

# FARM TOPICS

## CORN HYBRIDS DEplete SOIL

### High Fertility Necessary For Good Results.

By PROF. A. L. LANG  
(Illinois Agricultural Station, Urbana, Illinois.)

Whether hybrid corn succeeds or fails in its job of producing bumper yields depends largely on the land's fertility level and the effectiveness of the individual farmer's soil management program.

Tests on soils varying in productivity and under different systems of soil management revealed that some of the better hybrids are more responsive to good soil and good soil management and more sensitive to poor soil and poor soil management, than most of the open-pollinated varieties of corn.

Whether hybrid take up more plant food or use what they take up more efficiently than open-pollinated varieties has not yet been determined. The danger to future soil productivity lies in hybrid's capacity to produce more bushels per acre when grown on naturally fertile soils.

If farmers take advantage of the superiority of hybrid corn on good soil without recognizing the dangers involved from a more rapid depletion of available plant food, their soil will not be in condition to express hybrid superiority for long.

On the other hand, if hybrid superiority on good soil is used to stimulate more and better soil enrichment practices, then there is an opportunity to go beyond what has already been accomplished.

The farmer who follows good soil practices and has his soil tested to determine needs for limestone, phosphates and potash will cash in profitably when he plants hybrid seed corn.

## AGRICULTURE IN INDUSTRY

By Florence C. Weed

(This is one of a series of articles showing how farm products are finding an important market in industry.)

### Sweet Potatoes

An old Negro laundress probably was the first to discover that excellent laundry starch could be made from the sweet potato. She mashed the potatoes, soaked them in water, then drew off this liquid and boiled it to make a fine starch.

The first commercial venture was a small co-operative plant set up in Mississippi to make sweet potato starch. Now another plant is being started in Texas. Their product is used for sizing in the textile industry. Since many varieties of the sweet potato contain as much as 20 per cent starch, it seems likely that this new industry has good possibilities. The pulp left after the starch is extracted is being used for feed for beef and dairy cattle.

Sweet potatoes have been experimentally converted into a thin transparent sheet which one day may be a competitor of cellophane. During the World War, sweet potato flour was used in the South.

George Washington Carver, famed Negro scientist, has uncovered many possibilities in this crop of the South. He has used the sweet potato to obtain vinegar, shoe blacking, ink, library paste, dyes, candy, ginger, synthetic tapioca, chocolate compound, coffee substitute, molasses and rubber.

The commercial crop of sweet potatoes is raised chiefly in Virginia, Louisiana, Tennessee and New Jersey. Since many southern varieties tend to grow oversize, there is a large quantity of culls in each crop. Some are fed to cattle but more are wasted. These conditions have led to an insistent demand for some means to use these in industry.

## Rural Briefs

Roughage feeds are necessities in the dairy cow's diet.

Hedge, or Osage orange, makes excellent fence posts.

Fumigation with carbon disulphide is one of the best methods of treating a corn crib to control corn weevils.

Beef from cattle fattened on grass "ripens" as well as beef from cattle on grain, and it is just as juicy and flavorful, according to the U. S. bureau of animal industry.

Principal causes of failure of electric motors on farms have been overloading, poor or insufficient lubrication, worn bearings, improper circuit protection, lightning and operating in dusty or wet surroundings.

More than 5 per cent cottonseed meal in hens' rations will make the yolk of the eggs mottled after they have been in storage several months. The whites may turn slightly pink from too much cottonseed meal.

# Fun for the Whole Family

## BIG TOP

By ED WHEELAN



## LALA PALOOZA She's No Bird

By RUBE GOLDBERG



## MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY



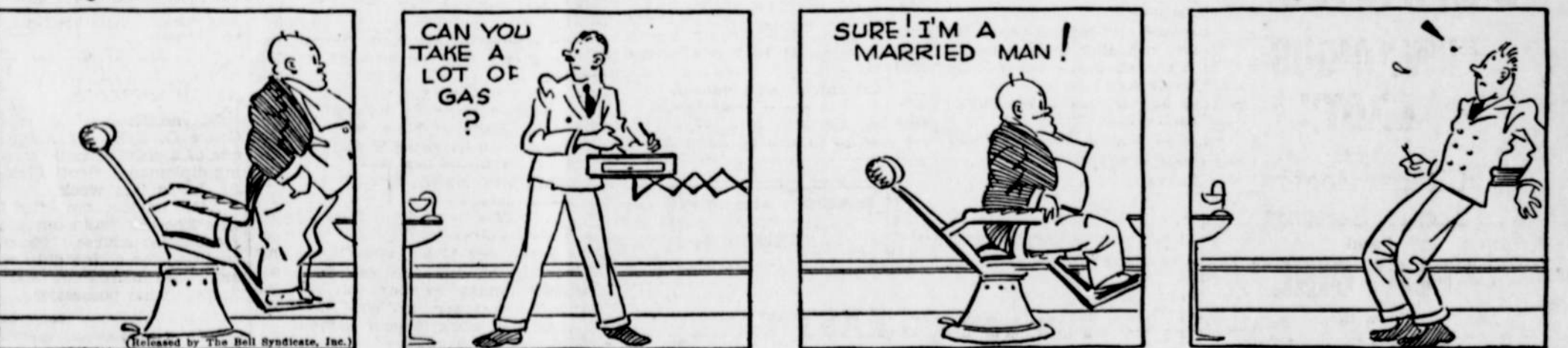
## 'SMATTER POP— Ride Him, Cowboy—Whoa!

By C. M. PAYNE



## POP—Quite Used to It!

By J. MILLAR WATT



## KIBITZERS



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## THE SPORTING THING

By LANG ARMSTRONG

