

Price If Not Flavor Maintained on Choice "Fruit" of Mrs. Hen

From the May issue of the Farmers Federation News we clip the following:

"The hen continued her faithful cackle day after day but through close co-operation with the Federation, which works together to the advantage of men as well as cow or beef animal, her abundance of 'fruit' did not demoralize the egg market.

"While news dispatches were coming in from other states to the effect that farmers refused to gather the eggs because of their very low prices, and were permitting peddlers to gather them without cost, the reputation of choice, fresh hen 'fruit' was held up in this section by the Federation.

"The Federation has given too much encouragement to the poultry business to see it suffer with a disastrous price for fresh eggs, so held up the market to 20 cents. The Federation bought eggs in larger quantities than it could find a market for but it was determined to tide the poultrymen over the glutted market and kept the price up to 20 cents. A surplus of about 15,000 dozen was bought. They were placed in cold storage and it will not be long before the price will advance, mouths will grow hungry again for choice hen 'fruit' because it will be precious to the taste again—growing apparently better in proportion as the price goes up—and then the Federation will market this surplus of eggs, which were not permitted to go on the market for 15 cents or perhaps to 12 1/2 cents a dozen, or even lower than that as they did in some sections."

When the Macon County Farmers Federation gets a cold storage room the farmers of Macon County will have a place to store eggs, butter and fruits and hold them for better prices.

Plant Celery This Month.

Raleigh, N. C., May 12.—To have celery on the table from the home garden this fall, plant a seed bed about the middle of May. As the seeds are small, mix sand with them and thus get a more even distribution in the row. The seed should be planted in rows 6 inches apart and later transplanted 1 to 1 1/2 inches apart in the row. They should be covered above 1-8 inch deep. The seed bed should be very fertile and kept moist. It should be thoroughly soaked before the plants are lifted to be set in the field. The plants should be root and top trimmed before being set out.

The richest, deepest sandy loam soil available should be used for this crop, cautions R. F. Payne, Extension Horticulturist for the State College of Agriculture. Well-rotted stable manure should be used freely. Commercial fertilizer analyzing about 4 per cent nitrogen, 8 per cent phosphoric acid, and 8 per cent potassium should be used at the rate of 1,000 pounds per acre before the crop is set, and 1,000 pounds the latter part of the season before blanching.

Celery is usually set in the field about the first of August. The plants can be set 6 inches by 6 inches in double rows 6 feet apart, when the plot is large and blanching is done by hilling up the soil about the plants. In small plots the rows can be closer and blanching can be done by placing boards on edge on both sides of the row, or by wrapping each plant with manila paper.

The best varieties for the early crop are Golden Self Blanching and White Plums, while for the late crop Winter King and Giant Pascal are the best varieties.

Cash Crops.

The late season has prevented many from planting potatoes for the early market. Those who still stick to potatoes may plan to sell in July and August, when shipments will be made to southern markets. If they do not wish to do this they may raise the regular late main crop and market them from the field or store them until next spring. Those who have planted certified seed have two chances. If they succeed in keeping off the blight, they may sell certified seed potatoes at a good price in the fall. If blight gets into the field in spite of frequent spraying, as it does sometimes, the crop may be handled as high grade seed or sold on the regular market. Carefully watch the trend of crops and markets and sell on the first market that will give a fair profit.

The truck crops are a source of ready cash for those who are prepared to raise and market them to advantage. Our guests from the crowded cities and from the hot, malarial districts will come to the mountains in increasing numbers during the sultry summer months. They will gladly pay a fair price for fresh vegetables, if we learn to raise what they want and get the produce to market in prime condition. These guests make a demand for all kinds of vegetables as well as dairy and poultry products. Let each farmer be determined to increase his bank account by raising one or more of these cash crops.—Farmers' Federation News.

Two Crops Irish Potatoes Grown in North Carolina

Raleigh, N. C., May 12.—There are two general crops of potatoes grown in North Carolina. One crop is for the early market grown in the eastern part of the state, and the other is a late or general crop grown in the mountain section, explain horticultural workers of the State College and Department of Agriculture.

For commercial plantings in the eastern part of the state, the Irish Cobbler variety is used principally. This early crop is planted during February or early March and harvested the last of May to the middle of June. Shipments are made to northern markets. The seed for this crop is usually purchased from the potato growers of Maine and Canada. Some certified seed is being used and there is a tendency toward using more. The certified seed potatoes grown in the mountains of western North Carolina, have been tested against the northern, grown seed. Last year on 18 different farms in three of the principal potato sections, the North Carolina mountain grown seed yielded an average of 174 bushels No. 1 and 48 bushels No. 2 culls per acre, while the northern grown potatoes yielded 150 bushels No. 1 and 51 bushels No. 2 and culls per acre. There was no difference in date of maturity.

