

Will Ask Governor To "Swat Rooster"

Kansas Executive Requested to Demand Doom of Chanticleer on June 6.

THE rooster is to have his day. It is to be a sad day—for the rooster—it will be the making of the egg business, say the produce dealers, in session at the Hotel Baltimore in Kansas City, last week.

So the dealers are going to petition Gov. Major of Kansas to issue a proclamation designating June 6 as "rooster day."

The purpose is to make an annual event in Missouri poultrydom. June 6 is to be to chanticleer what Thanksgiving is to the turkey—a kind of execution day, a black Friday.

On that day produce commission men all over the state are going to advertise a premium on all roosters delivered to them June 6. This is to make it an object to the farmers to sell off the cocks of the walk.

If the general market price of roosters is 12 cents that day, there will be a premium of 4 cents a pound, mak-

ing the price 16 cents. All male birds are to be sold off then, except those intended for breeding purposes, according to the plan.

Then only non-fertile eggs will be sold throughout the summer.

And non-fertile eggs do not become stale. They do not rot. After being kept in a warm room three summer months yolk and white are greatly diminished in bulk. Evaporation causes it. The eggs are dried up; but the contents—what is left—are sweet and wholesome.

Thomas E. Quisenberry says if the farmers will dispose of their surplus roosters, and pen up the others during the laying season, it will mean a saving to Missouri farmers of \$3,000,000 annually. And Mr. Quisenberry knows, because he's director of the Missouri state poultry station at Mountain Grove.

Disking Alfalfa Is Aid To Crop

PRACTICAL experience has shown that disking alfalfa under certain conditions is beneficial to the crop, yet many farmers will not cultivate their alfalfa plants in any way for fear of killing them.

As with other crops, the cultivation of alfalfa must be done with judgment. The main object in cultivating alfalfa plants, which usually consists in disking, is to kill summer grasses. The individual farmer must know when his particular field must be disked. A writer in a certain section will state that, say, July 1 is the proper time. A man in another section, and climate will disk his field at that time and meet with poor success. Here is where judgment counts. Conditions are not the same everywhere.

The time to disk alfalfa is just before or at the time summer annual grasses begin to grow. This time may be in July in one section and June in another section. It may be after the first cutting, or after the second cutting. Each man must know when summer grasses begin to grow in his locality, and set his disk to working accordingly.

There is no danger whatever to well-established alfalfa plants in disking. The plants are deep rooted and will not be pulled out if they are not cut off. Splitting the crowns will do no damage. Some of the best alfalfa growers give their alfalfa fields a severe disking and cross-disking every year. Some claim that it is impossible to injure the plants, no matter how the implement is set or run. The disk cuts up the surface and kills grass without injuring the alfalfa plants. Another object in summer disking is to loosen the surface to admit air, and create a surface mulch for holding moisture. Harrowing after disking in dry weather is an advantage.

Labor In Summer Tillage Pays

PHIL HELD, a successful Logan County, Colo., upland farmer, says "One of the mistaken ideas about summer tillage is that it is connected with a large amount of extra labor. Of course, the field while under summer tillage requires careful cultivation and in exceptional seasons almost constant watching and tending. But for the next three years after summer tillage the ground is in such condition that scarcely any labor is needed.

No plowing is done at any time until plowing for the next summer tillage. After the fall wheat is harvested the field should be disked as soon as possible for two reasons: First, to make the top mellow so that it will receive the precipitation—rain and snow—during the winter. Second, to prevent evaporation. In the spring the ground is again disked, when corn or some other crop in rows is planted. It requires no great amount of cultivation to keep the corn free from weeds. Perhaps no more than two cultivations will be necessary unless some extra work is done for conservation purposes. After the crops in rows the ground need not be gone over till the next spring, when it is again pulverized and put into spring grains."

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Food Must Be Well Masticated.

The first process of digestion is performed in the admixture of the food substance with a fluid during mastication. This first step in the conversion of food into flesh and blood is a most important one, and the pleasures attending the sense of taste are doubtless given to insure a proper performance of this initiatory process of a transformation.

If food is not well masticated the stomach cannot successfully perform the second stage of digestion, and the disastrous effects of mal-assimilation will soon be apparent, affecting in some degree the whole body.

Many dyspeptics and persons suffering from nervous conditions are really victims of mal-nutrition, due to careless habits of mastication or the inability to properly prepare this food for reception by the stomach.—Dr. Jones, Dentist, 245½ Washington St., Portland.

