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LODGE DIRECTORY

REBEKAHS—Almira Lodge No. 26 meets first and third Wednesday of each month at Odd Fellows' Hall. NOLA COAD, Noble Grand. ORA COSPER, Secretary.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—Dallas Camp No. 209 meets in W. O. W. Hall on Tuesday evening of each week. TRACY STAATS, Consul Com. W. G. VASSAL, Clerk.

WOMEN OF WOODCRAFT—Mistletoe Circle, No. 33. Women of Woodcraft, meets in Woodman Hall second and fourth Wednesday nights in each month. MARY STARR, Guardian Neighbor. SADIE LYNN, Clerk.

A. F. & A. M.—Jennings Lodge, No. 9, meets second and fourth Fridays of each month, in Masonic hall on Main street. Visiting brethren welcome. W. L. SOEHNEN, W. M. WALTER S. MUIR, Secretary.

UNITED ARTISANS—Dallas Assembly, No. 48, meets on first and third Mondays of each month at Woodman hall. Visiting members made welcome. F. G. WING, M. A. WILLIS SIMONTON, Secretary.

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Life has held great joy this spring for the small boy who was so fortunate as to possess a pair of rubber boots. The wading was fine.

The poultryman living in the warmer climate does not have to bother with frozen combs, but he has a correspondingly bigger trouble on his hands as the result of invasions of lice and mites.

There are flocks of hens that net their owners from \$2 to \$4 per head yearly. There are others that don't net more than from 20 to 40 cents. A part of this difference in income is due to the hens, but more to the man and the care.

While the impression seems to be somewhat general that a cow's milk is richest when she is fresh, tests show that milk contains the largest per cent of butter fat when the cow is far advanced in her period of lactation—in fact, just before she goes dry.

California is the only state which makes a production of borax. The output for 1910, according to the United States geological survey, was 42,357 short tons, having a value of a trifle over \$200,000. About one-half of the amount of borax consumed is in the enameling industry, in the making of kitchen and sanitary ware.

In case it should be found necessary to use seed corn of a rather low germinating power far better results will be secured if the seed bed is put in extra good tith and if the planting of the corn is put over until the ground is thoroughly warm. Such seed will need the most favorable conditions, and these should be provided so far as possible.

A good pair of eyes and a sharp knife may be able to distinguish with considerable accuracy as between a dead and a live germ in a kernel of corn, but the combination falls down when it comes to telling a kernel with a vigorous germ from one in which the germ is weak. Herein lies the chief argument in favor of the test box, which shows plainly what kernels are dead and what are strong and weak.

Few farmers feel that they have time to give to an elaborate corn breeding plot, but none of them is so busy that he can't take time to select the best hundred ears in his supply of seed and, after testing to be sure of its vitality, plant in a plot on the south or west sides of his main field. Doing this will not only simplify the matter of selecting the seed ears next fall, but the location of the best and most thrifty type of corn in the position mentioned will mean that much of the remainder of the field will be fertilized by the tassels on these better stalks.

A reader of these notes who some years ago lived at Trinidad, Colo., succeeded in ridding her house of cockroaches after trying a number of things by putting some of the following mixture in several places on the floor where they were in the habit of running: Equal parts powdered sugar and powdered borax, scented with a few drops of essence of oil of lavender. Whether the insects ate of this combination and found it did not agree with their digestive gearing or whether they were offended at the smell of lavender is not stated. At any rate, they quit the place.

With popcorn so popular an article of consumption as it is, there is no farm in any portion of the corn belt that should not grow a patch to supply the family needs. Popcorn will do well on any land that will produce a good crop of corn. It should be cultivated and cared for in the same general manner as corn, though it may be planted more closely. It ripens in about 100 days, and it should be shocked as soon as it is ripe, so that it will dry out well before husking. It will produce from fifty to sixty bushels of ears with a good stand, and this will fetch from \$1 to \$2 per bushel.

