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A FOXY BUSINESS

There may be money in raising silver fox fur in Oregon. Nobody knows, or will know as long as the animals command up to \$1000 and \$1500 each for breeding. They are not being raised for fur, but for reproduction. That this is profitable is attested by the number of personally soliciting salesmen who appear when a possible prospective buyer becomes known as such.

There are indications that this market has approached the saturation point. When that is reached there will be a tumble in prices and owners of silver gray will turn to the fur market. The market price of silver gray skins has fallen to about one-third of what it was a few years ago. Furthermore, prime fur cannot be grown in a climate as mild as that of Oregon. During the past fur season Oregon silver gray skins were quoted at about half the price of those from Alaska. We hear talk of Oregon foxes being sent north for a winter before killing to "prime" their fur and double its value before killing.

In face of all the facts silver gray foxes may be profitable stock for the Oregon farmer to keep. Care must be taken to keep their surroundings sanitary in captivity. The location of the yard should be frequently changed or the ground spaded. Foxes eat grain and vegetables, but one-third of the diet should be fresh meat.

The fur of the Alaskan blue fox has been increasing in popular favor, rising in price while the silver gray declined.

About thirty Alaska islands are occupied by people who raise foxes for their fur.

Not many weeks and no months had passed after Secretary Jardine trumpeted warning to the bulls and bears of Chicago that he would prosecute them for any further grain gambling before Albert Cutten was credited with having cleared \$250,000 on a wheat deal there. Where's your big stick, Mr. Jardine?

Experts of the Mining and Metallurgical society of America say that oil production passed its peak in 1923 and that last year's production will never be equaled again, but our oil that years production will never be equaled again, but an oil output will steadily fall off and we will be dependent upon imports. So much for the "experts." Humdrum workers who make no claim to be specially expert tell us that more oil was produced in June, 1925, than in any preceding month. Some of those "experts" may be dead before our oil peters out.

When a man lugubriously paints the harm an income tax would do in keeping capital out of Oregon investigation usually will reveal the fact that he or those for whom he works have incomes in this state that would be subject to the tax. Their sympathy for the capitalist, like charity, begins at home.

The glee of the anti-prohibition people over the occasional exposure of crooked members of the prohibition force is tempered by the reflection that every time one of the crooks is ousted there is one friend less left where he can be of service to them.

Wheat which raised high expectations by its appearance when reaped has caused a chill when thrashed. Many an expected kernel was like Josh Billings' flax, "When you put your finger on him he ain't there."

Every plea against an income tax is a plea for injustice for expediency's sake.

Fred Sprenger and family were at J. C. Porter's Sunday.

Hall's Catarh Medicine is a Combined Treatment, both local and internal, and has been successful in the treatment of Catarh for over forty years. Sold by all druggists.
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The wisest girls keep out of trouble

Use of Power on Farms, Big Item

Agricultural Worker Able to Till Three Times as Many Acres.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

As a result of the increased use of power and labor-saving machinery in farming operations and the opening of new lands well suited to the use of machinery the average agricultural worker in the United States is now able to care for almost three times as many acres of crops as an individual could handle 75 years ago, according to a study recently made by the division of agricultural engineering of the United States Department of Agriculture. At the same time the hours of labor on the farm have been reduced and farmers have been relieved of much of the monotony and drudgery which formerly characterized their work.

Power and labor together account for approximately 60 per cent of the total cost of farming and a better knowledge of the power requirements of farm operations and the adoption of more efficient types of power units will do much to cut down production costs.

Second Only to Railroads.
The primary horse power available for use on farms is greater than that used in mining and manufacturing, and is second only to that required for railroads. The total power used annually on farms amounts to nearly 16,000,000,000 horse-power hours and the annual cost amounts to a total of nearly \$3,000,000,000.

Up to the present little scientific study has been made of the basic power requirements of various farm operations. Although the plow is one of the oldest agricultural tools for which power is required, the fundamental requirements of plow design are still unknown and no satisfactory method of measuring the actual work done by a plow has yet been discovered. The University of Wisconsin has conducted experiments which show that it is possible to run an ensilage cutter with one-half the power ordinarily used by this machine simply by employing proper speeds and an improved blower.

Farm power is derived from animals, gas engines, (including tractors, trucks and automobiles) steam engines and electric, wind and water motors. Up to about sixty years ago little power other than that furnished by animals was available to farmers. The small gas tractor, the truck, the automobile and electric power have only become important as sources of farm power within the last ten or twelve years.

