

**TIMELY FARM NOTES BY  
COUNTY DEMONSTRATOR**

(By H. L. MILLER)

1. From August 15 to September 15 are the best dates to cull out your poor layers among the hens. If your hen doesn't average more than 6 or 7 dozen eggs per year (the average for the United States) then she isn't worth keeping as it will cost more to keep her than she produces. Bulletins on poultry culling may be had free from the Extension Poultry Department at Raleigh. Demonstrations in poultry culling will be given by the county agent in communities that request it. Speak up if interested.

11. Get seed fertilizer lime together, so as to be ready to sow that permanent pasture this fall.

111. Crimson clover, rye, and oat seeds are reasonably cheap this fall. Take advantage of this and put all of your cultivated land down in some kind of a winter crop.

IV. Don't neglect the fall garden. Suggestions as to things to plant this month: Irish potatoes, mustard, turnips, kale, collards, and cabbage plants, onion sets, spinach and tomato plants. Of course, in the case of collards, cabbages and tomatoes, this will require getting your plants from some one if you haven't provided for this with a bed of your own.

**Birds Are Not Numerous****Because of Insect Pests**

The chief reason birds are not more numerous and that insect pests consequently increase so rapidly is that suitable places are not provided for nesting with protection from vermin. Cleaning out fence rows and corners beautifies the premises but ruins the birds' homes. Building bird houses and putting them on poles will help to replace the natural homes. But better than this is to leave some small thickets at different spots over the farm.

**Improper Feeding Cause****of Droopiness in Chickens**

Droopy, dull chickens, with long wings and short bodies are the result of feeding too soon, overfeeding and allowing feed on the floor or ground to become spoiled, overheating, chilling, damp floors, and from the effects of lice and mites. If chickens are droopy, correct the cause.

**Farm Implements Should  
Be Placed Under Cover**

The average farmer does not get full value out of the most of the farm implements that he buys for at least two seasons. One reason is that he has no place to house them, hence they weather—that is, they get wet and rust or decay. Having implements lay out in the weather a season is worse on them than one season's use.

In too many cases the writer has seen farm implements such as plows, cultivators, binders, and many other implements setting in the field where last used, and many times, the shovels of cultivators are even left in the ground.

Before using these implements the next season the shovels of cultivators and the various bright parts of the implements have to be scoured with sand rock before using. This not only takes off a layer of metal but requires a great deal of time. If one will just think a moment he will know that the work of scouring the implements and getting them ready for use is much more work than to have cleaned and greased these bright metal parts with axle grease and painted the wood and other metal parts when through using the implements. By doing this the air and water is kept from the metal and wood, hence, the implements will fare well even if left out in the weather.—By W. H. McPheeters, Extension Farm Engineer, Oklahoma A. and M. College.

**Pea Aphis Will Attack****Three Important Crops**

The pea aphis is seriously infesting the entire cannerly pea section in Stanislaus county, Cal., and a lighter infestation extends over the Santa Clara valley, according to reports received by the United States Department of Agriculture. This insect is also doing considerable damage to alfalfa in the vicinity of Topeka, Kans. The Kansas infestation is over a region where the growing of garden peas is rather extensive. The association of alfalfa and peas is suggested as being favorable for the multiplication of this insect.

Infestations by this pea aphis were so serious on spinach in the Santa Clara valley, Cal., that seven canneries ceased canning this vegetable this spring. The damage was not so much the infestation of the aphids as the presence of such enormous numbers of the syrphid larvae which prey upon them from the spinach in the washing process.

"Feed and Weed and Breed," are the three guiding stars in dairying, said one speaker at the recent farm convention in Raleigh. Of the three, he declared that feeding is the most important.

**Paper Bags Afford Good  
Protection for Grapes**

During the growing season grapes are subject to a number of fungus diseases which may result in the rotting of many of the berries. Just before maturing they are often injured by birds or wasps—the result of the combined attacks being few good, sound bunches. Thorough spraying treatment will control the fungus diseases, though it will do little toward keeping away birds and wasps. A good way to protect the grapes on a few vines about the house is to tie paper bags over them when the berries are half grown, or even earlier, according to the University of Missouri College of Agriculture. These are then left in place until the fruit is mature and ready to be picked. The presence of the paper bags in no way interferes with the ripening process of the fruit, and if they are tied on in time they practically insure freedom from insect, birds and fungus injury. The labor involved is negligible and the cost of the sacks is very small in comparison with the value of the fruit.

**Grafting Wax Important  
in Treatment of Scions**

Many growers are successful in cutting scions and placing them, but later are disappointed that these scions do not grow or if they start to grow, afterward wilt and die. This is due to the fact that the scions dry out and the waxing is poor. A few weeks after the grafting the wax should be examined to see if air holes or pockets have developed in the wax. If so, the wax can be smoothed down by the hand or another application of wax can be applied, using a wax somewhat more liquid than the first so that it will fill in any holes.

**Cucumber Beetles Harm****Spreading Vine Plants**

Many gardens are visited annually by hosts of busy cucumber beetles with bright stripes down their backs. They start early and hit the young plants of most spreading vine crops. A repellent is the best means of control. In the small garden use lime or wood ashes as a dust, adding to it a tablespoonful of turpentine or crude carbolic acid, to each quart of dry dust. Use a tin can with holes punched in the bottom for dusting, or else try some of the commercial dusts and dusting machines. Put it on frequently, both on and around the plants.

General insurance is feasible and is urgently needed for protection of American agriculture in opinion of officials of Department of Agriculture which is a government agency not favored, however.

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