

The Great Outdoors

Where Bread, Meat, Clothing, Health and Vigorous Humanity are Produced

Green Color in Hay Aids Price

Usually Has Highest Feeding Value and Is Given First Grade.

Too many Willamette valley farmers seem to think it is all right to let their hay lie out in the shock for weeks or months if there is no rain. The loss from the action of sun and dew would be hard to compute, but is great. Good hay, well cured and quickly stored in a tight barn, will bring more money if sold or more meat or milk or other desired results if fed at home. The department of agriculture says:

The amount of green color present is usually the most important grading factor in hay. Other factors being equal, the hay with the best natural green color usually brings the best price, has the highest feeding value and should be graded highest. This color has been described by such indefinite words as bright, good, fair, and poor. These terms can be variously interpreted, says the United States Department of Agriculture, and are not definite as to the amount of green in the hay. The nature of the color must be determined by the eye alone, but the department requires some method of checking the accuracy of these determinations so that inspectors and others using the grades might be properly trained.

Munsell Color System Used.
A satisfactory method for determining color in timothy hay has been in use for some time, but this is not satisfactory for alfalfa or many other kinds of hay for various reasons. Recently, however, after considerable investigation by the hay, seed, and feed division, it has been found possible to apply the Munsell color system to the measurement of color in alfalfa, and most other kinds of hay. This system is one by which every kind of color can be definitely measured by spinning disks of known color value together and calculating the resultant color. As a mass of hay contains many shades and colors, it is also necessary to spin the hay so that the colors are merged into one blend of color which is measured by comparison with standard color disks of known color.

Spin Sample of Hay.
A machine has been devised which spins a sample of hay and Munsell color disks at the same time. A representative portion of a lot of hay is placed in the machine and spun at the rate of about 1,200 revolutions per minute. Munsell color disks are placed on the same axis as the hay sample and both spin together. The color disks can be adjusted until they exactly match the composite color of the revolving hay. By this method the color of any lot of hay can be accurately measured.

Rat-Killing Campaigns in Different Sections

In a good many sections rat-killing campaigns are now in progress. These are an excellent thing and poultrymen usually are boosters in the work of eradicating these pests.

The best method of eliminating rats is prevention. In order to do this the buildings must be constructed with high foundations. A rat will not try to build his nest under a floor that is high enough off the ground so that a cat or small dog can get under.

A good many old buildings can be repaired so that they are not a harbor for rats by doing some excavating with a shovel so that a small dog or cat can get under them. Where this is impossible the owner will have to join the rat-killing campaign and eliminate as much of the trouble as possible by killing off the rats.

Sour Soils Need Lime

Do not forget that all sour soils should be limed previous to sowing alfalfa. The ground limestone should be applied at the rate of one to three tons per acre after plowing and should be disked into the ground. In many cases it will also pay to add from 150 to 200 pounds of acid phosphate per acre in addition to the lime. This fertilizer costs about \$27 a ton, if purchased in carload lots, and can usually be obtained for about \$30 a ton in smaller quantities.

Don't Abuse Broody Hens

The poultry equipment of every farm that keeps Orpingtons, Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, or other breeds or varieties which incline toward broodiness, should include a slat-bottomed coop for breaking up broody hens. Failure to discourage undue broodiness in the flock is a good way to encourage low egg production. Broodiness is natural and an inherited characteristic and should not merit starvation or inhuman treatment in breaking.

Reclamation Policy Needs Stabilization

Secretary Work Declares Enduring Policy Should Be Established.

Cheyenne, Wyo.—A new program in reclamation should be adopted by the government, Secretary Work declared in an address here, asserting that no new projects should be undertaken until an enduring policy is established.

Responsibility for the success of federal reclamation, he said, lies first with the people in communities and states directly affected; second, with the reclamation service, and finally with Congress.

"If federal reclamation is to be regarded as a source for obtaining government money to be spent locally, instead of first aid in settling a permanent community, it will fail as it already has in some instances," he continued.

All government irrigation projects, Secretary Work said, should be organized into districts, managed and operated by the people living on them, who would decide all local questions themselves.

He expressed the hope that the next congress would pass legislation requiring states to assume part of the financial risk and responsibility for every new project undertaken within their borders.

THE MARKET

Portland
Wheat—Hard white, soft white, northern spring and hard winter, \$1.60; western white, \$1.59; western red, \$1.58.

Hay—Alfalfa, \$19@20 ton; valley timothy, \$20@21; eastern Oregon timothy, \$23@24.

