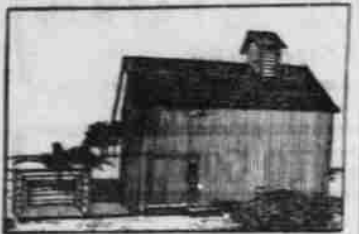


Farm and Garden

EVAPORATING FRUIT.

Surplus Fruit May Thus Be Disposed of Readily and at a Profit.

The demand for fruits in various forms is increasing. Like the cereal fad, it may sometimes assume the proportions of a cult. There is in every orchard much good fruit that is lost because it cannot be kept for the market, but if carefully evaporated by one of the scientific processes it will keep for some time and then may be disposed of at a profit. The process must be a good one, however. The American Agriculturist tells how to put up

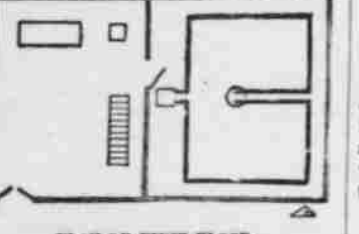


EVAPORATING PLANT.

A small plant for evaporating. It may contain hints even for those who do not wish to erect so elaborate a building.

"A conveniently arranged one kiln evaporator and plan is shown here-with," says the magazine. "The space is divided into a furnace room 14 by 16 feet and a somewhat smaller work-room, in which the apples are pared. An upright blancher, which also serves as an elevator for raising the fruit to the second floor, is placed in this room. The second room is divided in a similar way. The kiln has the same dimensions as the furnace room, with a capacity of 75 to 100 bushels of unpared fruit at each filling. The work-room on this floor contains the slicer and the upper portion of the blancher. The dried fruit as it is taken from the kiln can also be held here temporarily if desired.

Such a building may be so constructed that it will be useful for many other purposes during the course of the year than that for which it is primarily intended. In constructing kilns the same general principles are followed, whether the evaporator is a small one with only a single kiln or an



PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR.

extensive establishment having several kilns. The most satisfactory kiln, all things considered, is about twenty feet square. This is a convenient size to fill, so far as the preparation of fruit is concerned. The heat can be well regulated, made sufficiently intense for the purpose desired and evenly distributed so that the fruit will dry uniformly, and for various minor reasons a kiln of this size is a desirable unit in the construction of evaporators of this type.

"A kiln consists essentially of a floor made of slats and placed over a furnace room or over a system of steam pipes. The floor is usually built from ten to twelve feet above the floor of the furnace room. Provision should be made for regulating the heat by means of small openings at the base of the walls communicating with the outside. These can be opened or closed, as desired. The inflow of cold air can thus be regulated. Such control is especially desirable in windy weather.

If the evaporator is a frame building, the walls of the furnace room may well be plastered or covered with asbestos paper to lessen the danger of fire, which may otherwise be great because of the intense heat generated. If the walls at least the portion below the kiln door, are double, with an air space between the two sides, the insulation will be more perfect than if they are solid or of only a single thickness, thus best conserving the heat and increasing the efficiency of the plant. The height of the walls of the kiln above the drying door should be sufficient to permit an attendant to work on the floor conveniently and with comfort.

"Some means for the escape of the air laden with moisture from the fruit is necessary. This may be provided for by means of an opening in the roof, or a cupola-like ventilator may be built, the sides of which should consist of slats placed so they overlap one another as in an ordinary window blind. The kiln floor is constructed of strips especially designed for the purpose. Such floors are generally made of poplar or basswood strips, three-eighths of an inch thick, one inch wide on the top surface and one-half inch wide on the under side. In laying the floor these strips are placed one-eighth to one-fourth inch apart on the upper surface. This makes the space between them wider on the under side than on the upper, as shown, thus allowing the small particles of fruit which work down between them to drop through without clogging the intervening spaces."

Lane Pigs.
Young pigs confined in a floored pen sometimes become lame. It is advisable to turn the pigs out and let them have an opportunity to take proper exercise and enjoy natural conditions as nearly as possible. It is the plank floor that causes soreness and lameness. If the pigs have access to good pasture they may be fed on corn alone, but if confined in a small lot they should be supplied with food that contains more bone making constituents than is supplied by corn, such as wheat bran, oats, middlings, colts, etc.

