

SUPPLEMENT TO ESTACADA PROGRESS

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The Press Bulletin aims to keep the state press informed in all matters of interest and value related to the work of the Oregon Agricultural College. Editors are respectfully requested to publish for the benefit of their readers such items as they think reasonable and suited to local use.

EXTENSION

OREGON ROAD OFFICERS MAY GET HELP OF EXPERT

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, May 31.—Road supervisors and other officers interested in building and maintaining public highways of Oregon may now secure the services of a specialist in road construction and maintenance in solving their problems of best types of roads for their district and the best methods of construction. The Agricultural College Extension department has arranged to have Professor G. V. Skelton, highway engineer, consult with those who wish to secure advice and assistance in solving their problems in the best interests of their constituency.

Professor Skelton's work is strictly advisory and is limited to questions of grades, types of road for given district, best means of construction, and similar matters, and is without charge to the people of Oregon. Those wishing to take advantage of this service should write the Extension division, R. D. Hetzel, director, so that arrangements may be made to have Professor Skelton's visit made when he is scheduled for work in their part of the state. In case assistance is desired before September 1 the requests should come in at the earliest possible date.

WHEN TO CUT HAY FOR MAKING BEST PRODUCT

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, May 31.—"Cutting the crop at the proper stage for hay is important. If cut too soon, a light washy hay will result and if delayed past the proper stage, a coarse unpalatable and indigestible product. Cut clover when in full bloom and with one-tenth to one-third of the blossoms turning brown. For cows it may be cut slightly earlier. Cut alfalfa when coming into blossom, but better still watch the basal shoots at the crown of plant and cut when one to one and one-half inches long. This is your second crop coming on. Don't wait to cut until these are long enough to be clipped off. Vetch should be cut for hay when first seeds appear in pods. If growing with grain, the grain should be in milk or soft dough stage."

These are the views of J. E. Larson, Agronomy Extension specialist of the Oregon Agricultural College, on the best time to cut hay. Mr. Larson continues as follows:

"Grasses are cut usually at, or just before blooming time; the rye grasses should be cut before blooming as they become woody; timothy for market hay at blooming time. It does not deteriorate so rapidly and may be allowed to pass bloom before cutting; red top also can stand slightly longer in field than rye or oat grasses.

"Grain hay (oats, wheat, etc.) should be cut just between milk and soft dough stage for best quality. Many try to get grain and hay both. What is gained in grain is more than off-set by what is lost in the hay or

forage. The nutriment is in the stalk and forming grains at the soft dough stage and passes rapidly into the grain as it nears ripening. It will pay to cut the grain hay at the proper stage."

HERMISTON DAIRYMEN ORGANIZE

Hermiston has a growing association of dairymen according to F. W. Kehrl, field dairy man of the district, representing the Agricultural College. The Hermiston Breeders' Association of three blocks has been organized and now contains 40 members. It is organized in three blocks and has purchased three young pure-bred Jersey Bulls from the noted herd of E. Carey. Interest and results are good and the association is growing. It is expected that a Pure-Bred Jersey Association will soon be formed among the Hermiston dairymen, and the breeding of pure-bred Jerseys made an important industry. Several dairymen of the district are planning to build silos, using corn as the silage crop.

AGRONOMY

USE OF LAND PLASTER

Legume crops are benefitted by application of land plaster when growing on soils rich in potash and phosphoric acid, such as the heavier silt loams of Western Oregon. Land plaster can in no way be regarded as a fertilizer, aside from the possibilities of sulphur from the calcium sulphate, but is a soil stimulant instead, according to the Agronomy department of the Oregon Agricultural College. Its use is justified only with legume crops, clover, vetch, alfalfa, etc., which in return for the loss of potash and phosphoric acid returns increased amounts of nitrogen, a more expensive fertilizer and a more valuable plant food. It is thus a legitimate practice to enrich the soils with nitrogen at the expense of the potash and phosphoric acid on all soils rich in the two latter plant foods. With crops other than legumes it can hardly be considered a desirable practice to use land plaster as a stimulant, since it causes a rapid loss of soil fertility without making any return to balance the fertility condition. Neither does land plaster usually have a sufficiently marked effect to make its use on cereals and grasses profitable.

ENTOMOLOGY

PROTECTING CLOTHING FROM DAMAGE BY MOTH

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, May 31.—"Clothes moths can be controlled only by constant vigilance in frequently inspecting the clothes and giving thorough treatment, says Professor A. L. Lovett, assistant entomologist of the Oregon Agricultural College. "Articles in frequent use are seldom injured by moths while those put away and left unused for some time are likely to suffer. Carpets and rugs in rooms where there is plenty of light and where they are frequently swept are seldom attacked.

"Thorough beating, shaking and brushing and then hanging in the sunlight are old and reliable treatments. Thorough brushing is especially necessary to remove the eggs.

