

**FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN**  
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REGISTER, ROCKFORD, ILL.  
CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED



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**STARTING A DAIRY.**

From this on there is bound to be an increasing number of those who will be going into the dairy business, and for such two or three suggestions as to the starting of the dairy herd may not be out of place. Since buying a herd of healthy, high grade or thoroughbred dairy cows is expensive and usually out of the question, it is best to start with common cows of good milking capacity, at the same time getting a sire from recognized dairy breeds. For this purpose it makes little difference whether the breed chosen be Jersey, Guernsey, Ayrshire or Holstein, as each of the breeds in question has produced individuals of large milking ability and with proper care will give excellent results. When grade cows of good milking capacity of the breed chosen can be secured it is well to do so, while one or two thoroughbreds may be added as the dairyman finds himself able. For one who has had no previous experience it is wise to take up the business on a modest scale at first and grow into it, increasing the size of the herd as he gets experience. There are several advantages accruing to the dairyman in a locality in having the same breed of dairy cows, as in such cases sires of known merit may be kept in the neighborhood and used as long as they prove serviceable. Before the old sire is disposed of another should be reared to take his place. The Babcock test should be used from the start to show which cows are making a desirable showing in butter production. If a silo is not on the premises when the herd is started it should be built at an early date, as the largest financial return is only possible with a dairy herd when a maximum amount of the feed consumed is produced on the home farm, and the silo makes this possible.

**THREE ESSENTIALS.**

Among several important conditions to be given attention in the growing of a good crop of corn or small grain and of nearly equal importance with that of soil fertility are the selection, cleaning and testing of the seed to be used, the proper physical preparation of the seed bed and the sowing of the seed in the best manner. When one has attended as well as he may to the matter of good seed he has taken but the first precaution, and unless the soil which is to receive this seed is put in the proper condition but meager and unsatisfactory results can be obtained, no matter how vigorous it may be. Neglect in this regard is much like giving thoroughbred stock scrub care, in which event only half results can be secured. A proper preparation of the seed bed means thoroughbred care for good seed, and these two things going hand in hand make for large crop yields. The disking and harrowing of land for small grain can hardly be carried too far. In nine cases out of ten the mistake is in the other extreme. Coupled with a proper pulverizing of the seed bed goes the sowing of the seed. The old slipshod method of broadcast seeding is going out of vogue with the most progressive farmers, who find the seed, drill is both more economical of seed and also gives a better stand and a more uniform maturity of the grain. These are not all the points of importance in the growing of bumper crops, but if all farmers gave them the attention they deserve they would be able to increase their present average yields from 20 to 50 per cent.

**DO THEY KNOW IT?**

A contributor to a Wisconsin agricultural paper undertakes to defend the much maligned quack grass in an article in which he states that if he had land which was run down he would consider the presence of the matted roots of the grass in the earth as worth at least \$10 per acre. In a recent farmers' institute which the writer attended a somewhat similar view was expressed, the speaker contending he had had no difficulty in ridding his fields of the pest by ordinary cultural methods. It is quite patent that the breed of quack grass which these two gentlemen refer to is a very meek and inoffensive type, different from that to be found in most sections of the country, or else the grass they have supposed was quack grass was not quack grass at all. Suffice it to say that it will be well for the inexperienced and uninitiated to paint this agricultural scourge in the blackest colors possible and in no sense view it as an evil that can be trifled with. There are many instances where the value of land has been cut in two as a result of its becoming infested with this relentless pest. Were one to take the above suggestion of quack grass roots as a fertilizer seriously he would find that instead of having a value of \$10 an acre as fertilizer he would have to pay more than twice this amount to remove the "fertilizer" from the soil.

Money in circulation in the United States on Feb. 1 this year is placed at \$3,091,312,546, which, divided among the 88,328,090 population, gives a per capita circulation of \$35.

The denatured alcohol output of the country for 1908 was 3,874,625 gallons, a gain of 15 per cent over the 1907 product, which amounted to 3,364,590 gallons. Prospects for the present year are for a largely increased production.

