

FARM STOCK

RAISING ANIMALS FOR ARMY

Government and Farmers Co-operating in Production of Cavalry and Artillery Remounts.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In order to encourage the production of horses suitable for cavalry and light artillery uses, the United States Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the war department, has placed in selected localities good, sound stallions of proper type and offered mare owners special inducements to make use of them. This plan, made possible by a provision of congress in 1913, grew out of the difficulty the government has had in securing a sufficient number of army remounts. Light-horse stock had deteriorated, due to the curtailed demand as a result of the growing popularity of motor vehicles, and farmers had turned their attention to improving the heavier draft horse.

The plan consists primarily in placing stallions of merit, registered in the proper stud books and belonging to the Thoroughbred, American Saddle, Standardbred, and Morgan breeds in suitable localities in Vermont, New Hampshire, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Mare owners may breed to these stallions on the following terms. The owner of the mare agrees in writing at the time of breeding to give the government an option on the resulting colt as a three-year-old at a stated price, which so far has been \$150. No service fee is charged unless the owner of a colt wishes to be released from the option, in which case it is \$25.

This means that practically no money is invested in service fees. If the colt is purchased by the government no fee is charged, nor is there any charge if the colt is offered to the government and purchase refused because it does not qualify. The breeder does not have to pay a service fee on a colt which dies, which is deformed, or which is seriously injured. Only sound mares that approach either a cavalry or a light artillery type are used. Records taken June 30, 1917, show that 3,089 colts have been produced since this plan was put in operation at the beginning of the breeding season in 1913.

The plan has a number of advantages both to the government and to



Morgan Stallion Owned by Government—This is the Type Being Used to Breed Army Remounts.

farmers. The brood mares are usually farm work animals which generally pay for their feed by doing farm work, and the colts are brought up to birth without cost. High-class stallions are available for the mare owners' use. Community breeding, which is of inestimable value, is encouraged. The object of the remount breeding work is to select for and breed sound horses possessing quality, stamina and endurance which conform to the army's needs, and such animals will also be useful for general farm work especially in mountainous sections. While it is true that the heavy draft horse is more valuable for most farm work, there are many sections where light horses are better suited because of their activity, sure-footedness, superior lung capacity and endurance.

The government's plan of aiding farmers in producing army horses is giving them material as well as educational aid in developing an important phase of their farming operations. Good horse power is indispensable to successful farming and good horses cannot be produced without good sires. From the agricultural standpoint alone, the publication says, the remount breeding work should be extended to other suitable localities, to say nothing of the resultant effect in adding to the defensive strength of the country in a military way.

BREEDING OF BEEF ANIMALS

Aim to Develop to Greatest Extent Portions of Body From Which Are Secured Choice Cuts.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In the improvement of beef cattle care has been taken to develop to the greatest extent those portions of the body from which are secured the high-priced cuts of beef. These points should be kept in mind when selecting breeding animals.

The KITCHEN CABINET

Some rest is selfish and indolent, but reading, which is neither selfish nor indolent, is the best of all rest. What pleasure can equal it? And out of it what profit comes for the reader and from him!—Robert E. Speer.

ARE YOU SAVING?

The old Scotch quotation should often come to mind these days: "Man, a mickle makes a muckle." "We must not be penny wise and pound foolish," for we should have recreation, play-times, and vacations; our health and mentality as well as good looks

require it; but do we need to spend as a nation \$450,000,000 a year for the movies?

Let us go to fewer moving picture shows and buy Thrift Stamps instead. Do we need, as an American nation, to spend \$50,000,000 yearly for gum, and \$200,000,000 for candy, \$800,000,000 for tobacco, and \$2,000,000,000 for liquor? Think of spending 32 cents per capita for liquor and only six cents for milk, the food that will keep our babies alive, who are dying by the thousands each year from lack of proper care.

It is only by each person sharing the burden and saving his share that our government will be able to provide for the expense of this war. We are required to go without certain foodstuffs to save wheat, meat, fat and sugar, but how many Americans are really going without until it hurts?

We must scrape the cake and bread bowl, save by paring very thinly the vegetables and fruits we use, scrape out each eggshell with a teaspoon as it is broken.

