

Correct Methods of Farming Will Increase the Yield of Spring Grains

BETTER TILLAGE TO INSURE GAIN IN GRAIN YIELD

By R. C. Stewart
It is said that a large crop of spring wheat must be raised this summer to bring the wheat crop up to normal. Less acreage was sown last fall and in some parts of the country severe winter weather did considerable damage. Better tillage and moisture conserving methods should be used to increase the production of all spring grains.

There are many advantages in planting spring crops. The danger of freezing is eliminated. Some soils are too wet for fall or winter grain, but will grow a good spring crop. Very few weeds will mature seed in a spring crop, making possible the growing of a fairly clean crop on fall land. The soil requires less work to put in condition for planting to a fall crop following the spring crop. The main disadvantage is getting the land plowed and worked down between the late rains and seeding time, much depending upon the season and the soil.

DEPENDS ON SOIL DRAINAGE

The time for spring plowing naturally depends a great deal upon the soil and how well it is drained. As a rule land should be plowed when in a condition that after lying for a few hours a kick of the toe will break a sod into small fragments and not into chunks or sticky masses. Some sandy soils may be plowed to advantage with water following in the furrow, but this is not to be thought of in most clay soils.

Time and labor are both valuable on the farm this day and age, and every means to save on both should be used. After plowing it is important to watch the turned-up soil and pick a time to work it down when it has lost its sticky nature, but not dry enough to break up in clods or chunks. Many find it an advantage to pull a section of the harrow or breaker behind the plow, which leaves the ground smoothed down and ready for double disking.

DOUBLE DISKING BENEFITS

There are few soils but what are benefited by a thorough double disking in spring working. Disking fills in the air spaces to the plow depth and should form a mulch clear down. The first disking should cover the ground in the direction the plow traveled; otherwise it will throw up sods and chunks. A harrow should follow the disk and if the air spaces are not then completely filled a thorough cross-disking will in most cases cut it down in good shape. As a rule a harrow should precede either the disk or roller. This does not apply to rolling grain after planting. Harrowing and disk mashing or rolling should follow disking to smooth the surface and break up the surface clods. When ready for planting the surface should be smoothed and level with no clods larger than an egg and these well filled in between with fine soil.

CORRUGATED ROLLER POPULAR

The corrugated roller has come into popular service in the last few years and is doing wonderful work in breaking up stubborn old fields. This roller will be found very valuable in forming a surface mulch, as it breaks up the clods of all sizes. Some types of the corrugated roller leave small cracks in the surface and for this reason should not be used as the last operation after planting. When weather conditions are uncertain and drought is possible, precautions must be taken to conserve the moisture. If any rain comes soon after the planting it will cause a crust to form that will in many cases retard growth of the grain and allow the moisture to escape. This crust may be easily broken with slant-tooth harrow, a roller, or both. After the grain is up from 2 to 4 inches the going over the ground with a smooth roller will leave the surface in good condition and hold the moisture.

1919 Stock Receipts Lower Than in 1918

Last year 12,152,000 animals, excluding calves, or 784,000 less than in 1918, were sold by farmers at the great primary markets of the Middle West—Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis, St. Joseph, St. Paul and Sioux City. The record year in these markets was 1918 for both cattle and hogs. Of the latter, 25,452,000 were marketed in 1918 and 25,280,000 were marketed in 1919. The receipts for sheep, including lambs, made a new record in 1919 when 14,308,000 animals were marketed.

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NEW DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION SERVICE



Paul V. Maris, state county agent leader, has been appointed director of the extension service at O. A. C.

MARIS IS APPOINTED DIRECTOR FOR O. A. C. EXTENSION SERVICE

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, May 1.—(Special).—Paul V. Maris, state leader county agriculturists, has been appointed director of the Oregon Agricultural college extension service to fill the place made vacant by the resignation last October of O. D. Center, who became director of extension for McLean county, Illinois, at an increase in salary of \$1400.
Maris knows all Oregon thoroughly. He was born and raised in the state and by reason of his experience is thought to be the best man for the place. His early years were spent on a stock ranch in Moro county, near Heppner, well known for its prize-winning Shorthorn cattle. He was graduated from Pacific college, Newberg, and took agricultural work in the universities of Wisconsin and Missouri, having been graduated from the latter in 1914. WORK IS COMPLETED.
Since 1914, when Maris was made state leader of county agriculturists, farm bureau work is credited with having done much toward putting farming in Oregon on a strictly business basis. The work, in fact, has paid for itself many times over. In the opinion of farmers, who have been free in their praise of the results accomplished. Thirty-two hundred farmers attended extension schools conducted in 13 counties in 1919 alone, while 1840 farmers joined in automobile excursions to see demonstrations and investigate promising projects. Hundreds of farm ac-

Seed corn selection, according to specialists of the United States department of agriculture, is as important as the selection of sires and dams in the breeding of live stock.



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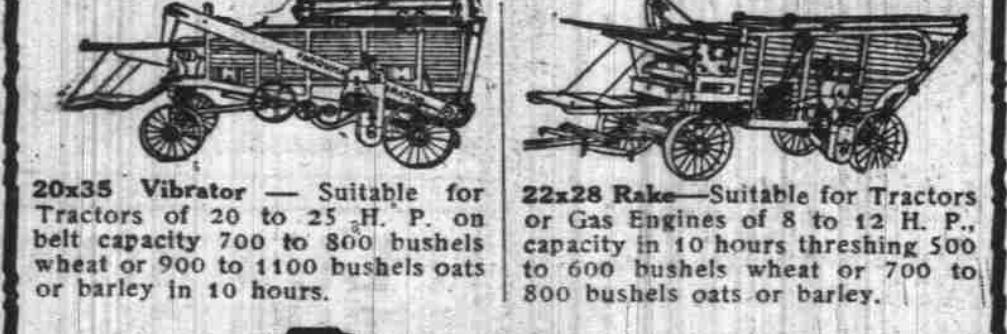
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HAY CURED BEFORE BALING WILL KEEP INDEFINITE PERIOD

Hay that has been thoroughly cured in the barn or stack before baling can be stored indefinitely without danger of heating, say specialists of the United States department of agriculture. It may be piled so that the bales fit very closely together. Hay baled from very well cured, is likely to heat more or less in storage. Sometimes the heating becomes so intense that the hay becomes severely damaged or even unmarketable.

STORE BALES ON EDGE

Damage from heating may be greatly lessened and sometimes entirely obviated by storing the bales on edge, allowing an inch or two of air space between them. When bales are piled flatwise the air is excluded and heating is likely to occur, whereas leaving an air space tends to prevent heating by inducing circulation, which cools the hay. The first layer of bales placed in a barn should be placed on edge, and the second and every alternate layer should be placed on edge and crosswise. This crosswise method or "cording" prevents

any of the air spaces in the tier from being entirely covered and insures ventilation through the entire pile. The heated air works up around the edges of the bales and the cooler air enters from the sides and bottom.

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FACTS OF VALUE TO FARMERS

Composition, qualities, plant food content and adaptability of your soils govern your farming. Knowledge of these will enable you to work the soils to best advantage, what to plant them to, how to rotate their crops, what to feed and how to influence moisture content. O. A. C. and United States soil surveys find these facts and as rapidly as possible publish them. The first of a series designed eventually to cover every agricultural county of the state. "The

Soils of Jackson County, has just been issued by the experiment station. Facts of value to farmers everywhere. Copies free.

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