

# 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 Women'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.)

## PRODUCE WINTER EGGS.

Supply in Periods of Greatest Scarcity May be Increased by Proper Methods of Caring for the Birds.

Poultry owners who wish to obtain a satisfactory production of eggs during the fall and early winter should arrange to hatch pullets in March or April. Birds hatched at this time will be well matured in the fall. Furthermore, a greater proportion of them will go broody early in the spring, thus completing the circle necessary for production in the fall.

Pullets hatched in the spring can be induced to lay more abundantly in the winter if they are properly fed, and handled. On the average general farm, very few eggs are secured at the time when eggs bring the highest prices. It will pay the poultry owner, therefore, to devote a little trouble to providing his birds with the most favorable surroundings for the winter.

The house should be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected, and made tight before the cold weather sets in. If the house has a dirt floor, it is well to remove 3 or 4 inches of dirt from the top and replace this material with dry gravel or sand. On cement or wooden floors 4 or 5 inches of fresh straw or litter may be thrown down after the floor has been cleaned.

Ventilation is another important factor to consider. The house should be tight on three sides, but for the fourth muslin curtains may be used for from one-third to one-half its extent. In any case, there should be some ventilation in the house, even on the coldest nights. Fowls will stand considerable cold air, provided it is dry, and ventilation will keep the air thoroughly dry in the house. On the other hand, drafts are likely to cause roup and other trouble.

Many farmers, in feeding their birds overlook the fact that beef scrap or some similar feed is very essential during the winter months if a good supply of eggs is to be obtained. A convenient method of feeding beef scrap is in a mash made of three parts corn meal and one part of wheat bran, wheat middling and beef scrap. Skimmed milk or buttermilk may be used in place of the beef scrap, but if the supply is limited some scrap also should be fed.

In experiments conducted by the department it was found that for the first four months pullets fed a ration containing beefscrap produced, on an average, 41.5 eggs, while those fed the same ration without the scrap produced only 18.7. The cost of feeding the latter birds was 2.2 cents higher for every dozen eggs produced than in the case of the pullets fed beef scrap.

The birds should have plenty to eat but they also should always be eager for each meal. If one-third of the scratch grain furnished them is fed in the morning and two-thirds at night, the birds will take more exercise than if they receive all the grain they desire in the morning. Good scratch mixtures may be made of equal parts by weight of cracked corn, wheat, and oats, or of two parts of cracked corn and one part each of wheat and oats.

Other directions for the winter care of birds are contained in a new publication of the United States Department of Agriculture, Circular 71, office of the Secretary, Winter Egg Production.—U. S. Dept. Agri, Weekly News Letter.

## SOYBEAN OIL INCREASES IN DEMAND AND USEFULNESS

The mills that are crushing soybeans should be encouraged by the tremendous increase in the utilization of the oil for different purposes in the United States. It is of interest to note that for the ten months ending with October, 1916, there was imported into this country 119,079,771 pounds of soybean oil. This was an increase of 103,052,516 pounds over what was imported during 1915.

In other words, there was more than seven times as much imported during the first ten months of 1916 as came in during the entire year of 1915. This marked increase in the importation of soybean oil certainly should arouse the Southern cotton oil mills to the great importance of this product and to their supplying the demand as far as it is practicable for them to do so, according to Mr. C. B. Williams, Chief, Division of Agronomy of the Experiment Station and Extension Service.

Soybean oil, as has been indicated previously, is used in the manufacture of paints, linoleums, enamels, waterproofing materials, japsans, and for edible purposes. The Southern cotton oil mills and Southern farmers should profit by this industry—the farmer in producing the beans and disposing of them to the oil mills, and the oil mills in crushing the beans and disposing of the oil and meal. The South should see to it that more of their raw materials are manufactured into finished products in order that they may get the largest returns from the products produced here.

## MESSAGE TO ONE-HORSE FARMER

A reader asks: "What chance has the one-horse farmer in these days of improved machinery requiring two, three and even four horses for its operation? Isn't he an economic misfit, without any real place in our modern day farming system?" Our reply is that, while the two,

three and even four-horse farm can be operated more efficiently and economically than the one-horse farm, it by no means follows that the one-horse farmer hasn't a "chance." In one of the states of the central South we know a farmer who, thirty years ago, possessed one gray mare, plus an ambition that was backed by plenty of dogged grit. Today this man is worth three hundred thousand dollars, all of it grown from the soil. Numbered among the acquaintances of most of us are farmers who, beginning with practically nothing, are now independent, in so far as this world's goods are concerned.

