

HAND-PICK BEAN SEED IS FAVORED

Most Effective Method to Reduce Amount of Disease.

PLAN TO SECURE BEST STAND

Germination Test Should Be Made During Winter Months When Other Work on Farm Is Slack—Good Method Outlined.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Bean anthracnose and blight are carried over from year to year in the seed. The most effective method to reduce the amount of disease, according to the United States department of agriculture, is by hand-picking the seed very carefully before planting. This will eliminate most of the spotted, discolored, shriveled, undersized, and cracked beans, and does a great deal toward insuring a uniform stand. A germination test of the seed will indicate whether a good stand is likely to result. This work should be done during the winter months when work is slack and before the spring rush begins.

Secure Cleaner Crop.

By removing all discolored and spotted beans the source of infection will be greatly reduced, and the result will be a cleaner crop. The weather conditions determine to a certain extent the severity of bean anthracnose and blight, but if all diseased seeds are removed the grower will be insured



Sample of Beans Unfit for Planting Purposes.

against these losses regardless of the weather conditions. The undersized, shriveled, irregular, and cracked beans do not germinate well and their removal will help to secure a uniform stand. No chances should be taken with the 1918 crop. Only the very best seed available should be used.

Test Germination.

Germination tests should be made to determine what percentage of the seed will grow. Follow the method commonly employed for testing the germination of corn. The seeds may be laid between moist blotters or folds of cloth placed in a shallow dish, covered with a plate and kept in a warm room; or they may be planted in sand or soil.

If the germination is poor, the fact must be taken into account when deciding upon the rate of planting. In order to insure a good stand. It is very important that seed be tested this year, since early frosts in the fall of 1917 prevented the crop from maturing properly in some of the principal bean-growing sections of the country. A failure to do so may result in a poor stand and much reduced yield.

CATTLE ADAPTED TO SOUTH

Pasture Season Is Long and Feed Is Produced at Minimum Cost—Little Shelter Needed.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

There is no section of the country which can produce cattle more cheaply than the South, for the lands are still cheap, the grazing is good, the pasture season is long, feed can be produced at a minimum cost, and inexpensive shelter only is required for the animals during the winter months.

NECESSARY TO SAVE MANURE

Sometimes Overlooked by Small Farmer Who Is Just Starting in Live Stock Business.

Save manure. The necessity for this is sometimes forgotten by the small farmer who is just starting in the business of live stock production. Fertilizer is scarce, high in price, and hard to get for any reasons. Therefore, the more manure saved to apply to the land the less need for fertilizer.

PROFIT FROM MUSKRAT FARM

Animals Are Easily Kept, Become Very Tame and Breed Well in Narrow Quarters.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

If many of the swamps and marsh lands which are now occupied by muskrats are reclaimed for agricultural purposes it may be necessary to start "muskrat farming" in order to supply the demand for muskrat fur. Is the opinion of biologists of the United States department of agriculture. For the present, however, a sufficient number of muskrats to meet demands for their fur are trapped from marshes and swamps that are, for the most part, unprotected, millions of skins being taken each year. So long as the natural breeding places remain undisturbed and reasonable closed seasons are maintained, the biologist say, there is little likelihood of the numbers of the animals being depleted. This is because these animals multiply much more rapidly than most other fur bearers. With adequate protection in the breeding season and with the present habitat available, from ten to twelve million pelts can be taken in North America annually without depletion of the supply.

The practicability of muskrat farming already has been demonstrated. The animals are easily kept, become very tame, and breed well in narrow quarters. Under present economic conditions, however; keeping muskrats on preserves is more practicable than keeping them in restricted quarters. The former plan is in remunerative operation in the Chesapeake Bay region. In Dorchester county, Md., marsh land formerly considered almost useless, and now used as muskrat preserves, is worth more, measured by actual income, than cultivated lands in the same vicinity. The owner of one 1,300-acre tract of marsh, took in two seasons—1909 and 1910—more than 12,000 pelts which sold for more than \$9,000.

