

FARM EXTRACTS

INFORMATION FROM THE EXPERIMENT STATION—AGRICULTURAL PAPERS AND THE COUNTY AGENT'S OFFICE

Incubator Needs Special Care To Hatch Eggs Well

The incubator is coming to be a common piece of farm equipment in Kentucky but like the cream separator or the tractor it cannot be expected to give the best results in its work unless it receives a little special attention, experienced poultrymen say. Making sure that the machine is in good running order a reasonable length of time before it is to be used will produce better results in hatching and save both time and money for the farmer, the poultrymen say.

An inventory of the outfit should be taken at this time of the year to make sure that there is a plentiful supply of wicks and other articles that are to be used in any quantity in turning out the hatch, according to suggestions by poultrymen at the College of Agriculture. Costly delays can be prevented by ordering any needed part immediately.

In order to make sure that the machine can be operated at the proper temperature throughout the period of incubation it should be run two or three days before the eggs are placed in it. Experiments have shown that a temperature of 101 degrees the first week, 102 degrees the second week and 103 degrees the third give best results when a standing thermometer, with the bulb level with the top of the eggs, is used. A temperature of 103 degrees throughout the hatch is best when a hanging thermometer, with the bulb an inch above the eggs, is used.

A well-ventilated cellar has been found to be the best place for the machine but it never should be placed in a damp room or on the second or third floor. Better results will be obtained if the machine is not set in the direct rays of the sunlight.

Before the eggs are placed in the incubator, the thermometer may be tested with the ordinary clinical one by placing the two in water at 110 degrees and then observing them to see that the readings correspond, especially between 103 and 101 degrees, as the water cools.

Rich Soils And Good Stock Found Together

Figures showing that the five counties in Kentucky having the highest land values also have the highest livestock value are being used by soil specialists at the College of Agriculture in pointing out to farmers of the State that good soils and good livestock are usually found together.

In the scheme of agricultural progress, soil improvement should go ahead of, or at least along with, the grading up of livestock, according to R. E. Stephenson, one of the specialists. This is true because the quality of livestock is influenced by the quality of pastures and home grown feeds. In general farming, a livestock industry cannot be developed with purchased feeds, the specialists say.

In the five counties where the land values were found to be highest, or an average of \$198.45 an acre, the average value of livestock was \$75 a head for beef cattle, \$46 a head for dairy cattle, \$13.70 a head for sheep and \$13.10 for hogs, according to the figures which are taken from the 1920 census.

In the five counties ranking from sixteenth to twentieth in land values, which was an average of \$90.43 an acre, the value of the beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep and hogs was respectively two-thirds, five-sixths, five-sevenths and five-eighths of the value for animals of the same classes in the five counties having the highest land values.

In five counties having the lowest land values, which averaged \$9.54 an acre, the value of beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep and hogs was respectively two-thirds, four-fifths, two-thirds and three-fourths of the value for animals of the same classes in the five counties ranking from sixteenth to twentieth in land values.

Big Increase Expected In Acreage Of Pastures

As a result of the low prices of farm products, the acreage of grasses and clover seeded in Kentucky this spring is expected to be increased approximately 100 per cent over that of 1920, soils and crops specialists at the College of Agriculture say. This is in line with the increase reported for 1921 or docking pincer. In castrating when the acreage was increased about 50 per cent over that of 1920, should be cut off and the testicles about 80 per cent of the increased and attached cord pulled out. The acreage will be seeded in that acc-

tion of the State which normally seeds red top or herd's grass for a pasture, according to the specialists. Good stands and success in growing the increased acreage will depend upon proper preparation of the seed bed and the use of sufficient seed, the specialists have pointed out to farmers.

"Grasses of all kinds catch best on seed beds that are compact beneath and only loose enough on top to cover the seed," Ralph Kenney, one of the specialists said. Land growing a cover crop of rye that is being grazed rather heavily is an ideal place to sow red top, since the tramping brings the seed in close contact with the moist earth and enables it to take roots. If the soil is loose on fields without a cover crop, it is frequently best to roll the land immediately after the grass has been sown.