The estimated total numbers of power units now on farms in the United States is as follows:

Horses	15,916,000
Mules	4,854,000
Oxen	200,000
Tractors	450,000
Trucks	356,000
Stationary engines	2,500,000
Electric installations	500,000
Windmills	1,000,000
Automobiles	4,500,000

Great opportunities exist for the cutting down of the cost of farm operations through the reduction in the labor requirements of each operation and by a better application of the power used. Before such savings can be effected, however, it is necessary to make a thorough study of the basic power requirements, and of the factors which affect these requirements. Among these are: Climate, character of the soil, depth of plowing, cultivation, etc.; condition of the crop, size of fields, size and type of power units needed and mechanical efficiency of the tools or machines employed by the farmer.

Topography a Factor.
Topography is a factor to be reckoned with in considering the power requirements of farms in any particular locality. In the Central West the land generally is smooth and is not cut by many streams or ravines. This condition encourages the laying out of large fields and makes possible the use of large machines and power units. In Eastern and Southern states, however, the land is frequently hilly and cut by ravines and streams making small and irregular-shaped fields necessary. This, of course, discourages the use of large machines and results in a predominance of small farms.

Probably the most serious drawback to the efficient use of power in agriculture is the extreme seasonal demand. In each type of farming followed there is usually some single operation which requires a large amount of power for a limited time and it is usually this operation which determines the minimum amount of primary power that must be available. In the corn or cotton belt the operation requiring the maximum power is that of planting or cultivating—in hay or small grain it is harvesting. Such conditions result in what is termed a low-power load factor and a high cost per unit of power utilized. The peak load could fre-

quently be reduced by reducing the acreage of the crop which requires this power, but as a rule the farmer is justified in retaining such a high acreage of the crop in question because of the relatively high net returns which may more than offset the higher cost of power used in this operation.

Other factors which have an important effect on the efficiency of farm power are the diversity of operations and the small power unit commonly employed under the control of one worker.

Flax Notes

Portland fails to raise her expected quota of capital for the Salem linen mill. Albany has decided not to try to raise a quota. Meantime the Washington-Oregon linen mill at Vancouver is manufacturing Willamette valley flax.

Twenty-four scutching machines are in operation at the state penitentiary, which has contracts for the product of over 2300 acres. These machines clean the fiber of refuse, after it has been retted and dried, and make it ready for the looms which are to work in the new mill if it materializes.

Flax enthusiasts look for the growing and manufacture of linen to become, next to lumbering, if not above it, the leading industry of Oregon. Flax should be drilled instead of sown broadcast, about 100 pounds of seed to the acre. It requires good land, free from weeds, and is not specially exhaustive of the soil. It ought not to be sown much later than April, and March is better. Hot weather catches the later sown crops before they are ready for it and shorter fiber results. Length of fiber leads in determining the price per pound.

THE MARKETS

Portland
Wheat—B. B. bluestem, \$1.50; hard white, \$1.48; soft white, western white, \$1.46; hard winter, \$1.48; northern spring, \$1.45; western red, \$1.42.
Hay—Alfalfa, \$18@19 ton; valley timothy, \$20@21; eastern Oregon timothy, \$23@24.
Butterfat—47c shippers' track.
Eggs—Ranch, 28@33c.
Cheese—Prices f. o. b. Tillamook; Triplets, 27c; loaf, 28c per lb.
Cattle—Steers, medium, \$7.75@8.25. Hogs—Medium to choice, \$13.50@15.25.
Sheep—Lambs, medium to choice, \$10.50@12.50.

Seattle.
Wheat—Soft white, \$1.44; western white, \$1.44; hard winter, \$1.44; western red, \$1.42; northern spring, \$1.43; Big Bend bluestem, \$1.48.
Hay—Alfalfa, \$23; D. C. \$28; timothy, \$26; mixed hay, \$24.
Butter—Country creamery, 45@50c.
Eggs—Select ranch, 38@40c; storage, 37c.
Hogs—Prime, \$15.35@15.60.
Cattle—Prime steers, \$8.00@8.25.
Cheese—Oregon fancy, 20c; Oregon standards 25c; Washington triplets, 26c.

Spokane.
Hogs—Prime, \$14.25@14.50.
Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.25@7.75.

Orchard Fertility Is Discussed in Bulletin

"Fertility in the Apple Orchard" is the title of a new bulletin just issued by the agricultural experiment station at the Pennsylvania State college. It is prepared by Profs. R. D. Anthony and J. H. Waring, and is the result of many years' experimenting with apple trees in both the cultivated and sod type of orchard. Copies of the bulletin may be secured free by writing to the Agricultural Publications Offices at State College, Pa.