In all of the northern states where the cold winters, with alternate thawing and freezing, give the orchardist concern it is well to give the young orchard tree a low head, which will protect the trunk from intense heat in summer and do much to dissipate the rays of the sun in winter.

Good times are said to be quite accurately measured by the condition of the pig iron trade. This has been given still further illustration of late in the figures of the iron trade for the past two years. In 1907 the output was the largest on record, being 25,181,361 tons, while last year, following the financial depression, the production of pig iron fell to 15,936,018 tons, a slump of 38 per cent.

Missouri and Kansas horticulturists are beginning to realize the danger to their orchards from a spread of the dreaded San Jose scale and have joined in a petition to the legislatures of the two states for laws which will provide for nursery inspection as well as the location and isolation of infested orchards and the taking of such precautions as will prevent a spread of the scourge.

A reason which will account for young orchard trees not bearing sooner than they do after being set may lie in the soil being too rich in nitrogen as compared with the other chief elements, potash and phosphorus. To correct this condition manure should be kept from the trees and the vigorous growth checked by putting the trees in grass for a couple of years. It is possible to be too kind to young fruit trees, and overmanuring them is one of the easiest.

An Oklahoma lady reader of these notes reports that a field of alfalfa which is located near her poultry yard is frequented by her flock during all the winter months when the weather will permit, and in that latitude this is virtually the whole winter season. The field with its plants rich in protein makes an ideal pasture, furnishing not only needed exercise, but a most valuable ration of nourishing green food. In the north these advantages can be but poorly imitated with the scratching shed and clover hay.

The farmer who would make any headway in either stock raising or dairying is taking a very long and hazardous chance when he picks out a sire for his herd from a bunch of non-descript bovines at the local stockyards and tenders in pay for him the princely sum of \$25. The purchaser may not know any more about the pedigree or merit of a sire selected in such fashion than he does of the character or qualifications as a son-in-law of the hobo who asks a hand-out at his back door. In both cases he would be going it blind and could hardly escape being dubbed a fool.

An interesting fact was brought to the writer's attention the other day in showing the contrast in the type of farm help which is to be found in Wisconsin, Michigan and other north central states and some of the more recently settled portions of states farther west. This was in the attitude which was to be observed in the two communities of hired men who were irresponsible in keeping their word with their employers, in the older section such men being comparatively rare and held in public scorn, while in the newer they were so common and the reliable kind of help so scarce that they had to be accorded a treatment that was much more courteous than they deserved. This difference is due fundamentally to difference in character and ideals, which in a way are a matter of development and evolution so far as community life is concerned.

A thoughtful article in a recent issue of a leading farm paper points out the fact that the value of many of the experiments conducted by state agricultural experiment stations is greatly lessened because so many of the tests are carried out on a very limited scale and under conditions which it would be impossible for the average farmer to duplicate because of lack of help and time. In a measure this criticism is well founded in that experiments may be conducted on a small scale with remarkable results which would not produce any such results were they carried out extensively with the amount of land which the average farmer undertakes. At the same time it is well to take into account the fact that one of the truths which the experiment stations are trying to drive home to the minds of the tillers of the soil is that they are working from two to three times as much land as they can handle to advantage and that if an amount were kept under cultivation which could be given the attention that it ought to receive some of these same invaluable intensive experiments—so viewed by some—would be considered of a much more practical nature than now. Perhaps the experimenters should increase by threefold the land which they devote to grain raising tests, while it is just as plain that the farmer should in many cases decrease his plow land by the same threefold ratio to handle it in an effective and satisfactory manner.

One can hold a penny or nickel so close to his eye that it will obscure the distant dollar or gold eagle. The fellow who scripps on the price of his seed grain is a victim of this very illusion when he ought to know better.

Wise parents should keep the title of a good portion of their hard earned property in their own name as long as they live. Considerate children should not only acquiesce in this arrangement, but should in good faith see that it is carried out.

Experiments conducted by the animal husbandry department of the New York experiment station at Cornell give a value of 54 cents per hundred-weight of skim milk fed to growing pigs. If these figures are correct, one of the common byproducts of the average farm has been grievously underestimated in past years.