The outer leaves of lettuce, either the head or remainder, may be rolled and shredded with a sharp knife, and may be used as a garnish for salads or in salads. When you can save a cent on a five or ten-cent purchase it is a saving of 20 or 10 per cent, which we consider a large rate of interest. When eggs reach the lowest price is the time to put them down for winter. Use a pint of water glass to every ten quarts of boiled cooled water. Use a stone receptacle and pack them carefully, not to crack one egg. Cover the jar and keep in a cool place. Eggs thus packed will keep a year perfectly.

Eggs are not likely to be as cheap as usual this year, as food is so high. Even at 35 cents a dozen it will be profitable to pack them.

Forget thyself; console the sadness near thee—
Thine own shall then depart,
And songs of joy, like heavenly birds,
shall cheer thee,
And dwell within thy heart.

INVITING FOODS FOR THE INVALID.

We have been told so many times that all foods which are served to an invalid should be made as attractive as possible, for daintiness in service is a great aid to a fickle appetite. An orange in its natural state is pleasing to most of us, but to the frail invalid the sight of the dainty pulp with all the connecting tissue removed, placed in a glass dish or served in a long-stemmed glass, the fruit dusted with powdered sugar, will be far more appealing.

Baked apples, stewed prunes, baked pears or bananas, figs, dates and fresh berries when they agree with the digestion, are all most palatable. Cantaloupe which is scored out by small teaspoonfuls, sprinkled with a bit of salt or sugar and served in a pretty glass cup or dish, is much more dainty than when served in halves or sections. Watermelon may be served in small balls, using a potato cutter.

Custards of various kinds are all for the sick one; the more eggs they contain the more nourishing they are. Junkets of various flavors are also good, and when topped with a spoonful of whipped cream make a most satisfying dessert. In all desserts using milk or eggs the freshest and best are always to be used; the slightest suggestion of any flavor not just right will be more quickly noted by the patient than it would be the case in health.

Plain ice creams are invaluable as refreshments in case of fever and when the throat is sore or inflamed. The patient is not only refreshed but also nourished by the frozen dish, which slips down with so little effort.

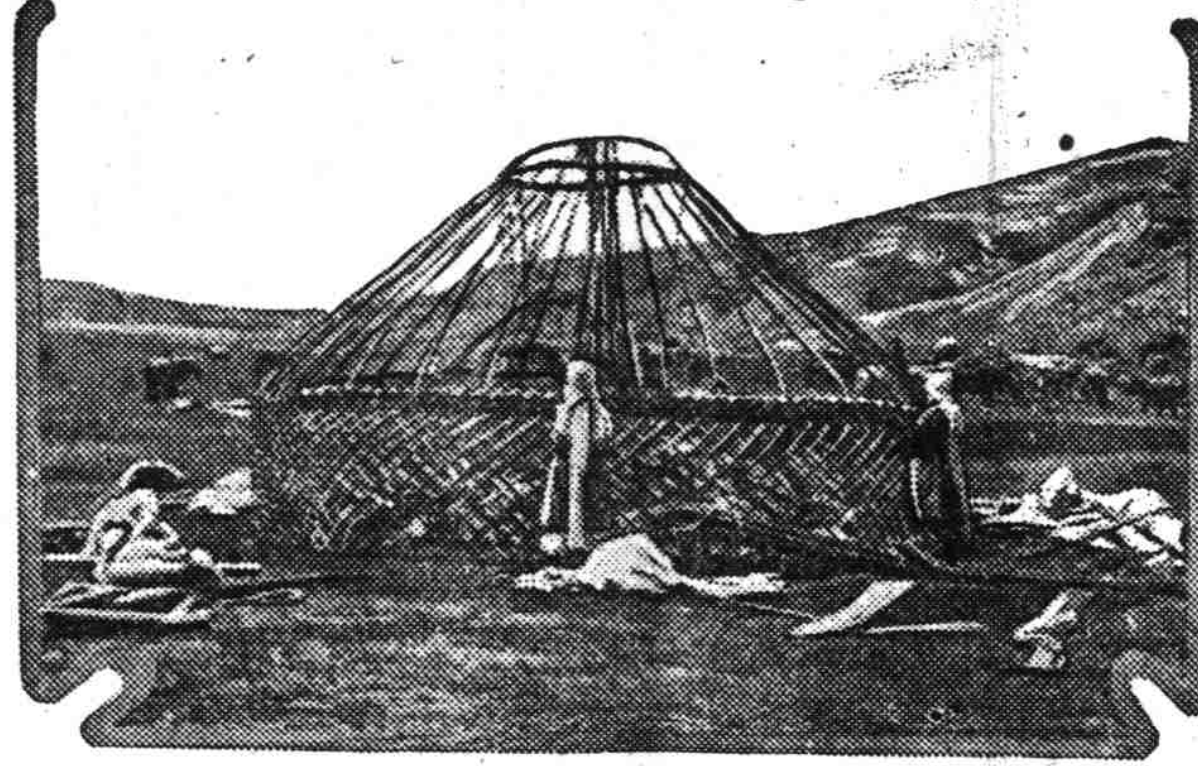
Soups and broths are foods which help digestion and are valuable as food also.

