

## FARMERS GOING INTO THOROUGHbred STOCK

All through the Applegate valley the old-time prejudice against thoroughbred stock has largely disappeared, although here and there are to be found a few who would pit their common, every-day, ordinary hogs or cows against the world in open competition. Even they admit these to be exceptions, however, or groups of exceptions, and if they carried their thought to a logical conclusion would realize that by breeding that herd to a perpetuation of itself would merely be developing another strain of purebreds. Any purebred strain has been developed through this process with the difference that some one else has had all the experimentation. Coming back then to the growing belief in the fact that thoroughbred blood is most conducive to a high percentage of types desired for a given purpose, it is gratifying to find the pure blooded herds rapidly developing, or rather, a growing tendency to cross pure blooded sires with the grade cows.

The beneficial effect of this has been most satisfactorily proven on the River Banks Farms, with the thoroughbred Guernsey bull, Nella Girl's Diamond of Pencord, sired by Apollo of Rich Neck, who was full brother of Mignonette of Rich Neck with a record of 14,304 pounds of milk and 800 pounds of butterfat. Another sister, Pandora's Valentine of Rich Neck has a record of 14,341 pounds of milk, and 784 pounds of butterfat.

The pedigree continues in this strain on both sides, and includes one ancestor with a record of 20,709 pounds of milk and 1019 pounds of butterfat. These records are astounding when it is noted that the ordinary average cow yields a total of 3500 to 4000 pounds of milk and 150 pounds of butterfat.

There has been a marked improvement in the herd by crossing the grade cows with this pure blood bull whose pedigree assures a heritage of heavy milk and butterfat content. On official tests the herd has averaged over 5 1/2 per cent, which is very exceptional.

## LEVELED LAND MAKES WATER DUTY GREATER

With the water supply of Oregon more limited as additional land is placed under irrigation, the men who put in a little capital to leveling their lands are making handsome returns on the investment. Most of the older places which are accustomed to using about four or five times the amount of water for irrigation than their right allows them, are finding that as they are cut closer and closer to their water right allowance, the old-time method of put-

ting a "head of water" on the land and letting it force its way over the uneven ground is impossible. The result is that part of their crop burns up while their neighbor with the same acreage leveled irrigates his fields nicely with water to spare. The River Banks Farms have demonstrated through actual bookkeeping on the matter that leveling will pay for itself within two years, not counting any crop failures from inability to irrigate uneven lands, and a number of other places, notably the Ross place in New Hope and the Layton place above Williams creek are doing the same thing.

### Voice Returned in Exciting Game.

Dumb for three years as the result of shell-shock in the war, Trooper W. Hart, of Niagara, Ont., unexpectedly regained the power of speech in the excitement of a bowling game.

## RIVERBANKS FARM

(Continued from page Nine)

In the orchard was in 1910 when anthracnose entered it, but by 1913 this was eradicated and the orchard has since been clean. Last winter's freeze lowered the vitality of the trees and brought on a blight this year that was troublesome for a time. Nineteen hives of bees are also under the care of the orchardist.

### Alfalfa in the Orchard

Alfalfa is planted in the young orchard to keep the soil producing during the period before bearing and also as a means of improving the soil. It is allowed to run 3 years to inoculate the soil, then is plowed under and re-seeded for another 3 year stand. The idea back of this is that the deep rooting system of the alfalfa plant will open up the subsoil for the young orchard's better development, the decay of the roots leaving channels for aeration of the soil upon the plowing under. This plowing is done in August, putting under the third growth after an irrigation, the resultant fermentation and decay increasing the humus content of the soil. The alfalfa serves a further purpose of determining where the drainage system of tiles needs readjusting, as it will drown out where the water table is too high and indicates the trouble long before it would be detected through ill effects on the orchard. In order to avoid the necessity of cultivating the trees, which invariably results in a large percentage of injured trees through contact with tillage implements, the alfalfa is grown solid with no cultivation strips. Part of the 1st cutting is then piled back around the base of the trees, serving as a mulch and making the cultivation of the ground unnecessary to preserve moisture. The alfalfa used for mulch is that grown on the usual cultivating strips, leaving about 3 1/2 tons per acre yield from the orchard land. This yield pays for the care of the orchard during the period preceding the bearing of crops. The greatest danger in such a system as this is that the trees may be robbed of their moisture by the alfalfa, but is

avoided by giving the land 5 irrigation, one on the first cutting and two each on the two following.