On most Pennsylvania farms the apple orchard is of the sod type, that is, grass or clover is allowed to grow about the trees. It is pointed out in the bulletin that general rules seem to have more exceptions in fruit growing than in most branches of agriculture. With this in mind, the State college pomologists summarize fertility practices in the sod orchard as follows:

In the mature sod orchard from five to ten pounds of nitrate of soda or its equivalent should be broadcast over the square in which the tree stands, two or three weeks before the blossom buds break. If a leguminous sod is used, cut this application in half. If the sod shows any response to acid phosphate, use it regularly, one or two pounds with each pound of nitrate. Build up thin spots by the use

of manure.
"Cut the grass a little earlier than it would be cut for hay, before seeds have matured, and let it lie in the swath. Do not pasture the grass. In dry seasons advance the time of cutting to decrease the water loss. If mice are present throw the dirt away from the trunks and fill the holes and mound up around the trunks with coal ashes. Also, poison the mice. Keep the leaves healthy by spraying and the trees properly opened by pruning."

Rocquefort in Oregon

Rocquefort cheese for generations has been made only at the place in France from which it takes its name. Its production has been a secret. Efforts elsewhere to produce the peculiar Rocquefort flavor and quality have always failed until the United States department of agriculture turned its attention that way.

The department has a store of knowledge of intricate secret cultures and methods used at Rocquefort and at one and only one spot in this country has it caused them to be tested.

That spot is in Oregon. That test has been a success. Rocquefort cheese is being made in Polk county.

Near Falls City 45 pounds a day of Rocquefort cheese is being produced daily from 300 goats.

Canada Bans Stock Shipments.
Victoria, B. C.—A ban on importation into Canada of animals and poultry, raw products and fodder has been put into effect following reported outbreaks of the foot and mouth epizootic in Texas, word received here stated. The ban affects the states of Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

Buttermilk for Swine

Buttermilk has the same feeding value for swine as does skim milk, and its value is measured in the same way. The simplest method of valuing buttermilk is to compare it with corn on the basis that 100 pounds of buttermilk that has not been diluted with water is equal in feeding value to one-half bushel of corn. That is, when corn is worth \$1 a bushel, buttermilk is worth 50 cents a hundred for feeding swine. This applies, however, only in those cases where the buttermilk is not fed in excess of three pounds of buttermilk to one pound of grain.

\$300,000 Crop Loss in Illinois Storm.

Rock Island, Ill.—Damage estimated at from \$200,000 to \$300,000 was caused by the storm which swept the lower end of Rock Island county. Corn fields were riddled by the hail which reached the size of walnuts, buildings were blown down and trees uprooted.

Alfalfa is the material from which good dairy cows like to grind out

Items of Interest to Linn Ruralists

Oregon's yield of potatoes is estimated at 5,000,000 bushels this year.

Foot and mouth disease was discovered in Texas last week in a herd of 1100 cattle, which were killed and burned.

It is estimated that 475,000 pounds yearly is deducted from the weight of grain as received at warehouses in Oregon, Washington and Idaho on account of dirt and foul seeds. Farmers not only lose the feed value of the foul seeds but they pay freight on it to market. The government has now on trial near Rickreall a machine which is expected to complete the thorough cleaning of grain at the thrasher.

Portland business men have been invited by the Ashland Chamber of Commerce to visit the Rogue River valley to inspect the wonderful pear crop.

Kiamath county's grain crop this year will yield close to 1,000,000 bushels, according to estimates of farmers and others who have made a survey of farm conditions during recent weeks.

Cucumber Beetles Cause Trouble in Home Garden

Among the most troublesome insects that we have in the home garden are the cucumber beetles, both the striped and the spotted types. The adult beetles are usually waiting for the young "cuke" or melon plants to come through the ground, and in 24 hours the prospective crop is ruined. For years investigators have been trying to find a really effective method of controlling these pests, but with only partial success. All sorts of evil-smelling substances, such as turpentine, tobacco, and camphor balls have been used to "chase" the beetles, and poisons such as arsenate of lead and paris green have been added also. Protectors for the young plants used to be commonly utilized but have apparently not been so popular in late years.

The most recent control material used for cucumber beetles, and apparently the most effective to date, has been a 2 per cent nicotine dust, applied near midday in clear, quiet, sunny weather. Even this material has not been entirely satisfactory, many cucumber growers complaining that although the dust did kill many beetles and drove the rest away temporarily, they were back in "droves" within a day or two. Others, however, have had good results with the nicotine dust.

Packers Must Turn Over Records.

Chicago.—The "big five" packers lost a long fight when Federal Judge Adam C. Cliffe ordered them to turn their books and records over to Secretary of Agriculture Jardine.

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