"In spite of the fact that farmers in many localities of Kentucky sow only three pounds of red top an acre, not less than five pounds should be used and 10 pounds is not too much. The amount of labor and trouble necessary to obtain a thick stand can be reduced if sufficient quantities of the seed are used in the first seeding.

"In seeding red top, it is best to use a peck of Japan clover to the acre at the same time. This mixture increases the grazing furnished by the red top alone and in addition the clover, which is a legume, adds to the fertility of the soil.

"Early seedings, if not killed by freezing, usually make the largest crop by mid summer and also usually come through the summer in better shape. Many farmers sow their seed one-third at a time at ten days intervals to insure a stand."

Tobacco Growers Use Seed Treatment

Indications are that many Kentucky tobacco growers will try seed treatment during the coming season in an effort to control wildfire and angular leaf spot, the two most serious diseases of tobacco, occurring in their fields, according to W. D. Valleur, plant pathologist at the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station. A number of Christian county farmers, who recently had almost a bushel of dark tobacco seed treated at the station are among the most recent ones to employ the method before planting their seed.

The treatment which gives promise of rendering the seed disease free involves the use of bichloride of mercury which is "being recommended in preference to formaldehyde as the latter resulted in some injury last year when the seed was not thoroughly washed, according to Mr. Valleur. The seed is soaked for 15 minutes in a solution made up of one part of bichloride and 1,000 parts of water after which it is washed thoroughly in several changes of clean water. Metal containers cannot be used in the soaking process. After the soaking and washing, the seed is dried quickly by placing it in a cheese cloth bag and swinging it around at arm's length several times to remove the surplus water after which it is spread out in a thin layer.

Docking Lambs Raises Their Value On Market

Failure to dock their lambs and otherwise care for them before sending them to the market is responsible for large losses suffered each year by Kentucky sheepmen, according to L. J. Horlacher, in charge of the sheep work at the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station. Lambs which have received this care bring from one to three cents a pound more on the principal markets. Both operations may be performed at once after the lambs are from seven to 14 days old. A bright, clear day is best for the work, according to the specialists.

In addition to the higher price which they bring, docked lambs have a blockier appearance, are cleaner and less liable to be infested with maggots and contribute toward giving the flock a uniform appearance. Castrated lambs fatten more quickly than do others, they have a better quality of meat and are not discriminated against on the market, sheep specialists say. In docking, the tail should be cut off about one inch from the body by means of a knife, prying shears with the increase reported for 1921 or docking pincer. In castrating when the acreage was increased about 50 per cent over that of 1920, should be cut off and the testicles about 80 per cent of the increased and attached cord pulled out. The acreage will be seeded in that acc-

small amount of disinfectant has been applied.

Warren Farmers Complete Plans To Drain Wet Land

In order to increase the crop yields from wet lands on their farms, four Warren county farmers who are cooperating with the extension division of the College of Agriculture and County Agent W. H. Rogers, will install 1,200 rods of tile during the spring months, according to a report by Earl G. Welch, farm engineering specialist who are co-operating with the extension of the college. Three of the farmers are S. K. Warren, Mrs. T. M. Hunt and Charles Davenport, while the fourth co-operator in the project is expected to be one of two other interested farmers.

The tile, which will be purchased co-operatively, will be used in the wet bottom lands along the Barren River which have produced a crop on an average of once in five years during the past. After being drained, the land is expected to produce record crop yields because of its fertility. The cost of installing the tile, including the cost of the tile, digging trenches, laying the tile and filling in, is expected to be about \$5 cents a rod or from \$25 to \$30 an acre. A year ago the same operations were said to cost from \$50 to \$60 an acre.

Extra Lamb Feed Produces Cheaper And Faster Gains

Sheep-owners who give their lambs a little extra feed at this time of the year will profit from the cheaper and faster gains which the animals are able to make, experienced flock owners say. While it is usually best to crack the grain for young lambs, those that are five or six weeks old prefer to do the grinding themselves, the sheep men say. This system of feeding may be started when the lambs are from 10 to 16 days old.

A good grain ration may be made from two parts of ground corn, two parts of ground oats, one part of linseed oil meal and one part of wheat bran, according to L. J. Horlacher, sheep specialist at the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station. Clover or alfalfa hay makes a good supplement for the grain ration.