SALT CORN TO RETARD HEAT

Acts Not Only as Preservative but Aids in Drawing Out Water Which Then Evaporates.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Owing to the large amount of soft corn that was harvested last fall, special care should be given to prevent it from heating in the crib. Corn that has already been cribbed without sorting should be worked over during weather unfit for husking. This is especially true if stored in large cribs without special ventilation. Corn in large, broad cribs freezes during the winter months and while frozen appears to be dry. Investigations, however, have shown that corn in such cribs dries out little until the weather begins to warm up in the spring. With the excessive moisture in the soft, frosted, and immature corn it is practically certain that there will be further spoilage and heating of the soft corn as the weather warms up.

The salting of ear corn in cribs will retard and in many cases prevent heating. The salt acts not only as a preservative but aids in drawing the water from the corn, which then evaporates if the corn is stored in well-ventilated cribs so that the air can circulate freely through it. The United States has carried on no special experiments with salted corn, but the quantity of salt recommended ranges from one to two barrels per 1,000 bushels of corn. This condition, however, will not apply to shelled corn stored in elevator bins where a free circulation of air through the corn is impossible. Shelled corn of high moisture content should be artificially dried.

Get Eggs From Runner Duck.

Give the Runner warm feet, dry shelter, plenty of grain, grit, lime and meat scrap and it will show you plenty of eggs that are much larger and every whit as good tasting as any hen egg.

Raising Ducks and Geese.

A pond is not absolutely necessary to raise geese and ducks but water fowls enjoy water and thrive better when they have access to it. On many farms there are facilities for making ponds and storing water.

Planting Corn and Beans.

When planting a mixture of corn and soy beans with the corn planter, stir them up occasionally or the beans will settle to the bottom, and you will have mostly beans and little corn in places.

Inattention to Poultry.

One reason more attention is not given to poultry raising on the farm is the fact that few records are kept as to the income the fowls bring.

Grade Eggs Before Selling.

Do not attempt to sell the eggs from pullets without grading out all of the eggs which are too small for home use.

Feeding Problem Solved.

The feeding problem will not be a serious one for those who have plenty of home grown feeds for the fowls.

BIG DRIVE BREWING

New German Thrust Due at Mount Kimmel—Million and Half Huns Cut Off Now Face Hunger.

Ottawa, Ont.—The lull in the fighting in France is not expected to last long, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, with wind and rain, says a Reuter's dispatch received here Monday from London.

"The Germans are licking their hurts after their recent thrashing and evidently do not mean to reattack until they are ready to do so on a great scale," the message adds.

"They are being openly and enormously reinforced, but the allies also have strengthened their forces and it is not likely that the next thrust will be any more effective in achieving a decision than that of a month ago, when the German people were told to expect a speedy triumph.

"The expectation on this side, indeed, is that the battle may last well through the summer.

"All the enemy's onslaughts hitherto have failed to attain their object, owing to the impossibility of using reserves and have resulted in the bottling up of 1,500,000 men in the triangle of Hazebrouck, Amiens and Noyon.

"These troops, originally supplied with a week's rations, are virtually starving in a devastated region which is difficult to reinvade, as the ground, marshy and pitted with shell holes, is constantly under fire.

"There is a great concentration of shell fire at Mount Kemmel, which is already stripped of trees. This is probably the scene of the next big attack."

Events along the battle line in France and Belgium seem to be shaping themselves for a resumption of the great German offensive. Since the savage attack on the American forces at Seicheprey on Saturday there has been no fighting of an extraordinary nature along the front, but there have been indications that the Teutons are almost ready to resume the sledgehammer blows they have been aiming at the allied armies.

Unless recent operations have been feints, it is probable that the coming week will witness two great turning movements by the Germans. One probably will pivot on the village of Robecq, northwest of Bethune, on the southern side of the salient driven into the allied lines back of Armentieres. The other is expected to develop at or near Messnil, north of Albert, on the north side of the Somme salient.

AMERICANS LOSE OVER 200

Capture of 183 Men and Several Guns Claimed by Berlin.

Washington, D. C.—General Pershing's first report on the German assault upon the American and French forces in the Toul sector Saturday is understood to indicate that the Americans sustained more than 200 casualties and to estimate the German losses at between 300 and 400. It was learned Monday night that the report had been received, but War department officials refused to make it public or to comment upon persistent reports about the department concerning its contents.

