

SUNNY HOME SUGGESTIONS

Providing Food and Feed a Fine Brand of Patriotism—Keep on Working at Soil-building

MEN and women everywhere in the United States are talking patriotism today. It used to be that patriotism meant only enlisting in the army or desire to enlist.



MR. FRENCH

My line has been a line of patriotic people since before the time of the founding of our Republic, and it is no more than natural that I should have been asking myself during the past months as to my duty to my country. A man who is any man at all will do his duty by his country regardless of what that duty may bring to him. So I do not think that the conclusion arrived at has been determined through fear.

In studying this matter I have tried to remember that the world has never before known such a condition as exists today. Where in years past war took thousands of men out of productive lines, war today is taking millions. Where in previous wars thousands of soldiers were dependent upon the country for food today the numbers run well up into the millions. Never in the history of the world has there been such a shortage of food for human beings as confronts the people today.

Taking all the above facts into consideration, is it any wonder that my common sense has caused me to see that my patriotism may the most surely be proved by giving to my country, as far as I am able, the thing of which she stands in the greatest need today, namely, food. So we are preparing every acre of land that we will be able to tend well and using our brains in the effort to make our labor on the crops the most effective. The harrow is being kept busy on all the land already planted, to the end that moisture shall be conserved and expensive, slow hoeing eliminated. It will be almost criminal to use time this summer in hoeing crops where the harrow properly handled will make our labor accomplish twenty times the results.

Then we are giving more thought than ever before to making every individual acre do its best, draining the fields more perfectly, manuring the poorer spots, getting rid of trees that are such robbers in the cultivated fields, removing rocks, etc. We are hearing much of scarcity of labor on the farms of our country. I wonder if patriotism will not demand of the owner of our farms that they give more real thought to the most effective placing of the extra labor at their command and then—when the load gets a little too heavy for the hands—jump in and show labor what the boss can accomplish of real work when the necessity arises. I know this will be hard for many who have never done any real work, but patriotism demands of us some sacrifice, does it not?

While any practical man knows that it is almost impossible to keep all fly breeding places cleaned up about the farm during the rush season, yet we all know that stable manure after it is spread on the land offers no inducement to flies, and every load so disposed of before flies become numerous means less flies and more corn, cotton, or hay. So let us this year of all years keep the refuse from the stable at the work it is intended to do and not allow it to become a nuisance on the farm.

And let us not by the rush of other important work be crowded from those things that make for permanent agricultural prosperity; for our farming must needs go on from generation to generation, war or no war. So when a day or half day comes

that work cannot be done on the cultivated fields, let us go to the pastures with hoes and mattocks and catch a million of those robber plants and cut them down in the flower of their tender youth and let the same work be followed in the meadows to the end that good clean grass and clover sods may grow strong on all our lands save those devoted temporarily to hoed crops.

Then will we have nutritious hays and grasses in abundance to feed our own animals and some to sell, but what is of more importance to permanent agricultural prosperity, there will be soil-binders of the highest quality growing on our unplowed areas to preserve the soil from its worst enemy—erosion—and a sod rich in organic matter and plant food to turn for every hoed crop which is by far the cheapest of all fertilizers that may be employed East, West, North or South, and needed worse in the South than in any other section.

We must let nothing, however pressing, side track our great soil-building campaign in the South country, food shortage has been cared for, it will continue to be our greatest constructive work for agriculture—the one great work more vitally important to agricultural prosperity in our country than any half dozen others combined that can be named.

Where land planted in hoed crops did not receive the thorough close breaking that is so essential to insure

desirable pure-bred eggs in quantities to supply our demand. I have ordered and given out about 2,500 eggs and am in need of several hundred more."

Guilford County is going to make a record in poultry club work this year as it made a record in pig club work last year. But aside from the fact that this county is going forward, the letters written to the American Exchange Bank show that other counties have fallen into a state of coma, and have ignored the desire of their boys and girls to prove their worth by individual, self-expressive work! Every citizen in the South should be ashamed to admit that one of the boys or girls of his county had to make application to another county in order to get a start in poultry, canning, or pig club work! Of what could a county be more proud than to have it said that it was a county full of happy, ambitious, farm boys and girls—a county that encouraged its boys and girls in their desire for self-help and was willing to stand second to no county in these measures of progress?

