

## Demands Net Weight of Apples

Count of Apples in Box Not Sufficient, Is Ruling.—Fruit Men Fear It Will Work Hardship.

THE Department of Agriculture hands down an opinion that the numerical count of apples or pears in boxes is insufficient to insure knowledge of the contents.

Under the Federal Food and Drugs Act as amended March 3, 1913, and with regulations of Food Inspector Decision 154, the contents of a fruit box must be given in quantity on outside of box. In section 8, paragraph 3, under "Food" as amended by act of March 3, 1913, clause A reads, "Except as otherwise provided by the regulation, the quantity of contents in all cases of food, if terms of weight, measure of numerical count, on the outside of the covering of container usually delivered to consumer." And in (B) "The quantity of the contents so marked shall be the amount of food in the package." And in (C) "The quantity of contents shall be so stated in terms of weight or measure unless the package be marked with numerical count giving accurate information as to the quantity of the food in the package." Clause (H) states that the quantity must be given in a minimum of weight, measure or count, for example, "minimum weight 160 oz." "The statement must approximate the actual quantity and there shall be no tolerance below the stated minimum."

When the provision was rendered it was believed by the grower and expert shippers and by the dealers themselves the counting numerically would be sufficient to achieve the protection at which this bill was aimed, and at the same time not place a serious obstacle in the way of grower and shipper.

### Out of a Clear Sky.

Out of a clear sky comes the announcement from one of the acting secretaries of the Department of Agriculture, as evidence of the interpretation of that department of the provision in respect to fruit, that "A statement of the number of apples or pears contained in a box is not a satisfactory compliance of the Federal Food and Drugs Act as amended by the act of March 3, 1913, or with the regulation 29 as amended by Food Inspector Decisions 154, inasmuch as it does not give accurate information as to the quantity of food in the package. That there is nothing in such a statement to indicate whether the apples are small or large, and nothing that indicates the capacity of the box.

A. P. Bateham, vice-president of the Northwestern Fruit Exchange, and a

practical fruit man in every respect, has already started the ball rolling to find the exact status of the situation, and if possible a remedy for the hardship, which he says will undoubtedly be worked by a measure so radical. "The fruit growing interests of the country are wholly unprepared to comply with such conditions," said Mr. Bateham. "The requirement, announced as it now is, just as the crop is ready to move, will cause a tremendous hardship on fruit growers and inevitably result in wide confusion."

### To Try to Change.

Mr. Bateham proposes to reach the secretary of the Department of Agriculture and endeavor to induce him to act in accordance with the reasonable expectations of the fruit interests. A great many fruit men passed opinion on this measure and assumed that its intentions were perfectly plain, considering it settled that the numerical count would be sufficient. The same view was entertained by all the interests working for the standard apple box bill, also, or undoubtedly they would have taken it into consideration.

Mr. Bateham is of the opinion that a relief would be experienced if the position were modified to the extent of allowing the numerical count in apple boxes not smaller than the standard Raker, or 10x11x18 inches inside measurements. But as it seems to stand at this time, something must start or something else will stop. "The attitude, as taken by the Government on this subject, is wholly unwarranted," said Mr. Bateham. "In all my experience as grower and shipper I have never heard a buyer complain of being deceived as to quantity."

Supplementing the above the Exchange has received advice from a Rogue River affiliation that if absolutely necessary they would mark boxes "42 lbs." However, Conrad Rose of Wenatchee contends that 40 lbs. is more in line and that: "Buyers and dealers understand that this marking will be done to comply with the law, and all fruit is bought and sold by them on its merits, and they know, perhaps better than anyone else, just what the package contains."

The Northwestern Fruit Exchange have agreed with Mr. Rose on the adoption of the 40 lb. standard and have notified all their affiliated exchanges to use same if no relief is forthcoming.

Comparatively few varieties of soy beans are now on the market. Of those for both hay and seed production, the Wilson and Peking are recommended for the full season; for a shorter season, the Ho San and Ebony are well suited. For green manuring or sowing in corn at the last cultivation, the Mammoth Yellow is valuable.

Soil for soy beans should receive as thorough preparation as land for corn. Soy beans do well on a sod. A mixture of 400 pounds of acid phosphate and 100 pounds of muriate of potash applied at the rate of 250 to 300 pounds per acre is recommended.

## Childrens' Savings

ANY CHILD can have a thousand dollars saved up by the day he is twenty-one if his parents or others will loan him a piece of land fifty feet square and if his school and community can furnish him the right kind of instruction, guidance and encouragement in making the most of the land.

This is the declaration of Dr. Hodge, professor of Social Biology in the University of Oregon, who was one of the first men in the United States to work out the school garden system. This he did in Worcester, Mass., where he was the head of a department in Clark University.