Secretary Baker is understood to be awaiting more details before making an announcement, though he probably will lay the information received before the house military committee when he appears to tell of his trip abroad.

The Germans claim to have captured 183 Americans and to have killed and wounded many more, and so far there has been no official American answer to the claim. This situation will result in a revival of consideration at the War department of the proposal that a daily statement be issued from headquarters of the American expeditionary forces.

The explanation heretofore given for the refusal to accede to the proposal has been that American troops are part of and are co-operating with larger French and British units, and that an independent American communiqué would necessarily duplicate British and French statements.

It is realized, however, that German claims, unless specifically denied from authoritative sources, will be regarded as statements of fact with inevitable resulting anxiety to the people in this country. For that reason Secretary Baker is disposed to reopen the whole question with General Pershing.

Mayor Vetoes Bond Buy.

Milwaukee, Wis.—Mayor Hoan has sent to the common council a veto of the Koerner resolution providing that the city buy \$50,000 worth of liberty bonds. The mayor in his statement reiterates his contention, made originally at the first meeting of the new common council, that the resolution be so amended as to provide for its legalizing by the legislature and that the city ought to be recompensed for the outlay by taxing war profits.

5500 ACRES BOUGHT

Rich Reclaimed Tract Along Columbia River Brings \$300,000—Oats and Pasturage for First Year.

Fifty-five hundred acres of choice bottom land reclaimed from the Columbia river, near Clatskanie, in Columbia county, Or., has been purchased from the Columbia Agricultural company by a syndicate composed of Lee Arnett, Portland banker; Max H. Houser, grain exporter and Federal grain administrator for the Northwest; Ralph E. Williams, of Portland and Dallas, and Donald Bell, a New York manufacturer.

The price paid for the property by the syndicate is announced at \$300,000. The deal was closed March 25, but was announced only this week.

At the same time it was announced that 3000 of the 5500 acres are to be seeded at once in oats, so that the first crop may be gathered this year. The purchasers, who have organized the Clatskanie Land company to handle the property, have put up \$50,000 to buy the necessary seed and are spending \$20,000 for farm machinery.

The remainder of the property will be devoted for the present to stock grazing. While plans in this connection have not been announced, it is understood that considerable stock is to be purchased.

The war has resulted in a great demand for oats to feed the great number of horses in the American and allied armies, and this is understood to be the reason for planting the first crop to that grain.

Later the Clatskanie Land company plans to put the land under intensive cultivation, under its own management, for the raising of potatoes and other vegetables in large quantities for the Portland market.

Willard N. Jones is already in charge of the property as manager for the company. The land is said to be one of the richest tracts in Oregon, the soil being peaty and very fertile. It is a part of 10,000 acres that have been diked and reclaimed by the Columbia Agricultural company.

Labor Scarce at Walla Walla.

Walla Walla—The farmers' union, assisted by the county agricultural agent, has started a campaign to get more farm help. There is a shortage. One farmer had to stop his plow teams, being unable to get men. An effort will be made to have clerks and others who work in the city go into the harvest fields this fall.

NORTHWEST MARKET REPORT

Wheat—Bulk basis for No. 1 grade: Hard white, \$2.05. Soft white, \$2.03. White club, \$2.01. Red Walla, \$1.98. No. 2 grade, 3c less; No. 3 grade, 6c less. Other grades handled by sample.

Flour—Patents, \$10 per barrel; whole wheat, \$9.50; graham, \$9.20; barley flour, \$14.50@15.00; rye flour, \$10.75@12.75; corn meal, white, \$6.50; yellow, \$6.25 per barrel.

Millfeed—Net mill prices, car lots: Bran, \$30.00 per ton; shorts, \$32; middlings, \$39; mixed cars and less than carloads, 50c more; rolled barley, \$77@79; rolled oats, \$76.

Corn—Whole, \$77 per ton; cracked, \$78.

Hay—Buying prices, delivered: Eastern Oregon timothy, \$29@30 per ton; valley timothy, \$25@26; alfalfa, \$24@24.50; valley grain hay, \$22; clover, \$19@20.00; straw, \$9.00@10.

