

Farmer, Stockman and Dairyman

Selecting Seed Potatoes—

The selection of seed potatoes is worthy of more attention than is usually accorded by the average farmer. Of all crops grown on the farm there is none that will deteriorate under careless handling or improve more rapidly under progressive, up-to-date methods than this crop.

The reason for the tendency to a backward trend under usual methods is that the potato, like the human being, grows in families, and the comparison might be carried farther in saying that they should grow in larger families and all become useful members of the class to which they belong. What man of you would be willing to see his daughter marry a man who might happen to be a fairly decent individual if he was the only useful member of a scrawling family?

How does the average potato grower select his seed potatoes? Goes to the bin and takes them as they come? Yes, usually, or sometimes takes the smaller and inferior stock. But you say, "I take the best from the bin," or perchance, "I have selected them from the windrow in the field after the digging." Well, this is still far short of what you should do. Why? Because when you select your tuber from the pile you have no means of knowing what its family was. You do not know what sort of brothers and sisters it had, if any. How have the great dairy herds of this country been produced? Simply by repeated selection of producing animals whose sires and dams were producers and from producers. This is exactly the methods you must pursue if you would succeed best in breeding a producing strain of potatoes. Your fine tuber that you have selected from the pile or windrow may have been the only tuber in the hill. If so, it is a "silly breeder," and should not become a progenitor of your future generations. Mayhap it was the good member in a scrawling family. There may have been one or two, or perchance a half dozen of "no account" tubers in this family in which case you have evidence of bad blood that you do not want and cannot afford to have enter into the strain you are breeding for production.

Select your seed potatoes at digging time in the fall. Note carefully the vine of an individual hill before you lift it. If it is right and you find a reasonable number, six or more fine tubers, all of which are fine specimens, then lay them off to your right and retain the entire hill for seed. If you do not find it so, if there are too few tubers for profit, even though fine, or if there were a dozen good ones and one ill-shaped one, then discard the whole hill as a family with bad blood. These may be dropped to your left and go into the market crop. You lose nothing. It costs you nothing that you are compelled to dig by hand while making your seed selection, which, of course, adds some expense as against the modern horse-digger. But you can afford to do it. Good goods always sell first and never become a drug on the market. More than this, you will, if you purchase it, become so interested in the experiment itself, in the thing you are doing, that you will absolutely lose sight of the money side of the proposition in your efforts to excel your brother grower and prove the benefits of your methods.

In the Feeding of Swine—
A great many of our swine raisers do not make as much use of pasture as they well might. On the other hand, some go to the other extreme and place too much reliance on the various pasture crops. Those used most for swine raising in Oregon are alfalfa, clover, vetch, blue grass, native grasses and various mixtures of these.
The method of feeding swine when on pasture should be determined very largely by the kind of pasture and the grain fed, if any, in addition. We might well speak of alfalfa, clover and vetch as the same, since they are all of quite similar feeding value.
Experimental evidence has proven quite conclusively that mature hogs in fair condition can be maintained, or even be made to gain slightly on good leguminous pastures, therefore we would judge that dry brood sows and mature boars might be carried economically this way. However, in the case they are run down, they should be fed enough grain to build them up to good breeding condition. Growing rations that are intended for market should never be placed on a leguminous pasture with the idea that a market finish can be put on, or that an economical growth can be produced on such a ration. Enough grain must be fed so that they are kept growing rapidly from the time they are weaned until they are sold. With young breeding stock it is not quite so essential to crowd them to the limit, as it may be overdone and they become so fat that they may not breed regularly.

Many people are bothered by their swine rooting in the pasture and thereby spoiling the sod and giving the pasture a rough, uneven appearance. Ringing may prevent this to some extent, but if the hog wishes to root, he will do so after the nose has become calloused so it is not painful to him. Rooting may be caused by a desire to get into the moist ground to cool off, or in search of some food that their feed does not contain. The first trouble may be obviated by building an artificial wallow, which may be kept clean; and the latter trouble may be overcome by a study of the animal's food. Frequently salt, mineral matter, or animal matter is lacking in their ration, when hogs root continuously. The mineral matter may be supplied by feeding salt, charcoal, wood ashes, etc. The lack of animal matter can be overcome by feeding small amounts of such things as tankage, or meat scraps. When hogs are on a leguminous pasture, the animal matter, such as mentioned, is not so necessary in their ration, but it would probably be advisable to use it when hogs continue to root as under the conditions mentioned above.

When Buying Feeds—

It pays—
To know the requirements of the feed law. (The law does not protect against ignorance.)

To know the names under which feeds are sold. (Feeding stuffs are sometimes sold under a misleading name and are branded with misleading data.)

To know what feeds are required to supplement the home-grown rations. (The right feed for one farmer may be wrong feed for another.)

To keep posted on the market prices of feeds. (An economic feed today may be expensive feed to buy tomorrow.)

