

THE FARM NEWS

SPECIAL PAGE DEVOTED TO THE FARMING INTERESTS OF CRAWFORD COUNTY



Edited by E. F. Tucker

DEPARTMENT

THE NEWS OF THE FARMER AND BREEDER OF PURE BRED LIVESTOCK

IOWA POPCORN TURNED INTO BEEF

The following story relates to Aberdeen Angus steers, fattened on popcorn by two brothers up in Sac county, and is sent out from one of the commission houses of Chicago.

This is not a story about popcorn balls, crackerjack and candy. Still some of these confections enter into the yarn, for the cattle we are telling about were fattened on a ration of popcorn.

They were Polled Angus yearlings and when their owner brought them to the yards this week they tipped the scales at 800 pounds and sold for \$17. The young cattle, the most of them purebreds, didn't mind the trip at all, didn't shrink much, but they did feel a little peeved about having to give up the big feeds of popcorn which John and Ernest Pfeiffer, father and son, had been feeding them for the past six months.

The load of steers, twenty-seven in number, are believed to be the first cattle ever shipped to the Chicago yards or any other yards for that matter, which had been fed during the entire fattening period on the corn which bursts into big white flakes when placed in a modern popper or even in a skillet and rattled over a good hot fire.

But the reason the steers got the corn was because it wouldn't pop—not even in a grease coated skillet shaken back and forth over a blazing fire. Experts had tried it first and given it up—there was no "pop" in it, they said, and the buyer who had contracted for a large part of the Pfeiffer crop refused to take it unless these farmers knew some way of restoring the "pop."

The farmers answered that they did not know any manner of putting back the explosive qualities of the corn, so they stored it away, figuring the crop a total loss.

All of this happened back in 1917. A frost struck the popcorn in Sac county, Iowa, that year, the county where the two Pfeiffer farms are located in the popcorn center of the United States. Thousands of acres of this corn are raised there every year. Popcorn elevators and storage places dot every town in this section. The farmers put the crop on their best fields, plow, plant and harvest it just like they do the field corn, which is also grown extensively in adjacent fields.

Well, the Pfeiffers' 1917 popcorn crop lay around in the crib for quite a while. Nobody wanted it for it wouldn't pop, and of what account is popcorn without a "kick" in it?

But last January these farmers got their heads together and held several conferences in regard to this "popless" corn, during which an idea popped into their heads. They were planning to feed out the yearlings and when the calves went into the feed lot they were started on popcorn. The Pfeiffers ripped the slats off the crib sheltering the rejected corn, ground it up and mixed it with oats.

During the first part of the feeding period field corn was used to some extent. For four months, however, the popcorn and oats were used exclusively as a grain ration. Alfalfa hay was fed during the whole period. When the steers arrived on the market they were in splendid condition.

Mr. Cox's sanctimonious declaration that he thanks God he is a free man—after his endorsement of Tammany—has raised a suspicion that he is another of the Wilson holier-than-thou type. Heaven knows, and most of the voters are certain, they have had enough of that sort of political hypocrisy during the past seven years—Doylestown (Pa.) Intelligence.

The profiteers don't worry about the fellow who squeals on high prices. The one that bothers them is the one that says nothing but gets along without things.

Candidate Harding says this country must settle down. But people who are invested in the depreciated Liberty bonds think it would be better if it would settle up.

Formerly the people who didn't go to church used to say they went out to worship the God of nature. Now they are down on their knees removing a punctured tire.

FIGHT INSECTS NOW WITH THE PLOW

Fall plowing is the most universally effective way of controlling the insect pests that annually cause great losses to the grain farmer. It is much easier and cheaper, says the bureau of entomology, United States Department of Agriculture, to prevent an insect outbreak in this manner than it is to stamp out the infestation once it is fully developed. The Hessian fly, so destructive to wheat, is one of the insects that can hardly be eradicated once it is established in the crop. Fall plowing is recommended because it breaks up the soil and destroys the grubs and pupae of many insects by exposing them to the sun and air.