The home grown seed, that is potatoes planted the previous fall to be used for seed the following spring, yielded more than either the northern grown or North Carolina mountain grown seed, but they were a week to ten days later in maturity.

In the mountain section of the state the Irish Cobbler is grown chiefly for the early crop. A few Early Rose are grown every year. For the fall crop the Rural New Yorker is the main variety used. The crop grown for table use is usually shipped to southern markets.

In the higher sections of the mountains the Irish Cobblers are being grown for certified seed. The State Department of Agriculture gives two field inspection and one bin inspection to the growers who want the inspection service for certification. Last year the certified seed potatoes sold at quite a premium over the table stock. The outlook for the growing of certified seed is very promising at this time, as the growers of the early crop in the eastern part of this state and South Carolina are very much pleased with the results from seed obtained from the mountains of Western North Carolina.

Bossy Fills the Pail When Fed Soy Beans

Raleigh, N. C., May 12.—M. A. Holhouser who lives out from Salisbury on the Faith Road found that when he began to feed soybean hay to his six cows this winter, he had to carry an extra milk pail to hold the additional flow. County Agent W. G. Yeager reported the incident to the headquarters of the extension division at State College and here is how it came about.

Mr. Yeager went out to lay off some terraces for Mr. Holhouser and incidentally told the farm owner that soybeans would make good hay while at the same time the crop would help to improve his land and prevent it from washing. The seed was bought and the incident forgotten as only one small matter in the life of a county agent. But the hay was grown and cut. Rain damaged it somewhat before Mr. Holhouser's boys could house it but it was finally gotten in, piled away in a corner of the loft and forgotten.

Last winter, the boys had been feeding the mules their regular hay ration until they got down to the soybean hay. It didn't look good so they asked Dad what to do with it. "Oh, feed it to the cows, I reckon," was his reply. They did, because on many farms, feedstuff not good enough for the work animals is put off on the old milk cow.

But here's what happened. Though in the dead of winter with no pasture to speak of, the milk flow from the six cows began to increase. In a few weeks it was necessary to take more pails to the barn. In fact, Mr. Holhouser says that never before did his cows give so much milk in the winter and he was surprised at the way the flow continued to hold up.

He finally discovered that his boys were giving the animals all the soybean hay that they would eat and early this spring he dropped in at the County Agent's office and said, "Several of us out my way want to buy some soybean seed this spring." They made up a joint order and good feeding has received another boost in Rowan County.

3,000 Baby Chicks.

County Agent W. L. Smarr of McDowell county reports to the Marion Progress the importation into the county of approximately 3,000 baby chicks during the past month. From one to three demonstrations in poultry raising will be given in each township by Mr. Smarr.

Farmers Sell Their Surplus At Auction

Wadesboro, N. C., May 12.—A practice being developed by farmers in Anson County is the holding of a farm auction sale at Wadesboro on the first Monday in each month. As a result several thousand dollars worth of surplus farm produce has been sold at a profit to those consigning and the farmers have enjoyed a closer relation with the business men of the city. The movement has been fostered by the Wadesboro Advertising Club, co-operating with County Agent J. W. Cameron of the State College extension staff.

In holding these sales, a vacant lot easily accessible to the business section is secured and farmers are invited to bring their surplus farm machinery, wagons, buggies, harness livestock of all kinds, poultry or any other thing grown or used on the farm. An auctioneer, paid by the advertising club, sells these products. The farmers are invited to list their products the week before with a chairman of the auction committee appointed by the club, but as a general thing the products are listed on the day of the sale. All expenses are paid by the business organization. The sales have been going on now for about two years and interest has been steadily increasing. Sometimes only a few hundred dollars worth of produce is sold and on other days as much as one or two thousand dollars worth changes hands.

Mr. Cameron states that the advertising club sometimes appoints a committee to get behind the sales and push them along. He says also that the merchants interested in the movement give special bargains for this day along the lines of the Neosha plan and advertise their special bargains in the local paper. Mr. Cameron believes the movement is doing much good in relieving farmers of their surplus material and is also aiding other farmers in obtaining such things as they need at reduced prices.

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