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O. A. C. SHORT COURSES

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Every citizen of Oregon is cordially invited to attend the short courses of the Oregon Agricultural College, beginning Jan. 3. Eleven distinctive courses will be offered in Agriculture, Mechanic Arts, Domestic Science and Art, Commerce, Forestry and Music. Every course is designed to HELP the student in his daily work. Make this a pleasant and profitable winter outing. No tuition. Reasonable accommodations. For beautiful illustrated bulletin address H. M. TENNANT, Registrar, Corvallis, Ore. Farmer's Business Course by C. correspondence



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There are few, if any, weeds that have a more generous capacity for seed production than the purslane plant, which has a spread of three feet. Myriads of seed capsules are matured, and each of these is chock full of seed.

While the rank of the two breeds is about the same from the standpoint of pork production, the Duroc-Jersey has this point in its favor as compared with the Poland China—that the litters which the sows farrow contain about 25 per cent more pigs.

Rarely does a boy or girl run away from a farm where there are conveniences for doing work in the kitchen, a gang plow pulled with four horses, blooded stock in barn or yard and the name of the farm on a signboard at the front of the farmstead. The why of this is well worth inquiring into.

Beginning with July 1, the salary of rural mail carriers was raised to \$1,000 per year. Considering the number of serviceable horses they have to keep and that they are expected to make their rounds in all kinds of weather, there will be very few people who will consider the new salary too much.

The chief objection to the grade sire lies in the fact that, while he may be an excellent animal himself, he is not likely to possess in a marked degree the established traits of his pure bred ancestor. With such sires there is likely to be an outcropping in the offspring of the unlovely traits or marks of some scrub predecessor.

More than one slough has been as effectively drained by sinking a well through the stratum of shale or clay beneath it to a porous sand or gravel stratum as by tile draining it in the usual manner. This plan is especially worth looking into in the case of low tracts from which there is not an opportunity for effective surface drainage.

At the close of a season when pasturage and many kinds of feed have been short there will be a big temptation as soon as the field corn dents to overdo the matter of feeding the pigs with it. It is far better to keep the pigs on a short ration than to get their digestive apparatus all out of kink by loading them up with new corn and possibly putting them in right condition for an epidemic of cholera.

About the only service we ever heard of the English sparrow performing a friend related to us the other day. A nearby willow hedge had been well and fully defoliated by myriads of fat, juicy willow worms. One morning just at daybreak a cloud of sparrows, evidently summoned from miles around, lit down on these willows, and in less time than it takes to tell had devoured the last worm. This was a spasm of usefulness that it is a pity the sparrow tribe is not oftener seized with.

All kinds of grief, disappointment and hard cash might be saved by prospective land buyers if they would more often observe the simple precaution of gathering reliable data concerning the new country's rainfall, temperature in spring and fall, soils and adaptability to growing given crops. This information can be got without charge by writing letters of inquiry to the agricultural department at Washington and to the directors of the agricultural experiment station in the state in which the land is located.

Unlike our own greatest river, the Mississippi, whose overflowing following the melting of snow and spring rains deals havoc to the rich lowlands bordering its lower channel, the annual overflow of the river Nile is taken as a matter of course and not only does no damage, but yearly deposits hundreds of thousands of tons of rich virgin soil, brought from the mountains, whence the stream and its tributaries have their rise. Thus it has been for scores of centuries, the annual seed-time following the recession of the waters.

A friend brought us a specimen of a weed the other day which was a total stranger to us. The stalk was about eighteen inches high, the leaves were compound and somewhat more finely divided than the common wild yetch, and the fruit it bore was a small light brown bur, having a solid core about the size and shape of a bean. The botanist at the state experiment station, to whom a specimen of the weed was sent, states that it is the wild licorice, related to and resembling the licorice of commerce. The weed is a troublesome one in the Utah basin, but is readily held in check elsewhere by thorough cultivation.

We once knew a home so poor that the wife couldn't afford a decent gingham dress or the soap with which to wash it, yet there were kept on the place (and fed) four old dogs and seven pups, on which the dog taxes amounted to from \$12 to \$14. Queer financiering this.

Some one has said that women are far more successful than men in breaking heifers to milk. If this be so it may be due to the fact that they haven't words at command to give their feelings so vehement expression, and as a result the bovine does not divine their real state of mind.

We know of two farmers who want to tile, but the neighbor below them is an agricultural standpatter and won't co-operate. They have decided to tile to his line and let the water go where it will. He will be converted by the time their drainage systems are in operation when the next wet season rolls around.

