

Oregon Agricultural College is the Friend of the Farmer

Page of News Notes and Interesting Articles Written by College Experts.



Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon, the Sole Aim of Which is to Aid Agriculturists.

PROFIT AND LOSS IN HOGS.

"WITH the exception of chickens, hogs are the most numerous of all farm animals," says Dr. Virgil Knowles, Federal and Agricultural College expert in hog cholera, in discussing this matter before the farmers, "and they are grown for market on more farms than any other stock. Hog raising has probably made more clear money for the corn farmer than has any other industry.

"In Oregon the hog raising industry is just in its infancy. With the large areas in the fertile valleys of the state which are adapted to the growth of clovers and other plants valuable as pasture for hogs, and the various grains on which to finish them, a great many hogs will be grown in the future than are being grown at the present time and the profits should be as great as or greater than profits in the grain belt.

"Unfortunately this industry in common with all other profitable pursuits has its disadvantages and losses. The most important loss factor which we must contend with in regard to profits and losses in the hog raising industry is hog cholera.

"The country is now passing through its third serious epidemic of hog cholera of the last thirty years. The heaviest losses of the first epidemic in 1897 were 130 for every thousand hogs. In the second outbreak the losses were about 140 per thousand. The present epidemic became serious in 1911 and gradually increased until 1913, when the loss reached 107 per thousand. The estimated loss in the United States from this hog cholera epidemic in 1913 was sixty-five million dollars. No other disease produces such a loss of animals, and in view of the high cost of living, such enormous losses are nothing short of a calamity. Since a large share of this loss was borne by Oregon farmers, it is evident that they can well afford to lend their hearty co-operation in the campaign to end hog cholera in this state."

SCORING EXHIBITS FOR OREGON DAIRY PRODUCTS

SCORING exhibits of Oregon butter and cheese will be conducted by the Agricultural College Dairy Department for a period of twelve months, beginning November, 1914. Every creamery man who wishes to learn the good and the bad points of his butter and cheese is invited to arrange with the department to have his product entered and scored in this exhibit. A number of application cards have been sent out, but should any man interested fail to receive his card he should write to the Dairy department for another.

Entries for the butter exhibit shall consist of a 20-pound cubical package, and for the cheese exhibit of a 20 to 25-pound cheese not less than 12 inches in diameter. Entrymen are to prepay express charges on all entries. After being scored the product will be sold on the market and the net proceeds sent to the exhibitor.

All samples received will be scored by at least two judges after all identification marks have been removed and entered into the records. The judges will score independently and the original sheets will be set the exhibitors, carbon copies being retained by the department. No prizes are offered, but

each exhibitor complying with the terms of the exhibit and securing an average score of 87 per cent or more will receive a dairy award containing his record of each entry embossed in attractive designs on parchment paper. The value allowed for the different points are for flavor 45, for body 25, for color 15, for salt 10, and for package 5.

Awards will be divided into three classes, A, B, and C. Grade A will be granted all exhibitors reaching an average of not less than 93, provided they send entries on every call. Grade B will be given for averages of 90 per cent or more, and grade C for average of 87 per cent or more. While the rules require monthly entries, exceptions will be made in favor of exhibitors whose factories do not run continuously throughout the year, providing they make entries during each month of factory operation until 12 samples have been entered.

PLACE OF DOMESTIC ART IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL

THE materials and the work of domestic arts in the schools are connected directly with the materials and work in the home. Hence the domestic arts course not only contributes to the aims of universal education, but likewise to the arts and science of home making. Throughout the entire course, as planned for the public schools of Oregon by Mrs. Brooks, professor of domestic arts at the Agricultural College, the work is carried along two lines that supplement each other—subject matter and problems of construction. Since the principles of art and design are constantly used in working out the problems, the aesthetic nature of the children, along with their practical and intellectual endowments, is undergoing steady and natural development.

All work in this course is determined and guided by an underlying principle or idea. The purpose of the technique of sewing, garment making, care and furnishing of girls' rooms, house planning and furnishing, study of textiles, use of money, and other problems involved in efficient house-keeping, is to impart to pupils ideas and ideals, standards and guiding principals, experience and methods, as permanent assets in their lives.

"Hand work is not to be introduced as a unity of itself," says Mrs. Brooks, "but in close relation to the other work of the grade. Thus employed it vitalizes the entire course, and brings the child directly into contact with the world, where she may realize the relation of all the work of the school to all the work of her life. In thus understanding her relation to society she becomes a better citizen as a producer, a consumer, and a homemaker in her community."

SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT FOR CABBAGE MAGGOT

CRUDE carbolic acid emulsion is an economical and effective treatment for the cabbage maggot. A stock solution of the emulsion is made of one pint of crude carbolic acid, one pound of soap—preferably whale-oil—and one gallon of water. It is prepared by Professor A. L. Lovett, field insect specialist at the Agricultural College, as follows:

The soap is dissolved in the water at the boiling temperature. This mixture is then lifted from the fire and the acid is poured slowly into it, the solution being beaten mean-

while with a spoon or paddy to emulsify it. When thoroughly emulsified the solution is poured into a jug or large bottle, which is tightly corked. A vessel somewhat larger than a gallon measure is best, so that the emulsion can be well shaken whenever any of it is to be drawn off for dilution and use.

In this stock solution the ingredients are still highly concentrated and the emulsion must be well diluted before being applied to the plants. One part of the emulsion to 40 or 50 parts of water is about the right proportions. It is applied by drawing the earth slightly away from the plants to be treated, thrusting them over to one side, and pouring enough around the stem of each plant to wet it down as far as the insects have traveled. This can be determined by pulling up and examining a few plants after treatment.

The cabbage maggot is said by Professor Lovett to be the most serious pest that attacks the cabbage and radish in Oregon, and it does vast damage to kale, rape, cauliflower, turnip, and mustard. Several other control measures are explained in the College bulletin, "Insect Pests of Truck and Garden Crops, copies of which may be had by applying to the Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis.

FARM USES OF AUTOS.

USE of automobiles on the farm is becoming much wider than was at one time thought possible. By means of a removable or convertible rear seat the capacity of the car is increased so that it holds considerable quantities of perishable farm produce for the city market or emergency supplies for the farm. Perishable fruits and vegetables can be put on the market much earlier in the day by the use of a good convertible farm auto, and they will be in much better condition. In case farm machinery breaks down and several men are temporarily put out of employment, the repairs can be rushed in by means of telephone and automobile. Some farmers are also using their automobiles to run the silo-filling machinery, and according to Professor W. A. Barr, Federal and O. A. C. field dairyman, are doing it successfully. The rear wheels are jacked up and the driving belt is run on one of them. Of course depreciation on machines thus used is greater than on those used merely for riding about in, but on the other hand interest and upkeep charges are much less on one machine than two or three. The advisability of thus using farm autos depends upon many factors, and must be determined by each farmer according to these factors.

OFFICIAL TESTS ADD VALUE.

OFFICIAL tests are now thought to be almost essential to profitable business in breeding pure-bred dairy cattle. The man that buys breeding stock today demands production back of it, and this production can be guaranteed in no other way. That these buyers are willing to pay for a record of high production in their dairy stock is shown by reports of sales recently collected by Professor Graves, head of the O. A. C. Dairy department, as follows: The average price of 171 non-record cows at auction was \$288, and the average price of record cows of practically the same breeding was \$465; and the average price of 184 heifers with non-record dams was \$209, and the average price of 133 heifers of the same breeding with record dams was \$341. This shows conclusively the great increase of value added to dairy stock by the official tests. The practice is gaining in Oregon but no more than a small proportion of Oregon pure-bred cattle breeders have taken it up.

STOCK FOR CENTRAL OREGON.

BY KEEPING some kinds of livestock and marketing their crops through them instead of hauling their farms to the grain elevators and hay warehouses, settlers of Central Oregon will find farming more profitable and at the same time build up their farms for still more profitable farming in the future. Dairying is still in its infancy, but with creameries at Prineville, Redmond and Bend, it will shortly become an industry of great importance according to R. E. Reynolds, extension livestock man of the Agricultural College, who has been working in that territory. Dairying should prove profitable on alfalfa farm since the hay that now brings but \$10 or \$12 per ton should bring twice as much marketed through the dairy cow. It should prove profitable also in those regions that have shallow soils with outcropping rocks, since field-crop agriculture can never be practiced successfully there. It is believed that the development of this section will be greatly stimulated by the introduction of livestock and dairying industries, and that the vast expanses of sagebrush and juniper country will give way to a country dotted with prosperous homes.

MORE COUNTY AGENTS.

A NUMBER of counties are now considering taking steps to secure the services of county agricultural agents. The salaries of these efficiency farm experts in Oregon are borne jointly by the Agricultural College and the county in which the county agent is employed.

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