To buy registered feeds. (Reliable manufacturers desire to have their feeds tested. The wisdom of buying only branded feeds is shown by the fact that in 1915 the average protein content of samples of unbranded cottonseed meal examined was nearly three per cent less than that of branded meal.)

To buy feeds branded like this:

	Per Cent
Protein	14.5
Fat	4.0
Fiber	10.0

Manufactured by _____
It does not pay—

To buy feeds blindly.
To take too much for granted.

To be afraid of words like "protein" or "carbohydrates" because we do not hear them every day.

To wait until feed is scarce before buying.

To buy feeds of unknown origin.
To buy unbranded feed.

Good Silage Necessitates Good Methods—

Only the best silage can be obtained from corn when it is handled properly. In reply to many inquiries being received by the County Agricultural Agent, the following points are mentioned as essential to the production of good silage:

The causes for silage spoiling is either due to lack of moisture, not cutting sufficiently fine, or not tamping enough, especially on the edge.

The large percentage of ears should be well dentured before cutting. The best silage is made from the more matured corn, besides it contains as high as 10 per cent more feed to the ton. Corn can be left in the field until a few of the lower leaves on each stalk begin to die.

If corn is put into the silo when it is too green, and the ears are in the milk stage, it will be more acid, not so palatable and will not contain as much nutriment per ton.

The finer the silage is cut (one-fourth inch) the better it will keep, as it packs better. There is less waste in feeding silage cut in the shorter lengths.

There has been some complaint over the county due to heating of silage. The more air there is in the silage, the more it will heat. Finely cut silage that is well tamped will not heat so badly.

Silage that is cut fine is also easier to get out of the silo. The knives of the silo should be kept sharp if one wishes to do good work with the cutter. The knife blades should be kept sharp.

The better way to fill a silo is to keep the top of the silage layer saucer shaped; that is higher on the outer edges, then when the silage settles it cannot settle away from the wall.

It is not always necessary to add water in filling the silo. A good plan is to add the water when the last third of the silo is being filled. When in doubt, add water.

Salt is not necessary, and only adds palatability. The smaller the dimen-

sions of the silo, the more packing required.

Straw cut fine, wet and packed down thoroughly is a good sealer for the top of the silo.

In conclusion, the tendency here is to silo corn too green, and not cut sufficiently fine for the best silage.

Lime Now Available—

The State lime plant at Gold Hill, Oregon, will be able to fill orders for lime by the first of October, according to N. S. Robb, County Agricultural Agent, who gives the following information regarding lime:

The price will be \$1.75 per ton f. o. b. Gold Hill, and the freight on a twenty-ton car of bulk lime will run from three-fourths to one cent per ton per mile. This will be in the neighborhood of \$3 to \$3.50 at Eugene.

All applications for lime should be made to the State Lime Board, Salem, accompanied by the purchase price. Orders will be filled in the order they are received. Farmers should pool their orders for car lots.

This is the substance of the recent information received from the manager of the lime plant at Gold Hill by Mr. Robb. Further information as to details can be obtained by writing the office of the County Agricultural Agent at Eugene for circular letter on "Information Concerning Agricultural Lime and Lime Bulletin." This information was obtained for Mr. Ed L. Ayre of Junction City, who so far as to Mr. Robb's knowledge is the first man in the county to order a car load. It will be used on Mr. Ayre's cherry orchard.

Mr. Robb says that the Lane county farmers should try lime out on a small scale first, as it is not going to be a cure-all for all soil troubles. It will not benefit on lands that need drainage, nor will it add fertility to the soil, as will manure, commercial fertilizers, or green manure. However, the use of lime and green manure crops is a well tried practice in some sections of the United States and is highly recommended.

To get the best results from the use of lime, the land should be well drained, and not be too low in fertility from continuous cropping, says Mr. Robb.

Corn and Oats for Work Horses—

Contrary to popular opinion that horses fed oats have more life, keep in better condition, and endure work better, especially during hot weather, than horses given a grain ration consisting largely or exclusively of corn, an experiment conducted for 48 weeks at the Ohio Experiment Station with work horses showed that oats are not superior in efficiency to corn. Economy in feeding is generally in favor of corn.

Three teams of mature geldings were used, one horse in each team being fed oats and the other an equal weight of ear corn in connection with mixed clover and timothy hay. There was practically no difference in the changes in weight during the year between the two lots. No difference due to the feeds used was observed in the spirit and endurance of the horses.

The cost of feeding the corn-fed horses, with corn at 80 cents a bushel, oats at 60 cents, and hay at \$10 a ton, was \$85.65 for the 48 weeks, as compared with a charge of \$122.19 for the horses given oats. Animal husbandmen at the experiment station, considering the relative prices of these two grains over a long period of years, say that corn may be substituted for oats for work horses with a material saving, and therefore should be given a large place in their rations wherever market conditions warrant its use.

