

THE RANCH.

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For Everybody Who Wants It

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RANCH SMALL TALK.

A fairly windy day is the best hay day. It is not the blistering sunshine that turns out the best fodder.

What's the matter with putting in a patch of buckwheat early next week. Pancake days are not so very far away.

A few early-bird citizens are enjoying the luxury of new potatoes fresh from their own gardens. The first appeared in market on Monday, June 18.

How are the crops and "things" that are intended to grace the state fair next September getting along? Of course they are getting all needed attention. If not, why not?

Best time in the world to buy pigs. No one objects to present prices, and everybody anticipates a good pork market next fall and winter. Alfalfa or clover will keep them growing finely and get them to fattening size by November. Summer-grown pork is always the most profitable.

Make a note of the poultry breeders' organization announced in this issue of THE RANCH. It was instituted for earnest work. First, to increase the general interest in fine poultry throughout the state, and second, to help out the state fair with a grand exhibition of pure-bred poultry.

Referring to that field of clover from which C. P. Wilcox cut two crops the first year from seed, Mr. W. last week cut the first crop for this year, and it yielded about three tons per acre. At this rate clover would give alfalfa a hard run, as it would yield about as much, and is worth more per ton.

Is it not worth something to live in a country that is thought enough of by the great capitalists of the world to lead them to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in giving it water? And who has taught these capitalists the value of this country? It is the men who have taken up ranches

here and planted them to orchards and gardens; the men who demonstrated in a small way the value of this grand combination of sunshine, land and water that we enjoy. It is the Pioneers' grand inning.

Strawberry shipments from this station are not very large as yet. Home consumption, however, gives a pretty fair demand. Fine berries have not yet been retailed at less than 10 cents per box; 3 for 25c. Ripening has been more rapid the last few days, owing to the warmer weather.

The hop growers of this part of the country have again made a good start. The annual meeting of the association on Saturday was well attended, and the intention to work for the common good was earnestly declared. The appointment of a committee composed of members widely distributed and taking in all the hop growing centers to interest every grower, means that the combination will be a comprehensive one. No grower, however small his holdings, can afford to keep aloof from this organization.

Last spring many of the seedsmen thought to meet hard times half way by cutting down their usual amount of advertising. A shrewd Philadelphia man took the opposite view and pushed his advertising with greater vigor than ever. The consequence was, this man did the biggest business that he had ever done. The time to push is when the wagon runs hard. Advertising is good roads, wide tires and axle grease combined. In flush times any decent business will get on after a fashion, but lots of friction must be overcome when a money squeeze comes.

If a family turns out butter for market that always brings a cent or a few cents less than the top article at the store, the way to remedy the evil is to find out what is wrong in the butter making process and try to remedy it. Find out who makes an article that brings the best price and drop in on the maker and learn his process. Go to a butter school for a few days. Put this down as a fact: Butter making is purely a mechanical process. The principles involved are few and may be easily acquired. There's money in knowing how to do a thing right.

Though little was said at the hop growers' meeting regarding the work to be accomplished beyond the picking question, it must be manifest to all thinking members that the efforts in other directions may be made with the hope of beneficial results. A strong, permanent organization such as this is destined to be, will find plenty of questions of vital importance to the hop growing industry to be talked

about and acted upon. The co-operative idea is capable of broad expansion. The harvesting question settled, thought will naturally turn in other directions.

A few days ago Mr. Petress, an extensive sheep raiser residing at Prosser, took a train load of sheep to Chicago, for which he received a price equal to \$3.10 per head here. Mr. McAllister, of this county, has just sold to Victoria parties 2,000 head at \$2.50 per head. Mr. McAllister is one of the sheepmen who is not discouraged at the condition of the sheep business. His increase of flock by lambs this spring amounted to over 100 per cent, and his wool crop was an excellent one.

Farmers need recreation fully as much as men of any other class. They work hard and they are forced to a life of more or less isolation. A day off once in a while for the farmer and his wife and children is more profitable, taking all things into consideration, than a day on in the same old routine. Farmers are patriotic citizens, too. They love their country and its institutions. And all of this simply means that the Fourth of July is at hand and that every farmer and his wife and his children ought to give one day up to patriotic observance and a good time. Plan for the day off and enjoy it.

The robins are playing havoc with the cherry crop in many portions of eastern Washington, just as they have been doing in California. Fruit growers like birds for their beauty, their music and their inclination to destroy insects, but when it comes to seeing them take the best portion of a valuable crop of fruit, they feel like destroying the "beast." Hence powder is being used to kill rather than frighten. Several of our Yakima cherry growers are among those who propose to defend their orchards. The nuisance has become too serious to bear.

Prof. Fulmer informs THE RANCH that he filled about 600 orders for sugar beet seed with three varieties each, then his supply fell short and the other 600 applicants received but a single variety. The professor regrets the failure to fully carry out his plan, but hopes that it will not lessen the interest in the work. He urges careful attention to the experiment plot and the taking of careful notes concerning growth and development; recording the date of planting, date of thinning, number of times cultivated and how cultivated, amount of irrigation, rainfall, frosts, etc. Conscientious, careful work alone can benefit the general experiment and hurry along the interest from which so much is hoped.