

The Agricultural College Is a Valuable 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.

Farm Gardens Are Both Valuable and Necessary

THAT farmers the state over are realizing more and more the value and necessity of a farm vegetable garden, was stated recently by Professor A. G. Bouquet, section of Vegetable Gardening, Oregon Agricultural College, in a talk to the Corvallis Grange.

"Vegetables form a very important part of the diet of a healthy person and many farm tables are poorly supplied with them or have but a meager variety. Personally I think the farm vegetable garden is a reasonable and legitimate part of farm work. In actual value it exceeds by three to five times the value of the average farm crop. Unfortunately, however, the real value of produce grown on the place is seldom considered by our farmers. It would be, however, if they were to live in the city for a few weeks and have to purchase all the green stuff they consume.

"The farm vegetable garden should be carefully planned and properly planted. No haphazard 'throw-the-seed-in-the-ground' methods will suffice. The garden should be regularly attended to the same as other parts of the farm work."

A recent boys' and girls' industrial club bulletin written by Professor Bouquet gives suggestive plans, varieties of vegetables to plant, and dates and methods of proceeding. Although this bulletin was written for boys and girls, it can be profitably read by older persons.

Swine Management.

Bulletin No. 191 on Swine Management has just been issued by the Extension Division of the Oregon Agricultural College. This is a popular bulletin, written by G. R. Samson of the animal husbandry department, dealing with the different phases of the swine industry, particularly with reference to Oregon conditions.

Among the subjects considered are locality, the farm, the man, houses and necessary equipment, miscellaneous equipment, number of pigs for the farm, adaptability of pigs to different types of farming, market considerations, points for selecting farm swine, care and management of brood sows, calculating rations, feeding the growing pig and feeding for market, methods of feeding, and a short treatment of raising pure-bred swine.

The bulletin contains 43 pages and includes several drawings of useful equipment for the swine raiser. Experimental work is not reviewed nor mentioned in this bulletin except insofar as results may be applied by the treatment of the subject matter in hand.

The records of experimental feeding work conducted by the station in recent years will appear in a bulletin soon to be issued but not yet out of the printer's hands.

Bulletin No. 191 may be had by those interested by writing the Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon.

Poland China Hogs.

For early maturity or ability to produce a finished fat carcass at an early age, no breed exceeds the Poland China, thinks R. E. Reynolds, livestock extension specialist of Oregon Agricultural College. Having been originated in a corn state, Ohio, and developed on corn feeds, it will probably stand heavy corn feeding better than most other breeds and is a general favorite with the corn belt farmer.

It is a typical American breed. In size it generally ranks as medium, hardly averaging up to the Berkshires, although there is little difference. The earlier types were freely marked with white, but black is the fashionable color today with white on face, feet and tip of tail.

A limited number of small white markings on other parts are not seriously objected to. Many breeders have gone to extremes in the matter of selecting for fineness of bone with the result that in many cases they have evolved a hog that lacks somewhat in size and fecundity.

This matter is receiving the attention of many thoughtful breeders with the result that the over-fine type is falling into disfavor with the general farmer.

Holding Cream Too Long Is Cause of Poor Butter

"I AM fully convinced that the practice of holding the cream in order to reduce hauling expenses contributes more toward the production of second-class butter than any other factor," was the emphatic statement of J. D. Mickle, Oregon Dairy and Food Commissioner, when speaking before the State Dairy Association during the O. A. C. Farmers' Week.

"This is a most serious question for every dairyman in Oregon and I regret the fact that those who never attend dairy meetings or dairy conventions are usually the ones who need to give the subject the greatest amount of attention.

"But the fault does not lie entirely with the dairymen, for the scarcity of Oregon dairy produce together with the expense of added freight or express charges to imported products had a strong tendency to foster some of the bad methods of Oregon dairy and creamery men.

"Good butter cannot be made from poor cream and poor butter should have no place as a product of this state. But as long as our creameries will accept an inferior cream upon the same basis as a good cream and through skillful methods of manufacture attempt to overcome the bad work of the dairymen and pass on to the consumer an article of short life, just so long will poor butter be offered for sale. On the other hand make a monetary distinction in the grades of cream and just watch the producers work to get into the first class."

Catching Pocket Gophers.

G. F. Sykes, professor of Zoology, Oregon Agricultural College, contributes the following interesting and very timely information concerning the western pocket gopher which is a common pest throughout the western and southern parts of the state:

The gopher is a subterranean animal and spends almost its entire life burrowing about under the ground rooting up lawns and fields and feeding on roots of grass, grains and vegetables. It has a particularly pernicious habit of gnawing off young fruit trees from six to 10 inches under the surface of the ground.

Not only is the pocket gopher a cave dweller, but he dwells alone with the exception of a few days during the Spring season when he leaves his burrow under cover of the darkness and makes a still hunt for a mate whom he deserts almost as soon as the nuptial season is over.