In order to keep the ewes away from the lambs and their feed, a corner of the barn may be fenced off and a creep with horizontal openings constructed for the young animals. Frequent washings with limewater will keep the troughs clean enough for the lambs which do not eat well if these are allowed to become dirty.

Farm And Home News From Over Kentucky

Corn, dairy, hog, clover, wheat and poultry problems are scheduled to receive special attention from farmers in the Chesnut Grove community of Taylor county during the coming year, according to a program of work which they have just completed in cooperation with County Agent J. L. Miller.

Farm boys and girls in Campbell county are showing an increased interest in junior agricultural club work, according to a report of County Agent H. F. Link. More than 230 of them have been enrolled to carry on some club project during the coming year.

Owen county farmers are using co-operation in supplying the lime stone needs of their soils. One limestone pulverizing machine, which is being used co-operatively, already has crushed 1,000 tons of stone for farmers in three communities of the county while farmers in three other communities have their stone ready for the machine. Those in another community are planning to buy a machine co-operatively.

J. S. Clifton, H. W. Highbaugh and Zale Smith, Oldham county farmers, are planning to keep records on their farm operations during the coming year in co-operation with County Agent G. B. Nance, to show how farming may be put on a business basis.

In order to reduce the usual amount of difficulty in getting a good yield of potatoes from their second crop, 20 farmers in Owen county are planning to use certified seed this year, according to a report of County Agent D. P. Morris.

Taylor county farmers are planning a county Duroc Jersey hog sale to be held next fall as the first venture of its kind ever tried in the county, according to County Agent J. L. Miller. Several different communities in the county will join in promoting the sale.

If it is anything to eat, we have

KENTUCKY ORPHANS

MOVE TO NEW HOME

Leave Cramped Quarters in City For Ideal Cottage Village At Lyndon.

Louisville, Ky., Jan. 28.—The 160 children housed in the old row of residences in the city, which for 25 years had been the domicile of the Kentucky Children's Home Society, have moved to the country. They have left behind them the noise and bustle, to romp and play over the great farm at Lyndon, Ky. They have moved into their cottage village.

From out of strange windows 160 little faces peered with the first streaks of dawn, to look out upon entirely new fields.

In automobiles furnished by the Kiwanis Club, the children made the 15 mile journey from the old quarters on Baxter Avenue, into the land of childhood's fancy and dreams. At one o'clock in the afternoon, the first automobile rolled up before the door of the old home, then came another automobile, another and another, the long line stretching into the distance.

Wild cheers resounded from each upstairs window to greet the Kiwanians and then the clatter of running feet was the forerunner of the crowd of surging humanity that swirled out of doors and about the machines.

The dream of a life time had been realized.

Many of the children learned for the first time the unhampered delight of great, open fields to romp across; these were the children committed from Louisville and other Kentucky cities. Still others were but returning to fields they loved. They were children from the mountains, the coal fields and other rural sections of the state. These latter had known only that depressing poverty of rural life before being taken in under the protection of the Society.

HARDING MAKES FARM LEADER FEDERAL JUDGE

Washington, Jan. 31.—Senator Kenyon, Iowa, leader of the much-discussed agricultural bloc and chairman of the senate labor committee, was named today by President Harding to be circuit judge for the Eighth district. Immediately after receipt of the nomination, the senate confirmed it unanimously in open session.

At the White House it was said that the president had appointed Mr. Kenyon to succeed Judge Walter I. Smith, because of his high regard for the senator's ability and because of the latter's known desire to have a place on the federal bench. Senator Kenyon, in a formal statement later also said the president, when a member of the senate, knew of his dislike for politics and his love for the law.

In the senate, Senator Harrison, Democrat, Mississippi, after confirmation had been voted said that while he was confident that the appointment of Mr. Kenyon was because of the latter's eminent qualifications, the question would arise throughout the agricultural sections as to whether the selection was not intended to drive the wedge into, and ultimately destroy, the agricultural bloc. Senator Heflin, Democrat, Alabama, declared that with the Kenyon appointment the "drive to break the agricultural bloc had started."

Senator Kenyon does not plan to quit the senate until probably the middle of February. At that time he expects passage of the Capper co-operative marketing bill in which he is interested vitally, and with which he has had much to do as leader of the agricultural bloc.

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