The bureau's Bulletin 835, prepared by the bureau of entomology, tells how to control the most common and dangerous of the grain farmer's insect enemies. It gives briefly the life histories of the Hessian fly, army worm, cutworm, grasshopper, white grub, bill bug, corn root aphid and wireworms, with authoritative data describing the characteristics of each pest and the best practical remedies for control. The bureau advises the grain farmer to plow in the fall, if possible; to keep a supply of insecticides and a spraying outfit on hand; to watch the crops carefully for an outbreak and to report all outbreaks to the county adviser, or direct to the bureau of entomology, United States Department of Agriculture.

SELECT THE FALL PIGS

Fall pigs started on fattening feed during September will weigh 235 pounds in April and be a very marketable product, say the animal husbandry department at Iowa State college.

A ration composed of corn, tankage, skim milk or buttermilk will bring the pigs into condition at a moderate cost. The corn will supply the relish for the pigs and the buttermilk supply vitamins and proteins as well as the tankage. The "free choice" method of feeding works the best, say the husbandry men.

It is essential that the pigs be given good care during the winter such as clean warm quarters, lice and parasite free beds and plenty of clean water. The water does not need to be warmed but it helps. Free access to rock salt should be given at all times.

The writer of this department is on the last lap of a two weeks' vacation, and will be on the job ready for the next issue. It is expected the list of winners at the Arion fair will be ready for publication at that time, and a complete list will be published. The livestock exhibit at this year's fair was the best ever held in the county. In fact there was more stock than there was room and some of the exhibitors were compelled to take stock home, because of lack of pen room.

"In Virginia and the south generally the tide is against the national democratic administration."—Congressman Slemp of Virginia.

High Grade Silver and Lead Mine

Experienced Mining Engineering and partners have rich Silver and Lead mine, in proven district ready to ship ore. Need money for road and to increase output. Seven claims. Main vein 5 feet wide exposed 1000 feet. Other veins and big low grade lode adjacent. Ore shipped by burro averaged over \$100 a ton. You deal direct with Co. For reports etc., write L. W. Whitling, Mining Engineer, MINA, NEVADA. A Clean, Legitimate Investment worthy of your support. Will make a big paying mine. Marletta will be the scene of the next boom. Inquire at once.

PICK THE APPLES EARLY

Apples should be picked when they are hard ripe is the advice of the horticultural department of Iowa State college. Do not wait until the apples are soft ripe or for color. This often gives trouble, since over ripe apples do not keep.

Apples should be picked in baskets or crates, being careful to avoid bruises or skin scratches of any kind. These allow disease bacteria to start to work and ruin the storing qualities. Always allow the apples to cool off thoroughly before placing them into the bin or storage room. Warm apples spoil rapidly, since bacteria or molds need warmth to grow.

Be very careful in the selection of the fruit and cull out all apples that are wormy or diseased. Apples with the stems in keep longer than those without, since the stem hole allows germs to enter. Plan to keep the best fruit the longest and use the culls first, since they will spoil first.

Culls can be either cut up and dried or used for cider and vinegar. Apples made into vinegar make a very good marketable product.

RAG WEEDS CAUSE TROUBLE

If you have the hay fever and are sneezing your head off, don't think that you have to go north to get a cure. Start at home is the advice of the botanical department at Iowa State college.

Common rag weed and marsh elder are the offenders and not the goldenrod which has so often been suspected. Take the scythe and cut down the weeds along the roads and in the pastures and not only will the appearance of the place be improved but the pollen bearing trouble makers be put to rout.

A news item appearing in the state papers to the effect that H. B. Allen, former Waterloo banker, who now resides in California, is visiting old time friends at Waterloo, is interesting to Crawford county readers of this department, particularly to the readers at Dow City and Denison. Mr. Allen is the father-in-law of John E. S. Heath, who was born at Dow City, and resided there for many years. Later he came to Denison and was employed on the Review, and also at the First National bank. After leaving Denison Mr. Heath went to Waterloo and entered the Allen bank. Some years ago he moved to California, where he and his father-in-law now have twenty ranches, ranging in size from 40 to 4,000 acres. The aggregate acreage of their land is 20,000.