THE UP TO DATE FARMER.

How He Makes Agriculture a Paying Business.

The up to date farmer knows the value of being up to date. He knows that new discoveries in the various sciences related to agriculture reveal new relations and suggest better methods. He knows that many of the theories held and many of the methods practiced years ago, and some even now, are worthless. He knows that one farmer cannot make as many experiments as can a thousand men. He reads books on farming and does not scoff at the book farmer, nor does he refuse to listen to the college professors, for, while he has great respect for the students of agriculture, yet he knows that the time has not come when agriculture shall be reduced to a rigid science, which shall be governed by a code of rules and laws, as are such sciences as chemistry, physics and the like.

The up to date farmer has the latest improved farming implements and to save horsepower and to do most efficient work always keeps them in perfect order. He does not see a plow that he will not see for one that is dull and whose whole adjustment is such that three horses must work hard to do the work which two could easily do with a plow properly adjusted. He understands the application of force to all his farm machinery so that the greatest amount of work is accomplished with the least expenditure of power. When his farm implements are not in use he keeps them well housed, if it is profitable to do so. A hundred dollar wagon shed into which a twenty-five dollar farm wagon is backed by hand every time the team is unhitched is not profitable.

The up to date farmer pays his debts. Not the least important of these is the one he owes to the soil. He knows that each crop which the soil yields takes from it something of its fertility and that unless this fertility is returned to the soil it can soon yield only a diminished crop. So he is very careful year by year to pay back to his land that fertility which the crop has taken from it. He knows many ways of doing this, and the one which he will adopt will depend upon the neighborhood. He knows that he can run a dairy, and when he sells a ton of butter, worth perhaps \$500, it will impoverish his farm no more than soil five or six hundred pounds of straw worth about a dollar.

He will keep his hired help all the year, and year after year, for the longer they are in his employ the more valuable they are to him and the more he can afford to pay them. He will buy more food than he sells, will raise all the feed he can for his stock and will not hesitate to buy more when needed. He is wise in the management of the fertilizers from his barns and feed lots and wise in their distribution upon his meadows and pastures and wise in sowing clovers for his corn land and among the grasses of his farm he will in time greatly increase its fertility.—Farm and Fireside.

Unappreciated Plant.

Chives is a vegetable not widely known in this country. It is native along the northern borders of the United States as well as in some parts of Europe, where it is popular. The plant belongs to the onion family, and its leaves are used for seasoning in soups, salads, etc., and are preferred to onions by many persons because they are much milder and more tender. Europeans use chives for seasoning scrambled eggs and similar dishes. The culture of chives is simple. The plant will grow in any ordinary garden soil. It is usually propagated by division of the roots, because it does not seed readily. The roots or clumps of roots may be purchased at moderate prices. The clumps should be planted in beds about nine inches apart in rows which are two feet apart. The planting may be done in either spring or autumn. The chives may also be planted in the border of the vegetable garden and makes an excellent permanent border. As a border plant the clumps should be planted about six inches apart. The leaves will grow thickly and form a dense green mat.

The Cankerworm Again.

The worm which devastated elm trees and apple trees in Connecticut is the cankerworm, the same pest that visited trees ten years ago. The worm does its work very rapidly, but unlike the elm tree beetle, does not have a long life and consequently the trees can put forth new foliage, though at some sacrifice of vitality. On the apple trees it can be destroyed by arsenical spraying, but the trees must be treated when the worm is very young if the work is to be effective. The banding of the trunks of the trees with vermicides is the most effective method of prevention. The reports from the state received at the Connecticut agricultural experiment station indicate a very great variation in the number of pests, some farms suffering very seriously and others being quite free from the visitation.

Farming Notes.

Remember the importance of the kitchen garden. When asparagus is a serious pest the fields are sprayed with a solution that kills the weed, but does not harm the crop.

Pruning economy doesn't amount to much. You must practice it, but there is such a thing as being too economical.

In Holland they rotate the fertilizers as well as the crops. Each crop has its particular coarser. Perhaps that's why they farm successfully on land worth \$1,000 per acre.

Read what people who know from experience say about incubators.

Grasses Everywhere.

