

# HUSTLER'S AGRICULTURAL PAGE

(Henderson County Farmers are urged to contribute to the columns of this page which are devoted to the upbuilding of the county's agricultural interests. All letters must be signed, but the signature of the authors can be withheld from publication if requested. It is hoped that members of the Woman's Betterment Associations and Girls Canning Clubs will take advantage of this page in contributing articles, relating to the activities of their respective associations throughout the county.)

(THIS PAGE IS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF HENDERSON COUNTY.)

## WHAT AN ELECTRIC MACHINE DOES TO LIGHTEN HOUSEWORK.

Mrs. John W. Robinson, of Hickory, N. C., writing to the Progressive Farmer says:

"I want to tell you about our machine for making the woman's work lighter and home life more pleasant. It is a little gasoline engine that generates electricity and stores it in a battery. This engine can be started by a child eight years old and stops itself when the storage battery is full of 'juice.' We only put in gasoline occasionally and run the engine about two or three times a week.

"From this battery we get our electricity for lighting the house and barn, also several lights in the yard. We also run with this electricity a small compressed air pump that furnishes us abundance of water all the time. When the pressure gets low the pump starts itself; when air enough is in, the pump stops itself. It pumps water and air.

"We use the 'juice' only for pumping and lights, but you can use it for many things, running separator, churn, machine, milking machine, washer, iron, etc. A little motor is required for these additional things. We hope to get more of these later.

"The expense of gasoline is hardly eight cents a day for lights and water. This makes it about 30 a year. Isn't that cheap for all the light and water you want right at hand? How we do enjoy it! The first cost is about \$500. So many of us could have it, that do not. This machinery is all in one little closed room and there is no danger of freezing, for the pipes are all under ground."

## TEN RULES FOR PLOWING.

1. Plow, if possible, when the soil will drop from the moldboard in a mellow, friable condition.
2. It is better to plow when too dry than when too wet, and don't delay the work too near seeding time.
3. Plow as long before planting as possible, so the soil will have ample time to settle into good-bod condition and store up moisture for the coming crop.
4. Deep plowing enlarges the moisture reservoir and gives more root room.
5. Late fall and winter plowing destroys weeds and many insects.
6. When a green crop or heavy coat of manure is to be turned under, plow early so the organic matter will have time to decay and the soil to become settled before seeding.
7. Have the seed bed loose and well pulverized on top, but firm and well packed underneath.
8. Good plowing breaks up and mellow the soil. Well pulverized soil will grow larger crops than a lumpy one containing the same proportion of plant food, for the reason that it holds more moisture—and it is the moisture which carries the plant food to the growing crop. It gives the plant roots a larger feeding area and has a more constant temperature.
9. In finishing a land, unless the purpose is to leave a deep dead-furrow or drainage turn a shallow furrow back into the dead-furrow. The bare subsoil will produce little or no crop.
10. Poorly drained fields, or those in regions of great rainfall, may be plowed in narrow lands, making high back-furrow ridges and deep dead-furrows. If necessary, such lands may be plowed this way two or three years in succession. This elevates a large portion of the surface and gives better drainage over the whole area.—A. M. Ten-Eyck.

## HENS RETURN GOOD PROFITS.

A good hen can be raised for about \$1, she can be kept for one year after beginning to lay for about \$1.25, her eggs for a year estimating 12 dozen at 25 cents a dozen, will be worth \$3, and the hen will be worth 50 cents when through laying at the end of her pullet year.

This is a return of \$1.25 on an investment of \$2.25, which is an increase of about 55 per cent, not counting labor or depreciation of plant.

If we count 25 cents as the cost of caring for a hen one year and ten per cent for depreciation of the plant, there still remains over 30 per cent net profit on the investment.

These facts were brought out in a Missouri experiment where 55 White Leghorn pullets were kept for a year's laying, all the feed that was fed to the hens being weighed and the eggs being sold at market prices. The 55 hens produced 12 dozen each, which were sold for \$157.17. The cost of keeping the 55 hens one year was about \$66.27, reckoning feed prices at about average market rate in 1915. The hens were fed a well-balanced ration and had the run of a yard 100 feet square. The price of eggs for the year averaged approximately 25 cents a dozen.

