

United States Department of Agriculture Page

Bulletins and Special Articles of Interest to the Northwest, Issued by the Government; Suggestions Covering a Wide Range of Activities; Results of Federal Investigations, Etc.

Feed Cattle Cottonseed Meal

BECAUSE of the abundant supply of cottonseed meal that there is likely to be in this country this year, specialists in the Department believe that the farmer has a better opportunity to make money by feeding beef cattle than for some years past. The feeding value of cottonseed meal has been recognized by agricultural authorities for some time and large quantities of it are exported annually to Europe where the farmers, especially those in Denmark, are also aware of its usefulness. It now seems likely that the price of cottonseed meal will continue to be considerably lower than in recent years and the American farmer should therefore utilize it to advantage to make cheap gains.

Price Low.

Two causes combine to lower the price of cottonseed by-products. In the first place the cotton crop in the South this year is good, and in the next the foreign markets have been seriously interfered with by the European war. It is estimated that this year 15,000,000 bales of cotton will be produced in the United States. This should yield 6,680,000 tons of seed. All of this, of course, will not be crushed, but if last year's proportions hold good again about 2,000,000 tons of cottonseed meal will be available.

Last year approximately 400,000 tons were sent abroad. Under present conditions it is not probable that anything like this quantity will be exported this year, and, as the cotton crop is larger than before, it is safe to assume that the quantity of cottonseed meal on the home market will be 500,000 tons more than last year. This situation has already resulted in a substantial drop in the price of cottonseed by-products. Cottonseed meal can now be bought in the South at prices ranging from \$22 to \$24 per ton instead of \$27 to \$31 demanded last year. An even greater decrease has taken place in the price of cottonseed hulls, which are now selling at from \$4.50 to \$5.50 a ton instead of \$7 to \$9 a ton.

Rich in Protein.

At these prices cottonseed meal is approximately \$15 per ton cheaper than linseed meal, and in addition its feeding value is a trifle higher. It seems obvious, therefore, that the cattle feeder all over the country should utilize cottonseed meal to a far greater extent than he has done in the past.

This meal is very rich in protein, and it is usually considered that its feeding value is at least twice that of corn. In other words, one pound of cottonseed meal is equal to two pounds of corn for feeding cattle. A small portion of cottonseed meal has an even greater relative value where the ration would otherwise be composed entirely of feeds high in carbohydrates, such as corn, corn stover and timothy hay. This is extremely important to cattle feeders throughout the corn belt and other states where much corn is fed. In Indiana for example, it was found that the addition of one pound of cottonseed meal to a ration of corn and clover hay resulted in a saving of 1.37 pounds of corn and 1.41 pounds of clover hay. This means that if corn was worth 70 cents a bushel and clover hay \$15 a ton, each ton of cottonseed meal fed the cattle saved the farmer \$55.40 worth of other feed. With cottonseed meal at \$24 a ton this is a net saving of \$31.40—a saving well worth while.

Apple Clubs for Boys and Girls

NOW IS THE TIME to form apple clubs, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the agricultural colleges of northern and western states is endeavoring to interest the boys and girls of apple-growing sections in the possibilities of apple culture as a profitable and pleasurable occupation. The organizations for the young people on the farm are being planned and begun in the New England States, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. Any young people in these states wishing to find out the details of the new apple-raising clubs should write at once to the state agent in charge of club work at the State College of Agriculture, or the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Organization.

The new clubs will be organized on the same lines as are those for the encouragement of potato, corn and alfalfa growing, gardening and canning and poultry raising. Members must be not under ten nor over eighteen years old. Each of the club members will be allotted not less than ten apple trees, six or more years old, in the same orchard (and all in one row or block if possible) of which he will have the exclusive care for one year. Each club must have at least five members, and these will be under the instruction of a local leader who will receive instructions from the state leader in charge or the county agent. Following these instructions the young member who knows nothing about apple raising will learn to pick, grade, crate and market apples; also to can and label fruit for exhibition and for sale. The instructions will aim to show each of these young people how he may get the maximum results from his ten trees with the minimum expenditure of labor.

As in the other clubs for boys and girls co-operating with the department, practical prizes will be awarded by local fairs and interested people to those who excel, the best prize however will be experience and a net profit on investment to each member.

Club agents are already at work making enrollments for the new apple clubs. During October and November the plats will be selected and assigned to the individual members and the trees will be marked to show to whom they are assigned. As soon as the present apple crop is gathered preparations will begin at once for the next year. Some trees may need fall pruning, cleaning out and mulching. These details will be attended to and the young people may be instructed in the best methods.

During the winter, interest will be kept up through the local club organizations and meetings. The leaders will visit the plats of each of the members to give specific instruction. Early in the spring records will be in order and each club member will be shown how he may keep a simple account of the progress of his row of trees. During the next summer vacation the work will be at its height and the boys and girls who are persevering will not only learn much valuable information, but may make a substantial profit on the time and labor they have invested.

Fall will be the occasion of apple club fairs and festivals. At these events there will be exhibits of all kinds of apples and apple machinery, devices used for handling both fresh and cooked apples, of food products prepared from apples, of canning equipment, crates and barrels. Demonstrations will be given at these festivals of how to pare and core apples, how to can "useless" wind-fall apples, how to make apple jellies, butter and pickles; how to grade, crate and pack apples, etc.

Prizes.

In awarding the prizes for the year many features will be considered; how the trees are pruned, whether they are free from blight and plant lice, how the soil has been worked, the size, color and condition of the fruit and methods of packing will all count in the final reckoning. One of the most important considerations is how much profit the club member has netted from his investment. In the last analysis that is the final test of his success.

It is hoped that the organization of apple clubs will show the younger generation how apple culture may be relieved of much of its drudgery. Both profit and pleasure may be derived from such an organization where properly-directed intelligence and enthusiasm and a systematic study of orchard problems as they arise, will tend to secure the best results.

Cotton Flour Sacks

IN ORDER to increase the demand for cotton, one of the largest flour-milling firms in America has directed its managers and salesmen all over the country to urge its customers to accept deliveries of flour that are shipped in cotton instead of jute sacks. Hitherto jute imported from India has been used extensively for shipments of flour, both to home and foreign markets.

The sacks employed hold 140 pounds each. If the trade can be induced to accept shipments in cotton sacks holding 98 pounds each, there will be a marked increase in the demand for home-grown cotton and the action of the flour-milling firm is regarded as a long step in this direction. Anything that will improve the financial condition of the cotton growers, it is pointed out, will increase the volume of their cash purchases and thus benefit general business conditions. For this reason, it is believed that the trade will not insist on the jute sacks used hitherto.

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