

# THE REVIEW'S SPECIAL FARM NEWS DEPARTMENT

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Editor

### Live News About Crawford County Farms and Farmers

Thursday is Memorial day. Let us make an extra effort to attend the exercises this year and show the reverence and love that we should feel toward the few remaining veterans of the civil war. Not many more Memorial days will the American people have an opportunity of showing their gratitude and love for the surviving heroes, as with each passing year the ranks are becoming thinner; they are going down the valley, one by one. There are many of our boys sleeping in the soil of France, but wherever they are resting every true American will bear them in mind and pay tribute to their memory. President Wilson, in his national Memorial day proclamation, urges the people of the nation to gather that day in their place of worship and pray for the victory of the American armies, which will bring a peace founded upon mercy, justice and good will. He says this is a duty peculiarly incumbent in a time of war humbly and devoutly to acknowledge our independence on Almighty God and to implore His aid and protection.

One hundred and five boys from the different counties of Iowa will get to attend the state fair this fall as guests of the fair association, because they are winners in the essay contest conducted by the association. "How can a farmer boy help win the war?" was given as a subject, and competition was free to all farmer boys in the state. Cletus Owens, of Crawford, won first prize. The boys will be housed in tents at the fair grounds and will be entertained at the best restaurants on the ground. Y. M. C. A. workers will have them in charge and help to entertain them.

Ida Grove Pioneer: James Leitch, who came to this county as a farm hand five years ago and has been farming on his own hook about two years, recently sold off 50 head of 255 pound hogs, for which he received over \$2100, or \$16.85 per hundred. He has 35 young pigs this spring and 13 old sows, also thirty head of cattle on the place, all ages. Last fall he sold a number of that year's calves. He is doing nicely on the 100 acres which he rents from Tlof Carlson in section 15 of Hayes township. He came from Ireland eight years ago to Canada and came from Canada to the states five years ago. He was in Ida Grove last Thursday for the purpose of taking out his second papers in naturalization.

I had planned to be present at the Red Cross sale at Kenwood last Thursday afternoon, but the rainstorm compelled a postponement until Friday afternoon of this week. Tom and Jerry, the famous Crawford county Red Cross roosters, will be there ranging to go over the top. Many handsome and useful articles will be sold and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance. Malone Bros, who have sold Tom and Jerry every time they have been sold, will be present and the line of talk those frocked faced orators put up at a Red Cross sale is worth going miles to hear. Don't miss it, if you have to mortgage the old gray mare to get there.

Sac City Bulletin: One of the interesting developments of the season in agricultural way is the "Hickory Hill Poultry Farm," which Claude Keir is operating just south of Sac City. Mr. and Mrs. Keir have gone into the business of hatching chicks wholesale and are using three incubators, each with a 200 egg capacity. They already have 900 young chickens on the place and within the next fortnight will have about 500 more, besides a few turkeys, ducks and guineas. They have a number of young Light Brahmas, worth \$1.00 apiece as soon as hatched, while the ordinary young chicks are sold after hatching for 15 cents apiece. The aristocrats of the flock came from the Janeville, Minn., poultry farm. Mr. and Mrs. Keir also have some turkeys of extra breeding, the gobblers coming from southern Kentucky and the hens from northern Minnesota. Although most people would think 1,400 young chicks would give enough work, Mr. and Mrs. Keir are going into the work more extensively. New breeding pens are being built and in the next year or two this business will attain considerable magnitude.

M. F. Bundy, of Genoa Junction, Wis., has the following to say: "My experience, to make a success of the dairy business, is that one must start with such a herd as he can obtain and grow up with it. He must purchase the best sire that he can afford. A man can put as much money into a sire as he has left after buying his herd. With a grade sire it is necessary to have an exceptional individual to offset the bad qualities of the grade cow. By raising the heifer calves from his best cows (which he will find

by the use of the scales and teater), he can increase the flow of milk and butter fat from the individual. But this is not the only phase of the game. Without the proper feed the best individual would be no better than a scrub. Feed a balanced ration which is palatable and not too expensive or the profits will be reduced. Alfalfa is the best of roughage and the cheapest form of protein. Corn silage made from mature corn is the best succulent feed outside of grass—nature's own feed. The ground feed will depend on the locality. Care is also very essential. One must take to the animal's wants if he would make her the most profitable.

Wm. Glau is proprietor of Sunny Side farm, located in section six, Denison township. Last year he decided to get into the pure bred Chester White swine business. He bought a gilt from John Holst, one from the Danforth herd in Buena Vista county and one from a Nebraska breeder at the Stous City fair. He also bought a male pig from the Storm Lake man. While he has a number of spring pigs they are not in the best of condition. They have been troubled with worms considerably and his outlook for a good crop this year is not the best. Mr. Glau told me he intended making a trip to Buena Vista county in an effort to buy several head of brood sows. I noticed he did not have a cement feeding floor for his hogs and I am afraid that he has also failed to properly ventilate his hog house and furnish it with sufficient sunlight. These three things go with the successful raising of hogs. He is a fine young man to visit with and I trust that he will soon get established in the pure bred swine business.