From the foregoing figures it will be seen that where one has good hens to start with and handles them properly, a net profit of considerably over \$1 a year can be counted on from a flock of that size.

But the know-how is just as important in handling hens for profitable returns as is the case with any other kind of complicated business.—Spencer Babcock in Farm Life.

Farina and Bonny Best tomatoes make a fine combination for the early crop. They are highly prolific.

## TREE PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS.

On the arrival of trees, immediately open bundles and bury trees in a slanting position, covering carefully the full length of all roots and at least one-half the trunk. Keep damp, but not wet, thus preserving until ready to be planted.

Preparatory to planting, carefully examine all trees for insects and diseases, and cut all broken or bruised roots immediately above the wound, making a smooth slanting cut. Plunge trees in a barrel of water, covering roots immediately with soil as the trees are distributed for transplanting.

The following planting distances are recommended: apples, pears—30 x 30 feet; peaches—18 x 18 feet; plums and cherries—20 x 20 feet; and pecans, 60 x 60 feet.

Successful tree planting requires the preparation of a hole amply large for the spread of the roots and of such depth as to allow the tree to stand two or three inches deeper than it formerly stood in the nursery. Well rotted stable manure, or a mixture of not exceeding one pound of equal parts of a mixture of cotton-seed meal and acid phosphate, may be thoroughly mixed with the top soil and applied thus preventing direct contact of roots and fertilizer. No fertilizer, or manure should be put at the bottom of the hole. Work and firmly press the dirt among the roots, and pack the dirt firmly as it is thrown in, and after the hole has been filled.

It is very essential that all trees be pruned immediately after setting, otherwise they will dry out badly.—Clemson College Bulletin.

## SPEED UP YOUR GARDEN "SASS" WITH HOTBED.

By constructing hotbeds before March it is possible to grow vegetables which are susceptible to frost damage, such as tomatoes and cabbage, at least two weeks earlier than if they are not planted until danger of frost is past.

The common dimensions of the hotbed for the home garden are five and a half by twelve feet. A pit of the desired size is dug in the ground, to a depth of two feet. This is boxed in with ordinary pine planking, which extends six inches above the top of the ground on one side, and twelve inches higher on the other. The pit is then filled to a depth of eighteen inches with horse or mule manure, to furnish heat. The manure may be moistened and left standing in a pile in the open until it begins to ferment, when it is ready to be placed in the hotbed. On top of this about six inches of good garden soil is placed. The bed is covered by inexpensive window sashes.

When the hot bed is complete let it stand covered closely, for a few days, until the temperature is constant at about 80 degrees Fahrenheit. The seed may then be planted. As the rays grow warmer in the early spring the sashes may be gradually raised. This is to accustom the plants to the outside air, so that they may be planted early without danger of being killed.—Mississippi Extension Service.

## HURRAH FOR THIS CALF CLUB.

Tell your banker about the calf club conducted by the First National Bank of Brighton, Ill. Briefly, here is what happened. Last March the bank bought 84 heifers from Wisconsin, at an average price of \$43 a head. These calves, ranging in age from six to sixteen months, were sold to the school children around Brighton, for actual cost, with the understanding that within less than a year the animals should be sold and the children should have the profits, less six per cent for the bank. It was decided to have an auction sale, and this sale was held on the 8th of December. The eighty-four heifers brought on the auction block an average of \$92.30 a head, or a total of \$7,749. The notes given by the children amounted to \$3,612, leaving a profit of \$4,137. We think that is pretty good. We think Tom Chamberlain, cashier of the bank of Brighton, and W. Scott Matthews, Illinois Dairy and Food Commissioner, both deserve praise. By backing this club they have gone far toward stocking their neighborhood with good cattle, and they have set an example to others. A group of farmers, acting co-operatively, could do this just as well as a bank, and they could do it with hogs, or horses, or sheep, just as well as with cattle.—Farm Life.

## CABBAGE.

Cabbages, which a year ago were sold at \$6 a ton, are this year quoted in the United States at \$80. With this announcement comes the statement that the stock of cabbages is larger now than a year ago, but that they are all in the hands of speculators, who are holding them for still higher prices. It is, it seems, now time for those who have learned to do without eggs and butter to make similar arrangements with regard to cabbage, however, cannot hold a cabbage for a speculator, however, cannot hold a cabbage forever.—Boston Monitor.

