

The Farm News Department

Special Page Devoted to the Farming Interests of Crawford County, wherein the News of the Farmer and Stock Raiser is Chronicled From Week to Week.

E. F. TUCKER, Editor

OAT VARIETY SENT FOR TRIAL

As High Yields "Iowar" Shows Head and Shoulders Above Old Kind—Three Bushels for Trial

Farmers of Crawford county wishing to experiment with a new oat, may secure three bushels by enclosing check for \$3 and sending request to the secretary of the Agricultural Experiment Association at Ames. But you will have to hurry as there is not much of the seed left.

"Iowar" is a new pure line variety of white oats, originated at the state experiment station. It grows a little taller and matures a little earlier than the Iowa 103. In a three-year test at the experiment station it has shown itself a somewhat better yielding than the popular 103. It is now being distributed to Iowa farmers for the first time—three bushels to a man—on condition that the three bushels be sown on a measured acre of ground beside an acre of home grown oats and the yields of the two acre plot reported to the experiment station.

If you want a three-bushel sack of these oats on conditions stated write to J. Buchanan, at Ames. There is also to be had a limited supply of Iowa 106 or "richland" oats for distribution on the same conditions and at the same price.

There were approximately 131,469,000 bushels or 35 per cent of last year's corn crop on Iowa farms upon the date of March 1, 1919, compared to 151,959,000 bushels a year ago. Indications point to the possibility of about 20 per cent of the 1918 crop being shipped out of the state. The quality of last year's crop was generally good, according to Bureau of Crop Estimates, and close to 95 per cent of the crop was merchantable.

The great incentive to "make garden" during the past two years has been the means of adding many, many thousands to the ranks of our noble band of gardeners. The slogan "Food Will Win the War, Produce It," seems to have awakened all garden owners to the necessity of answering the call, with the result that it is estimated that in 1918 these war gardens produced food stuffs to the value of \$525,000,000. We must do as well or even better this year and the road to success will be made easier by making early preparations for the campaign. One of the first steps in this direction is to plan the garden now, decide on what is to be planted, and order the seed in good time that there may be no holdup when ground and weather conditions are propitious.

Crawford county farmers who may be visiting in Omaha during the next week will have a chance to sample buffalo steak if they choose. A herd of fine buffalo has just been shipped from out west into Omaha, and will be sold for meat purposes. The herd was privately owned, and therefore not under government protection.

FARM RENTED AT AUCTION

A new plan of renting a farm has just been tried out down in the eastern part of the state, and seems to have met with success. A certain farm was desired by a number of renters, and it was thought the best way to settle all disputes was to auction it, letting the one who bid the highest have the farm for the coming year. The farm brought \$20 per acre. This is thought to be the highest rent paid for a farm in the state.

It is said that Henry Ford always starts something when he gets mad. Now he is mad, and is going to build an automobile with a starter that will sell for an even \$300. When this old gentleman gets right real mad, we may buy a car.

CLOVER AND TIMOTHY HALF OF HAY CROP

More than one-half the hay crop made in this country is of clover and timothy. Of the total of all varieties of hay clover is 14.9 per cent, timothy is 18.1 per cent, and the two combined in the same crop are 18.3 per cent. Clover and timothy mixed constituted the old time ideal hay, and the habit of raising timothy still persists to a high degree, although this grass is not eminently nutritious. A recent investigation by the bureau of crop estimates finds that more than three-quarters of the hay in the most of the northern states east of the longitude of western Iowa is of clover and timothy, raised singly and in combination. Alfalfa makes one-seventh of the hay and is localized west of the longitude of western Iowa, but not including Texas. Nearly every state outside of that area produces at least a little of this hay.

ADVANCING LAND VALUES

Price of Land to Go to \$500 and \$600 Per Acre Within Ten Years is the New Prediction.