Meats of different kinds, subject to the order of the physician, should be well cooked; chicken is especially good and because of its short fiber it is easily digested. Small quantities well and daintily served will not often be refused.

Sponge cakes are the best for invalids, and all puddings should be of the simplest kinds. Gelatin in various flavors will add variety; tapioca, rice and cornstarch are good when well cooked.

What's the Use?
What's the use of growling about it? You don't like a growling puppy.

The Kirghiz of the Steppes



By E. NELSON FELL.

THE Kirghiz are divided into two branches; the Kara (or Black) Kirghiz, who inhabit the uplands of the Russo-Chinese frontier on the headwaters of the Yenisei river, and the Kirghiz-Kazaks or Kirghiz-Riders, who live on the steppes of the central Asiatic plateau and extend as far west as the Volga. The Kirghiz-Kazaks are a Turko-Mongolian people, whose appearance inclines to the Mongolian type, but whose language has preserved its primitive Tatar (Turkish) form, writes E. Nelson Fell in Asia. They number about two million souls and are scattered over a wide territory of about two million square miles in extent.

During seven years the writer lived in intimate association with this people, as employer of the small fraction of them willing to work in and around the mines, and as a friend and companion of the large majority of them, who preferred to carry on the spirit of their race on the open steppe, meeting the sun in his daily course over the boundless plateau and watching their animals under stars at night, flitting from pasture to pasture as their flocks and herds required fresh grazing.

Here is a people which neither sows nor reaps, and which takes no thought of the morrow, but unthinkingly relies upon nature to provide for its wants by natural increase; which preserves its own integrity and continuity, not by restraints imposed from the outside, but by restraints imposed by the individuals upon themselves; which cares for the stranger by the divinely imposed duty of hospitality, which provides for the fatherless and the old and infirm by self-imposed rules and customs; which respects its dead and raises monuments to protect their remains and which (probably since its adoption of Mohammedanism) believes in a future life. The Kirghiz have been Mohammedans for three or four centuries. The essence of their code is kindness and self-restraint; kindness to man and beast and to the helpless and weak, and a self-control which arouses the sincere respect of our unbridled western natures.

Their Patriarchal Government.

They are a strictly nomadic people, who have wandered over this semi-arid land for centuries and have acquired a prescriptive title to it, without any centralized form of government to assert their rights to it against intruders. Their form of patriarchal self-government is quite well defined to themselves but almost invisible to our centralized minds. Each Aool (a settlement of 15 or 20 tents) is in charge of a headman, sometimes a "sultan," in whom all the property of the Aool is considered to be vested. This overlordship usually passes from father to son without friction, and the responsibility for the physical well-being of the Aool rests with him; the rules for the care of the old and young are prescribed by ancient custom, and the harmony of the Aool is rarely disturbed.

It is a gay life which the Kirghiz lead in their tents in the summer. Chattering an unceasing chatter, they watch the sun slip across the sky and find him chattering still. If a stranger comes in sight they jump into their saddles and rush helter-skelter to meet him. With loud cries of "Amann! Amann, Bai!" they welcome him and seize the reins of his horse, drag him at headlong speed into their Aool and lead him into the tent suitable to his rank. The intensity of the chatter increases; the koumis is whipped to a foam in the huge skins which contain it and poured into a large bowl; from this it is served in smaller painted bowls, made of wood and holding about a quart, to each person present.