I made a short visit at the farm of Clarence Bryan, located in section twenty-two, Paradise township. I found Mr. Bryan getting ready to leave when I called, which necessitated making the visit short. He told me that his silo blew down two weeks ago, also that the silo of Thos. Ahart, who is located southeast of Dow City, both were wood silos. Mr. Bryan says his silo had been built six years and that a broken pig wire caused the trouble. The silo will be rebuilt.

I found Fred Kruse, who is located in section thirty-three, Hanover township, at the farm of his neighbor, Henry Wolf, Mr. Kruse and his partner, John Blaisfield, were shelling corn for Mr. Wolf, and I was told they expected to shell 1,000 bushels of the 1917 crop. Mr. Kruse said it was the best grade of last year's crop of corn he had shelled. He also told me that he expects to build a horse and cow barn this year, it will be 40x50. He reports 110 live spring pigs. While Mr. Kruse does not have a herd of pure bred cattle, like most of our farmers, he always keeps a pure bred male in the herd. He raises the Hereford cattle and it is his intention to soon have a herd of nothing but white face cattle.

During the past few weeks every traveler over our county was no doubt impressed with the fact that fruit trees were never more heavily laden with blossoms than this spring. Even old trees, apparently beyond the useful age, have been putting forth an abundance of blossoms this year. I note, however, that Crawford county has a scarcity of bees and process of fertilization conducted largely by them may not be sufficient to insure crop. Careful observers have noticed, however, that the winds have been from different quarters to carry the pollen probably to all sides of the trees, even if the bees are lacking. Some years only half of the branches bear fruit because the prevailing winds have pollenized only one side of the tree.

Gardeners from all sections of the state report serious damage to their plants from cutworms. From now until June 10th the cutworms will do a great amount of damage unless measures are taken to check them. Plants growing in drilled rows are hard to protect from cutworms. The soil may be "wormed" or gone over with a hoe or rake to a depth of five or six inches and all worms and other pests that are unearthed can be destroyed. Another method to be used when the worms are doing considerable injury is the use of poison bran mash. This can be made by mixing paris green at the rate of one part by weight with two parts by weight of bran. A tablespoonful of this mixture should be placed every few inches in the row during the late afternoon. Poultry and other pets should be kept away from gardens so treated. When plants are set out one in a hill like cabbage or tomatoes, they can be easily protected by placing around the base of each plant a collar about two inches high and one and a half inches across. These collars may be made out of

light cardboard or heavy wrapping paper if properly folded. After June 10th they may be removed.

Flies are a great nuisance as well as being dangerous to the health. When sitting down to a meal, with the flies bothering you, don't grumble at the flies, but blame yourself for not having screens in the windows and doors so that the flies cannot get into the house. The three important points to be kept in mind during a fly campaign are: The swarms of flies must be kept down; they must be kept from coming in contact with germ-laden materials; and foods in the home and on the market must be protected from them.

In the mines of Hainault horses that travel back and forth over a certain road exactly thirty times each day go to the stables of their own accord after their last trip, and refuse to take another step. In Montaigne's Essays we read that the oxen employed in the royal gardens of Susa for turning the wheels to which the water pails were attached refused to make more than the hundred rounds that constituted their daily task.

The careful process of improving dairy stock is continuing successfully. It is stated that thirty pure bred Holstein cows now have achieved the proud distinction of having produced more than forty pounds of butter in ten days. Each of these great cows has yielded in seven days an amount of butter that it would take ten average milkers to produce.

Albert Lenz will build a shed 20x40 to be used for garage, cob house and wash house. He will install a gasoline engine to furnish power to drive a churn, grind stone and separator. He reports good luck with his crop of spring pigs. He now has 225 spring pigs. He is located in section thirteen, Paradise township.

The potato bug will soon be abroad in the land. The use of lead arsenate as a poison is recommended. It will remain on the plants after quite a heavy rain. It costs much less than paris green, too.

The wind and rain storms of last week kept me out of the country most of the time and, on that account, our department this week is not up to standard. I hope to do better in the future.

Farmers in several counties of the state are testing their soils for acidity with the Troug test and are finding that they need lime.

It is claimed that twenty-five per cent of the corn in Buchanan county will have to be replanted.

Farm crops men have found that buckwheat is a good crop to use to choke out quack grass.

Build that silo this year.