A writer in the Technical World Magazine figures that there are five hundred million rats in the United States, and that each one, each day, eats or destroys, two cents' worth of property—three billion six hundred million dollars' worth a year! That is about forty dollars for each inhabitant. If this loss were saved by the extermination of the rats, it would help much to lower the cost of living. Indiana is starting a crusade against the pests that should soon become nation-wide.

The dry lands of the West never sour, and there are many others things they seldom do.

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Brome Grass in Semi-Arid Regions

BROME grass, botanically known as *Bromus Intermis*, is a native of Europe. It was introduced into this country from Russia at a comparatively recent date. It is variously known as Russian brome, smooth brome grass, and awless brome grass. Brome grass is of such recent introduction into this country that its value is not yet well understood. It has proven to be one of the best pasture grasses for the great plains region and the Northwest. It thrives best in the north and will be successful in the semi-arid region wherever grains will grow under irrigation or dry farming methods. It is a good grass for the dry farmer, as its numerous deep roots enable it to withstand drought better than any of our other cultivated grasses, which explains its great popularity in the great plains region.

About the first place in this country to import seed from Russia, was the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. A quantity of seed was received then and a five-acre field planted. The result was that \$2,000 worth of seed was sold from this small field the second year.

The plant is not as good for hay as for pasture. It makes a very thick sod, as it spreads by means of root stocks, so

gets thicker on the ground for several years after planting. It is not injured by the tramping of stock. Permanent brome grass meadows and pastures will become sod-bound after a few years, but this can be remedied by thorough disking every year or two.

The method of seeding brome grass is not different from that of seeding timothy or other grasses. It does better in loam or clay soils than on those of sandy nature. Spring seeding is most commonly practiced, sowing either broadcast or drilling it in. It should be shown as early as possible in the spring to insure plenty of moisture to start it. If conditions are favorable, it may be sown in the fall with winter wheat. The rate of seeding is from 15 to 20 pounds per acre when sown alone, or if sown in mixture 6 to 10 pounds per acre will be sufficient.

The brome is a very palatable grass and is eaten by stock as readily as blue grass. Growth starts very early in the spring and it remains green longer than any of the other grasses in the fall.

Brome grass has also been found of value in improving wornout lands, since it produces a large quantity of stems and roots and adds materially to the vegetable matter in the soil.

Breed Dairy Cows Once Each Year

THERE exist two dangers of allowing a milk cow to remain open for an indefinite period, writes a correspondent of the Rural New Yorker. In the first place she is less apt to conceive when mated, and in the second place she is apt to go dry for a long period after the mating is finally made in case she does settle. It is customary in large dairies, where the calves are not an important item of value, to permit the cows to freshen once in 15 or 16 months.

Ordinarily, however, for dairy farm practices it is much more desirable to mate them so that they will freshen once each year. This practice stimulates the milk flow, and unless a cow is particularly a good milker she is less apt to give as much milk if irregularly bred and not permitted to freshen at frequent intervals. The animal will keep in good condition physically if not bred. In fact, she is very apt to put on an excessive amount of flesh, and this is one of the reasons why she is less apt to conceive when mated.

Instances are frequent where cows have been used for family purposes and not bred for intervals of two years or more, but it is the exception rather than the rule to have such animals give milk enough to pay adequately for the care involved in their maintenance. If desired to carry a cow over from spring freshening to fall freshening or if necessary to avoid calving during fly time the practice is justified.

Turpentine Often Is Adulterated

AS the result of an investigation by the United States Department of Agriculture, it has been found that the adulteration of turpentine with mineral oils is so widespread that druggists and manufacturers of pharmaceutical products and grocers' sundries used for medicinal and veterinary purposes should exercise special caution in purchasing turpentine. Those who use turpentine for this purpose, unless they are careful, run the risk of obtaining an adulterated article and unnecessarily laying themselves open to prosecution under the Food and Drugs act.

It has been found, moreover, that the turpentine sold to the country stores especially, as usually put out by dealers and manufacturers of grocers' sundries, is often short in volume by as much as 5 or 10 per cent. Dealers, therefore, should also protect themselves through a guarantee from the wholesaler that the bottle contains the full declared volume.

The department has found that turpentine may be adulterated in the South where it is made and that the further it gets from the South the more extensively and heavily it is adulterated.

In all cases, druggists, manufacturers and wholesale grocers should satisfy themselves that the turpentine is free from adulteration and is true to marked volume.

Sowing cane in gullies and allowing it to reseed itself will, it is said, in a few years stop them and fill them.