

The Great Outdoors

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Hunt Club Plan For Fighting Pests

(By Everett Earle Stanard)

The competitive hunt plan for the extermination of pests and varmints which yearly devastate the farms of the Willamette valley was originated apparently by the farmers of the Ash Swale district, just to the northwest of Brownsville. So successful has this system been, so simple in its workings and so practicable that it is being adopted by various communities and bids fair to find its way into all of the country districts.

The plan, as outlined by a member of the club at Ash Swale, is as follows: A representative organization of the farmers or residents of a given district must be organized. It must have its proper officers, its constitution and bylaws, its rules and regulations. It will through the year hold a number of hunts, and toward the close of the year the big annual hunt. A banquet will then conclude the year's program.

The hunt at Ash Swale is a competitive event, and there is, of course, considerable rivalry between the two teams that engage in it. Two captains are named each year and the captains lead forth their small forces to trap, shoot and lay for such animals and fowl as skunk, rats, mice, mink, coon, weasel, polecats, hawks, owls, coyotes, eagles and bear. The carcass of each animal or bird is given a certain valuation, so that the score is readily computed. The team accumulating the larger number of points in a given number of days is declared winner.

There is a considerable incentive for the teams and captains to do their best. The winning aggregation is given at the year's end a splendid banquet by the losers. That is to say the defeated team stands the expense of the supper. To be sure, both teams dine, and their families and friends besides. As the expense is considerable, it behooves the trapper and hunters to do their best while the hunt is on.

An added incentive is the donation of a silver loving cup to the captain who brings in the best individual kill or count. At Ash Swale, Charles Bowers, having accumulated the largest number of points for the four years in succession, received the cup. He was closely pressed, however on several occasions, by other members of the club.

The annual banquet is made the occasion of an elaborate program. Distinguished guests appear as speakers, generally including members of the state game commission and the Santiam Fish and Game association. Good music is provided, games are indulged in, and the refreshments are sumptuous. Charles Carlson, president of the club since its organization in 1907, is master of ceremonies, and he literally sees to it that everyone has a good time. At this annual banquet, "The Coon Skin," a humorous newspaper, edited by home talent, and detailing in joking fashion the neighborhood news, is solemnly read. Thus the club serves the community in a social way.

The competitive hunt plan can be used to advantage with variations. One club that we know of has been formed by the residents of two distinct communities. Each district furnishes its team of hunters for the annual event, and thus the rivalry is even keener than is the case where all of the members are from the same neighborhood. In places, the scheme will probably be adapted to the extermination of the coyotes, which just now are very much on the increase. This is something yet to be worked out, but the success of the hunt club system now in vogue at Ash Swale is a demonstrated thing, and a matter of more than fifteen years' testing.

Irrigation Pays

Notwithstanding the heavy rainfall in this county, practically every farmer has land on which irrigation at some time in the season would pay its cost and a profit. Farming will pay better when this fact is recognized and acted on.

Dock F. Smith of Sweet Home has just received from the state of Oregon the right to take water from Taylor creek to irrigate three acres. The permit is signed by Rhea Luper, state engineer.

Pure Bred Sire Is Best for Breeding

Female Ancestry Should Show High Records.

"Future development of the herd," says O. E. Reed, formerly of Kansas now with Michigan College of Agriculture, "depends to a great extent upon the kind of sire used with the herd. It has been said that the sire is half the herd and it is a fact that all future cows in the herd carry 50 per cent of his breeding.

The herd sire should be pure bred of the breed he represents and backed by good ancestry. If possible he should be a sire whose mother and other close female ancestry have shown high records of production. A yearly record is to be preferred to one of shorter duration.

If it is not possible to know the record of production one should by all means see the mother of the animal in question and note how closely she conforms to good dairy type. If the sire's father has daughters that have proved to be good producers he is more certain to transmit the dairy qualities desired. Very often it is possible to buy an old sire that has proved to be a good breeder. Good results from the use of such an animal are almost certain. The objection to buying an old bull is that he is high priced if his value is known and one runs the chance of getting an unruly animal. A bull calf is usually selected. A calf can be purchased for less money and the owner can train him as he chooses. Too much attention cannot be given to the selection of a sire, for future success depends largely upon the head of the herd."—Kansas Bulletin No. 107.

Codling Moth Is Able to Stand Cold Weather

The natural check upon the codling moth larvae by low winter temperatures is often over-estimated by the fruit grower. The most of our insects winter in the pupa or egg stage and usually in well protected places. The codling moth is an exception and winters as a caterpillar under loose bark usually well above the ground surface. One would suppose that temperatures approximating zero would kill these frail larvae under their scant protection. Observations made in the state of Washington show that low temperatures do play havoc with these larvae, but unless these temperatures are exceptionally low, the codling moth does not suffer serious winter-killing. In Washington it was found that temperatures of 25 degrees below zero Fahrenheit were followed with complete killing of over-wintering codling moth larvae. Temperatures near 15 degrees below zero still allowed 30 per cent to come through unharmed.