Individuals in many droves of hogs continue as runts and sometimes die from an infestation of their interior anatomy with the long white worm. There are a number of worm killers which if given in time will put the worms out of business. Suspicious cases should be looked into and the remedy applied as soon as possible.

While nature seems to have endowed birds with an instinct which guards them against nesting too late in the season, the writer remembers several years ago finding a nest of little waxwings in pinefeathers in the orchard late in October after the apples were harvested. If these little chaps did not get chilled in the weeks following for lack of proper clothing we miss our guess.

The much debated question of how to keep the boy on the farm may be boiled down to this: The boy can be kept on the farm when life there is so arranged that it will arouse his interest and give impetus to his energies and when the reward which he may reasonably expect for his labor is commensurate with that which he would get in other lines of work. Discussion of the problem which does not take into account these general truths is beside the question and largely futile.

Laws which have been passed in a number of states enable farm owners to have their farm name copyrighted by the payment of a dollar fee. Too many go on the principle that it is better not to name the farm until certain improvements and cleaning up have been done. The writer holds it a better plan to put the name of the farm on a neat signboard at the front of the premises. Then if the condition of the premises is not on a par with the dignity of the name chosen there is a constant incentive to make it so.

Now and then one runs across a brother or sister whose name is found on the church book, but whose religion does not seem to safeguard either against the temptation involved in the simple transaction of the sale of a quart of milk. In one case of this kind not long ago, in which the writer's family was a victim, it seemed that the morning when the milk was most innocent of butter fat a pony (two roses and three zenias) tied with a white string used to be placed beside the pail of milk when it was delivered.

The secret of real contentment lies not in having more money, better clothes, a bigger house or a later model of automobile than one's neighbor, but rather in making much of the blessings with which any home may be endowed if its inmates so will—love, kindness, sympathy, usefulness, temperate living, largeness and breadth of view, appreciation of and gratitude for the splendid common things, fresh air, blue sky, the pink of dawn, the gold of sunset, for flowers, for trees, for grass, for birds. These latter, after all, are the only things really worth while.

Recent investigations seem to have proved that the owl, skunk and badger are, on the whole, friends rather than enemies of the farmer and gardener. And now comes a writer putting up a pretty strong plea for the crow, based on recent investigations by the biological survey at Washington. The contents of the stomachs of 1,000 crows killed during every month in the year were carefully examined. While it was demonstrated that the crow dug up corn, killed young chickens and raided hens' nests, it was found that the part of the corn destroyed while growing formed only 3 per cent of the total and that the damage to chickens and eggs was small compared to service rendered in destroying mice and many harmful insects.

There is money to be made in growing ginseng and mushrooms, but just as much can be made with no more work and less risk by growing onions, potatoes or tomatoes. With clean straw worth from \$6 to \$8 per ton, many a farmer might with profit carry out the English practice of putting a small boy and a pony on the stack as the straw comes from the machine and having him tramp it down until the stack is two-thirds built. On setting such stack will have a solid center and sloping sides, which will shed the rain. Such stack properly topped out and sides raked down will keep two years in better condition than the average, loosely built stack will two months. And this year, if ever, there will be good money in taking this extra precaution.

Hymn of Thanksgiving.
We thank thee, O Father, for all that is bright—
The gleam of the day and the stars of the night,
The flowers of our youth and the fruits of our prime
And blessings e'er marching the pathway of time.

We thank thee, O Father, for all that is dear—
The sob of the tempest, the flow of the tear—
For never in blindness and never in vain
Thy mercy permitted a sorrow or pain.

We thank thee, O Father, for song and for feast,
The generous heart and the bountiful hand
And all the soul help that sad souls understand.
For never a blessing encompassed thy child
But thou in thy mercy looked downward and smiled.

We thank thee, O Father of all, for the power
Of aiding each other in life's darkest hour,
The generous heart and the bountiful hand
And all the soul help that sad souls understand.

We thank thee, O Father, for days yet to be,
For hopes that our future will call us to thee,
That all our eternity may form through thy love
One Thanksgiving day in the mansions above.
—Will Carleton.

When the Hen is Safe.
"This," remarked Mrs. Hen, "as she flew up on to Mr. Turkey's back, 'is my happy day. It's Thanksgiving, you know. What have I to give thanks for? Oh, several things, thank you. On almost any other day in the year I am liable to get the ax, and when I do get it I won't worry whether my

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