

## United States Government Articles

### Radical Improvements for Marketing Maine Potatoes

A GREAT deal of potatoes damaged by the early freeze of last year in Maine was sent to New York and resulted in a heavy loss. At one time this trouble became so marked that the New York market grew tired of it and sought New York state potatoes, almost to the entire exclusion of the Maine product. To improve marketing conditions on Maine potatoes, the Department of Agriculture recommends radical improvements in the following respects:

1. The establishment of uniform grades and brands.
2. Greater care in handling potatoes from the field to the wholesaler.
3. Thorough inspection of all eating and seed stock.
4. The adoption of seed types, standards and guaranties.

Uniform grades and standards for potatoes, as for any other crop, tend to establish confidence between buyer and consumer. They also help greatly to eliminate loss and waste, the cost of which is ultimately divided between the grower and the consumer.

It seems quite apparent that Maine potato growers must join in an efficient co-operative marketing organization if they are to succeed in bettering their marketing conditions. Working individually, they have little chance to standardize their product or insure proper returns for it. To bring about improvements that count, they must join their forces and so place themselves in position to cope with the problems that face them.

### Crop Report of Oregon and United States Is Prepared

THE bureau of crop estimates, in cooperation with the Weather Bureau of the United States Department of Agriculture, has prepared the following report showing comparisons between Oregon and the United States. The comparisons will virtually hold good for Washington and Idaho, as well as Oregon.

		Oregon.	United States.
WHEAT.....	(Condition April 1, 1915.....)	94	88.8
	(Condition April 1, ten-year average....)	94	87.6
RYE.....	(Condition April 1, 1915.....)	96	89.5
	(Condition April 1, ten-year average....)	97	90.1
<b>Prices to Producers.</b>			
WHEAT.....	[Per bushel, April 1, 1915.....Cents	127	131.7
	[Per bushel, April 1, 1914.....Cents	84	84.2
CORN.....	[Per bushel, April 1, 1915.....Cents	85	75.1
	[Per bushel, April 1, 1914.....Cents	70	70.7
OATS.....	[Per bushel, April 1, 1915.....Cents	59	53.4
	[Per bushel, April 1, 1914.....Cents	40	39.6
BARLEY.....	[Per bushel, April 1, 1915.....Cents	80	64.7
	[Per bushel, April 1, 1914.....Cents	62	51.7
RYE.....	[Per bushel, April 1, 1915.....Cents	120	100.4
	[Per bushel, April 1, 1914.....Cents	85	63.0
POTATOES.....	[Per bushel, April 1, 1915.....Cents	62	47.8
	[Per bushel, April 1, 1914.....Cents	43	70.0
HAY.....	[Per ton, April 1, 1915.....Dollars	9.80	11.64
	[Per ton, April 1, 1914.....Dollars	9.99	12.29
BUTTER.....	[Per pound, April 1, 1915.....Cents	30	25.8
	[Per pound, April 1, 1914.....Cents	31	24.9
EGGS.....	[Per dozen, April 1, 1915.....Cents	20	16.6
	[Per dozen, April 1, 1914.....Cents	20	17.6
CHICKENS.....	[Per pound, April 1, 1915.....Cents	12.6	11.9
	[Per pound, April 1, 1914.....Cents	12.8	12.3

### Cold Storage Holdings of Apples Less Than in 1913

ACCORDING to a statement just issued by the office of markets and rural organization, United States Department of Agriculture, it would appear that the cold storage holdings of apples in the states on April 1 were 15.6 per cent less than two years ago, although the supply in 1912-13 was less than this year. The estimate is based upon the reports of 195 firms for April 1, 1915, and April 1, 1913.

Two hundred and sixteen firms reported their apple holdings for December 1, January 1, February 1, March 1, and April 1. According to the statement of the office, the progress of movement from these storages during the season, estimated upon the basis of total holdings, December 1, was 10.7 per cent in December, 17.1 per cent in January, 21.9 per cent in February and 24.1 per cent in March. Analyzing the movement separately for boxes and barrels, it is found that up to April 1, 75.9 per cent of barreled apples and 68 per cent of boxed apples were marketed. The total decrease since December 1 appears to have been 73.8 per cent, or in other words, there remained on April 1 to be marketed 26.2 per cent of the total quantity of apples placed in the coolers last fall.