This habit offers advantages for applying control measures which the farmer cannot afford to overlook. Now is the time to trap. The usual efforts to combat by poisoning should not be discontinued, but trapping should by all means be done at this time.

Our Answer.

We have had so many communications and inquiries relative to the European War that we are going to break our long silence at last and remark:

"A soldier of the Legion,
Lay dying at Prezemysl,
He remarked that Sherman told the truth,
When he said 'that war was Hunsel.'
'It was a glorious cause,' he said,
'In which I fought and fmsel.'
'But what we have been fighting for,
'God knows I cannot tmsel.'
'The Germans and the French,
Have been fighting on the Aisne.
They fight a week without a rest,
And then they fight againe,
They stop not for the thunder,
The lightning or the raisne,
But what the fight is all about,
Will someone please explainse?'"

Too Much Roughage May Be Dangerous for Cows

"DON'T make the mistake of overworking the cow by asking her to handle too much roughage," was the suggestion of Mr. Ira P. Whitney when describing to the Jersey Breeders' Association the system of feeding at the famous Waikiki farm near Spokane, Wash.

"There is a limit to her storage capacity. Give her as much roughage as she can manage readily, then supply the balance of her ration in the form of concentrates.

"To the dairyman who is growing wheat, oats and barley, and I believe nearly every dairyman in this valley should be doing so, I would suggest that you market them through the dairy cow. If she can't handle them for you at a profit, sell her.

"Don't act too quickly on my advice at the present time, for I realize that grains of all kinds have soared out of sight, but this condition will not last always, and with normal prices for grain the dairy cow should be able to handle them at a profit for you.

"Bran and shorts are good but the demand is forcing the prices up and the quality down, and I would prefer to grind the grains as they are produced on the farm.

"Linseed oil meal, soybean meal and other feeds rich in protein can be used to advantage, especially with heavy producers, but if used to excess they will do a great deal more harm than good. Peas grown and threshed with oats is an excellent source of protein when well ground, and no dairyman is justified in buying feed when he can produce it at less cost at home."

Peas and Oats.

Farmers who have failed to sow a sufficient amount of vetch and oats last Fall so they are short of green feed and forage pasture, cow hay, or Summer silage, will find field peas and oats one of the best crops for Spring sowing for these purposes.

Peas are an excellent substitute for vetch and oats, which as a rule, do not do well when sown in the Spring. For best results field peas must be seeded just as early as possible, preferably in fact before the 15th of March. They should be drilled in at the rate of two to 2 1-2 bushels per acre, three or four inches deep, followed about ten days later with one and one-half bushels of oats drilled over the peas cross-wise to a depth of about one and one-half inches.

Apply Land Plaster Now.

March is the time to broadcast land plaster over the clover, vetch and alfalfa crops at the rate of from 40 to 60 pounds per acre, the lower rate where the crop is to be grown for seed. Land plaster does not correct soil acidity. Neither is it a fertilizer. It is a stimulant and hence should be used only on the legumes and on soils which have a good content of potassium and phosphorous.

A page of interesting items from the Oregon Agricultural College at Corvallis will alternate in the farm weekly 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.

Recent Experiment With Alfalfa Molasses Meal

PROFESSOR R. R. Graves, of the Department of Dairy Husbandry, Oregon Agricultural College, reports the results of an interesting experiment made to determine the relative economy and efficiency in milk production by replacing the grain ration with alfalfa molasses meal.

Two lots of cows were selected, each lot containing four animals, all being as nearly equal as possible in age and period of lactation. The cows in both groups were fed a balanced ration consisting of practically all of the alfalfa hay they would eat, 30 pounds of corn silage, and one pound of grain equivalent to each four pounds of milk produced daily.

One lot of cows were used as a check. For the other lot during the second ten-day period, one-third of the digestible nutrients of the grain ration were replaced by an amount of alfalfa molasses meal sufficient to give the same amount pound for pound of digestible nutrients.

The third ten days the substitution was one-half. The fourth period the grain was entirely dispensed with. The conclusions reached as a result of the experiment were briefly as follows:

First, that alfalfa molasses meal can probably be used economically to substitute one-half the digestible nutrients in the grain mixture when its cost is not more than 80 per cent of the grain.

Second, it may be used as a substitute to the extent of replacing one-half the grain ration in a proportion of five parts meal to four parts grain or nutritive value pound for pound without affecting the milk flow.

Third, when more than one-half is replaced the milk flow is checked.

Fourth, when more than one-half is replaced under the combination used in this experiment some cows fail to relish the ration.

Sudan grass is worth to the farmer of Texas for 1915 not less than \$1,000,000 while it was only introduced into the United States five years ago.



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