Butterfat—44c delivered Portland.

Eggs—Ranch, 29@33c.

Cheese—Prices f. o. b. Tillamook:

Triplets, 26c; loaf, 27c per lb.

Cattle—Steers, good, \$7.75@9.00.

Hogs—Medium to choice, \$12.00@14.00.

Sheep—Lamb, medium to choice, \$6.00@11.25.

Seattle

Wheat—Hard white, \$1.55; western white, \$1.55; hard winter, \$1.55; western red, \$1.51; northern spring, \$1.51; Big Bond bluestem, \$1.63.

Hay—Alfalfa, \$24; D. C., \$23; timothy, \$24; D. C., \$28; mixed hay, \$24.

Butterfat—43c.

Eggs—Ranch, 32@37c.

Hogs—Prime, \$14.25@14.50.

Cattle—Choice steers, \$8.50@9.00.

Cheese—Oregon fancy to retailers, 29c per lb.; do standards, 25c; Washington fancy triplets, 25c.

Spokane.

Cattle—Prime, \$12.75@13.00.

Cattle—Prime steers, \$8.50@9.00.

Time to Seed Alfalfa

If fall seeding of alfalfa is deferred till the first week in September, there is some danger of not getting a sufficiently strong stand to go through the winter unharmed, but if the seed can be gotten into the ground by the tenth or fifteenth of August, there is little danger under average conditions of not obtaining a good, uniform stand. Do not sow less than 15 pounds of seed per acre and see to it that the seed is properly inoculated.

Most Money From Lambs

Spring lambs that make the most money are lambs fed all the grain they will eat from the time they are two or three weeks old until they are marketed. Lambs thus fed will weigh at least 70 pounds by the time they are ninety days of age, and will command top market prices. A mixture consisting of six parts ground corn, three parts bran, and one part linseed oil meal makes a splendid ration for young lambs.

Diversity of Crops

A diversity of crops makes possible better utilization of farm labor and provides feed for live stock. In choosing the crops to be grown, only those that are of major importance should be included. Usually not more than five or six crops should be grown and these should be chosen so that they will provide labor throughout the season, give a cash crop, and provide feed for the live stock.

Better Than Guilt

Better it were that all the industries which nature owns were ours at once, than guilt.—Shakespeare.

Boys Make Financial Success Raising Pigs

Club Members Sell for Breeding Purposes Only.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)
Four farm boys of East Baton Rouge parish, Louisiana, have placed hogs of improved type on 31 farms in their own parish in three years by means of the four gilts with which they started boys' club work. In addition, according to reports to the United States Department of Agriculture, they have sold breeding stock in eight neighboring parishes and an adjoining state.

These young stockmen, Hermon Alford, Archie Robinson, Rupert Johnson and Archie Fitzgerald, bought their gilts in 1922, obtaining money for the purchases on their personal notes, which were indorsed by their fathers and business men of the county interested in the boys' progress. One of the boys also bought a pure bred. With the aid of the agricultural extension agent who conducted the club, they began feeding and caring for their pigs by the best methods known in swine management. The young pigs responded by growing into strong, healthy hogs in record time. In 1923 the boys raised 62 pigs from their four sows. This year, too, the boy won a state championship in open class. The 1924 season was equally successful. Because the club members are conscientiously following the advice of the extension agent and will sell for breeding purposes only the stock which comes up to a standard in type, they have established a reputation as a source of good hogs. Their butcher stock commands top prices because of its high quality.

The business side of the enterprise has also been successful. The boys were able to pay their notes promptly and have made a net profit of \$1,018 from sale of stock, with a number of cash prizes in addition. Two of the older boys have entered the state agricultural college and are paying their expenses through their club work.

Buy and Sell Eggs and Poultry on Grade Best

The grading of both poultry and eggs is yearly becoming more important. Not so very many years ago hens sold for so much a dozen. Now the majority of dealers are discriminating between the hens of the egg breeds and those of the general purpose and meat breeds. They are paying a premium for the heavier mented fowls for the reason that they make a plumper and therefore a higher-priced carcass.

A good many people say that co-operative marketing is the reason for the added attention to grades. Others say that the regulations which have been advanced by the different departments of agriculture are responsible. Others say that the closer competition is making it necessary to buy on grade.

Perhaps all of these reasons are correct. At least all of them are partly responsible for the movement. However, there is still a good deal of confusion on account of grades not being standardized. The United States bureau of markets has worked out a system of grades which will no doubt help in standardizing the different grades as they are adopted.