Although the war is ended, corn belt lands are still going higher according

to the opinion of those who are supposed to keep posted on the price of real estate. Only just recently a farm of 130 acres two miles out of Orange City, in Sioux County, sold for \$500 per acre. The purchaser has since refused \$525 per acre for the same land. The owner of a 400-acre farm that also lays near Orange City was offered \$375 per acre for his farm straight through, and when he refused the offer, was asked if he would take \$400. A farm in the extreme northwest corner of Iowa consisting of 240 acres, two miles from the county seat sold for \$375 per acre. The Sioux City Farmer and Breeder is often asked the question, "Will these lands still go higher, or will there be a slump in prices?" In the opinion of that paper they will never sell any cheaper, but will continue to advance. It may be said that land at these prices will not pay reasonable rates of interest. The answer is, as land increases in value, methods of farming will improve. More work will be put upon the land. There will be more careful and thorough tillage. No longer will a considerable part of the fertility of the soil be permitted to grow into noxious weeds that now infest crops. All waste pieces through drainage and other means will be made productive. Everything raised on the farms will be utilized to the best advantage.

In estimating the value of a farm in our splendid territory one factor is usually overlooked—the home value. The banker, merchant or professional man in the town or city thinks nothing of spending from \$10,000 to \$50,000 for a home, a place for himself and family to live. Such a home is expensive to maintain. In fact it is a constant bill of expense, yet the man in town willingly pays the price. Why should the value of a farm be estimated entirely on the basis of its interest paying capacity? Why should its home value not be taken into account? The farmer buys a farm because he wants to live in the country. He likes to live close to nature. Under modern conditions he can have electric lights, water works, sanitary sewerage and all the modern conveniences. Telephones and automobiles have eliminated distances, and he can enjoy all the comforts and luxuries of city life, and in addition can have the advantage and pleasure of a country home for himself and family.

SECURING AND KEEPING FARM HELP

Farm help is still a problem with most of our farmers. For the past two years farmers have struggled along with little or no help, or at the most "green" help. With the coming of spring work they will be seeking help from all sources. In many cases experienced helpers, preferably married men, who have struck a steady gait, will be required. In order to get such help, it may be necessary to offer extra inducements. This may take the form of higher pay. We know of some farmers who have taken extra pains to fix up comfortable quarters for the help's family, and there are yet others who have provided a bonus, such as profit sharing, etc. Others have decided upon what may be termed a middle course, encouraging faithful men to carry on a little enterprise of their own, the work of which is done outside of farm hours of labor, and which tends to make the help contented, and with a desire to settle down permanently. The old time "farm hand" was willing to work as many hours as the boss. If the latter was in the field at five a. m. the "hand" would have felt he showed no sporting blood not to be there too. But those days are past.

Ward N. Rowland, a Johnson county farmer and breeder, recently purchased a pure bred Shorthorn bull, Leslie Royal, by Village Star, for the sum of \$6,000.

Farmers are asked by the Iowa water bacteriologist to make repairs around their wells before the rush of spring work comes on. New platforms for wells will be needed in many cases. Broken tile should be replaced; cracks in cement should be filled.

HORSES FOR SPRING WORK

In talking with one of our veterinarians this week about farm news in general, he said that right at this season of the year, farmers should pay some attention to their horses in getting them ready for spring work. He said, "Get the horses in trim for spring work right away. If the draft horses have been on rough feed all winter, they should gradually be brought on to a grain and hay ration. Straw is all right for horses in winter but during the heavy spring work, good hay should be fed if possible.

The increased grain and hay ration must come gradually, and the horses must be given increased work accordingly. When the work lets up for a few days, the ration should be reduced accordingly. On the other hand, a horse that is very fat and flabby is in poor condition for work and some care must be taken to work him in gradually. Many a good horse is completely ruined in the spring from being put to work suddenly. A horse that has not had much exercise during

the winter must be put to work by easy stages. When the horses and harness are fitted up, great care should be taken to see that the collars fit the shoulders properly. A poor fitting collar will make sore shoulders in a very few days. Horses that are inclined to get sore shoulders will be greatly benefited by washing the shoulders thoroughly every night in cold salt water.

Last week in citing the sale of wheat straw at \$18 per ton, we thought a pretty fair price had been reached, but now comes the news that down at Yorktown, Iowa, baled oats sold at public auction for \$28.50 per ton.

Messrs. Peter Paulsen and Henry Iwen, of Schleswig, were in Denison a couple of days last week, completing arrangements for the manufacture of their patented non-freezing hog waterers. They have secured a lease on the building formerly used by the power plant and will install the necessary machinery for the making of their waterers, and be ready for business about April first.

J. F. Byrnes, of Milford township, was in Denison Thursday afternoon, the first visit to the county seat for some time. He has been in poor health the past winter, due to an attack of the flu.

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