GET PULLETS IN LAYING SHAPE

Now is the time to get the winter laying flock started so that it will produce eggs when the prices are high. H. A. Bittenbender, poultry expert at Iowa State college, gives the following advice to help the fanciers along.

One of the most important steps is to get the pullets in good physical condition for if winter eggs are to be secured they must do the work. The old hens, saved out as the flock has been culled, will soon be going into a fall molt and cannot be expected to lay very many eggs during the winter.

Maturity before cold weather is the first thing to be secured in the pullets. They must be separated from the rest of the flock, pullets of the same age and growth being placed together in roomy, dry, well ventilated quarters, and protected from the cool, changeable fall weather. Cold soup and chicken pox must be kept out of the flock. If a separate house can not be provided for the pullets, part of the main house should be partitioned off for them.

A ground mash should be given in connection with the grain. While it may seem that the birds have plenty of feed to pick up around the farm, yet the addition of a dry mash will bring wonderful results. An open soil feeding hopper can be placed in a convenient part of the house and filled with a mash of the following ingredients: 100 pounds of ground corn, 200 pounds of oats, 100 pounds of gluten.

To 100 pounds of this mixture, 20 to 30 per cent of a 60 per cent protein tankage or commercial poultry meat scraps may be added. Allow the pullets to have all this dry mash they care to eat. They will not gorge themselves nor become overt, but will eat only enough for their proper development. The amount of meat scraps to use will depend to a certain extent upon the free range that the birds have. As cold weather approaches and the hens are confined to the house the largest amount of tankage should be used.

PRIMARY ROAD GUIDE FOR IOWA

An Iowa primary road guide, covering all the important numbered highways, is being printed by the state highway commission. All primary roads of the state are now designated by number. Ninety-seven of the 99 counties are either painting the numbers on the telephone poles or have already completed the job. The numbers are expected to displace the use of tourist trail names, except on the more important routes. The guide will give the numbers of all roads and will make it easy for the person traveling out of his own home community to pick his route by number.

The guide will combine advantageous features taken from both railroad folder and automobile guide practice. It will contain a large state map, 25x36 inches, and also eight sectional maps which cover the entire state. An additional map shows Des Moines and surrounding territory as far north as Ft. Dodge and as far south as Chariton. A key map will show the portion of the state covered by each section. Another map will show the more important of the tourist trails which have been officially registered, like the Lincoln, Jefferson, Hawkeye highways and the River to River road. There will be a complete alphabetical index of all towns and cities in the state with the county the town is in, the road or roads it is one and the sectional map on which it will be found. A numerical index of all numbered roads will give road mileages like the railroad folders give railroad mileage, all intersecting roads and the 1915 census figures on population. There will be a list of tourist trails with corresponding road numbers, numbered roads in adjoining states, and a page devoted to a tabulation of the state parks and lake resorts with location, nearest town and the routes on which located. The map will be sold to dealers at approximately cost and single copies will be allowed to retail at 40 cents.

HARVEST SOY BEANS NOW

Soy beans, especially those to be saved for seed, should be cut within the next few weeks when the leaves will begin to fall off the plants, says H. D. Hughes, farm crops expert at Iowa State college.

With the exception of the Chestnut variety, which do not lose their leaves until the seed is dead ripe, the beans can be watched and when the leaves start to drop it indicates the degree of ripeness of the seeds. They can be threshed in ordinary threshing machines and handled in the same manner as grains.

If the beans have no bean pods on them at this time it is too late for seed to develop and the plants should be cut for hay. They can be handled the same as clover, the same machinery used and even if the leaves break off they are large enough to be gathered with a rake and saved.

Five thousand immigrants a day pouring into Ellis Island, so here's hoping some of them are hired girls willing to do something more than ornament the back porch.

Poland-China Boars For Sale

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I will hold a public sale

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34x4	31.00	32.90
34x4 1/2	35.00	36.90
35x4 1/2	40.00	41.90
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