

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PRESS SERVICE

Every lot or field in which hogs are kept should be supplied with running water, or a system should be installed whereby water is available whenever they want it. Many hogs get their supply from a dirty trough filled once or twice a day. This is inadequate and insanitary.

The greatest source of bacterial contamination of milk in both summer and winter is improperly washed and sterilized utensils. The dairyman who is desirous of producing clean milk, or milk with a

low bacterial count, should see that all equipment with which milk comes in contact is washed with clean water and washing powder (not soap), rinsed with clean water, and then scalded with boiling water or steamed.

Cows normally lose flesh for three or four weeks after calving because they can not consume sufficient feed to provide adequately for both the milk flow and maintenance of body weight. It is important that the cow carry considerable flesh at time of calving to prevent undue thinness afterwards. Cows in good condition at birth of calf will start off the lactation period at a higher level of production than thin cows. This results in a larger yield of milk for the year. There is no economy in having a cow thin at calving time.

Practically every farm pest has its bird enemies. For example, one serious agricultural pest freely eaten by birds is the wheat aphid, or green bug. On a 200-acre farm in North Carolina, where wheat, rye, and oats were severely attacked by green bugs, it was found that birds were very effective in destroying the pests. The

outbreak was at its height during the migration season of such birds as the goldfinch and the vesper and the chipping sparrows, which with other species on the farm numbered more than 3,000 individuals. It is estimated that these birds were destroying green bugs at a rate of nearly a million a day, and on days when additional flocks of migrants were present this destruction was increased correspondingly. During the season so many birds flocked to the grainfields that the aphid infestation was reduced by an incalculable number.

Wheat Smut Costly

Losses from stinking smut (bunt) of wheat in the United States as represented by decreased yield have been estimated at about 14,000,000 bushels annually, while dockage for smutty grain probably totals 10,000,000 each year. A considerable loss also results from explosions due to the fact that the spores of stinking smut are extremely combustible when beaten up into a dust. In the state of Washington many thousands of dollars have been lost in a single county in one season as a result of these explosions.

Important measures in the control of stinking smut are seed treatment, development of resistant varieties and crop rotation.

Meat Inspection Brings Confidence

About two-thirds of all animals slaughtered for food in the United States are federally inspected, a large proportion of meat establishments doing an inter-state business, says the United States department of agriculture. Federal inspection of animals is made before and at the time of slaughter.

An animal that looks sick or abnormal in any other way is tagged with a metal label fastened to the ear, reading either "U. S. Condemned" or "U. S. Suspect," depending on the ailment. If condemned, the animals so tagged must not be taken into the slaughter room. Animals of merely doubtful condition are kept apart and slaughtered separately.

The present export trade in American meats is possible largely because the Federal inspection system enjoys the confidence of foreign governments.

Radioed From USDA

As soon as you discover scours, put the calves in individual pens. Prevent their contact with one another. Calf scours often produce serious results. It commonly affects calves that are from a few hours to two weeks old. It may end fatally in from 24 to 48 hours. See that the pens you put the calves in have plenty of sunlight, and are kept clean, and with plenty of dry bedding.

The horse that has a good temperament has big, mild, bright eyes. His head's wide between the ears. He obeys commands readily, and has an alert, graceful carriage when he's moving.

White pine, aspen, basswood, cottonwood, cypress, chestnut, and others of that class are suitable for crates for shipping livestock. You can use the harder woods, but they are harder to nail, and they're heavier. Material for crate building is usually an inch thick by four inches wide. Lay the floor cross-wise on 2-by-2-inch skids, except for grown cattle. They'll take 2 by 4 skids. For the average size sheep the crate should be 4 feet long, 1 foot 9 inches wide, and 2 feet 10 inches high, inside dimensions. Such a crate will weigh about 75 pounds. For hogs from 125 to 225 pounds have a crate 4 feet 4 inches long, a foot and a half wide, and 2 feet 9 inches high. It would weigh about 80 pounds. Inside dimensions of a crate for the average cow should be 8 feet 6 inches long, 3 feet 2 inches wide, and 5 feet 1 inch high.

A simple way to prevent horn growth is to rub slightly moistened rahstic soda or potash 3 or 4 times alternately on the undeveloped horns when the calves are 4 to 10 days old. Allow the caustic to dry each time before applying to the next. You can get the caustic at any drug store. It comes in sticks about the size of a lead pencil.

"Inside" Information

Tin grows dark with use. This tarnish protects the tin and should not be scoured off just for the sake of making the tin bright.

Serve hot foods HOT on hot plates. Serve cold foods COLD, not luke warm. It is astonishing how many homemakers ignore this simple and obvious detail of an attractive meal.

Always grease an iron with lard or vaseline before putting it away for a long time, or it will rust. To remove rust on an iron, scour

it with scouring powder, and rub with a flannel cloth.

Neufchatel and cream cheese are valuable for the protein, fat, phosphorus and calcium they contain. The American diet is said to be low in calcium. It is well, therefore, to remember that all cheeses supply calcium.

No meal should have an over-proportion of liquid, mushy, or hard foods. With stews, serve crisp breads, or crackers; with a dish such as macaroni, use browned bread crumbs on top; with soft breads, serve a crisp salad.

A bread pudding will be "soggy and sad" if you use too large a proportion of bread to eggs. Or it may come from cooking at too high a temperature. It is much better to cook custard-like pudding

in a pan of water in the oven. The water keeps the eggs from being over-cooked.

Leather furniture coverings look better and last longer if they're rubbed occasionally with castor-oil. This restores to the leather the oil that gradually dries out. The oil should be well rubbed in and any excess wiped off the surface, or it will collect and hold dirt which will darken the leather, and soil whatever touches it.

To keep oxalic acid on hand for cleaning purposes, buy an ounce of the crystals, put them in a half-pint bottle of water, and pour off the top part of the solution to dilute as needed. All of the crystals will not dissolve, but this method insures a strong solution. Label the bottle poison, of

course, and keep it away from the children.

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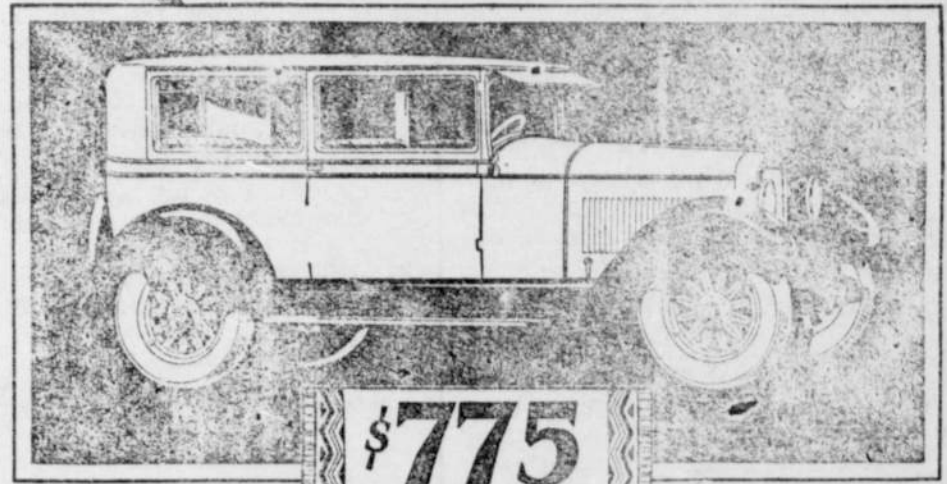
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