The tendency to buy and sell on grade should receive the support of all poultry interests. A quality product always outsells a poorer product and the good stuff should not carry the burden of making a market for that of low grade that few care to buy.

More than 2000 acres of land in the Liberty, Franklin and Creswell districts have been worked over with poisoned barley in the campaign against gray diggers in Lane county.

The creosoted posts undoubtedly will last longer than ordinary posts. They do not harbor insects, diseases, or mice, and so far as known they do not injure the plants.

How Organizations Cinch the Farmer

Only Chance for Justice Is to Meet Union With Union

Allen L. Benson in the Dearborn Independent, says:

"Guy E. Tripp, chairman of the board of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company, tells us it costs seven times as much to sell phonographs as it does to make them.

"According to Mr. Tripp it costs six and one-half times as much to sell low-priced watches as it does to make them, three and a half times as much to sell washing machines and electrical merchandise, and five times as much to sell the milk, vegetables, and fruits produced by New York farms.

"In large cities it is astounding to learn what tremendous rents are charged for small stores. Before the proprietor of such a store can have a cent for himself he must pay for his stock, pay his employees, and pay his rent. When you buy a cheap watch in New York it is more than likely that you are also contributing to a fund to enable Mr. Astor to buy more real estate from which to collect more rentals.

"When farming is organized and systematized, as it soon will be, farmers will deliver their own products to consumers and collect what the consumers pay. There will be no lost motion between the points of production and consumption. We are already equipped to make the change. We have the roads and the motor trucks. All we need is the organizing ability. The city market can be studied to see what and how much it wants. Definite orders can be obtained. Having gathered this information, a group of farmers can produce those things for which there is a demand and one farmer can deliver what a dozen other farmers raise.

"It costs a lot to live now because so large a percentage of the population is engaged in doing things that add nothing to the worth of merchandise but do add enormously to its retail price.

The Oregon Farmer says: "The other day an investigator spent one hour on the top floor of an apartment building with notebook in hand. During that hour six milkmen delivered milk at six apartment doors, and they delivered only 14 quarts. Somebody was hiring those men. Somebody was paying taxes, interest and upkeep on six teams, six wagons and six bottling and processing plants. Was that somebody you? The people who bought that milk were paying about twice as much for it as the dairymen received for it."

"In union is strength." The packers of meats, the producers of coal, the oil producers, the organized trades—nearly everybody in this country except the farmers—are profiting by putting that axiom in practice, and some of the farmers are awake to the situation.

The federal government enforces anti-trust laws by fits and starts, as many large cities do the laws

against disorderly houses. These latter are raided semi-occasionally and the occupants fined, which produces a revenue where a license system, such as obtains in some European countries, would not be popular.

But Uncle Sam's enforcement of anti-trust laws has never yielded a revenue comparable to its cost. And the enforcement has never inconvenienced the trusts. They change form a little if a court decides against them and then proceed as before.

Furniture costs three or four times as much as before the war or as the cost of producing it. The government arrested a lot of the leading manufacturers for conspiracy to keep up prices and last week won one of its customary "great victories" when fifty of these men, chair manufacturers, pleaded guilty, paid \$1000 each in fines and went back to recoup themselves by tightening the cinch of their combine a little.

Palliatives, like making the tariff law less unjust or cutting a few cents off freight rates, will get the farmers nowhere. Congressional investigations, which cost a lot of money, discover what he knew before, that he, unorganized, helps every organized industry to prosper at his expense.

Only by co-operation can he hold his own with other interests in this age of combination and co-operation. In a few instances he has taken this road and succeeded.

E. J. Nixon, manager of the co-operative poultry association, says: "Co-operation succeeded when those in it co-operate."

State Market Agent Spence says: "There are 32,000 farmers co-operating, owning their own elevators and combining their sales in the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Elevators in Canada. This organization started in a small way and carefully built up, while Oregon started in a large way in the Northwest Wheatgrowers and steadily went out of business.

"During the past ten or twelve years middle costs have constantly increased. The increase in price of many products between producer and consumer is more than the producer received."

The farmers will get help when they help themselves.

Our Bumper Hay Crop

Few places in this country have as fine a hay crop this year as the Willamette valley. Tom Andry, just home from an extensive trip east, says there will be a great dearth of hay all over that country, the scorching heat having dried everything up. Our surplus cannot be sent there, as the cost of transportation so far would be too high.

