THE REVIEW'S SPECIAL FARM NEWS DEPARTMENT

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EDITOR

Live News About Crawford County Farms and Farmers

(Continued from Page Six)

market getting about $35 less for her than she cost him. The other one is raising an extra choice litter. There were nine in the litter but a short time ago one of them, a male pig, mysteriously disappeared from the farm. The litter was sired by Crusader, who was sired by Grandmaster, out of Extra Queen 1st by Extra Long Price E, litter brother to Eschers' Standard, the famous 950-pound sow. It is claimed that Crusader is one of the best ever sired by Grandmaster. Grandmaster was one of the largest hogs that ever lived and stood at the head of Fred H. Hassler's herd. Mr. Staley now has eleven brood sows, seventeen fall pigs and twenty-eight spring pigs. You will readily see that he has right now a very good start.

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I'll say the farmers are busy boys right now. The excessive rainfall kept them from cutting the alfalfa but it did not keep the weeds from growing in the corn fields. They are now working early and late in an effort to kill the weeds which got such a good start in the corn. While drving along the Denison-Schleswig ridge last Friday morning about 9:30, I noticed farmers at work in every corn field and also saw lunch pails going out into the fields. Gee, I wished I was cultivating corn—about lunch time. There will be some replanting of corn but as a whole, the crop prospects right now are good. The small grain, and there is an increased acreage of it, is looking very good.

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When Judge Wm. I. Steward, district judge of Hiawatha, Kansas, was told that a quarter section farm near there was not under cultivation, he appointed three attorneys to investigate. They verified the report and also the fact that the farm had not been worked the year before. The judge then instructed the county attorney to file a petition for a receiver. After the appointment, the receiver proceedd to get the land under cultivation. In such cases as this, Judge Steward says, court action is advisable, because the country needs the crops that such land is capable of producing.

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The Indiana farmers' battle hymn of 1918 starts off, "If you can't put a gun on your shoulder, put a silo on your farm." Indiana is trying to build 10,000 more silos this year.

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The potato crop of Houston and Wharton counties, Texas, has been saved through the aid of the business men in local towns. When it was realized that the potato crop would be lost unless the farmers received help, the state extension director, cooperating with the farm help specialists of the department of agriculture, explained the situation to the business men, who closed their offices and stores, went to the farms and worked with the potato growers in harvesting their crop. Such cooperation is meaning much not only for the increasing of the food supply of the nation but is breaking down the barrier that in many cases existed between town and country, according to the U. S. department of agriculture. Business men and farmers are working hand in hand to secure an adequate food supply and to further the nation's great cause. Other communities are planning to follow the example set in these Texas counties.

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Col. Henry S. Graves, chief of the forest service, has written to the Boy Scouts setting forth the need for the census of black walnut trees which President Wilson has asked the Scouts to undertake. Four or five propelleors are required for each airplane, the chief forester points out, and since black walnut is scarce and only the best grade can be used for this purpose, it is important that the government should know immediately the location of all avaiable supplies. Walnut is also the chief wood used for gun stocks and these two rekuirements, Colonel Graves says, make it one of the most essential timbers for war purposes.

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"Enroll for farm work on Saturday" is the slogan of a campaign now being carried out in some of the southern states by farm help specialists of the U. S. department of agriculture in cooperation with the state agricultural colleges. The time honored custom for the southern negro to spend Saturday in town is being discouraged during this emergency when every man is needed every day for farm work. The request to do away with Saturday holidays is meeting with a heavy response and many thousands of negro workers are answering the government's call for increased food production.

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Recent heavy rains have caused much washing out of corn ground and burying of corn on low lands in the western and central portions of the state, but as a whole the benefit to the entire state has far offset the crop damage.

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In all sections of Iowa farmers are confronted with a serious problem in getting returns from land which has been flooded by the recent heavy rains. The crops in low-lying fields now under water will be seriously hurt, if not totally lost. Corn may still be secured for replanting through the county agents, but it may be too late to replant by the time many of the fields can be worked again. For this situation the farm crops men of Iowa State college recommend the planting of emergency forage crops such as sorghum, millet and sudan grass. These will furnish good yields of hay or forage and may also be grown for seed. They will bring a revenue from land which would otherwise be wasted. Sorghum for hay should be planted at the rate of 40 to 70 pounds of seed per acre. It can be sown as late as the middle of July, but preferably before that time. Millets, especially the Common and Hungarian varieties, make good crops of hay and grow well during hot, dry weather. They are seeded like small grain, using 25 to 40 pounds of seed to the acre, and can be sown up to July 15th. When used for hay they should be fed along with other roughages. Sudan grass is also a good crop for dry weather and produces yields of three to four tons of hay. It should be sown about the middle of June in rows three feet apart, using 10 pounds of seed per acre. For further information regarding these emergency crops, write the Farm Crops Department at Iowa State college.

