

"CIVILIZATION BEGINS AND ENDS WITH THE PLOW"

THINGS TO PLAN TO THROUGHOUT COMING YEAR
 The Farmers' Day at the test farm at Swannanoa on May 17, 1923.

- Poultry loading depot with facilities for grading eggs.
- An annual poultry show.
- Monthly livestock sales.
- Farmers' own line of delivery trucks.
- Purebred sires and seeds.
- Guernsey cattle association.
- A semi-annual seed exchange day.
- A Harvest Carnival one day of the bread and butter show.

KEEP YOUR FARM AND IT WILL KEEP YOU AND YOURS

Should the weather turn off dry, then frequent shallow cultivation will be necessary.

At present, however, crops had better be left to grow and not hindered by the cutting of the root system.

Were it possible to kill all grass and weeds before planting, in a season like we have had, the less cultivation the better, for cultivation has but two primary objects. That is, the eradication of weeds and the conservation of soil moisture.

No matter how much or how little cultivation is given, every other middle should be cultivated and allow a few days to elapse before working out the other one.

This will leave half the root system intact for feeding the plant.

Purebred Winter Seed

How many more farmers are interested in taking on high grade seed production?

This will mean two crops a year, and more feed than we are getting now, for the screening could be used for livestock, feeding on the farm, and the high class seed sold.

Home Economics

The state has the money to pay two-thirds of the salary of a Home Economics Demonstrator, and expenses, and has offered it to Macon county.

What is Macon county going to do about it?

A Home Demonstration Agent works with the wives and daughters on cooking, sewing, canning, and all other things pertaining to the home.

A county as progressive as Macon cannot let this opportunity pass.

The cynic is one who knows the value of something and the value of nothing.

Are we cynical? Macon county, the land of Super-Farmers that think—perhaps.

Yours truly,
 LYLES HARRIS, County Agent.

Letter From C. W. Teague

About the cannery as it was stated in last copy of The Press, we have for sale a nice lot of tomato plants at the cannery. Anyone wishing to buy them may see the Franklin Furniture company near the cannery. Price \$1.50 per thousand. Would like to say a little further, that we would like to have all these plants set out. Why not give the girl or boy a little plot of ground and let them make a little school money? I am anxious that the cannery may do well and unless the farmers back it up it cannot exist. I find that in most cases people have failed to get a stand of sweet corn. It is a very difficult thing to grow. So I am not expecting much from it, but we can grow tomatoes and beans, and there is plenty time yet to plant either. So let's do our best. We have procured a Mr. Case of Hendersonville, N. C., to do our packing, who has had more than a quarter of a century's experience and is highly recommended by those who have had dealings with him during this time, both as a packer and salesman, and I feel that we are very fortunate in getting Mr. Case connected with our cannery.

C. W. TEAGUE, Manager.

FAMILY WINS INDEPENDENCE BY RAISING POULTRY ON FARM

Debt of \$1,500 Assumed at Outset—Father Labors in Sawmill to Supply Cash—All Buildings Replaced.

(By Demarest Glenworth Shumaker)
 Mrs. Albert E. Skoggs of Portland, Ore., sends the following article clipped from an Oregon paper with the notation that "It could be done in Macon county just as well as in Oregon, don't you think?"

Of course it could, but—will it? An outstanding success in the poultry business, in a state where there are many successful poultrymen, is that of George N. Bryant of Junction City, Ore., 18 miles northwest of Eugene, his shipping and trading point.

Eleven years ago Mr. and Mrs. Bryant purchased 15 acres of hill land, practically all in brush, lying a half mile south of the village of Franklin on the old Territorial road for \$100 per acre, going into debt for the whole amount, with the avowed intention of going into the poultry business. With the land they acquired an ancient house into which the family moved. A few ramshackle outbuildings completed their

The farm pages of The Press are edited by the county agent in collaboration with the editor.

NO INTEREST IN FARM RELIEF

Farmers of Macon Working Out Own Salvation Without Reference to Congress—Co-operative Sales Pay.

That the veto of the farm relief bill has met with little or no criticism in Macon is evident to those who will take the trouble to interview the farmers of this county. Those who till the soil in the valleys and coves of Macon county have long since come to the conclusion that the professional politician can bring them no relief. One progressive farmer states that all the bills for farm relief have overlooked the important fact that it is incumbent upon the farmer himself to keep up with the times and to practice improved farming methods by taking advantage of the State Extension Service.

