

AGRICULTURE

THE ADVANTAGE OF SMALL FRUIT

Small fruits such as strawberries and raspberries are some of the valuable crops that can be planted and cared for with less garden implements and at the same time provide a source of supply of fruit for the average home than probably any other fruit crop.

The labor involved is comparatively small to the present gardener and has only a few hours of working time left after hours spent at the office or various manufacturing plants throughout the country.

If we were to analyze the benefits from these crops it would stack up somewhere near these figures, take for instance the strawberry. 500 of these plants will plant for home use a plot of 1500 square feet or five rows one hundred feet long and five wide, putting the berries 18 inches apart by three foot wide. On a lot of any proportion these berries will bear the second year, yielding a crop large enough for the average family of four. The care of the crop isn't too complicated. It is necessary to see that all runners are placed so that they are in a single row and a small amount of commercial fertilizer will pay good dividends.

In the spring it is generally required to pluck the blossoms the first year to insure that the growth goes to the plant, rather than producing berries the first season. During the summer growing season cultivation is essential, but paying careful attention to the depth and also not tearing the new runners which have set on.

Care should be taken not to put the fertilizer too close to the plant as it is generally agreed either to drill the fertilizer or sprinkle it by hand staying approximately six or seven inches away from the plant.

Fertilizer during hot weather has a tendency to burn the tender roots causing the plant to die. In the fall a fairly heavy covering of straw or stable manure is desirable but preferably just plain straw. This protects it from the cold and in the spring the plant comes up leaving the berries on top of the straw rather than having them laying on the ground, and in the meantime collects dust which during the rainy season sticks to the berry—this condition causes considerable loss from rot due to the damp ground. Leave the straw on during the summer has a tendency to hold the moisture which the strawberry requires a great deal of.

Note: Next week "Raspberries"

Clean milk, is milk that comes from healthy cows, is of good flavor and free from dirt, and contains only a small number of bacteria, none of which are harmful.

Disease-producing bacteria which get into milk are most likely to come from unhealthy cows, unhealthy persons who do the milking, contaminated water, flies, or filth.

Great numbers of bacteria may get into the milk from the body of and from utensils which have not been treated with hot (steam or boiling water) or a chlorine solution.

Clean, well built stables, and separate milk rooms for handling are important factors in the production of clean high grade milk.

FEEDING of SILAGE

Silage occupies a very important place in the feeding of live stock and may be a major source of all nutrients or, when properly made it may serve primarily as a source of carotene or other vitamins or minerals. Crops for silage are rarely a total failure as neither draught nor excessive rains prevent the making of at least part of a crop into silage. Some crops can be utilized more efficiently as silage the entire crop is edible. Apparently, any forage crop can be made into silage, but where corn can be grown successfully it is the outstanding silage crop.

Good quality in the silage depends on cutting the crop at the right stage of maturity, chopping it fine, thoroughly excluding the air, and obtaining enough but not too much moisture in the cut material. When silage is rightly put into and carefully removed from the silo, there is no loss from spoiling except on the surface.

Silage is good feed for dairy cattle of all kinds and for beef cattle, from breeding cow to fattening steer. Sheep like it, and it is well suited to their needs. Horses and mules may be fed limited quantities of wholesome silage with satisfactory results.

ADVICE GIVEN POULTRY RAISERS

If poultry raisers will take a little extra trouble this spring, they can avoid a good share of the losses caused by coccidiosis, according to Dr. William Moore, state veterinarian.

The disease according to Dr. Moore, is not inherited, or passed on through the incubator. Chicks pick it up from infected soil, straw, or litter.

"Therefore, if brooder houses are thoroughly disinfected before chicks arrive—if the litter is built up regularly so that it is dry and clean, and if birds are moved to clean ground not used by poultry for several years then coccidiosis losses can be substantially reduced", said Dr. Moore.

BEEF CATTLE

Beef cattle are well suited to farms which have sufficient non tillable land or other low priced land suitable for pasture purposes and a sufficient acreage of crop land for production of the grain and roughages needed for wintering and fattening purposes.

On farms where the sale of beef cattle provides the major portion of the farm income the breeding herd should be large enough to provide at least one car load of cattle for sale each year.

Ordinary, under farm conditions with adequate feed and proper care, one mature bull will be needed for 30 to 40 cows.

An income may be derived from the sale of milk or cream as well as from beef by using beef-type cows with pronounced milk tendency. Uniformity in type and quality of offspring is an aid in marketing. Highly bred beef calves may be developed into desirable beef by weaning time if they are creep-fed grain on good pasture.



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Quaker Oats, large size 27c—small	12c
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