

AIM AND VALUE OF FARM CLUBS

One of Important Features of Extension Work Conducted by Relation Service.

INSTRUCT GIRLS AND BOYS

Larger Yields Have Been Obtained, Better Pigs Have Been Raised, and Finer Cattle, Dairy and Beef Have Been Raised.

(By E. T. MEREDITH, Secretary of Agriculture.)

Boys' and Girls' club work is one of the important features of the agricultural extension work conducted by the state relation service, United States department of agriculture, in co-operation with the state agricultural colleges and local agencies for the purpose of improving agricultural conditions and practices throughout the country. These clubs are organized to improve farm and home practices by instructing the boys in correct agricultural methods and the girls in home-making; to assist them in demonstrating these methods for the improve-



A Pig Club Girl.

ment of the farm and home; to aid in the development of co-operation in the family and in the community; to create a more favorable attitude toward the business of farming and home making by encouraging property ownership and the feeling of partnership; and to make rural life more attractive by providing organization which tends to diminish isolation and develop leadership.

Benefits Derived.

These objects are in process of attainment. Wherever club work has been pushed by our agents, larger yields have been obtained, better pigs have been raised and finer cattle, both dairy and beef, have been grown. The motto of the clubs is "To Make the Best Better." Registered animals are now common where only a few years ago they were unknown, and there is a systematic effort to cull out scrub live stock and poultry. Large yields of crops have been made by club members on lands which were considered worthless, and little girls are vying with the best packers in canning and preserving fruits and vegetables, and are becoming a potent factor in helping to make the farm home more attractive and enjoyable.

The average yield per acre made by club members in the growing of field crops is two to three times as large as the average yields made in the states in which the members are located. Many people, seeing a boy or girl here and there engaged in club work, do not realize the value of the products produced by these young folk in the aggregate. In 1918, while under the stress of war and responding to an appeal made to club members in the furrows "over here" to help feed the boys in the trenches "over there," the records in the office show that these young people produced food and feed to the value of more than \$20,000,000.

Helps Boys and Girls.

The money value of the products of club members is only a small part of the value of club work. Many boys and girls have had their vision of life enlarged by club membership. Many have taken and are taking college training. The agricultural colleges of the country especially have profited in enrollment from the clubs. Many boys and girls have made their own money to defray their college expenses in club activities. Many after graduation have returned to the farms or have engaged in extension work as county agents. Rural life has been greatly enriched in recent years by the trained leadership obtained from agricultural clubs. The results obtained in this work justify many times the expenditures made in securing them and appeal strongly for a larger development of this useful work.

NEED WINDBREAK IN SUMMER

Protection Given to Garden and Fruit Plantation From Hot South-west Winds.

A farm needs a windbreak in summer as much as in winter. Did you ever notice the difference in the garden and fruit plantation on two farms, one sheltered from the hot southwest wind and the other exposed to it? The windbreak pays in dollars and cents.

INFERIOR SALT WILL RUIN COUNTRY HIDES

Hair Is So Set That It Cannot Be Removed Properly.

Incident Illustrates Importance of Attention to Details in Handling and Curing—Alum Is Especially Objectionable.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Hides should be salted only with clean, pure salt free from alum, according to a recent statement of the bureau of chemistry. This bureau is making a study of the best methods for skinning farm animals and curing hides in order to produce a high-grade leather. Salt containing alum partly tans the hide and sets the hair so that it cannot be removed. Hides which cannot be unhaired properly bring a loss to the tanner and prejudice him in future purchases against hides from the same source.

Tanners recently submitted to the bureau of chemistry green salted hides which could not be unhaired after liming in the usual way, in order to find out the cause. An examination showed that on the basis of the dry hide unhaired spots contained 0.8 per cent of alumina and the portions where the hair was not loosened contained 1.25 per cent of alumina. The portions of the hide which contained 0.8 per cent alumina unhaired with difficulty, while the portions containing 1.25 per cent could not be unhaired even on the beam. An inferior salt containing alum had been used in salting the hides and had set the hair.

This incident illustrates the importance of attention to details in the handling and curing of hides and skins. Farmers, country butchers and dealers are advised by the department to use only clean, pure salt in salting hides. The presence of alum in salt is especially objectionable and as little as five per cent in the salt can be detected usually by its bitter taste.

Farmers' bulletin No. 1055, which gives detailed directions for skinning, curing and marketing country hides and skins, may be obtained upon application to the United States department of agriculture, Washington, D. C.

VEGETABLES ARE IMPORTANT

Most Intensively Worked Field on Farm Is Garden—Irish Potatoes Are Leaders.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The most intensively worked field on the farm is the garden.

For convenience it is usually located close to the dwelling. Many farmers have, in addition, truck patches in



Garden Should Be Located Conveniently to Dwelling.

fields where inter-tilled crops, such as corn, are grown. These patches are conveniently plowed, prepared, and cultivated at the same time the ground is worked for the regular crop. In the truck patch potatoes, sweet corn, cabbage, tomatoes, squash and cucumbers are usually raised.

Vegetables constitute only about 11 per cent (in value) of all food consumed by farmers, and about 80 per cent of the vegetables are furnished by the farm. In general, Irish potatoes are easily the most important vegetable raised, constituting nearly one-half of the value of vegetables consumed. In the South, however, about twice as many sweet potatoes as Irish potatoes are used.

SILO WILL PRESERVE CROPS

Alfalfa, Cane, Kafir, Corn and Other Forage, May Be Saved by Storing in Huge Pit.