Butter—Cubes, extras, 37¢; prime firsts, 37¢; prints, extras, 42¢; cartons, 1c extra; butterfat, No. 1, 41c delivered.

Eggs—Ranch, current receipts, 33¢@34¢; candled, 34¢@35¢; selects, 36¢ per dozen.

Poultry—Hens, 28¢; broilers, 40¢; ducks, 32¢; geese, 20¢; turkeys, live, 26¢@27¢; dressed, 37¢ per pound.

Veal—Fancy, 18¢@19¢.

Pork—Fancy, 23¢@23¢ per pound. Sack Vegetables—Carrots, \$1.15 per sack; turnips, \$1.50; parsnips, \$1.25; beets, \$2.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 75¢@1 per hundred; new California, 10c per pound; sweet potatoes, 10c per pound.

Onions—Jobbing prices, 1¢@1¢ per pound.

Cattle—April 23, 1918.
Med. to choice steers, \$13.00@14.00
Good to med. steers, 11.75@12.75
Com. to good steers, 10.25@11.25
Choice cows and heifers, 11.25@12.25
Com. to good cows and hf, 7.25@10.75
Canners, 4.25@ 6.25
Bulls, 6.25@10.75
Calves, 8.75@13.25
Stockers and feeders, 6.50@ 9.50

Hogs—
Prime mixed, \$17.65@17.90
Medium mixed, 17.40@17.65
Rough heavies, 16.40@16.65
Pigs, 15.00@16.00
Bulk, 17.70

Sheep—
Prime spring lambs, \$20.00
Heavy lambs, 16.50@18.00
Yearlings, 15.00@15.25
Wethers, 13.00@13.50
Ewes, 12.00@12.50

GOOD ROADS

GOVERNMENT ASKED TO HELP

Proper Construction and Maintenance of Roads Demanded by Conditions of Great War.

"That the effective conduct of the war demands immediate attention to proper construction and maintenance of the highways of the country is a plain statement of facts," asserts Chairman George P. Coleman of the American Association of State Highway Officials.

"Never before has there been such urgent need of a comprehensive and definite policy for road and street construction and maintenance as in the case at present, and, in making their request to the United States government to formulate and promulgate at the earliest hour a plan which shall be countrywide in its character, the state highway officials believe that they are expressing the consensus of opinion of all citizens interested in roads progress intended to encompass the greatest economic and military value in conserving the resources of the country and facilitating the highways transportation of freight.

"In our appeal to W. G. McAdoo, director general of railroads, we have included a special petition that freight cars shall be furnished early in the spring for transportation of the necessary materials entering into the building of main artery roads which command a priority of attention. We are going to be exceedingly hopeful that the director general will recognize the interrelated needs of railroads and highways, enabling the road arteries of communication to serve a maximum help in relieving the rail lines of their present overload."

GOOD ROADS IN CONNECTICUT

Excellence Due to Efficient Maintenance Under Extremely Heavy Traffic Conditions.

The main roads of Connecticut have long been famous for their excellence, a condition due to their efficient maintenance under heavy traffic as well as to their original good construction. State Highway Commissioner Bennet has organized a special branch of his bureau to attend to this maintenance, so that there is no divided responsibility for results. It is under a superintendent of repairs, W. Leroy Ulrich, who recently explained how the good results are attained. The state has been divided into ten districts. Any part of each of them can be easily reached from a central point, where the office of the district supervisor of repairs is located. Each district is divided into sections, each in charge of a foreman. These foremen sometimes



Building Asphalt Pavement.

have charge of 10 to 15 men, depending upon the season of the year and the work to be done. In addition each district has one or more gangs transferred from place to place to carry on reconstruction, oiling and other work which is occasionally needed in such amounts that the section forces are unable to perform it without neglecting other duties. This bureau handles all the maintenance and small reconstruction work of the state and keeps the roads in good condition until long stretches become so worn that their reconstruction by contract is more economical than further maintenance.

Trees Along Highways.

The highway commissioner of Pennsylvania suggests that trees planted along highways should be fruit or nut bearers. This would make fine picking for tourists and small boys.

Ruin Asphalt Pavements.

Asphalt pavements are softened and sometimes disintegrated by illuminating gas leaking from mains beneath them.