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Iowa people are asked this year to attempt to can and dry and store their entire winter supply of fruits and vegetables. The extension department of Iowa State college is devoting especial attention to drying and evaporating work. Instructions as to how to make and use home dryers will be ready within a few days. For those communities which wish to establish community dryers, evaporators and canners, the college will furnish an engineer to go over the ground and make plans. He will come free of any expense except railroad fare and traveling expenses. Community drying is expected to aid the food conservation program by making possible the using of food products whch are perishable and which have hitherto been used only for a short season or which have largely gone to waste. Besides assisting in conserving food, it will add variety to the diet.

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Buckwheat offers opportunities to the Iowa farmer this year, say the farm crops experts at Ames. Besides the increased demand for buckwheat as a wheat substitute, another reason for growing buckwheat is to get a crop from the land which has been laid waste by the recent floods. Buckwheat is a very satisfactory short season crop, maturing its grain in 9 to 12 weeks after sowing. The season for sowing comprises the last two weeks in June and the first two weeks in July. It can be drilled or broadcasted at the rate of three or four pecks per acre. The average yield for Iowa is about 15 bushels and the price last year averaged around $2.00 per bushel. Although the grain can be fed to livestock, it is chiefly used in making buckwheat flour, now in great demand as a wheat substitute. Farmers who sow this crop are advised to secure their seed as soon as possible, because the supply is reported as scarce and hard to get.

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Wearing bright colors is a wartime duty, says Miss Ethelwyn Miller, domestic art expert at Iowa State college. Dyes are a by product of coal tar, which is used in the manufacture of munitions and their use in large quantities will tend to keep down the price of munitions. In addition, the widespread use of bright colors will reduce the price of khaki colored dye and American women can show their patriotism by leaving the khaki colors to men in military service. The psycological effect of bright colored, smart looking dresses should not be underrated. In France and England the wearing of cheerful colors has been found very valuable in keeping up the spirits of the men who are back from the front and in maintaing the courage of the women themselves. And according to experts, the American dyes of today are as good as the German dyes ever were and can be worn without any fear that they will fade.

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Because of the recent heavy rainfall which has visited the state, garden plants have made but little progress and have had a tendency to become shallow rooted. Shallow roots always result when there is an excess of moisture and when dry weather comes the plant is unable to stand the drought as well as in an ordinary year. Truck crops men at Iowa State college admonish the gardeners of Iowa to be prepared for this condition by cultivating their gardens thoroughly as soon as possible. This will build up a dust mulch and conserve moisture, besides killing the weeds, which will flourish greatly after the wet weather. The experts place special emphasis on the necessity of thorough cultivation this year if the crops are to thrive. In connection with the cultivation, the gardeners suggest that the best implement for an amateur gardener, aside from the wheel hoe, is an ordinary garden rake with a stiff handle, so that it may be used in crushing clods and other work too heavy for the ordinary handle.

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Potato blight, which often does serious damage in Iowa, is best controlled by spraying the young plants when eight to ten inches high, using bordeaux mixture, say the truck crops men at Iowa State college. A 4-4-50 mixture is best made from four pounds of bluestone, four pounds of lime and 50 gallons of water. If necessary, two and a half pounds of arsenate of lead can be added to kill the potato bugs. This spray should be applied every other week to keep up with the new growth which the plants make. It may be necessary to spray oftener if rains wash off the mixture. It is to be borne in mind that spraying is a preventive measure and will not cure the disease if it has gotten a foothold. Potato blight is dangerous and works very swiftly, especially during warm, wet weather such as has been prevalent for the last three weeks in Iowa. Everything should be done to prevent its appearance and spraying becomes imperative if the crop is to be secure from damage.

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Iowa's grain threshing this season will be supervised to prevent losses through inefficiency of the machine. This has been provided for by the recent action of the food administration in establishing a grain threshing division. Specially trained men known as "threshmen's assistants" will be sent out by the government and they will cooperate with the threshermen, advising in overhauling the machines, assisting in securing expert labor and supervising the repairing of machines. These assistants will be called upon by the county threshing committee, which will consist of the county food administrator, the county agent and a retired thresherman. It is estimated that 1½ per cent of all the wheat threshed is lost because the machines are in poor repair or do not have enough power. One per cent is lost through leakage and 3-4 per cent because of careless handling of bundles. Many conditions may be responsible for waste. Threshing when the grain is tough and carelessness in feeding the machine, in scooping the grain and in raking the field and shock rows cause the loss of many bushels. Improper adjustment of the cylinders, blower and teeth are other causes. With this supervision and cooperation by the threshermen, much of this waste should be stopped.