An American egg-preserving plant has recently been completed in Shanghai. It handles 300,000 eggs a day. They are either frozen or dried and shipped to the United States.

## SOME THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT BEES AND HONEY

Interesting Letter Explaining an Industry Which Should Thrive in Henderson County.

Hendersonville, N. C., Feb. 1, 1917.

Editor Hustler:

I read, with interest, a short article which appeared on your agricultural page a few weeks ago. This article was taken, if I am not mistaken, from the Progressive Farmer and was in the form of advice to bee-keepers or those who intend engaging in apicultural pursuits. The advice offered in that article is good, but I believe the most of us in this section who keep bees, or who contemplate keeping them, know so little about the industry that a few additional remarks in connection with that article would not be amiss. I am prompted thereby, at any rate, to offer the following for those who are interested in the matter. It might be well to say here a few words about honey and wax, since it is desirable to have some knowledge as to the fruits of our labor, or what we may reasonably expect to be the fruits of our labor, before we decide to embark on any line of endeavor, and I take it that those who might be familiar with this end of apiculture will not be offended at the insertion of a few lines in this connection. Honey, then, is the nectar of flowers gathered and deposited in the comb by the bees. No other article gathered and stored in the comb by the bees is honey; is not so regarded nor is its sale permitted as such by the government. What is known as honey dew (a secretion of a certain aphid) which is gathered and stored in considerable quantity in some seasons is not honey and its sale as such is not permitted when known. Sugar syrup fed to bees and in every respect looking like honey when heated or capped over, is not honey at all and is not permitted to be sold as such. The government has fixed a standard for honey and anything not conforming to that standard can not be sold as honey, and indeed, it would not be honey. This will be clear to any one who will follow me for a few minutes. Now, nectar, when freshly gathered is very thin and watery and in that stage of course is not honey. But it is evaporated, and pre-digested to a certain extent, by the bees and is sealed or capped over by the bees when it has reached a certain stage of evaporation. Thickness, color and flavor of honey varies considerably. The varieties in this respect are as many as there are flowers from which the nectar is gathered. This is one of the causes why so many people think honey is adulterated. When it does not taste like that which they purchase direct from the farmer at home, it is frequently termed "store" honey or "adulterated" honey. As a matter of fact there is practically no adulteration of honey at this time. It is also a fact that there is no artificial honey comb in which honey is sold. There is an artificial "starter" used, which I will mention later. Honey is an old article of food. It was the principal sweet for three thousand years before the first sugar refinery was ever thought of, but its use has not kept pace with that of sugar, and this is due, I believe, largely through ignorance of the difference between the two products, and the difference in the cost of production. Honey could never be produced in such large quantities as sugar, and the price will always remain somewhat higher. As compared with sugar, however, honey is certainly the more wholesome. If I am correct, all sweets taken into the body which are not already glucose have to be converted into such before they are assimilated, and through this process it very frequently happens that certain individuals taking more sugar than the system can so convert force an excess of work on the kidneys, which frequently results in Bright's disease and other kidney trouble, etc. But it so happens that honey, since it is principally glucose (Dextrose and Dextrin) and having been in a measure pre-digested by the bee, does not require this inversion but is taken directly into the system to the amount of approximately one hundred and ninety-nine two hundredths. Pure sugar is pure glucose. It also must be inverted. Honey besides its sugar contents contains albumen. It also contains phosphorus, iron, calcium, magnesium, chlorine, sodium, potassium, sulphur and manganese. We are told that all these elements are necessary to the human body, so that by their presence in honey we may assume that they help to make this article a very wholesome food. The value of the annual production of honey in the United States is over twenty million dollars, and this value is decidedly on the increase from year to year. This does not take into consideration the millions of dollars worth imported from Cuba, and South America and Europe. The greatest amount of honey is used in the confections. It would be hard to say how many car loads are used annually in the making of high grade candy alone. The National Biscuit company a few days ago placed an order for seventy car loads at one time to be used in the manufacture of their goods. There are hundreds of car loads used annually in the big bakeries alone. All confections keep better when honey is used in their

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## BULLETINS YOU MAY WANT.