Nor is it true that opportunities do not exist today as they existed a generation ago. Opportunities have existed in all times for all men, but the men of pluck and imagination, of grit and determination, have been the men to see them and use them.

And nowhere in America do we believe there are greater farming opportunities than exist right here in the South today. Land is cheap and we have a climate that especially favors maximum crop production. These opportunities exist for the small farmer as well as the large, and for the tenant farmer as well. But opportunities mean nothing unless we seize upon and use them. How shall the one-horse farmer go about it?

1. Thrift and economy must be his watchwords. Unless a man has the power to save, he is without the first essential element that makes for material success. And he must save intelligently, not blindly; his thrift must be aimed at increased production and increased efficiency.

2. He must be a soil-builder, not a soil-waster. The farmer who does not look carefully and continually to his soil fertility is going to be a failure, whether he works one horse or one hundred. In truth, the one-horse farmer on rich lands has, other things being equal, a far better opportunity to make net profits than the large farmer on poor lands.

3. Absolute business integrity is essential. In getting on in the world, few men are safe in relying entirely on themselves. Credit and confidence, an established character for honesty and square dealing—without these no man may travel far on the road to material success.

For the one-horse farmer who combines thrift with hard work, intelligently done, and builds at the same time a reputation for meeting squarely every obligation, there is indeed a great opportunity. They may at times appear long and hard, but the road to success in any field of human effort is nearly always so.

Yes, the one-horse farmer with push, pluck and perseverance indeed has a chance, and a good one—Progressive Farmer.

## BETTER LET IT ALONE.

"Please tell me how to make a compost heap or best results, how much lime and how much acid phosphate to use. When is the best time to start and what plant food will it contain when done?"

For general farm purpose the making of compost is a waste of time, labor and manure. Then lime should never be mixed with manure or acid phosphate, for it will drive off the ammonia from the manure and will revert the phosphoric acid in the acid phosphate and make it less available. Then after you have spent time and labor on it no one could tell how much plant food it contains without a chemical analysis. For general farm use the best way to handle the manure is to get out and spread it on the land as fast as made. If the land is acid and needs lime, spread an application broadcast and harrow it in. For garden purposes, where the manure must be fine and well rotted, we can afford some loss in the manure to set it in proper condition. I make a garden compost in early spring by cutting grass sods two inches thick. Lay a layer of the sod, grass down, and cover with manure and then another layer and so on till I have made a large square heap. About midsummer this is chopped down and well mixed and some raw bone meal mixed with it and repiled. In the fall this is in fine shape to use in the frames under glass or cloth for growing lettuce, etc. But for farm crops get the manure cut as fast as you have any and spread it on the land that is to go in corn the next spring, and it will lose less there than anywhere else.—Prof. Massey in Progressive Farmer.

## SHOULD WE CARE FOR VEGETABLES OUT OF SEASON.

Once in a while you hear the remark, "I like everything in season." If you really meant what you said there would be no canned goods, no dried fruit, no preserves; you would feast upon vegetables and fruit in summer and ruin your kidneys on a feast of meat in winter. A well balanced diet the year throughout is a good thing, but the stomach appreciates a little surprise once in a while, and a salad of crisp lettuce will do more to stimulate a flagging appetite in January than the very best dish you can get of something you have been eating for weeks. I do not mean that you should buy it; but I do mean that you should grow it; moreover, if you wish to sell it, it stimulates the pocket book.—Exchange.

## FARMERS ASKED TO ORDER FERTILIZER SHIPMENTS EARLY

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 10.—Farmers are being urged to order out their fertilizer shipments immediately in order that they may not suffer from a car shortage, should one develop in the late spring. Shippers are pointing out that farmers who delay their orders may find themselves unable to get supplies in time to follow the "plant early" plan which has been advocated as one of the most effective methods of fighting the boll weevil.

In view of the unusual demands for box cars, now being made by shippers in other line of business, the supply of cars available for the movement of fertilizers may not be as large this season as in former years and it is therefore important that shipments of fertilizer be spread over a longer period.

Should the great majority of farmers wait until the fertilizer is actually needed to place their orders, it is feared that this in itself might create a car shortage which would cause many of them to be disappointed. Dealers stress the point that early ordering is equally important for the farmer who buys only one ton and for the planter who buys by the car load.

## SELECTING SEEDS FOR GARDEN.

Good seed is the first thing; in a good garden. Not only seeds that will be sure to grow, but seeds that will produce vegetables of a superior quality.

In buying seed, take into account the conditions of your garden, the climate in which you live, and the needs of your family.