That the farmers of Macon county are coming to depend more and more upon the work of the Extension Service is indicated by figures obtained at the office of Lyles Harris, county agent. Those records show that since the first of last November, 1,998 farmers have called at the office of the county agent for information on various agricultural subjects. During this time the agent received 577 telephone calls for information, traveled in the county on official business 5,845 miles, wrote 856 letters and sent out 37 circulars totaling 15,813 copies. During absence from the office 640 farmers called for information.

Meetings Are Held

Thirteen specialists from the Extension Service have visited the county since the first of November last. During these visits the agent

Water Carried From Brook

There was no well. All the water for house and chickens had to be carried from a brook that flowed along the south edge of the place just below the knoll on which the buildings stood. Both the children were willing helpers, but the hardest and heaviest tasks naturally fell on Mrs. Bryant in making garden and doing the chores on the place while Mr. Bryant was away working for needed cash.

The first year they had no money with which to buy either an incubator or baby chicks, and not until the second year could they really embark on their poultry venture. Their first incubator, 500-egg capacity, was set three times. They now have 24 incubators, from which they are doing an annual baby chick business of more than \$4,000.

Hens Reward for Work

These figures indicate the growth of the business itself, but that is not half the tale, for out of the years of struggle, hard luck and sacrifice has come a poultry farm that is now one of the best improved in the State of Oregon. Everything is paid for, thanks to the birds which have

and painted—the house white, the other buildings gray with white trimmings.

In two houses, ceiled and with concrete floors, and with plenty of windows for ventilation, are installed the 24 incubators, all oil-lamp machines.

28,000 Chicks Sold Yearly

Twenty-eight thousand baby chicks are sold annually and, in addition, sufficient are kept from which to select 1,000 pullets to go into the laying house in the fall. There are two brooder houses, one 14x32 feet, the other 14x40 feet. Each has a brooder room equipped with an oil-heated brooder and an exercise and feeding room to take care of the chicks that are kept on the place. Large double yards are attached to each house. These are used on alternate years so one yard can always be plowed and sown to grain to keep down soil contamination.

The main laying house, into which the pullets go the latter part of August or early in September, is 24x164 feet. In the middle of this building is a two-story feed and storage house 24 feet square from opposite sides of which extend quarters to care for 500 pullets each. The first floor of this feed room is used for grain storage, feed mixing, sorting and packing eggs, and is the main entrance to the laying houses. In the second story is stored baled straw, which can be pushed through doors down into the houses below when the litter is to be changed.

There are five breeding houses, each 20x30 feet, and each containing 210 mature hens. These breeding flocks are replenished annually by the choicest individuals from the laying flock of pullets of the previous year. The males are pedigreed individuals of the highest quality. From these matings come the eggs that go into the incubators from which are hatched vigorous chicks.

With a total laying and breeding flock of more than 2,000 hens and pullets maintained on the Bryant farm, the gross annual returns run into very substantial figures. The sale of 28,000 baby chicks from the breeding flocks, besides their eggs in the market outside of the early hatching season, added to the egg return from the 1,000 pullets, is no mean sum in the total. To this must be added the amount brought by the sale of 1,000 broilers annually, cockerels for breeders and the surplus aged hens from the breeding flocks.

The poultry buildings and the horse and cow barn complete the outbuildings on the Bryant farm. The old house has lately been replaced by a fine, modern home of eight rooms, with full cement basement, with an eight-foot porch and sunroom on the front and a large screened kitchen porch at the side.

Electricity and running water are provided for all buildings. Water is taken from a deep, drilled well, and fresh, cold water may be had direct from the well without passing through the pressure tank.

THINGS TO PLAN FOR RIGHT NOW

- That cream check every two weeks.
- That cannery check every time you come to town.
- Fat hog sale in June.
- Bread and Butter Show next fall.
- Encourage the 4-H Clubbers.
- Big Farmers' day next fall.
- Local Curb Market.
- Breed sows so that the pigs will go on the market in March, April, August and September.

Just About the Farm

The Cannery

Work is going forward on the large extension to the cannery building at a very rapid rate.

Mr. Case, a man with thirty years canning experience and well known throughout Tennessee, Virginia and the Carolinas, will have charge of the canning.

This announcement comes from Mr. Charlie Teague, and you will see a further announcement from him in this week's issue.

It appears that there will be a very large blackberry crop this year. This is like getting money from home.

Scores of people have told me the things they would do if they only had a little money, or any way to get it. Well, here's your chance, if you want it. And if you don't want it—well, that's that.

With the average family in Macon county one hundred dollars worth of

I wonder if any one family will sell one hundred dollars worth of berries to the cannery this season.