According to a recent report of the Wisconsin state dairy commissioner, 100 pounds of American cheese whey as it comes from the vat contains five and three-fourths pounds of milk sugar, fourteen ounces of nitrogenous matter and five ounces of butter fat. Of the three elements mentioned by far the most important is the milk sugar, but the value of this is largely lost, as whey is usually allowed to sour. If heated at once to 150 degrees F. the bacterial life contained is killed, with the result that the milk sugar retains its form and does not change to lactic acid. Farmers living in the vicinity of cheese factories would do well to take this fact into consideration and see that the whey byproduct of the factory is sterilized in the manner mentioned.

Cleanliness will do much to improve the quality of butter—in fact, first quality depends upon cleanliness of the raw material.

If you don't believe in keeping cows comfortable visit the stables of the men who get large milk checks. That ought to convince you.

That black silk dress that you promised the good wife some time ago and that you have put off getting will do her a lot more good if she can wear it to kirk or a party with you some day soon than as a shroud for her as she lies in her coffin.

If the currant or gooseberry bushes become infested with worms the pest can be abated by dusting the bushes with powdered white hellebore or spraying them with a solution made by adding the hellebore at the rate of a tablespoonful to a quart of water.

It may be evidence of a monkey ancestry to like them, but on the approach of spring there is absolutely nothing that goes to the spot like a dish (a good sized one) of greens. As accessories there should be boiled potatoes and a piece of well cooked salt pork.

The dandelion is a perennial pest, and worse some seasons than others. There are two methods of getting rid of it. One is to take a sharp knife and cut the plants off just below the crown. The other—and this method is recommended for larger areas—is to spray the young and tender plants with a strong solution of iron sulphate or green vitriol. This puts the plants out of commission, but does not seriously injure the grass.

The milk distributors' trust in the New England states has forced or is keeping the price it is willing to pay for milk down to the point where a good many farmers cannot produce it and make both ends met, with the result that in some sections farmers are quitting the dairy business entirely and going into poultry raising. It would seem that if enough do this it would materially improve the market conditions for those that keep on with the cows.

The severity of the past winter was shown in the freezing over of many lakes so completely that all air holes were closed. Now that the ice in these lakes has disintegrated the result of the closing of these air holes is manifest in the presence of thousands of dead fish floating to the shore. At Lake Winona, Minn., so many fish died by suffocation during the winter that the health authorities had no small job on their hands disposing of their decaying carcasses.

A farmer living near Puyallup, Wash., has carried out the color scheme to the limit in his choice of animals which he raises. His preference is white, and he has carried it out in white buildings and fences, white horses and ponies, white cattle, hogs, sheep and goats, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and guinea fowls. Not satisfied with his outlay, he has Spitz dogs and Persian cats, an albino elk, three white deer, a mountain sheep and a polar bear cub.

In the valley in which the writer's ranch is located there is frequently considerable damage to older apple trees from sun scald, the damage resulting from the warm, bright days, followed by frosty nights. This season we have safeguarded against this damage by tying long pine shakes on the southwest side of each trunk. This will shade them and keep the sap from flowing too rapidly. This sun scald damage is likely to occur at any time during the winter, but is often most serious during April and May.

The housewife can save herself much hard labor at housecleaning time by the use of her head—that is, by studying best methods and by employing all the substitutes for "elbow grease" she can find. Along this line it will pay her to read the household hints found in the various magazines published for women. While many of the suggestions therein contained are impracticable, if not indeed ridiculous, still some ideas are furnished which are well worth consideration and trial by busy women whose work at best is not light.

Many a young wife, all unconsciously, places her husband in a trying position by incurring expenditures quite beyond his means. In many instances the blame for this state of affairs is chargeable largely to the husband because of his failure to take his wife into his confidence. Many a home has been wrecked or had its happiness largely destroyed through failure on the part of the husband to inform his wife of his exact financial status. It is her right to know the volume of the income. If she does and is not willing to co-operate in making both ends meet, then the blame rests on herself.

A bill has been passed by both houses of congress and has doubtless ere this appears in print received the signature of the president, which makes some radical and much needed changes in the national homestead laws. In a general way the new law is patterned after the Canadian homestead laws, which are said to have been responsible for much of the emigration from the United States to Canada. The period the homesteader has to reside on his claim is reduced from five to three years, while the entryman and his family are allowed to be away from the claim five months during each year.

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