Cottonseed Meal for Poultry

COTTONSEED meal in rather limited amounts has been fed, since last November, with excellent results, to a pen of 30 pullets on the experiment farm of the United States Department of Agriculture. These pul-

NAIL THE FLAG TO THE PLOW

Nail the flag to the plow—
The country needs grain.
While the sailor boys guard
The tracks of the main,
God gave you the fields
And the sun with its light,
Then double their yields
While the sailor boys fight.

Nail the flag to the plow—
The soldiers must eat
While defending the trenches
Or suffer defeat.
You can help the brave soldier
At this time of his need,
By increasing your acres
And planting more seed.

Nail the flag to the plow—
Your children and wife
Must be saved from starvation
While the world is in strife.
Your duty is plain—
Your mission is grand—
Each man is a hero
Who's tilling the land.

You say you're too old
To fight with a gun;
Then work in the fields
Till the setting of sun,
And show to the world
By the sweat on your brow,
That you're serving your country
With a flag on your plow.
W. B. Lockwood, in Times-Picayune.

best crop growth or where the soil—of a heavy character—is somewhat lacking in organic matter, good may be accomplished by a thorough working of the soil immediately after planting with the double shovels equipped with bull tongues. Let the shovels go deep and close up to the rows, then follow at once with weeder or harrow. A. L. FRENCH.

Boys and Girls Anxious to Join Poultry Clubs

SOMETIME ago we published in The Progressive Farmer an account of an "Endless Chain Poultry Club" started in Guilford County, N. C., by County Agent E. H. Anderson in collaboration with the American Exchange National Bank of Greensboro, the county seat of Guilford.

That Southern farm boys and girls are interested in club work is shown by the fact that this Greensboro bank has received application for eggs from boys and girls all over the eastern half of our territory. The bank's offer is made to Guilford County boys and girls only, and it was unable to supply these applicants with eggs.

The fact that stands out above everything else, however, is that the South needs more progressive county agents like Mr. Anderson and more progressive banks like this Greensboro institution. Boys and girls everywhere are eager for a chance to show what they can do; all they need is a little encouragement. In connection with his work Mr. Anderson says:

"You, no doubt, will be interested to know that we now have an enrollment of about 180 poultry club members, and we think this plan of furnishing eggs is entirely responsible for the increased interest over previous years. The only draw-back to this plan is that we are unable to find

lets have averaged 52.3 eggs each in 20 weeks, from November 1 to March 20, which is practically equal to the best egg yield received this year from any of the other experimental rations. No bad effects have been noted from this feed, either in the eggs or in the condition of the fowls, and the hens eat this feed freely. The ration is as follows:

- Scratch Mixture—**
1 pound cracked corn,
1 pound wheat,
1 pound oats.
- Dry Mash—**
2 pounds cottonseed meal,
2 pounds beef scrap,
4 pounds bran,
5 pounds middlings,
9 pounds corn meal.

The scratch mixture is fed sparingly so that the hens eat about equal parts of this mixture and of the dry mash.

A large per cent of cottonseed meal in a dry mash without any beef scrap has not given satisfactory results. Pullets fed a ration with 33 per cent cottonseed meal averaged only 33.2 eggs apiece in one year. A considerable per cent of these eggs had discolored yolks, with green or brownish-green spots, making them unfit for market. The hens did not like this mash and had to be forced to eat it by feeding a very limited amount of scratch grains.

These results appear to indicate that cottonseed meal can be fed at the rate of about 10 per cent of the mash, or 5 per cent of the total ration, with an equal per cent of beef scrap with excellent results. In sections where cottonseed meal is produced, half of the beef scrap in the mash apparently can be replaced by cottonseed meal with excellent results.

HIS FEELINGS

Bessie—How would you feel if some one died and left you a fortune?
Harold—I'd feel sure that some one would prove that he was of unsound mind.—Philadelphia Ledger.

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