

# From Seven to Seventeen

Address Letters to "Uncle P. F." care of The Progressive Farmer



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## Sammy Learns About Storing Seed Corn

"I GATHERED my seed corn yesterday," Sammy told his teacher. "I wish you'd tell me how to take care of it until spring?"

"Many a fine ear of corn is injured or ruined because it is not taken care of after being gathered," said his teacher, "and I am glad you asked that question. We should always keep in mind when storing seed corn that in each kernel there is a tender, living plant called the germ. Many people think that an ear of corn is a lifeless something which cannot be hurt no matter how you treat it. They are mistaken. Thus it is to keep these germs from being hurt or killed that you must see that your seed corn is put in the proper place and kept in the right condition. First of all, Sammy, did you shuck your corn yesterday when you gathered it?"

"Yes, I did," replied Sammy. "Father told me to do that. He said that if I left the corn in sacks or in a pile without shucking for two or three days, it might sour or mildew if the weather was warm or wet."

Finding out that Sammy had done the right thing to begin with, his teacher continued, "Corn, when first gathered, has a lot of moisture in it. Therefore the first two months after gathering, the ears should be placed in a dry room or place, through which enough air to carry the moisture is constantly passing. If the ears are stored in a damp, wet place, then mold is likely to form and injure the germs. Also, the ears should be placed where there is no danger of freezing. The freezing of the moisture around the germ will kill it."

"Our corn crib is slatted so the air passes through it freely," answered Sammy. "I was planning to hang my corn from the top of the crib. Would that be a good plan?"

"Yes, the crib is a good place," answered his teacher. "Also, the attic of a house usually makes a good place. But there are some places where the ears should never be stored. The cellar is not a good place on account of being too damp. Animals breathe out a good deal of moisture. Therefore, it would not be a good idea to store the ears in a loft directly over the stables."

"Three other things should be done when storing seed corn," added the teacher; and she wrote them on the blackboard as follows:—

1. Arrange the ears so they will not touch one another.

2. Place the corn so rats and mice cannot get to it.

3. Put the corn in a place where the direct rays of the sun will not fall on it.

"Let me tell you how I am going to hang my ears in the crib," said Sammy. "I am going to hang a long pole from the rafters of the crib, and about every four feet on the pole I am going to tie twine strings about four feet long. On each string I am going to tie ears of corn about four inches apart so they will not touch one another."

"Your method is a good one," said his teacher. "You may let the ears stay there all winter, as there is not much danger of corn freezing in the South after it is dried out, or you can take the ears down and put them where the mice and rats will not bother them. Some people place the dry ears in the center of a bin or barrel filled with loose dry wheat or oats."

"Well, if you will come to see me in a few days I will show you how I stored my corn," said Sammy.

UNCLE P. F.

## Have You a Basketball Team in Your School?

(Girls' \$1 Prize Letter)

HAVE you a basketball team at your school? If not, one of the very best things you could do for your school would be to organize a team right away. Playing basketball is healthy and is a lot of fun, both to the players and to the other students.

We organized a girls' basketball team

## SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS

- 1—Have pupils make at home, racks and trees for drying and storing seed corn.
- 2—Let pupils tell method used for caring for seed corn on their home farms.
- 3—Arrange for the most successful seed corn grower in your community to talk to pupils.
- 4—Reference: Farmers' Bulletin Number 1175.
- 5—Assign nature-study questions and have pupils give answers at next period.

last fall in our school to compete for the championship of the county. We held a box supper and made enough money to buy the baskets and ball. We made our uniforms at home.

During early recess and dinner periods we practiced under the direction of our teacher. After awhile the best players were selected for the regular team and every day this team would have a practice game with the second team.

Our first games were with nearby schools. The rules of the contest were that each team should play every other team in the county twice, and the team winning the highest per cent of the games would be given the championship. We defeated all the other teams, and I can't tell you how happy we were when it was announced that we were the champions. A banner was made in our colors and presented to our school.

RUTH TABOR.

Madison County, Ga.

*Editor's Note.—Doesn't this letter make you want to have a basketball team in your own school this fall? If you need to know more about the game, the rules, etc., write to A. G. Spalding & Company, Atlanta, Ga., enclosing 10 cents, and ask them to send you their little booklet on "Basketball" and any other information that would help you.*

## Some New Conundrums

(Boys' \$1 Prize Letter)

WHAT is the proper length for a young lady to wear her dress?

2. What is the difference between man and butter?
3. When is coffee like the soil?
4. Why is an egg like a colt?
5. How is the best way to make a goat last?
6. What is the best way to keep a man's love?
7. What is that which is unable to think or to speak, yet tells the truth to all the world?

CECIL KENNEDY.

*Editor's Note.—We like to have a little fun for our "Seven to Seventeen" page, and we are giving Cecil the boys' \$1 prize for sending us these conundrums. We will give the answers next week. Remember we are always glad to have our boys and girls send us puzzles, conundrums, and jokes, and if you know some good ones, send them in for our page.*

## Our Quiz Corner

### I.—This Week's Nature Study Questions

HOW much moisture does seed corn contain when first gathered?

2. On a damp day would you open or close the door to your seed storage room?
3. Would the kitchen be a good storage room for seed corn?
4. If weevils should bother the seed corn, what should be done?

### II.—Answers to Nature Study Questions

WHAT is a cocoon or chrysalis? A cocoon or chrysalis is the pupal stage of a moth or butterfly.

2. During what stage of their life history do most insects do most damage? During the larval or worm stage.
3. When the egg of a butterfly hatches, what do we have? A caterpillar.
4. In what stage or form do mosquitoes spend the winter? Adult stage.

IS YOUR district school building fit for the children to spend most of their time in through the winter?