Do you own a canary? Then write for Farmer's Bulletin No. 770 on "Canaries, Their Care and Management," Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Would you like more time for your housework? Then write to the above address for Farmer's Bulletin No. 771, "Home-made Fireless Cookers and Their Use," prepared by the Office of Home Economics.

If you want to know the truth about bottles of medicine you buy in the hope that they will cure all ills, write to The State Board of Health, Raleigh, N. C., and ask them for their January, 1917 Health Bulletin. The Department will fill all applications for the Bulletin in its own state and a limited number in other states; therefore write at once.

West Virginia gets out a splendid bulletin, "Food for the Family," by Nell Barnett, of the College of Agriculture, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Do you hope to have running water in your house some day? Then ask the United States Department of Agriculture for bulletin No. 57 on "Water Supply, Plumbing and Sewerage Disposal for Country Homes." Any woman can understand the principles whether she knows much about machinery in general or not.

If you want to sell your butter and cream and still have fat for cakes and other things, write to the United States Department of Agriculture for Farmer's Bulletin No. 469, "Fats and Their Economical Use in the Home."

The U. S. Department of Agriculture recently put on a great display of modern poultry methods at the Madison Square Garden (New York) poultry and pigeon show. Also, it distributed several thousand bulletins on modern methods of housing birds for laying, breeding, and meat producing.

During the middle of January the Department also made an exhibit at the Washington, D. C., show. It was one of the best patronized of all exhibits in the show room.

Out in its experiment station at Beltsville, the Department has proved it costs the farmer slightly more than 16 cents a dozen to produce eggs. Also, it has determined the costs of feeding laying hens, raising broilers, frying chickens, and full grown birds, under proper improved methods.

It has experimented with houses until it has found what it believes to be the best for breeders and layers. And all of the information it has collected is at the service of the general public, if people will only ask for it. Particularly valuable are Farmer's Bulletins 287, 528, 562, 530, 585, 624, 682, and 697. All may be had free simply by writing for them.

## COW TONIC.

Try a package of Pratt's Cow Tonic if your cow is a little off and fails to give enough milk. A fine builder and tonic, 50c and \$1.00. Hunter's Pharmacy. 2-1-34c

# \$127.50

IS WHAT YOU WILL HAVE IF YOU JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS BANKING CLUB.



Come in and get a "Christmas Banking Club" Book FREE and join the club. By depositing 10 cents and increasing your weekly deposits each week, you will have \$127.50 in 50 weeks.

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## THE CITIZENS NAT. BANK

Cleveland, O., in May had 1,000,000 street car riders daily.

Chicago university will add military science to its curriculum.

New York city has 10,357 saloons, or one to each 515 of population.

## END STOMACH TROUBLE, GASES OR DYSPEPSIA.

"Pape's Diapepsin" makes Sick, Sour, Gassy Stomachs surely feel fine in five minutes.

USE **GOWANS** Rub-It-On FOR COLDS, COUGHS, PNEUMONIA

It Penetrates. Acts Quickly. Gives Desired Relief Without Dosing the Stomach with Medicine.

At Druggists, 25c, 50c, \$1.00

If what you just ate is souring on your stomach or lies like a lump of lead, refusing to digest, or you belch gas and eructate sour, undigested food, or have a feeling of dizziness, heartburn, fullness, nausea, bad taste in mouth and stomach-headache, you can get blessed relief in five minutes. Put an end to stomach trouble forever by getting a large fifty-cent case of Pape's Diapepsin from any drug store. You realize in five minutes how needless it is to suffer from indigestion, dyspepsia or any stomach disorder. It's the quickest, surest stomach doc in the world. It's wonderful.

# Are You Prepared?

This question is being asked all over the United States and more especially since the break with Germany.

## PREPAREDNESS STARTS AT HOME

Have you enough money to tide over in case of a short "stringent period"? If not this is an ideal time to begin saving and our bank is the ideal place to save it.

## We Offer You 4% on Your Savings

You owe it to your children to get them to begin, a Pin-Money Xmas Saving Club. Only a few cents will catch up with the rest who began in this club last month—Call in To-day and begin.

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