### Individual Tree Records

There are nearly 3000 apple trees on the 39.5 acre tract, and a record card is kept for each tree, for determination of relation between surrounding conditions and yield. The Bartlett pears in the old orchard are this year being budded onto the young stock in the new orchard, the combination obtained having been determined as best suited. The pear orchard of 300 acres is to be blocked out, and lies altogether on the bench land, being irrigated by the pumping plant.

### General Farming Land

All land not in orchard has been placed in crop on a ten year rotation basis. The first six years it grows alfalfa, and the next four years in grain and corn. Oats for horse feed and as dairy ration, barley for the dairy and hogs, and corn for silage and hogs, makes up the grain. The rotation is effected in 100 acre tracts or units, and there are 10 of these units, totalling 1000 acres, over 500 below the gravity ditch and from 400 to 500 under the high ditch, and will amount to 600 acres in alfalfa and 400 in grain at all times. The alfalfa will return three crops each year as a certainty, and a fourth with labor conditions favorable. This year there are 376 acres in alfalfa, 40 in barley which threshed 56.19 bushels and 45 in fall oats which went 55.84 bushels per acre, besides 80 acres in corn for seed as well as silage. It is interesting to note that before the new regime on the tract, i. e., before 1913, oats averaged 16 1/2 to 20 bushels and barley 22 bushels on the same land.

### The Dairy

The dairy is conducted by a herdsman who is an expert dairyman, thoroughly understanding his job and in sympathy with it. His herd is a nucleus of 12 pure blooded female Guerneys and one pure bred Guernsey bull whose dam holds the world's Guernsey record for milk production as a 2 1/2 year old heifer, and augmented by a herd of 14 Guernsey grades. Of this herd, 20 cows are now milking, including all the pure bred cows. Five of the 12 pure bred cows are on the official test of the American Guernsey Cattle Club, which is made through a two-day test each month under an O. A. C. representative for butterfat. The cost of the college representative for this purpose is uniform over the state, \$10.50 per month. The cows on tests are stall-fed, each having a box stall, and being given two hours per day exercise. The other milk cows are fed in a shed and not pastured, all manure being conserved. During the final seven year period of development of the farm, now starting, it is planned to expand the dairy herd to 200 pure bred Guerneys as final development. Exercise for the bull is provided by 3 hours a day on the treadmill which pumps water for the other cattle. Milking is done by machinery, with a B. L. K. gasoline and vacuum type automatic milker, and has been found very successful.

### 1922 Plans

Plans now formulated for 1922 call for a new dairy barn to be of concrete and to house 100 cows, and also a new horse barn, at least of part concrete construction, to accommodate 25 horses. Silage capacity is 300 tons, provided by three silos, 16 by 30 feet in dimensions.

### The Hogs

This important branch of the farm operations will be under the direct supervision of an expert hog herdsman, a specialist in his line. The River Banks herd now consists of 87 head of pure blooded Berkshires, headed by "Pacific Epochal" a thousand dollar boar purchased from the Gossard Breeding Estates in Indiana by the Homewood Farm and River Banks Farms. Seven daughters of Laurel Champion, the famous Berkshire boar, said to be the greatest living breeding boar, form the nucleus of the herd. This standard may be judged by the fact that their sire holds the record for taking prizes and championships over any other, and was brought here a number of years ago by Francis Steele. The rest of the 87 are pure bred, there having been no grades on the place for 4 years. There are individual runs for each litter of pigs, now being ten and 30 planned. The hog herd will be expanded to 300 pure bred stock and will be developed as a breeding herd and for exhibition purposes as well as pork. Fifty head will be marketed from the herd of 87, and with the 300 head, 3 carloads, or 250 head per season will be turned to the market.

### Implement and Methods

Mr. Niles believes that modern business methods pay when applied to farm operation and is putting his belief into practice on River Banks Farms. Implements used are modern throughout, including one Holt 45 caterpillar, and two Fordsons, a big Holt leveler, gasoline operation of binding on the binder and other such devices. Of these implements, 20 per cent is charged off for depre-

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ciation each year, thus paying for the machinery in five years. It is figured that the tractors named above replace five men and 32 horses, which is a considerable item considering the present run of wages and scarcity of labor. The Fordsons are used in plowing, cultivating and gen-

eral farm operations, and the Holt for land leveling and clearing, directly pulling trees up to 12 inches in diameter. The leveler has an automatic lifting device and a capacity of 3 cubic yards. Scientific methods are used in all operations whether mechanical or relating to crops. This, combined with Mr. Niles' keen understanding of business methods and principles, insures the Leonard Estate Company a farming plant which within a few year will return them bigger profits than any other farming operation in this part of the country.

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