All this nature work Dr. Hodge believes should form a portion of the child's education anyway, and the profit of \$50 or so a year to be put out at interest, would be pure gain.

"I have a little girl in Cleveland," says Dr. Hodge, "who made \$250.83 out of a back yard garden patch last year. I am not at all certain that this

is not the record of production for land. Her plot was only 50 by 52 feet. Of course, she had the best land, the best of direction, and the best markets. 'Oh, I enjoy it so much,' she told me when I protested that she might be working too hard with all her school work besides. 'I don't make hard work out of either my school work or my garden.'

"General profits from a garden, of course, can not run anything like this, though sometimes wonderful profits can be made by the discovery of some little special crop to meet a special demand in a location of normal scarcity. A boy or girl might, for instance, pretty nearly control a supply of some such thing as mint, or water cress, in a district where they were not common. Seeds and high bred poultry are other possibilities for a small plot of land.

"This little girl in Cleveland was able to get quality prices. She showed me one strawberry 5 1/2 inches in circumference, weighing three ounces, almost big enough to slice up like a tomato. I am not sure that children are particularly adapted to quality production, but I think that the best educational results are obtained by making the effort in that direction."

## Movies for Farmer

MOVING PICTURES are being used to instruct farmers throughout the United States in progressive methods of agriculture. They are being presented together with explanatory lectures, by officials of the Department of Agriculture. At the same time private lecturers in the employ of motion-picture companies, but working with the approval and co-operation of the department, are talking to farmers north, south, east and west, and with the aid of pictures are also showing them just how to obtain the best results. It is believed that this new method of demonstration will be vastly more effective than the old plan of distributing printed bulletins conveying the same information.

The importance to the country at large of this new work of the Department of Agriculture must appeal to the imagination of everyone. The scope of what the department may be able to accomplish in the way of providing subjects for the moving-picture plan of education is almost unlimited. Not only does the department itself demonstrate by direct appeal to the eye what improvements are possible to agriculturists and stockmen, but it broadens its field by aiding private moving-picture concerns to present its films for the benefit of the public in cities and towns, as well as in rural districts. Educational institutions such as agricultural colleges, universities and public schools are to be provided with films.

At present the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture is using six moving picture films in connection with the lectures of its demonstrators and field workers, who travel from place to place instructing producers in the best and most progressive methods of raising stock and preventing cattle disease. Proper methods of dairying and the shipping of milk and other cattle products are also included in this educational movement.

### HINTS ON BUTTER MAKING.

BEST BRAND of butter can be made on the farm, where the control of all conditions is under one man, and he can understand butter making.

The poorest butter can be made from good cream if the butter maker does not understand the underlying principles of the art.

The causes of foaming are: Sweet cream, churn too full and insufficient agitation.

Hard churning may be caused by foaming, thin cream, or cream too cold, cream from cows far advanced in lactation, and when cows are fed only dry feeds.

Cream should always be strained into the churn so there will not be white curd particles in the butter.

Stop churning when the granules are about the size of wheat.

Wash out the buttermilk instead of trying to work it out.

Mottles are caused by an uneven distribution of salt or the presence of curd. They can be prevented by washing out the buttermilk thoroughly and working the salt in better.

Added butter color does not have any effect upon the mottles.

Work the butter only enough to distribute the salt evenly.

Do not touch the butter with the hands. Use wooden paddles.

Keep churn and butter utensils perfectly clean, using hot water with some good washing powder.

### POTATOES IN POTS.

To secure an early supply of new potatoes next season plant the tubers of any good early variety in pots and start them in the house. Four or five inch pots can be used, filled only about two-thirds full of soil, leaving room for a top dressing of soil to be supplied as the plants grow, after the manner of hilling up potatoes when grown in the garden. One potato is sufficient for each pot.

Time the planting so the plants will be well started in the pots when they are to be transplanted in the garden at the time the tubers are usually planted outdoors.

If there is a well ventilated, cool light place, such as a cold frame or cool greenhouse, in which to grow them potatoes can be raised in pots and full sized tubers developed very much earlier than the first crop from the garden.

Ten inch pots will be sufficiently large. Rub off all the eyes except the strongest for pot culture.

### Right.

Mrs. Mason's colored washerwoman, Martha, was complaining of her husband's health.

"Why, is he sick, Martha?" asked Mrs. Mason.

"He's ve'y po'ly, ma'am, ve'y po'ly," answered the woman. "He's got the exclamatory rheumatism."

"You mean inflammatory, Martha," said the patron. "Exclamatory means to cry out."

"Yes, ma'am," replied Martha, with conviction; "dat's what it is. He hollers all the time."



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