Before the small grain is put into the seeder it should be given a good blast of air in the fanning mill in the granary or taken to the elevator, where a still more thorough job can be done. This treatment will remove dirt and dust, shrunken kernels and a great majority of the weed seeds. This will insure a more even stand and will mean less weeds and more satisfaction in every way from the growing crop.

The secret of the prosperity and contentment to be found in sections of the country largely devoted to dairying lies in the fact that in the marketing of a ton of butter but 26 cents' worth of soil fertility is removed from the farm premises. More fertility is marketed in the shape of live stock and still more when the raw cereal products are sold, which makes the last named the most spendthrift type of agriculture which can be followed.

It is hard to understand why so many sections of the country which are already well embarked in a dairy and stock raising type of agriculture should be so slow in adopting the silo as one of the best possible means of utilizing economically one of the most important home grown products of the farm. It would seem that a silo and ensilage gospel needs preaching in a good many benighted sections of the country which agriculturally at least are not living up to their opportunities.

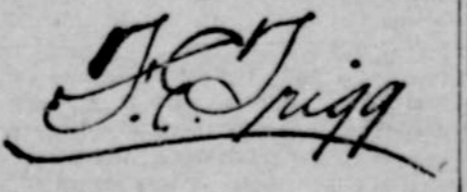
Where a locality is especially favorable to a growing of apples or other kinds of fruit it is well for several to unite in the growing of the same well known standard varieties. This makes it possible to handle fruit of one kind in car lots, while buyers will come from a distance if a considerable quantity of given varieties may be had. More than this, the spraying, pruning and cultivation of similar types of fruit in the same neighborhood would be much the same, and one fruit grower could learn from his neighbors and perhaps in turn help those of less experience.

About the only argument which we have heard urged against the growing of alfalfa is that this responsive legume produces so many crops in one season—sometimes five or six—that it keeps a fellow at home-cutting and curing it almost as closely as if he were a widower and had a family of eight kids and a weekly washing on his hands. A feature that makes the matter somewhat worse is that alfalfa requires more attention in the curing than do most other kinds of hay. A thought that may give general consolation, however, is that the closer most fellows stay at home the more circum-spect citizens they usually are.

A conception that is quite general among people of eastern states is that the horse raising business of the Rocky mountain and Pacific slope states is still in the broncho stage. The picture of the proverbial cowboy mounted on his mustang, so common in the newspaper and magazine illustrations of the day, is doubtless in large measure responsible for the misconception referred to, but a very different status of the horse raising business of the west in the case. Many of the large farm and ranch owners have been buying and shipping in the best types of speed and draft horses which could be secured, with the result that some of the finest horses which the country produces are raised west of the Missouri river, and a number of western cities are already taking a high rank as horse markets, which are frequented by big eastern buyers.

The success of many a farmers' co-operative enterprise is jeopardized if not made entirely impossible because of an undue closeness or economy on the part of directors or stockholders, shown in an unwillingness to pay a reasonable price for competent superintendents and managers. It is a dead sure thing that such enterprises will not manage themselves or succeed financially without close and thoughtful supervision. In view of this it seems plain, since any individual stockholder or director cannot give the supervision required, that some one must be hired who will be able to do it if the business is to succeed. There is no type of undertaking which has to encounter more serious obstacles from the economic point of view than those which are co-operative, where no one has a paramount but many a comparatively slight and equal interest, and none of the obstacles referred to is more serious or worthy of more careful attention than the one mentioned.

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**SYNOPSIS**

ACT I.—Session room in the new Bandon High School Building. Morning.

ACT II.—On the Beach. Night.

**CHARACTERS**

In the order of their appearance.

**STUDENTS**

Jennie Isabel  
Josephine Angelina  
Della Agnes  
Ada

Sally Smart, a star pupil,  
Nonna, a small visitor,  
Elsie, the school knocker and tattler,  
The Imp, an imitation,  
Tom, a self-made sport,  
The Lamb, his trusty disciple,  
Cynthia, who has a new dress,  
Milton Pythagoras Bump, the quintessence of youthful intelligence,  
Ella Wheeler Cox, who revels in Bertha M. Clay and Mrs. E. D. M. Southworth,  
Nell, good fellow and confidante  
Jack, exponent of school spirit  
Sophronia Seraphina Slocum, lately from the exalted intellectual plane of Oskaloosa, Iowa,  
Ed, just strayed in from the tall timber.