The Kirghiz Tent.

It is a gay, merry life, and in the tents of the rich patriarchs, it is one of considerable dignity. Their tents are of snowy white felt with the edges gaily embroidered. The ropes passing over such a tent are of camel's hair whose strands are of varied and gay colors. Like all yurts, it is circular in shape with a semi-circular dome-like top. A large one will be 25 feet in diameter, and the interior is free from all obstructions. The top is open to the sky, but can be closed at night

or in bad weather by a tunduk or large flap of felt. Inside there is no furniture, but the ground, which constitutes the floor, is covered with the finest embroidered felts and rugs from Samarkand. The sides are hung with gorgeous silks and large silk cushions are profusely distributed.

When guests are expected, the family hangs their brightest clothes and richest furs on ropes which stretch across the tent, and the whole effect is beautiful and extremely luxurious. Everyone sits on the ground or reclines on cushions and, when food is served (which is a continuous performance), a small round table is brought in, about six inches high. The only discontented thing in the tent is the hunting eagle, which sits in the background on his perch, sighing for the return of winter.

The Kirghiz are a short, thick-set race, with coarse black hair on their heads but with little hair on their faces. Their complexion is a dark olive brown and the young people have a pleasant rosy glow in their cheeks; their features have many of the Mongolian characteristics. The race is mix mixed, however, and individuals of Turkish and Semitic cast of features are not lacking. They are neither ugly nor beautiful, but their expression is kindly and gentle; their teeth are usually white and often endure to old age unblemished. They never walk or perform any manual labor, and their hands and feet are almost invariably small.

They are perfect horsemen in their own peculiar style of riding; they sit on tiny saddles with very short stirrups. No man could ride on such saddles if he were not encased, as they are, in layer upon layer of thick cotton-wadded clothes and furs (usually sheepskins), and none of our race would consent to present the picture which they do when they sit perched high on their small ponies, stuffed out twice or thrice their natural girth.

Winter Their Hard Time.

The winter is a hard time for man and beast. It is seven months long, and the wind never tires of blowing, while the thermometer sinks to 50 and 60 degrees below zero. When the blizzard blows, the air is full of blinding snow, and when the sun shines, as it does sometimes, the snow becomes covered with a hard crust, and then the stock suffers cruelly. Not so much the horses, for they are naturally tough and can paw through the crust, but the cattle are more helpless and the sheep and goats entirely so, and they must be herded where the snow is soft or where there is none, or they must be fed from the small supply of wild hay which has been saved during the summer. Only the camel is safe, with his long hair protecting his uncouth body, and large soft eyes which can look straight into the storm, and with his two lumps of fat, on which he can live till the stormy time passes and spring comes again.

The only relief which the people have from the tedium of winter is sport, of which they are very fond. They have few firearms and only use them when they hunt the bighorn sheep. Then they shoulder a muzzle-loading, smooth-bore, single-barrel rifle about four feet six inches long, whose barrel is so heavy that it must be supported by a wooden crutch at its muzzle end. The smaller animals they hunt with eagles, in the training and handling of which they are skillful, and a good eagle will, in a season, catch sufficient hares and foxes and wolves to furnish enough pelts for clothing all the dwellers in the Aool with the furs which are so necessary to them.

The Kirghiz practice a few arts or trades of a very small scale and frequently display a considerable sense of artistic thoroughness. During the winter the women spin thread both of camel's hair and sheep's wool, not with a wheel, but with a little spindle, which can be compared to a child's top. In the summer they weave the thread into narrow strips. A stake is driven into the ground outside one of the tents and here the weaving commences and proceeds across the steppe indefinitely until the diligence of the weaver or the supply of thread fails. Camel's hair is preferred for cloth and the result is a strip, about 10 inches wide, of dull brown cloth, rather heavy and eternally wear-proof.

Orchard Information

SELECT AND PLANT PEACHES

Only Thrifty, Well-Grown Trees, Free From Pests and Diseases, Should Be Used.