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Barley is a palatable, wholesome grain which has long been used in infant feeding and, to some extent, for general cookery, and which can now be used in quantity to save wheat. Barley flour is one of the best of the wheat substitutes. Delicious breads and cakes can be made by using it to replace all or part of the wheat flour. The use of barley flour for such purposes, though new to most of us is not new to some people. Not many years ago barley was used more extensively than wheat for bread making in many of the European countries. Let us revive the art of barley cookery and, by so doing, "stretch" our supply of wheat flour so that it may go further to meet the needs of the allies.

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The death rate in swine from all diseases for the year ending March, 1918, announced by the United States Department of Agriculture as 42.1 per 1,000, is the lowest in 35 years, according to the records kept during that period. This unprecedentedly low rate of mortality presents a great contrast with those of earlier periods, particularly with the losses of 133.8 per 1000 in 1887, 144 per 1000 in 1897 and 118.9 per 1000 in 1914, years marked by severe outbreaks of hog cholera. This is even a remarkable reduction from the normal low rate of losses which has remained slightly above 50 per 1000 when the disease was least prevalent.

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Next Friday, June 14th, about twenty farmers from the different townships of Crawford county will meet with W. L. Harter, a farm management specialist, and County Agent Quist at the farm bureau office, to discuss and figure cost of production. To date the government has had but very little accurate data on cost of producing farm products. Price fixing of the farm products is being urged. The government is handicapped if it attempts to fix prices, unless it has reliable data to work on. At this meeting each farmer will be asked to figure the cost of producing farm products on his own farm. They will use a blank form in filling out their cost accounts. Everything will be filled out on a uniform basis. This will give average cost production direct from the producers. In every county in Iowa similar meetings are being held. Some communities can produce one thing cheaper than another. All communities must be considered if the accurate cost price is to be found.

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County Agent Quist informs me that an extension of time has been granted for boys and girls to enter the pig feeding contest. The time has been extended from June 1st to July 1st, because of the unfavorable weather conditions throughout Iowa. The United States needs more pork and the boys and girls, by "better feeding" can help supply the shortage. Mr. Quist says that he is pleased to have the time of enrollment extended. Many of the boys and girls have been busy with their school work, but now that vacation is here, they can give the contest more attention. They will now be able to find sufficient time to weigh their pig and get into the game in earnest. Call on the county agent for report blanks if you have not received them. He will also be pleased to give you other assistance. This club work is important and I hope many of our boys and girls will enlist.

WALL LAKE ITEMS

(Too late for last week.)

The Memorial day exercises were conducted according to the printed program. The G. A. R. and W. R. C. held the usual dinner to their members at the M. E. church parlors at 12:30 and the public exercises were held at the opera house at 2 p. m. A double quartet, Messrs. Frazier, Johnson, Morrow and Porter, and Mesdames Ellison and Anderson and Misses Hopkins and Johnson, furnished the music, leading the audience in America for the first song and the Star Spangled Banner for the last one, besides their own numbers. Rev. M. P. Arrasmith gave the address, which was not only a memorial for the soldiers of the past and present that have paid the last full measure of devotion to their country, but a ringing call to all to resolve that they shall not have died in vain, but to dedicate ourselves in every possible way to the work they left unfinished. His subject was the "Price of Peace," and he traced the peace we have enjoyed and its blessings throughout the years showing that the price has been paid in blood, over and over.

On June 14th, Flag day, the afternoon will be given up to a patriotic program, given at the opera house under the direction of Mrs. John McClurg. The brief outline of the program is as follows: America, prayer, national anthem, recognition of soldier service (by placing the stars on the service flag), Columbia, address. Rev. Orth has been secured to give the address and his work has been honored by giving him a position on the governor's staff of workers, his message should be heard by everyone who can possibly get to the opera house.

Elmer and Carl Johnson left for Portland, Ore., to work in the college unit in the forestry reserve this summer.

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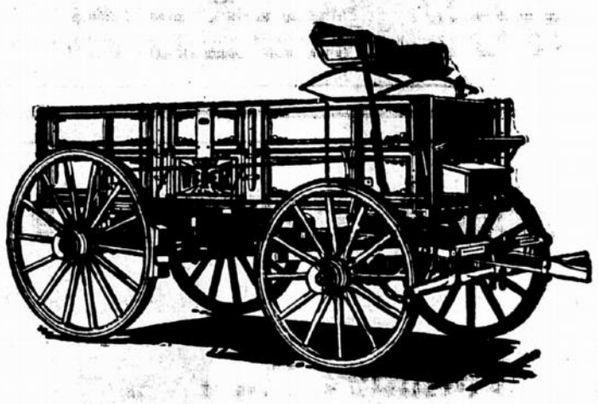

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