Iowa has 15 per cent more hogs this year than last, estimate the animal

husbandry extension men of Iowa State college. Their estimate is based on reports received from the county agents. Out of 85 counties from which figures were received, 60 reported an increase in the number of sows and pigs on hand May 1, 1918, over May 1, 1917. Fourteen counties considered the situation as normal and 11 reported a decrease. Much of this increase is due, say the experts, to a larger percentage of pigs saved per litter, due to better care and good weather during farrowing season, together with a slight increase in the number of brood sows kept. Earlier in the year a considerable increase in the number of sows kept for spring farrow was shown, but many men sold part of their sows because of uncertainty over the car shortage, the poor corn crop and the unstable hog market. The increase in pigs is due largely, therefore, to the greater number saved, which ranges from 5 to 20 per cent in the counties. In a great majority of the counties from 80 to 90 per cent of the sows farrowed before May 1st, thus giving the spring pigs a better start and allowing for more fall pigs. Three or four counties reported a serious shortage of corn for the 1918 pig crop, but most of them show that from 80 to 100 per cent of the hog men have enough corn for their hogs. Three-fourths of the counties have an increased acreage of barley, ranging from 10 to 300 per cent, which will help to meet the corn shortage. While these figures are encouraging, the increase cannot be made too great and every hog breeder should plan to breed for all the fall pigs possible.

"Under present cattle feeding conditions it is up to the feeder to judge whether or not his full fed cattle will bring enough of a premium to justify full feeding rather than limited feeding," says Prof. W. H. Pew, of the Iowa agricultural experiment station. "The increase in the number of hogs gone up and as a result many feeders have seen the margin of profit vanish and have suffered discouraging losses." However, from experiments conducted at the Iowa station and from the results obtained by various feeders there seems to be one plan of feeding which will still net a profit. Limited grain feeding with full amounts of silage will produce cheaper gains and a greater margin of profit per steer. These experiments show that the cattle fed on a limited grain ration did not sell for as high a figure as those full fed, but the difference in cost of gains more than overbalanced the difference in selling price. The results of these experiments show the ever increasing importance of the silo in beef production. The place of silage in the fattening ration to insure economy of gains has been fully established. Prices of feeds and cattle may change, but at the present time the market conditions will not justify full feeding. Limited grain feeding with full fed silage are producing the profitable cattle of today.

Iowa grain growers will be interested in the new federal standards for wheat and shelled corn, which are to

take effect on July 16th. Six grades are provided for the different classes of hard red spring, durum, hard red winter, soft red winter, common white and white club. To grade in grade 1, wheats must weigh from 58 to 60 pounds to the bushel, varying with the class of wheat. They must have less than 13.5 to 14 per cent moisture, less than 2 per cent damaged kernels, less than 1 per cent foreign material other than dockage and less than 5 per cent of wheats of other classes. Seven grades are established for shelled corn. Grade 1 requires that corn shall weigh 55 pounds to the bushel, have less than 14 per cent moisture, less than 2 per cent foreign material and cracked corn, less than 2 per cent damaged kernels and no damage at all from heat. Detailed information on the classes and grades may be obtained from the Service and Regulatory Announcement No. 33 issued by the Bureau of Markets of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C. This may be secured by writing for it.

Stallion enrollment in Iowa during the year 1917 decreased by 1103 certificates from what it was in 1916. The Percheron and standard bred breeds showed the most marked decrease. The great decrease in the registration of standard breeds was to be expected and is but further evidence that the automobile has very largely replaced the light harness horse. There were 409 less Percheron stallions enrolled, a fact which authorities attribute to the great number of sales from this state to the western and northwestern states, rather than from the effects of increased use of automobile trucks and tractors. The most encouraging feature of the decrease is that the percentage of pure bred horses has gone up until it is now 75 per cent. Fifty-two per cent of all the jacks registered are pure bred, as compared with 9 per cent in 1912. This advance in the breeding of horses is evidence that the farmers of Iowa are becoming awake to the fact that it does not pay to breed from scrub stock.

Authorities who are in touch with the situation say that the production of food will not be limited during 1918 by any shortage of farm labor. Although the state has furnished 45,000 men for military service, the man power supply has hardly been touched and farmers have gone ahead with plans for an increased acreage of crops. The

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places of the men who are gone are being filled by school boys in the Boys' Working reserve and by men of middle life who have retired, especially men who were formerly farmers. Women are also assisting by their work in canning and conserving food products. Labor saving machinery makes each man more efficient than in former years. This encouraging labor situation in the greatest of all food producing states should encourage the war work of America and her allies.

The graduation audiences will go to sleep over some of the heavy essays now being written, but it will show they have entire confidence in the truth of the statements proclaimed by the speakers.

They are getting so bold that they hilt on to automobiles and tow them off, but so far they have not gone so far as to kidnap the police.

However some men can't do much to help the Red Cross save the life of some soldier boy, as they couldn't do business if they didn't smoke six or eight expensive cigars a day.

Some of the people who have been unable to plant a garden because it was too early will soon conclude it isn't best to do it this year, as it is too late.

The automobile salesman's theory of how to keep a car out of the repair shop is for you to buy a new car every year.

The congressional investigating committee has our permission to go ahead, even if the whitewash supply is short.

The canning clubs now include 500,000 husky young Americans on the French front, out to can the Kaiser.

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