

The Agricultural College Is a Friend to the Farmer

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



VIEW OF OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AT CORVALLIS, OR. ITS SOLE AIM IS TO AID AGRICULTURISTS.

Cheap Apple Packages for Low-Grade Fruit

THAT a good deal of low grade fruit ordinarily permitted to go to waste in Oregon might profitably be sent in larger and cheaper packages through the canal to Eastern markets, suggests itself to Professor C. I. Lewis as a possibility worth investigating. He is not ready to say that the success of the plan is assured, since experimental data is wholly lacking. He does believe, however, that it offers a possibility that in this way third and fourth-grade apples may be made to bear a portion of the production cost of the crop, leaving the best grades a better chance to return a profit after paying the remainder of the cost.

"The greatest care should be taken," said he, "to guard against the inferior fruit competing with the box products. Since ordinarily the low-grade fruit trade would appeal to an entirely different trade, it should not be difficult to avert this competition. The cheaper fruit would find its market among the thousands of the poorer classes found in every large city, who never eat fresh fruit at all now. The fruit market would be greatly extended by thus supplying fruit to the non-users, while those who eat fruit as a luxury would hardly be tempted to buy the third and fourth grades.

"Eastern growers who formerly used the barrel package exclusively have now adopted the box for their best grades, while retaining the barrel for the low grades. They put their box products into competition with ours, while we have nothing to put into competition with their barrel fruit. In this competition our great handicap is heavier transportation charges, which would be almost entirely wiped out by all-water-route shipments. Since our barrel packs here would cost considerably less than their cost there, while the carrying charges would be but little greater, it would seem that we might enter the market with our cheaper fruit practically on even terms with theirs."

Frozen Kale Should Be Thawed.

"Frozen kale causes considerable bloating of livestock," said Professor G. R. Hyslop, of the O. A. C. agronomy department, "and should be thawed out before being fed. Kale has suffered considerably this winter from cold weather with practically no covering of snow and any of it that is harvested while frozen should be hauled into a warm barn and spread out, where it will thaw out in a few hours and be ready for feeding.

"Fortunate indeed is the farmer or stockman who, at this season of the year, has a good supply of some stored succulent crop, such as mangels, rutabagas, other roots or silage. The feeds are palatable, warm, easily secured and prepared for feeding and at this season of the year may be used somewhat more advantageously than kale.

"Of course it is very easy to get the kale and haul it to the livestock while the ground is frozen, but in addition to the necessity of thawing it out, there is considerable loss of leaves cut when they are so crisp and brittle."

A special committee of the Florida Citrus Exchange is considering the marketing of vegetables also the coming season.

Beginning this week a page of interesting items from the Oregon Agricultural College at Corvallis will alternate with a page of news notes from the Washington State College at Pullman. This will afford an interchange of views from the two big agricultural colleges of the Northwest that should prove of benefit to the reader, for the institutions deal with similar problems.

Co-ordinating Courses in Agricultural Lines

COURSES in various lines of farming have been so arranged for the O. A. C. short course that farmers can get the main kernels of them much more conveniently than heretofore. Aside from the fact that in a number of the courses certain principal lines will be emphasized during a single week, the courses in general have been more closely co-ordinated, so that while taking major work in his chosen specialty a student will have ample opportunity to take desired supplementary work in other lines.

This may be understood by considering the arrangement for the work in farm livestock. During the first week, January 4 to 9, emphasis will be placed on swine production—breeding, feeding and managing swine. In the second week of the course horse-raising will receive the principal attention, while sheep and beef cattle will be considered during the third and fourth weeks, respectively. Like arrangements are worked out as far as possible for all the other lines of work. In this way farmers who cannot attend for the full four weeks may get the greatest amount of good possible out of shorter attendance.

But more than this, students who take the animal husbandry work may take supplementary work in the production of farm crops, study of soils, veterinary lectures or farm management.

Farmers who want two weeks of either dairy production or dairy manufacture, or both, may take the former during the first two weeks and the latter during the last two weeks of the course. Milk testing, about which so much is being said, will be an important feature of production work, and buttermaking will be emphasized in dairy manufacture. Students of these courses may also take the work in crops, soils, stock-judging and stock diseases, including two lectures by Dr. Lytle, State Veterinarian.

New Way of Learning.

Resident study and study by correspondence courses are two generally accepted methods of learning stenography, but the combined method, now being offered by the Oregon Agricultural College school of commerce, is something new. It also promises to be as practical as it is new, since it makes a special appeal to the young men and women who have left school and are not able to take full college courses, but who can find the time and means to attend a college short course for a month, and then continue their study at home. In this way enough resident work can be done by the student to understand the purpose and scope of the work, to get into the spirit of it, and to learn the details of procedure. He can then return home with these many advantages and enter upon the work by correspondence with a splendid chance of success. The courses thus taught are of the most practical nature and everything learned in them can be put into immediate use.

First Aid to the Injured.

Demonstration of the very latest and best methods of rendering first aid to the injured on farms and in sections remote from professional attendance, will be another attractive and valuable feature of the O. A. C. short course. The demonstrations will include treatment of various wounds likely to be received in rural employments, methods of stanching the flow of blood, relieving vertigo and nervous prostration, and handling easily constructed litters for removing the injured persons to more comfortable quarters. These emergency measures will not only be demonstrated as applied to the more common forms of injury, but others of a more general type will be shown by lantern slides loaned by the Federal department, if they can be brought here in time.

Young Poultryman Makes Profit From Thrifty Hens

TWENTY-SIX dollars and twenty-six cents clear profit from the egg production of 30 Barred Plymouth Rock hens covering a period of 198 days, is the report of Paul Jaeger, a Clackamas County boy, who took part in the Industrial Club Poultry Contest last year. That he was thoroughly interested in his work is shown both by the success he achieved in it and by the splendid report that he wrote describing the details of his project. The following details are condensed from his report to the state agent:

Receipts from March 16 to April 1, \$5.58; expenditures, \$1.37; profit, \$2.21.