Grasses are widely distributed. We usually think of them as existing in our temperate zones only, because here we have the perennial pastures and meadows. They are, however, to be found so far north that the soil is frozen under them during the greater part of the year, while they are also common to parts of the south where the frost is never known. Even the mountain tops that are clothed with perpetual snow have just below the snow their carpets of grass that grow and bloom through a brief period every year. The grasses push hard against the eternal snows.

WHEAT SHOCKS.

It is Essential That They Should Be Carefully Built.

There are many ways to build a shock of wheat, but, like all operations, there is a right way and a wrong way. In doing this work there should be a system, and each shock should be built in exactly the same way. When the grain is fairly ripe set up two sets of two bundles each, all leaning toward the center. Then set a bundle at each end, two at each side and two well broken and fattened and put on endways for caps. This makes a shock of a dozen bundles, a good size for grain cut at the proper stage of ripening; also large enough to stand up well and not so large but that two cap bundles will cover it. If smaller shocks are desired only one bundle need be set at each side. If a larger one, three bundles may be set on each side.

Another common method is to set up six bundles by twos and complete as before, but I think the former method makes a better brock shock. I am thoroughly convinced that cap bundles will not hang on as well during heavy winds when crossed.

Many people set their bundles two by two in long shocks without caps. This may do for low patches that are green or full of weeds, but is an unsafe practice to follow for all grain. If a period of wet weather follows the shocking, the heads are exposed, and many kernels will sprout and even grow, while if well capped only the heads of the upper cap bundle are exposed. I have known shocks well capped to stand long periods of wet weather without injury, while the grain in uncapped, poorly built shocks was much injured.—Exchange

RENEWING THE SOIL.

How a Wornout Farm Has Been Made Profitable.

"Sixteen years ago I purchased a farm of 120 acres that had been owned by a widow who rented fields to her neighbors on shares, and of course the tenants took their portion home and fed it on their farms and returned nothing to this farm," writes a correspondent.

"When I commenced to farm it, I found the clay land only produced ten to fifteen bushels of corn per acre, the black ground from thirty to forty bushels. The clover was so light on the clay land it did not pay to cut it. I put in a good many rods of tile ditch, fed all the grain except wheat that grew on the farm, saved all the manure and spread it on the poor spots and raised one crop of corn, one of wheat and one of clover in succession. I plow eight inches deep, but never plow or turn or stock on ground when wet.

"Now the clay land will produce thirty to forty bushels and black land fifty to sixty bushels of corn per acre, wheat fifteen to twenty-five and clover so heavy that all had to be stirred before it would cure. I have never used a pound of commercial fertilizer. I expect to continue increasing the fertility of the farm by the same process."

Homemade Cart.

Any one handy with tools can make this cart. For wheels one can use almost any kind he chooses to have—old buggy wheels, light wagon wheels, wheels from an old corn cultivator or any other not too light or too heavy. The box may be made of any size to suit. If one has an old walking cultivator the axle and wheels may both be used; otherwise get any old axle that will suit the wheels you chance to have. The rest of the work is plain sailing—a good, stout box of the right size and depth, with handles and rest stake to be attached as shown. It is intended to be pushed forward, and the end gate should be made removable, so it can be taken out or dropped in place as desired. The cart should be rather narrow track, because it is often desired to fit into open drows, and the weight should not be too great.



A GARDEN CONVENIENCE.

Remedy For Mites.
Now is the time when the roots of most berries are more or less alive with the terrible little mites. In ignorance we have a cheap and never failing remedy. Soak the roots with it from time to time, or, still better, spray it all over the inside of the building, reaching every crack and crevice. It kills wherever it touches, and the treatment will save much suffering to the poor fowls and money for the owner.

Outdoor Help.

Apples are a profitable crop, but it's poor policy to raise them for the worms to eat. A fence around the garden is not expensive, and it saves a lot of annoyance.

A row of grapevines across the back of the garden will be a great addition. There is just one kind of grafting that is all right. That's the kind that works well in the orchard.

If you were to go to a place where there is no free delivery of mail you might appreciate it more. Good seed is one of the first essentials of a good crop. Good soil and good cultivation are two others. Don't spend all the money on implements to be used outdoors. Get some conveniences for the household.

Feeding Cows.

Cows of a decided dairy type will return the greatest profit when fed to their full capacity.—Nebraska Experiment Station.

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