#### Stopping the Waste.

"John!" shouted the lady in the middle of the night. John snored a bit louder and turned over. "John!" said the lady with increased emphasis. "What is it?" grunted John. "Get up. The gas is leaking." "Aw, put a pan under it and come back to bed!"

### Maggot Trap Prevents the Breeding of the House Fly

A MAGGOT trap which will practically prevent the breeding of the housefly is described in a new bulletin of the United States Department of Agriculture, No. 200, "A Maggot Trap in Practical Use; an Experiment in Housefly Control." The investigators who carried on this experiment at the Maryland Agricultural College declare that during August and September at least 98 per cent of the larvae breeding in the manure were destroyed, and although the trap was not so efficient when the weather became colder, even then it greatly reduced the number of flies.

The principle of the trap is simple, it is easy to construct, and the expense is said to be probably less in the long run than the investment which many farmers now make in screens for their dwellings, and sprays and flynets for their livestock. In its roughest outlines the trap consists of a concrete basin with a latticed wooden platform erected upon it to hold the manure.

The basin is connected by a drain pipe with a small concrete cistern. The bottom of the basin is filled with water into which the maggots breeding in the manure drop, as they are about to turn in the pupa or chrysalis stage, and are drowned. At frequent intervals the water is run off into the cistern and is then pumped back on the manure pile. In this way all the liquid manure is saved.

The successful operation of this trap rests upon several facts connected with the habits of the housefly which have been thoroughly established by observation.

The adult fly lays its eggs in fresh manure. There they remain until the larva stage is almost over and the insects are about to enter the pupa or chrysalis stage. At this time a pronounced tendency to migrate is evident. In consequence if the manure is placed upon a platform with a latticework bottom the larvae, while migrating, will fall through these openings into the water in the basin

below. In the case of the experiments at the Maryland Agricultural College a careful count showed that between July 25 and October 1 about 112,000 larvae were killed in this way.

This, however, does not include the number that were picked up from the basin by sparrows or poultry. Altogether it is estimated that during the warm weather the efficiency of the trap was probably 99 per cent. Later, when the temperature was lower, the trap's success was not so marked. This was accounted for by the fact that when the air is much colder than the manure heap the larvae will not attempt to leave the heap and therefore will not fall into the basin.

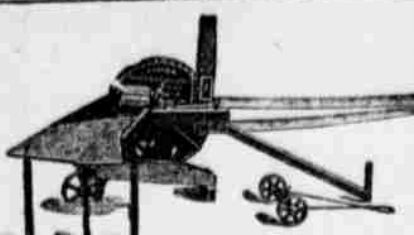
Another difficulty experienced arose from mosquitoes using the water in the basin and the cistern to breed in. This was overcome by cleaning out the basin at regular intervals and by sprinkling a little oil over the surface of the water in the cistern.

Properly constructed, such a trap offers no obstacles to the convenient and economical handling of manure. It is essential, however, that each day's addition to the heap should be sprinkled with sufficient water to keep the manure moist, but not enough to cause leaching.

The details of the construction of the trap are contained in the bulletin already mentioned. This particular trap was designed to hold the manure produced by three horses for three months, but there is no reason why larger quantities should not be treated in the same way, by building larger traps or by building several of smaller size.

#### Dodging, Not Meeting.

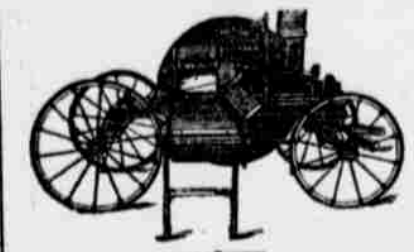
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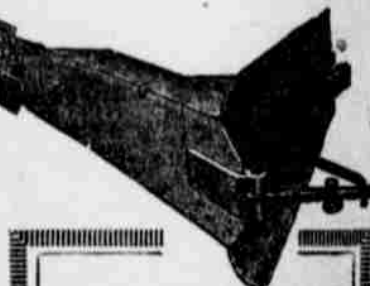
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