"If garments are to be hung in a closet, clean the room thoroughly and spray the floor and all cracks and crevices with benzine. The garments should then be examined and brushed once a month. A better method is to obtain pasteboard boxes, such as

tailors use, and place the carefully brushed and folded garments in them. The boxes may then be sealed with strips of gummed paper leaving no cracks for moth or larvae to enter. The use of tobacco, naphthaline, camphor, etc., are of some value in repelling adult moths but do not prevent the development of eggs and larvae already present.

"Infested garments should be thoroughly sprayed with benzine or gasoline and hung in the bright sunshine. Care should be observed regarding light or fire since both oils are very inflammable.

"Cold storage is very good protection for woolens and furs. Where it can be afforded the practice of turning over valuable articles of this kind to cold storage companies for the summer is strongly recommended."

Professor Lovett calls attention to the fact that much of the damage ascribed to moths is not the work of a moth at all but of the so-called Buffalo moth, which is in reality a small beetle of mottled black, gray and reddish brown color. A description of the two types of insects, together with control measures for the beetle will appear in the next issue of the Press Bulletin.

KEEPING CHICKENS FREE FROM TROUBLESOME PESTS

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, May 31.—In keeping chickens free from pests both the care of the chickens and of the chicken houses must be considered. The houses should be cleaned frequently and painted with white-wash containing either carbolic acid or kerosene. Roosts, nest boxes, or even floors and walls may be sprayed with a mixture of three parts kerosene and one part crude carbolic acid of 90 to 95 per cent strength. The mixture should be well stirred and applied with a hand spray or with a brush, says Professor H. F. Wilson, Entomologist of the Oregon Station. This will destroy or drive away the young mites that get into the chickens at night.

The birds are most successfully treated with some good lice powder. There are a number of more or less successful brands on the market but a very satisfactory powder is made as follows: Mix three parts of gasoline with one part crude carbolic acid as above, and add, slowly, stirring all the time, enough plaster of paris to take up the moisture, but no more. This makes a dry, pinkish brown powder with a fairly strong carbolic odor and rather less pronounced gasoline odor. The powder is worked into the feathers of the birds infested with vermin.

AGRICULTURE

STUDENTS SEEK SUMMER EMPLOYMENT ON FARMS

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, May 31.—Farmers and agricultural college students should be able to cooperate with great advantage to both. During the rush season far more laborers are needed on the farm than are required for the remainder of the season, and it is often impossible for farmers to get the kind and amount of help they need to make their work a success. Since this is also the students' vacation season, and the students need money and experience as badly as the farmers need help, it only remains to bring the demand and the supply together.

That is just what the office of the Dean of Agriculture of the Oregon Agricultural College has been setting out to do. A list of about 100 students who want summer work on a farm has been made out and as far as possible

students assigned for the summer. Unfortunately the College has no certain means of reaching all the farmers that might wish to take advantage of its assistance in this and other matters, and the students have now mostly gone home for the summer, and it is too late to get student help through its offices. By another year it is believed that farmers and students will be informed of the situation in plenty of time for both to take advantage of it. The school of agriculture numbers several hundred students who are greatly interested in practical farming and hope to secure places on farms, where their services will be a great help to farmers overcrowded with harvest and other summer work.

HORTICULTURE

O. A. C. DEPARTMENT HELPS TRAIN BERRIES TO TRAVEL

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, May 31.—Under the unique title of "Training a Berry to Travel" a clever writer in The Fruit Grower and Farmer, of St. Joseph, Missouri, has this to say of the O. A. C. department of Horticulture, which "has wielded a lot of good influence in rejuvenating the loganberry."

"When the days were dark for the industry the department did much to quiet the hysteria. Its investigations in evaporating, marketing, standardizing and lately in the manufacture of commercial juice, not to mention the tests that have been made in the culture of this berry, have been the guide post to the development of a loganberry industry. A late bulletin has been of very great value in making known the first available information on the possibilities and opportunities for a manufactured loganberry juice. The promise in this new form of by-product, about which so much is now heard in that region, may perhaps be best described conservatively from this report of the experts."

Here the writer makes liberal quotations and concludes his article by calling attention to the organization of the Oregon Loganberry Growers' Association.

It is thus seen that the loganberry is making its way eastward and that the journey of the fruit and its products to eastern markets is already being prepared.

BACTERIOLOGY

REDUCING CHICK MORALITY

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, May 31.—The science of bacteriology has come to the aid of the chicken raiser. The destructive diseases, white diarrhoea, is caused by bacteria and some valuable work has been done on this disease by Mr. G. D. Horton of the Bacteriological Department of the College. Mr. Horton identified this disease last year in the flock at the State Hospital, Salem. Serious losses had previously occurred there in the raising of chicks. The source of the disease was found to be in the breeding hens, the infection being transmitted through the egg to the chicks. That the disease came from the breeding stock has been corroborated in a striking manner. The Poultry Department of the College is doing some cooperative breeding work at the State Hospital and furnished the Institution 200 pullets last fall from which stock there has been produced over 3000 chicks. The losses from all causes has not exceeded 2 per cent, while if the chicks hatched from eggs laid by the old stock in which the white diarrhoea germ had been found, the loss was over 50 per cent.