Annas Culver  
Margarite Haberly  
Elsie Kinley  
Gace Dasher  
Dilla Loomis  
Jessie Wood  
Ensa Perkins

Amelia Chaney  
Pearl Crane  
Maud Lowe  
Tom Ostien  
Bob Blackerby  
Victor Breuer  
Sylvia Rackleff  
Ernest Wilkins  
Ebba Wiren  
Hazel Stephenson  
Arthur Walker  
Nora Gibson  
Clark Waldvogel

Billy Charley  
Steve Hany

Helen Prissy  
Carrie Iris

Everard Boyle  
Guy Frederick  
Lentner Gallier  
Thomas Laird

Lena Langlois  
Rittie McNair  
Zettie Gibson  
Erma Crane

Dorothy Gibson  
Beulah Hesse  
Carl Bowman  
Elisha Wilson

**MUSICAL NUMBERS**

**ACT FIRST**

2. Opening Chorus.  
3. "I Love to Play Basket Ball."  
4. "Won't You Be My Best Girl?"  
5. "I Want It Under Foot"  
6. "So Long, Teach!"  
7. Finale.

**ACT SECOND**

8. Introduction.  
9. "Everything is Lovely."  
10. "In Oskaloosa."  
11. "Lulu from Langlois."  
12. "A Quiet Little Climbake."  
13. "There's a Few That is Wiser Than Me."  
14. Finale.

(Lyric by C. R. Wade)

**Bananas and Sugar.**  
A delicious sweetmeat is made in Santo Domingo from ripe bananas cut into slices about a quarter of an inch thick. These are sprinkled with sugar and placed in the sun several days, being turned occasionally, and each time dusted again with sugar.

**Before Forks.**  
Until the reign of Henry VIII. English sovereigns as well as their subjects ate with their fingers.

**The Chemist's Balance.**  
The range of impressions which we get from lifting an object is exceedingly small. An ordinary chemist's balance is some million times as sensitive and weighs down the two-hundredth part of a milligram.

**Night Light and Daylight.**  
The light intensity of a moonless night is estimated at one-thousandth of a candle foot, of moonlight at fourteen-thousandths of a candle foot and of full daylight at from 2,000 to 8,000 candle feet, depending upon the clouds.

**Pekel and Pickle.**  
The word "pickle" is not derived from the name of William Benkels of Bierfleet, Holland, the inventor of pickled herrings, as some believe. The real origin is the Dutch word "pekel," meaning brine.

**A Strong Cement.**  
By kneading together ten parts of finely sifted unoxidized iron filings with five of perfectly dry pulverized clay in vinegar spirit a cement is formed that is both fire and water proof.

**Waterloo.**  
At the battle of Waterloo 51,000 men were killed or disabled. There were 145,000 soldiers in that great struggle.

**Cannel Coal.**  
Cannel coal was once used as a substitute for candles because it can be cut into blocks or strips and burns with a clear yellow flame. Its real name is candle coal.

**Tuscan Customs.**  
It is strange to notice how many old classical expressions still survive in Tuscany. The people still swear "By Bacchus!" and "By Diana!" just as we do "By Jove!" but when they talk of "Tom, Dick and Harry" they say "Titus, Calus and Sempronius."

**The Hands and Feet.**  
The palms of the hands and the soles of the feet are composed of cushions of fat in order that no injury may be done to the muscles underneath by sudden jolts or violent blows.

**Vanilla.**  
Vanilla grows on a sort of climbing orchid which is very plentiful in the tropics.

**Divine Right of Kings.**  
The divine right of kings is a doctrine promulgated in England in the seventeenth century, which asserts that kings hold their authority by Divine appointment and as earthly representatives of the Deity.

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