For each garden plant there are varieties that have proved successful under such a wide range of climate and soils that they have become standards. These standards generally give the farmer best results. New varieties should be tried with caution, as they may prove unsuccessful.

If you are starting out with a new vegetable crop, it is a good thing to find out what kinds have been grown with good production by your neighbors. Thus you may be sure of getting a plant suited to the conditions existent on your own garden plot.

## BITTER MILK IN WINTER.

If the milk is bitter when it comes from the cow, the trouble is generally with the feed, perhaps old dry weeds of the winter pasture. Or it may be the cow is expected to be fresh soon, and needs to be turned dry. However, if the milk turns bitter after it stands a day or two, which is usually the case, it is caused by bacteria. Because it is so cold, the milk turns bitter instead of souring. The remedy is to clean up, scald every milk vessel, and see that no dirt gets in the milk. If you don't have a "starter" of bacteria in the milk it certainly will not turn bitter.—Selected.

## COTTAGE CHEESE EASY TO MAKE.

When one does not find ready sale for all of the buttermilk and skim-milk a profitable method is to convert it into some form of soft cheese. Cottage cheese, which is frequently called Dutch cheese and "schimlcase," is the most popular and is more extensively used than any other variety of soft cheese, and the demand for it is good in towns and cities.

The process of making consists in separating the curd from the whey, and preparing the curd for market condition. When the whey is saved it makes a desirable material for mixing with shorts or corn meal as slop for pigs.

The first step is getting the milk properly coagulated. This can be done either by permitting the ordinary lactic germs to complete the work, or it can be helped to great advantage by the use of rennet tablets or liquid rennet in proper quantity. The skim milk is brought to a temperature of 72 to 75 degrees and held there during coagulation. Unless it is already partly sour it is best to add a starter of buttermilk in order to hasten clabbering and in two hours add the rennet solution if it is used at all.

It will require from five to eight hours for the curd to harden enough to begin separating from the whey. At this stage the whey is drawn off with a strainer or the curd scooped out and placed in cotton bags for draining. The escape of the whey can be helped by pressing the bags or by using a small cheese press, jelly press, or cider press.

When all the whey has drained out the curd is well worked with the hands and salt added at the rate of one ounce to every five pounds of curd. A little pepper can also be added to taste if desired. Some customers desire a little sweet or sour cream or soft butter mixed with the curd and they will pay more for it in this way.

The cheese may be prepared for market either in round balls or rolls or in square prints and cakes of convenient sizes and should always be wrapped in oiled or parchment paper. Sometimes it is delivered in the small paste board cartons used for butter or in a pall similar to oyster and ice cream packages. Prices range from 15 to 25 cents per pound, according to the mixture used, size of package and local demand.

From 18 to 20 pounds of cheese can be obtained from 100 pounds of milk. In the making of this by-product prac-

tice makes perfect, and there is little loss if a few batches are spoiled trying the work. Any dairyman who is selling milk or butter regularly to private customers could carry the packages of cheese on the wagon with little extra trouble and could get orders in advance for it, thus being enabled to make the right amount each day.—Farm Life.

## MARKETING GARDEN PRODUCTS.

When the country woman wishes to market her products she usually begins at the wrong end; she grows her vegetables first and then tries to find a market. If, instead, she would consider her market and then grow for it, her results might be more profitable. There are many times when people would buy vegetables not in their own gardens. Instead of this, the average country woman's garden is ready about the same time as that of her customers and neighbors. The same may be said of flowers. She sells small bunches of sweet peas at so much a bunch, at a time in which people can go into their own, or their friend's gardens, and enjoy them on the vine. The country woman who studies the market and grows out of season, is going to make money.

One woman I know grew flowers very successfully in one of the deep old-fashioned pits. One day, in desperation for money, she went to the hotel proprietor of the little town and asked him to let her supply his dining-room tables with flowers. He said guests did not care for flowers and refused to do it. Rather than take the flowers home she gave them to him, herself arranging them on the table. The proprietor received so many compliments about the flowers that when she came the next week he paid her a small sum. Since then she has had a steady trade.—Progressive Farmer.

## Bad Habits.

Those who breakfast at eight o'clock or later, lunch at twelve and have dinner at six are almost certain to be troubled with indigestion. They do not allow time for one meal to digest before taking another. Not less than five hours should elapse between meals. If you are troubled with indigestion correct your habits and take Chamberlain's Tablets, and you may reasonably hope for a quick recovery. These tablets strengthen the stomach and enable it to perform its functions naturally. Obtainable everywhere.

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