Rainy weather at the time clover or alfalfa should be cut will often make it impossible to cure the forage and produce hay of much value. Prolonged rain in the fall will prevent the curing of such forage as cane, kafir, corn, millet, and a late cutting of alfalfa. A silo will save all this feed and preserve it in excellent shape.

GIVE TEAM SOME ATTENTION

During Exceedingly Warm Weather Horses or Mules Are Liable to Get Overheated.

Those who cultivate crops when the weather is exceedingly warm should notice the team. It would be a very unfortunate matter to allow the horses or mules to become too warm. This might injure the animals permanently.

CURRENT WIT and HUMOR



HAD HIS DOUBT.

The Counsellor—What, you broke after having a hand in that big box job? I thought you fellows had a gentlemen's agreement to share the loot.

The Yegg—We had. But I suspect some of the parties to it were no gentlemen.

Her Reason.

"I wish I had psychic powers."

"Why so?"

"Because I am crazy for a car, and then I could give my husband auto suggestions."

Modest.

Ethel—I understand she was very modest at her birthday.

Helen—Well, I should say so; she didn't have half as many candles as she ought to have had on her cake.

Intelligence.

Doctor—Did you give the patient the insomnia medicine I ordered? Amateur Nurse—Yes, doctor, but he got so mad whenever I woke him up to give it to him.

Where Mystery Reigns.

Biggs—What do you usually eat in this restaurant?

Higgs—Don't ask me; ask the cook. I simply order from the menu.

Natural Affinity.

"Why is it that widow seems to attract the horsey element?"

"Probably because she is a grass widow."



TEST OF NERVES.

First Doctor—How are that patient's nerves?

Second Doctor—Fine; he can read all the headlines in the daily paper now without a tremor.

Think of Others.

When on the slippery street you set Your feet and get a twist, Think of what fun the others get; Just be an altruist.

An Agreement.

"The court gave that convicted rascal a suspended sentence."

"So did the lynching mob. They hanged him."

Not in the Race.

Belle—I wouldn't marry the best man on earth.

Neil—Of course, you wouldn't. Somebody else long ago beat you to it.

An Enthusiast.

"Cleanliness can be carried too far."

"Impossible."

"It can. If I don't stop her, my wife would scour the lettuce with soap."

One Assurance.

"Do you think the tale Miss Flirty told you was made up on the face of it?"

"Maybe not, but she was."

Often in One.

Heck—My wife has a great fondness for pets; has yours?

Peck—That depends on whether you refer to animals or the mood.

Its Financial State.

"That couple have just come back from their wedding trip dead broke."

"Ah! So the honeymoon has got to its last quarter."

Exact Locality.

Lawyer—Officer, did you catch the prisoner in flagrante delictu?

Policeman—No, sir; I caught him in the back alley.

Pertinent Illustration.

"What have you there?"

"A booklet entitled, 'Short Cuts to Riches.'"

"Ah! I see there's a mountain of dollars on the cover. To be consistent, there should be the picture of a penitentiary on the back."

Why He Was Sent to Bed.

"Pa, what is an anarchist?"

"One who thinks there should be no government and no authority, my son."

"Then, pa, is ma an anarchist?"

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Rock on California Farm Has Increased in Weight Within the Memory of Settlers.

On the farm of Mr. James Champion, known as the old home place of his father, John Champion, boys used to meet years ago with the elder Champion, and often tossed a round stone, ball fashion, one to another. The same stone now lies in the yard, at the old place, and men now in their eighties often speak of this rock and identify it as the stone they used to toss about to each other.

Today it will weigh about 300 pounds and lies near the spot where it has lain for nearly a century. Some of the most substantial old men of Mercer county who are now living, will vouch that this rock has grown from a small stone to its present size since their babyhood days.—Willmore (Cal.) Enterprise.

Fig Culture in United States.

It is not improbable that this country will soon produce all the figs it needs. This statement is made by the chief of the bureau of plant industry, United States department of agriculture, in his report on the progress of Smyrna fig culture in California.

Much of the success of this enterprise has been due to the fact that the department has been able to maintain a caprifig orchard at Loomis from which caprifigs have been distributed free to growers.

A Highbrow Boast.

Weary Rhodes—Dat guy gives me a pain. Always trying to show de other feller up.

Dreary Dan—What's wrong now? Did he ditch ya?

Weary Rhodes—No, but he claims he can pronounce the names on all the Pullman cars.—Houston Post.

Did you ever see a man who wasn't willing to make money without working for it?

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Food Would Sour and Boil—Teeth Like Chalk

Mr. Herbert M. Gessner writes from his home in Berlin, N. H.:

"I had stomach trouble over ten years; kept getting worse. I tried everything for relief but it came back worse than ever. Last fall I got awfully bad; could only eat light loaf bread and tea. In January I got so bad that what I would eat would sour and boil; my teeth would be like chalk. I suffered terribly. I prayed every day for something to cure me. One day I read about EATONIC and told my wife to get me a box at the drug store as I was going to work at 4 p. m. I took one-third of it and began to feel relief; when it was three-fourths gone, I felt fine and when it was used up I had no pains. Wife got me another box but I have felt the pain but twice. I used five tablets out of the new box and I have no more stomach trouble. Now I write to tell you how thankful I am that I heard of EATONIC. I feel like a new man; I eat what I like, drink plenty of water, and it never hurts me at all."

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