The most efficient natural check is not temperature or birds, or even insect parasites. It is the total failure of the apple crop, due to late frosts or other causes, which removes food for the insect. It is a well known fact that after years of complete failure of the apple crop, codling moth damage is likely to be very light. Its ability to come back is strong and in the year following this failure the schedule of three sprays carefully directed against the pest, cannot be safely altered.—T. H. Parks, Ohio State University.

Egg Production Depends Largely on Green Feeds

If you want to get the best results from your hens this fall and winter provide them with plenty of green food. Green food is essential to egg production, is a stimulant to the ovary and also possesses vitamins that are essential to body health and development.

There are two ways of supplying green food to the hen, says D. H. Hall, extension poultry husbandman at the Clemson college. The first method is by planting green food in the yard and allowing the poultry access to it. The second method is by supplying green food each day to the poultry from another lot. The first method requires less labor and is less expensive.

The best green feeds for poultry are: Rape, cabbage, collards, oats, rye; and nearly any of these can be planted in the fall and will supply green food for the winter.

Egg production depends to a large extent on green food. Plant green food now and have high priced eggs this winter.

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Seek Way to Get Farmers in Debt

Washington, D. C.—Assistance for the livestock industry through existing financial agencies and through a new land policy to grant grazing on unappropriated public domain were recommended Wednesday to President Coolidge by his agricultural commission in a preliminary report.

A later report will deal with possible additional relief through revision of transportation charges and a protective tariff. The committee said it wished to emphasize now that "the welfare of agriculture also demands an early and thorough revision of the freight rate structure."

Declaring existing agencies can handle the livestock financing situation, the commission declared the federal intermediate credit banks "should assume the full responsibility by aggressively and sympathetically undertaking to cover the field and thus support and supplement the normal financing of livestock paper."

The only legislation suggested was amendment of the agricultural credits acts to eliminate the provision that prohibits rediscounting by federal intermediate credit banks of loans negotiated by federally chartered agricultural credit agencies.

Feed for Fall Pigs

Feeding the fall farrowed pig should be given careful attention. He needs a substitute for the green feed the summer pig gets to keep him thrifty and healthy. The best winter substitute for green feed is alfalfa hay of good quality. Fall pigs fed on a ration consisting of corn and tankage in proper proportions and having free access to fine alfalfa hay will gain and thrive almost as well as spring pigs on alfalfa pasture if protected from cold and disease. The protein requirements must also be met. This will require one-half pound of tankage per head per day. Where tankage and alfalfa hay are fed mineral mixtures are not needed.

Cracked and Dirty Eggs

Cracked and dirty eggs are worth only a little more than half as much as clean fresh eggs with sound shells. Keep the nests filled with clean straw, sawdust, or hay, and avoid the loss from cracked eggs. By keeping the flock indoors in muddy weather, the number of dirty eggs can be reduced.

THE MARKETS

Portland
Wheat—Hard white, \$2.00; soft white and northern spring, \$1.89; hard white, \$1.88; western white \$1.87; western red, \$1.83.
Hay—Alfalfa, \$19.50@20 ton; valley timothy, \$22.50@23.50; eastern Oregon timothy, \$21@22.
Butterfat—47c delivered Portland.
Eggs—Ranch, 44@46c.
Cheese—Prices f. o. b. Tillamook: Triplets, 28c; loaf, 29c per lb.
Cattle—Steers, good, \$7.25@7.75.
Hogs—Medium to good, \$9.50@11.00
Sheep—Lamb, medium to choice \$12@16.

Seattle
Wheat—Soft white, hard winter \$1.88; western white, \$1.87; western red, \$1.85; northern spring, \$1.90; Big Bend bluestem, \$2.15.
Hay—Alfalfa, \$22; D. C., \$27; timothy, \$26; D. C., \$28; mixed hay, \$24
Eggs—Ranch, 45@48c.
Butterfat—48c.
Cattle—Choice steers, \$7.50@8.00.
Hogs—Prime light, \$11.40@11.60.
Cheese—Washington cream brick 22@23c; Washington triplets, 21c; Washington Young America, 22c.

Spokane
Hogs—Prime mixed, \$10.85 @ 11.00
Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.25@7.75.

Summer Products in Winter Time

One Point Where Oregon Farmers Have Advantage Over East

The Enterprise is telling, every week, of things that farmers of Linn county are doing, or can do, to bring in income outside of the ordinary and popular lines of production.