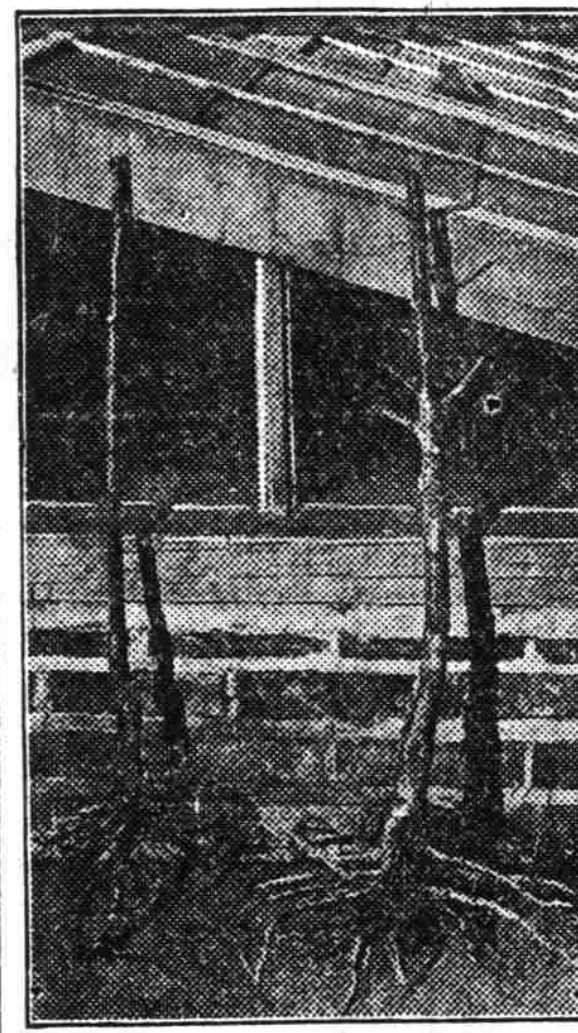
(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

It is poor economy to buy cheap peach trees. First-grade trees cost but a few cents more than the other grades and the thrifty, rapid growth which they make offsets many times this additional expense, but even the best trees must be properly planted in order to be successful. This article tells how to select and plant the trees.

As a rule, only thrifty, well-grown, well-rooted one-year-old or "June-budded" trees free from injurious insect pests and fungous diseases should be planted. Thrifty, well-grown trees are not necessarily the largest trees which can be found in a nursery. Medium-sized trees are probably fully as desirable for planting as the larger ones, but the smaller grades in some cases may be made up of trees that are stunted and weak from some cause or other. Not infrequently they have poor root systems. The smaller trees can usually be bought at a lower price than the medium-sized and large ones, but they may prove costly in the end, especially if they are lacking in vitality and make a poor growth after being planted.

Peach trees are commonly graded according to their height. In properly grown trees, however, there is a pretty definite relation between the height and the size of the trunk or "caliper" of the tree. The diameter of the stem is sometimes used as the basis for grading nursery stock. A few cents per tree of additional cost means comparatively little in the initial expense of starting an orchard, but it may mean a vast sum later in the life of the orchard in the better development of good, vigorous trees.

When received from the nursery the trees should be unpacked immediately. Every possible precaution should be taken to prevent the roots from becoming dry. Unless the trees can be planted immediately, they should be heeled in, in a thoroughly well-drained place, where the soil is mellow and deep. A trench sufficiently wide and deep to receive the roots is made; then the trees are placed in it. In covering, the soil should be worked among the roots of the trees sufficient-



Peach Trees Trimmed Ready to Plant.

ly to fill the spaces between them. This will fully exclude the air; otherwise there is danger of the roots drying unduly.

Common planting distances for peach trees are 18 by 18 feet, 18 by 20 feet, or 20 by 20 feet, requiring, respectively, 134, 121 and 108 trees per acre. Closer planting is sometimes practiced, but it is rarely advisable, and under some conditions 25 by 25 feet probably does not allow the trees more space than they need. The trees are usually planted in squares, as the above distances suggest, but the triangular system or some of its modifications is occasionally used.

Every reasonable care should be observed to plant the trees in straight rows and in perfect alignment in both directions. Trees so placed look better and can be cultivated better and more conveniently than where the rows are crooked and irregular.

In preparing a tree for planting, all portions of the roots which have been mutilated in digging the trees or injured by any other means should be trimmed off, and long slender roots, if they occur, are usually cut off to correspond with the length of the general root system.