I am going to ask the cannery management to give a prize of twenty-five dollars for two families (fifteen dollars for the first, and ten dollars for the second family) that bring to the cannery one hundred dollars worth of blackberries. That is, berries picked by only one family, not hired picked or in partnership with any other family.

Tomato Plants

Strong vigorous tomato plants are now on sale at the cannery for a dollar and a half per thousand plants, and now is the time of year to set these out.

Some few people, mostly the "scare-quick" and head-shaking "I-told-you-sos" are afraid that the cannery will not take the stuff that is being, or could be, planted for it.

These people are, in some cases, hesitating to plant their late fall crops. I want to say right now that they are making a mistake.

The cannery will operate and will buy all first class stuff brought to it.

Field Seed Selection.
 How many farmers in Macon county have a single field or patch into which at harvest time they could go and gather seed, knowing that they are getting standard-bred seed, true to variety.

I do not know of a single one.

In the cornfields about three stalks out of every ten at least is barren. Three have perfect ears, well developed, and the balance some where in between this. Figure out your loss from such methods.

The cause of this is, first, absence of field selection of seed. Second, too close spacing throughout years perpetuates barrenness. Third, lack of a balanced plant food weakens the stalk.

Crop Cultivation

All growers of crops would do well to exercise great care in cultivation.

In fact, it would be well not to cultivate, at present at least, any more than just enough to keep the weeds and grass under control.

The reason for this is owing to the excessive rains up to now, and the root systems have not developed to the extent that they would have normally.

A great deal of time must be made up by the growing crops from now on, and they need every inch of root surface they can possibly develop.

county the figures contained herein will give some idea of the extent to which the farmers of Macon are utilizing the services of the county agent. A few politicians here and yonder are advocating the discharge of the agent from the viewpoint of expense. One prominent farmer has taken the trouble to figure up the benefits of the agent that come to the farmers only through co-operative sales. His figures follow: Since November the farmers have received from co-operative sales the sum of \$24,065.75. During that period the cost to the county of the county agent's office has been \$1,429.20. Those who remember the days before the county had a representative of the Extension Service claim that they have received at least 20 per cent more for their poultry, hogs and wool under the co-operative plan than they would have received had these products been sold to peddlers. Hence they claim that the Extension Service in co-operative sales alone has saved the farmers \$4,813.15 or 20 per cent of the cost of his office.

Even a casual observation of the agricultural industry in Macon county will suffice to indicate that the farmers here are not depending upon farm relief from Congress. On every hand are numerous evidences that the tillers of the soil in this county have awakened from their sleep of a century, are casting old methods into the discard and are adopting those that will bring handsome returns from the soil. Farmers everywhere in the county are taking heart and are predicting that at the present rate of progress Macon county within 10 years will be the pride of the state from an agricultural standpoint.

MANY AREAS BLIND TO LOSS OF RICH SOIL BY EROSION

Terracing of farm lands in the South and Southeast is common, but not nearly so common as it should be if the erosion of fertile surface soil is to be prevented. North of Oklahoma and Tennessee there are few terraces for soil saving. "Farmers do not even know what they are," says H. H. Bennett, soil scientist of the United States department of agriculture. Erosion is gathering momentum. As the more absorptive topsoil is washed off down to the less absorptive subsoil, the rate of washing increases. So, the region which has already suffered most from rain-wash is really just on the threshold of the more impoverishing kind of erosional wastage, and nothing is being done to conserve these splendid agricultural lands, which are the capital of the farmers living on them and a vital heritage to posterity.

Farmers too often believe that their land is "wearing out" when the real trouble is that it is "washing out." Clay spots begin to appear in fields for no other reason than the fact that the darker surface soil with a larger content of humus has been washed away. The clay beds do not grow and crop up through the soil like growing plants. The real situation is that they are uncovered by the rains that wash away the topsoil.

The Missouri River region suffers seriously from erosion. But, says Mr. Bennett, "it is not to be understood that erosion in the north-central part of the United States is restricted to the Missouri River region. The wastage is taking place generally throughout this great region, most violently, of course, on the sloping areas. Soil displacement by this process is slow on the very extensive flat areas of the prairie regions that formerly were covered by a most efficient soil-conserving mat of native grass; but even here the gradual removal of the rich surface material is much greater than is commonly recognized. Since the clearing of the sloping and rolling areas and destruction of the virgin sod, much costly washing has taken place in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, and other states. Recent soil surveys in southwestern Wisconsin have shown that the problem of erosion is a most serious one in many localities."

Value of Agent's Work

Considering the fact that there are less than 2,000 farms in the

CONSULT YOUR COUNTY AGENT AS YOU WOULD YOUR DOCTOR OR YOUR LAWYER