How to Make Farm Work Count—

Plan your work ahead. Keep ahead of your work. If you do this, it will make you wealthy. One of the best to do farmers in Lane county recently made a statement to this effect. He said that the system of always keeping ahead of his work had made him his stake.

Freight and express will be slow. Order everything early and sixty days ahead of time.

Put all tools in first-class repair before they are needed.

Make everything handy about the farm so as to make it easier to do the work.

Keep a list of rainy day jobs, and thereby save time when the weather is good.

Consider whether you can use a tractor and other labor saving machinery to advantage.

Two-horse, three-horse and four-horse teams increase the amount of work a man can do in a day. Many farmers are partially solving the labor problem by forming themselves into clubs or rings to help each other in threshing, silo filling, etc. Neighbors can co-operate in buying the heavier types of farm machinery.

Wants to Get Better Yielding Rye for Grain—

An effort is being made by the Lane County Agricultural Agent to get a

variety of rye introduced into the county that will produce large and profitable yields of grain for the farmers of the county.

"At present the rye grown here is all right for pasture and green manure, but it does not produce a large enough crop," says N. S. Robb.

We ought to be able to produce our own supply of rye seed, is the opinion of Mr. Robb, for he believes the demand is going to increase from year to year when farmers learn the value of the crop for pasture and green manure. If the demand continues as it has the past two years where over twenty tons of the seed has been shipped into the county in the last year, it will be profitable and advisable for some of the growers to produce our own supply of seed at home.

Mr. Robb is making an effort to get the variety of rye known as Rosen started in the county, as this has proven to be one of the heaviest yielding varieties of rye for grain in the United States.

\$300 Net on Acre From Irrigation—

One of the most striking results from irrigation during a season like the past, are the figures from three acres on the farm of C. M. Emery, north of Eugene.

Mr. Emery has taken between eight and nine tons of string beans off of two acres that were irrigated, and these beans will bring in the neighborhood of \$100 per ton.

The yield from the irrigated was double that of the beans that were not irrigated, says Mr. Emery, and this was done with only one application of water.

The number of pickings was also doubled through irrigation.

Mr. Emery says that off of two acres of beans, and one acre of raspberries that were irrigated, he will net over \$300 an acre on the total of \$900.

Humus—

Did you ever keep a piece of woodland fenced for ten or twenty years, never allowing fire to burn it over, and then clear it and put it in cultivation? Did you notice how deep and loose and mellow the soil was? How you could dig your toe several inches deep into it? How it made crops grow rank and green and enabled them to remain so during parching drouths?

Such is humus—rotted, decaying vegetable matter, without which all farms and farmers must be failures. Nature, unhindered, makes it by the ton; man, unhindered, has destroyed it faster than Nature has made it, as is evidenced by barren, gullied fields on every side.

The remedy? There is only one, and that is back to Nature's ways. Burn nothing, grow winter and summer legumes to plow under every year, and your fields will come back to the fruitful fatness of olden days.

Reports on Oats, Rye and Barley Required—

Instructions for obtaining the amount of oats, rye and barley threshed in the county have been received from the U. S. Department of Agriculture by the county agricultural agent, N. S. Robb.

These blanks are to be sent to all threshers of the county by the county agent, and are to be filled out by the threshermen.

Owing to the slowness of the reports on the wheat threshed coming in, these other blanks will not be mailed until October 1st.

Mr. Robb urges all threshermen to make reports of the wheat threshed this season, so the report can be closed by October 1st. Only 50 per cent of the threshermen have made reports so far, and it is not the desire of the county agent to have to make a report that certain threshermen did not report.

Saving food is saving soldiers.

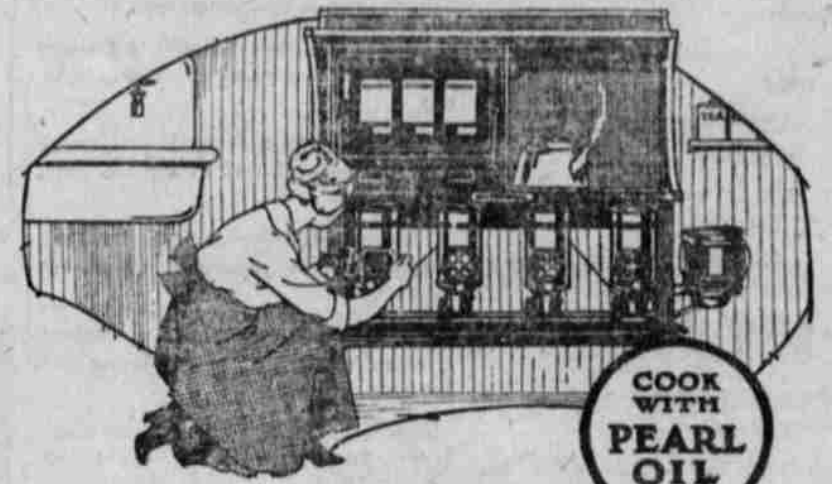
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