Unless a tree is rather large the branches should all be removed, leaving only a single unbranched stem. This stem should be headed back to correspond with the height at which it is desired to form the head of the tree. The common extremes as to height of top preferred by different growers range from about 12 to 15 inches up to 24 or 30 inches.

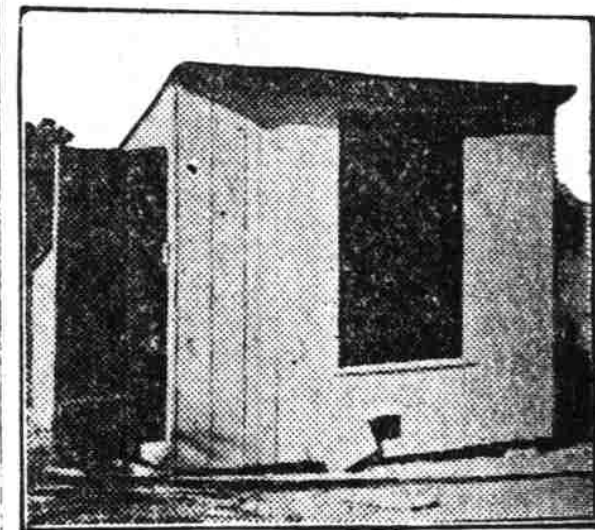
POULTRY

UP-TO-DATE POULTRY HOUSE

Modern Structures Are Built With Idea of Giving All the Fresh Air That is Possible.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Modern methods of poultry housing make due allowance for the capacity of the birds to withstand low temperatures and for the advantage of ample ventilation in the poultry house. Except in extreme northern sections, or



Plain Poultry House for Small Flock.

for breeds of fowls having very large combs, it is no longer considered necessary to build houses so substantially that when they are closed the cold is excluded and the temperature in the house appreciably raised by the heat from the bodies of the birds.

The system of tight, warm houses once very popular was based upon the idea that to have hens lay in cold weather they must be kept in houses where water would never freeze. The methods of housing now most widely approved and used are based upon the experience of many poultry keepers that egg production is more stable and the hens keep in much better condition when the house is built and used with a view to giving all the fresh air that can be given without exposing the birds to a temperature that will frost their combs. It has been found that the combs of hens accustomed to low temperature become frost resistant to a remarkable degree, and the birds themselves much less subject to colds than when an effort is made to keep the houses warm as is practical.

Except when the winters are long and severe, hens may be kept comfortable and productive in a house of the lightest durable construction, provided the house has a water and wind-tight roof, rear and end walls, and a front which can be opened as much as is necessary to give thorough ventilation, or closed as much as is necessary to keep out rain or snow.

For ventilation in summer it is advisable and often necessary to have apertures in the rear wall or in the ends—toward the rear, which can be closed perfectly tight in winter and opened as much as required at other seasons.

INCREASE OF POULTRY URGED

Appeal Made to City and Country People Alike to Help the Meat and Egg Supply.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Owners of back yards in cities and towns are asked to do everything in their power to help the meat and egg supply by raising small flocks of poultry in back yards. Farmers are requested greatly to increase their farm flocks or hens so that 100 on every farm will be the average for the nation.

The following statement regarding the poultry needs is taken from the official agricultural program for 1918 issued recently by the United States department of agriculture:

"Poultry production should be increased greatly, especially in back yards and on farms where waste material is available and the purchase of expensive grains and other material is not required.

"Increased poultry production may be attained most economically by early hatching; by confining mother hens at least ten days after the chickens are hatched, by reducing losses on account of rats, weasels, and thieves, and from cold, damp conditions; by thorough sanitation; by discouraging the marketing of early-hatched pullets as broilers; by eliminating nonproducing hens and keeping good layers through at least two laying seasons; and by the poultryman raising his own feed as far as possible."

CORN ALONE IS INJURIOUS

Diet Many Hogs Receive From One Year's End to the Other Lessens Vitality of Animal.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The straight corn diet, which many hogs receive from one year's end to the other, lessens vitality. The researchers of the Wisconsin experiment station have shown that this is probably brought about by retarding the development of the vital organs.