Receipts from April 1 to May 1, \$9.57; expenditures, \$2.61; profit, \$6.96.

Receipts from May 1 to June 1, \$10.25; expenditures, \$1.29; profit, \$8.96.

Receipts from June 1 to July 1, \$6.75; expenditures, \$2.38; profit, \$4.37.

Receipts from July 1 to August 1, \$4.42; expenditures, \$1.96; profit, \$2.46.

Receipts from August 1 to September 1, \$3.21; expenditures, \$1.74; profit, \$1.50.

Total receipts \$37.58
Total expense 11.32

Profit \$26.26
The feed consisted of wheat, oats, bran and oyster shells, plus all the green feed the flock could consume. The cost of food per fowl during the contest was 37 11-15 cents. The report makes no mention of table scraps or other food materials that were evidently used in the rations. The average monthly egg production of the flock was 326 3-5 eggs. The eggs were marketed at Wilsonville, Oregon.

Feeding Skim Milk Calves.

Most troubles from feeding skim milk to calves comes from overfeeding, according to the O. A. C. dairy department, and this can hardly be avoided unless the calves are fed separately and each one's portion weighed or measured. The calves should first be fed whole milk for three or four weeks. Then one pint (pound) of whole milk is left out and a pint of skim milk added. The next day two pints are thus exchanged, and so on until the whole milk has been entirely replaced by the skim milk. The skim milk rations should consist of 10 pounds of milk to the first 100 pounds of live weight, with 5 pounds of milk added to the first additional 100 pounds of live weight and 3 pounds for the next additional 100. A calf weighing 80 pounds should be fed 8 pounds of skim milk, one weighing 150 pounds should be fed 12 1/2 pounds, and one weighing 300 pounds should be fed 18 pounds of milk. Any wide variation from this is likely to bring serious trouble.

National Leaders to Speak.

The highest authorities in the United States in six of the most vital rural problems of the day have been assigned by the Department of Agriculture to be present at the O. A. C. Farmers' and Conference Week and make addresses for the benefit of the special students in attendance. If these lectures by Federal experts were the only valuable features of the week's exercises, they would be sufficient to justify a long journey to hear. Taken in connection with the other strong features of the week no farmer who can afford to attend can afford to miss hearing them. The speakers and their subjects are as follows: Charles E. Bassett, "Co-operative Organizations"; C. B. Smith, "Farm Management"; Dr. J. W. T. Duval, "Grain Standardization"; O. H. Benson, "Demonstration Club Work"; U. G. Houck, "Veterinary Inspector," and D. W. Working, "Farm Demonstration." The date is February 1 to 7.

Beef Production Calls for Use of Cheap Feeds

"A BEEF steer requires as much food as a dairy cow, and to stable and feed him in the same way is an economic impossibility, although the finest possible beef might be produced in this manner. The problem of producing better cattle is secondary to that of producing cheaper beef so as to leave a profit for man that feeds the cattle. With dairy cattle and hogs the best feeding is nearly always the cheapest, and the feeder that gets the best gains usually finds that economy is also served. But with beef cattle, which require so much more feed for what they produce than any other kind of farm livestock, the case is entirely different." This is the reply of Professor E. L. Potter, head of the O. A. C. animal husbandry department, to the suggestion of theorists who think that farmers should raise beef cattle on heavy rations of grain, silage, soiling crops and hay in the same manner that they do dairy cattle. He further says that if beef cattle did not consume largely cheap feed that has little other value and at the same time require but little care and labor, beef would be very much higher than it is.

"It is often stated that a dairy cow will produce in one day products worth two or three times as much as is produced by a steer on the same feed. This being the case, we certainly must have cheaper feed than that used for dairy cattle, otherwise beef production would be an impossibility. The basis of profitable beef production is cheap grass and when we realize that three-fourths of the State of Oregon is grazing land and that half of the state is yet Government land we see that Oregon can produce and does produce thousands of beef cattle on grass at a mere fraction of what it would cost to shut them up in a barn and feed them like dairy cattle."

Carbohydrates in Dairy Ration.

That more grain feeds supplying carbohydrates should enter into the rations of the Willamette Valley dairy cow, is the belief of Professor R. R. Graves, head of the O. A. C. dairy department.

"A complete winter ration contains roughage such as hay, succulent feeds and a grain mixture," says Professor Graves.

"Roughage is most satisfactorily supplied by feeding either oat and vetch hay or clover hay in the largest amounts that the cows will clean up well.

"A good succulent feed is composed of corn silage and kale, fed at the rate of 10 to 15 pounds of silage and 20 to 30 pounds of kale per day.

"The grain mixture may consist of rolled oats and rolled barley, equal parts by weight. The grain should be fed at the rate of one pound of the mixture to every three and a half pounds of milk per day produced by Jerseys, and one pound of the mixture to each four or four and a half pounds of milk produced by Ayrshires, Holsteins or Short Horns."

Albania Farming.

Leaving out of consideration the mountain pastures, whose area is difficult to estimate, the area of the land available for agriculture in Albania is between 500,000 and 600,000 acres. The greatest landowner is the state, and the large estates of which it disposes are partly absolute state property and partly "mewkuf" and "vacuf"—i. e., ecclesiastical property. The large private estates are in the hands of about five great families, each of which possesses from 100,000 to 150,000 acres of land. Medium-sized estates of about 500 to 1000 acres in extent are fairly common all over the country, while peasants' farm of about 25 acres are rare in the plains, but prevalent in the mountains.