By sowing cabbage of an early variety in August, transplanting any time before February and taking proper care of the plants, the writer has been able to take them to town early in June, when the only cabbage on the market were from California and not nearly as nice as his.

Fresh green vegetables, right from the fields where they are grown, are now available to winter residents and travelers in Oregon and the west.

Fresh berries, too, may be had virtually all the year round, together with many western grown fruits.

The rapid development of winter farming in Oregon, California and neighboring states now is producing a constant supply of excellent fresh green vegetables, so that such canned products practically have been eliminated from dining cars of the Southern Pacific.

Favorable comment on these winter products of the west daily is made by travelers from the east on the trains.

The company is now obtaining exceptionally fine cabbage and cauliflower from Oregon. The cabbage is firm, tender and sweet. Farmers in the Roseburg district have developed an excellent grade of broccoli.

In the past Utah has been noted for its tender winter celery but this winter farmers near Portland have produced a variety that is on a par with that of Utah or any other section.

Apples of a uniform size are specially packed at the orchards in Oregon and California for dining cars. Travelers frequently comment on their good flavor.

Ranches in a number of favored sections of the Pacific coast are supplying winter-grown "summer" squash, new potatoes, fresh peas, lettuce, asparagus, eggplant and many other varieties of vegetables to tempt the palates of the traveler.

During the last two years the development of winter farming in the west has made almost unbelievable strides.

The soil on a good farm should get better every year.

In cribbing immature corn, ventilation is one of the biggest problems.

Work of Corn Borer

The corn stalk borer spends the winter in the tap root of the old corn stalk, where it is protected from winter weather. In the spring the adult moth or "miller" develops. Eggs are laid on the growing corn. Injury is caused by the larva or grub. This worm bores into the corn stalk, stunting the plant, and causing it to break down before the ears are mature. In some localities injury is severe.

Self-Feeders Pay Well

The present price of corn makes it especially profitable to use a self-feeder for hogs. In addition to the more economical gains made by providing a balanced ration, the feeder avoids the loss of grain which always occurs during wet weather, if fed on the ground.

Making Success of Production of Pork

Pound Every Seven Minutes, Illinois Farm Record.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

A pound of pork every seven minutes is the record of a quarter-section corn belt hog farm on which actual figures were kept for a year by the United States Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the University of Illinois. The operations on this farm and the plans of cropping and feeding were used as the basis for an exhibit which was shown at the International Live Stock exposition, held at Chicago November 29 to December 7.

The principal crops grown on the farm were corn, oats and soy beans, very little feed being purchased and much of the oats being marketed as grain. During the year 78,700 pounds of hogs were marketed, which was a little more than a pound every seven minutes during the entire year. The outstanding reasons for the success of this farmer, who did most of the work himself, are given as follows: Convenient arrangement, enabling the owner to care for the pigs with little labor; well-balanced rations, producing gains without waste, and continuous use of fresh pasture, providing cheap feed and keeping the hogs in excellent condition.

Roughage Is Great Need of the Growing Heifer

High-priced feed such as the milking herd must have is not required for the growing heifer, although she must have a liberal supply of good roughage, says G. A. Williams of Indiana, in an exchange. The heifer that will soon freshen needs a generous supply of mineral matter. Alfalfa, clover or soy bean hay supplies this need and furnishes the bulk to develop the digestive system. Silage is too watery and is also low in ash and protein for heifers. Not more than fifteen pounds a day is advisable. Some grain is needed to produce best results.

When the roughage is silage and a legume hay, ground corn or a mixture of grains, depending on the cost, may be used at the rate of two to five pounds daily. Without silage and with legume hay, reduce the grain recommended above somewhat.

With corn silage and timothy hay or corn fodder, make at least half the grain mixture a high protein feed such as gluten feed, cottonseed meal, soy beans or oilmeal. Timothy hay or corn fodder are never satisfactory alone. At least half the roughage must be legume hay. The producing ability and sale value of thousands of cows are greatly reduced because they were not properly fed and cared for while they were carrying their first calves.

Authorities Plan to Take a Farm Census

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Half a million farmers are to be asked to report to the United States Department of Agriculture the number of cows and heifers kept for milk this year compared with last, the number of hens and pullets of laying age, and the number of sows farrowed or bred to farrow this fall and next spring. Questionnaires will be distributed by the rural mail carriers.

This information is sought to form the basis for forecasting production and market supplies so that farmers may adjust production to demand and market their products in a more orderly fashion. Surveys of this kind were begun by the department two years ago in connection with pigs, and the success of the system has been such that the surveys have been extended to dairy cows and poultry.