If all the valley hay could be fed where grown to well-bred stock, for which this part of the valley is famed, and the concentrates to go with it grown at home, without moving and handling costs, the income above outgo of our farms would be increased.

Alfalfa Sown in August Should Be Seeded Alone

When seeded in August, alfalfa should be sown alone, that is, without a nurse crop. Whenever there is a sufficient amount of moisture in the soil at that time of year to cause rapid germination of the seed, it is easier to get a stand without interference from weeds than in the spring, whether the alfalfa be sown alone or with a nurse crop. Bear in mind, however, that the seed bed for alfalfa should be very thoroughly compacted. If stubble ground is plowed late in July or the first week in August for alfalfa, disk it thoroughly afterwards and follow with a harrow until a fine well-compacted surface has been so cured.

Sacramento Claims Hen's Record.

Sacramento, Cal.—A world's championship was claimed for "Spark Plug," an energetic Rhode Island Red hen of this city, which has just completed the laying of four eggs within a single day, according to her owner, and accomplished the feat for the second time in her eventful career.

If we should have a dry season, shallow level cultivation will help conserve soil moisture and perhaps save the corn crop.

A brush and can of kerosene are mighty good tools to loosen dirt and rust so that bearings may be properly adjusted and bolts and nuts tightened.

Sweet clover pastures are excellent for all classes of stock.

Mitzner & Son of Halsey keep both Jersey and Guernsey cattle and prefer the latter, principally because they are less nervous and more docile. A Jersey bull can never be safely trusted after he is two years old.



THE use of poor twine is likely to cause expensive delay in the rush of the harvest season.

Why take a chance? Tying troubles are minimized when Plymouth brand is used. Made of high-quality fiber and spun to the Plymouth standard, which means smooth-running twine of uniform size, length and strength. Plymouth Twine is scientifically treated against insect damage, and can be furnished in either the regular or Plymouth Compact Ball.

HILL & CO
HALSEY

Selecting Dairy Breed Important

Good Individuals Should Have First Consideration of Dairyman.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Good individuals of whatever breed is selected should have first consideration by the man about to launch himself into the dairy business, says the United States Department of Agriculture. As between breeds, there are three points that should be considered: (1) The breed that predominates in the locality where the new herd is to be located; (2) personal preference; and (3) market requirements for the product.

Number of Advantages

There are a number of advantages to a dairyman in having the same breed as his neighbors, says the bureau of dairying of the department. A dairyman just starting with pure breeds may feel that since his neighbors have one breed of cattle, he should get another breed so as to have a monopoly in the business of selling breeding stock. There is no question about the monopoly, says the bureau, but there would be no business to monopolize. It is difficult for an isolated small breeder to dispose of his stock to advantage, while if there are many breeders with the same breed, buyers are attracted to the locality because of the better chance to get the desired animals from one or more of the several breeders. Other advantages in having the same breed as the neighbors are the opportunity to exchange bulls, or to own good bulls co-operatively; to take advantage of breed sales of surplus stock, and lastly, the advantage of bringing the community together in other endeavors which usually result where there is but one breed.

Because a man will usually do best with a breed that he likes, it is well to give this personal preference the right of way when there is no other breed already established, providing, however, that just as high-quality animals are available in the preferred breed as in some other breed.

Market requirements for the product should not be overemphasized, says the bureau, for the reason that these requirements may fluctuate from one year to another, and obviously, the dairyman cannot change breeds with every change of market requirements.

Summing Up Matter.

In summing up the matter of which breed to select, the bureau says this point should be kept in mind—there are good cows and poor cows in all breeds, and other things being equal, the breeder or dairyman who gets good individuals to begin with will have a good chance for success, no matter what breed he selects.

The several breeds recognized as dairy breeds in the United States are the Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Dutch Belted, Guernsey, Holstein-Friesian, and Jersey. Although much alike in what is known as general dairy conformation, these breeds differ to some extent in certain characteristics. What these characteristics are, the factors to consider in selecting a breed, and the history and origin and development of the breeds, are questions of interest to both the beginner and the established breeder of dairy cattle. These topics are discussed in a new bulletin issued by the bureau of dairying as Farmers' Bulletin 1448.

A copy of this bulletin may be had free of charge, as long as the supply lasts, upon request, from the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington.

WHEAT, CORN, OATS and BARLEY Whole or Ground FISHER'S EGG PRODUCER Gives better results O. W. FRUM