Shake well in a bottle and take a teaspoonful dose after each meal and at bedtime.

The above is considered by an eminent authority, who writes in a New York daily paper, as the finest prescription ever written to relieve Backache, Kithney Trouble, Weak Bladder and all form of Urinary difficulties. This mixture acts promptly on the eliminative tissues of the Kidneys, enabling them to filter and strain the uric acid and other waste matter from the blood which causes Rheumatism.

Some persons who suffer with the afflictions may not feel inclined to place much confidence in this simple mixture, yet those who have tried it say the results are simply surprising, the relief being effected without the slightest injury to the stomach or other organs.

Mix some and give it a trial. It certainly comes highly recommended. It is the prescription of an eminent authority, whose entire reputation, it is said, was established by it.

A druggist here at home when asked stated that he could either supply the ingredients or mix the prescription for our readers, also recommends it as harmless.

The Southern Pacific Cottage Grove passenger train, south-bound, was flagged and boarded by a gang of tramps a short distance out of Woodburn Wednesday evening, and it was fully 15 minutes before the crew was able to fight them off and get the train under headway again. Panic reigned among the passengers, who mistook the excitement for a hold-up.

Let him who is inclined to take a gloomy view of the outlook for business ponder well these facts: While the United States has only 5 per cent of the world's population, it produces 20 per cent of the world's wheat, 25 per cent of its gold, 33 per cent of its coal, 35 per cent of its manufactures, 36 per cent of its silver, 40 per cent of its iron, 42 per cent of its steel, 52 per cent of its petroleum, 55 per cent of its copper, 70 per cent of its cotton and 80 per cent of its corn.

The peanut diet, the man who upholds sauerkraut as the panacea of all stomachic ills, the exponents of herbaceous living of all kinds, receive a body blow in a bulletin issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. The bulletin was prepared by Dr. H. S. Grindley, professor of general chemistry at the University of Illinois, and shows that all kinds of meat are more easily digested and more completely assimilated than any other class of food.

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