Sweet Clover of Help in Building Up Soil

Sweet clover is one of the best crops to grow for the purpose of turning under to build up the soil. Not only does it add organic matter and fertility to the soil when the heavy growth is turned under, but the roots are active in storing up nitrogen in nodules when the proper inoculation is present. One of the best times to sow is in early spring, about January or February on wheat or rye fields. Another good plan, however, is to sow with oats or barley in the spring. This is suggested as the best method where the stalk field has been left over winter.

INCOME IS 28 BILLIONS

Federal Income Tax Nets \$1,644,833,576 in 1922.

Washington, D. C.—The total taxable income of the American people, personal and corporation, amounted in 1922 to \$28,300,023,673, and on this amount the federal government collected taxes of \$1,644,833,576.

These figures, made public by the bureau of internal revenue, showed that 6,787,481 individuals and 382,883 corporations filed income tax returns in 1922, the records for which have just become complete. The aggregate net or taxable income, as reported in the individual returns, was \$21,338,212,539, with an increase of 125,305 in the number of returns and of \$1,759,008,002 in net income reported over 1921. Individual income taxes netted the gov-

ernment \$861,057,308 in 1923, an increase of \$141,670,302 for the year.

Germany Ahead in Reparation Pay,

Paris.—Germany has for once got ahead of her engagements in the payment of reparations. The transfer committee under the Dawes plan, which met here Thursday, found that deliveries in kind made since the Dawes plan went into effect amount to 22,000,000 gold marks more than the total expected.

Rust on Cereals Cause of Damage

Two Varieties Found on Wheat Caused by Fungus Organisms.

There are several kinds of rust on cereals. Two of these rusts are most commonly found on wheat; namely, orange leaf rust and black stem rust. Both are caused by fungus organisms and the "seeds" by which they spread are called spores. These spores germinate, forming a germ tube which enters the living host plant and produces a spot which later breaks through the epidermis. This is called pustule.

Leaf rust has a widespread occurrence. Its pustules often are found on the leaves of wheat when the plants are young. They are of an orange yellow color, hence the name "orange leaf rust." The round spores can be recognized by means of a microscope. Though this rust causes some damage, it does not cause serious losses.

Rust on Stems and Leaves.

Stem rust is common on both stems and leaves. Its pustules can be told from those of the leaf rust by their reddish color and the torn paper-like edges of the pustules. The red spores of the summer stage are oval in shape.

The red or summer stage develops rapidly under favorable conditions, spreading the rust from field to field. The spores are so light that they may be carried long distances by the wind. Moisture does not cause rust but furnishes favorable conditions for the spores to germinate and multiply.

The common barberry, (*Berberis vulgaris*), is an important factor in the spread of stem rust. There are a few other species of barberry which may take stem rust and spread it to grains and grasses.

Barberry Starts Spread.

An infected common barberry will start an early spread of stem rust. Several cases have been observed where local epidemics have started from such sources.

The Japanese barberry is harmless and should be destroyed.

Look out for early appearances of both leaf and stem rusts on grains and wild grasses. Send specimens and record of location of early stem rust on grain or wild grasses to the botany department of the State Agricultural college.—E. A. Lungren, State Leader, Barberry Eradication, Colorado State Agricultural College.

Winning Pig Litter Was Given Run of Pasture

The lucky farmer in the ton-litter contest of Indiana was W. F. Parks. His ten pure-bred Poland-China pigs tipped the scales at 2,774 pounds.

Here is how he fed the sow and pigs. The mother got corn, some tankage and a little skim milk, and the run of a mixed clover and timothy pasture, while she carried her litter.

After farrowing, a thin slop of bran and shorts was fed for three or four days. Corn was added on the fifth day and tankage when the pigs were a week old. Feed was gradually increased until the sows were getting a liberal feed, by the time the pigs were two weeks old.

Pigs were started to eating on a slop of shorts and skim milk, and were fed by hand in a "creep." Corn was added a couple of weeks before weaning. After weaning the pigs were fed corn, shorts and skim milk and had the run of a clover pasture.

"The pigs did exceptionally well from the start," said Mr. Parks. "One big reason was because I kept the sows and their litters out of the old hog lots. The pigs were always thrifty and healthy; none of them were runt. It pays to keep young pigs where there is no danger of them becoming infected with parasites and diseases."

Thinning Sweet Corn

Three stalks to the hill is a good average number of stalks when growing sweet corn. Some varieties will grow from three or four grains as many as a dozen stalks. The weaker ones should be pulled out. Otherwise the yield will be reduced to small ears, or none at all. Three healthy stalks to the hill should average two to three ears to the stalk.

Sod in Orchards

Where the orchard has been in sod for several years the plowing should be shallow, so as not to tear up the small feeding roots which always come to the surface in sod orchards. Two years of clean cultivation will send the roots downward and there will be no danger of disturbing them. Afterwards the orchard should be kept in some kind of cover crop and in clean cultivation.

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