

Growing Alfalfa Without Irrigation.

Although alfalfa gives its largest returns under irrigation, often yielding six and seven tons per acre in one season, it has been quite thoroughly demonstrated that it is the largest yielding and best paying hay plant that can be grown on dry upland in eastern Washington and Oregon. On such land it does not reach its highest development until about the third year, as it requires some time for the root system to develop sufficiently to take up the required moisture for the plant. Therefore, little must be expected the first year and only light returns the second. Preparation of the Soil: The ground selected should be as free as possible from weeds, as these are the great enemy of the young alfalfa plant. Land plowed deep early in the spring and thoroughly cultivated during the summer makes the best seed bed for alfalfa. With land prepared in this way and with early fall rains, early fall seeding would probably give very satisfactory results. At the present time, however, we have very little data regarding fall seeding. If the land selected for the alfalfa field grew a crop the previous year, plow it deep in the fall or early winter as soon as it is wet enough. Let it lie in this rough state until in good working condition in the early spring, when it should be thoroughly pulverized and packed by harrowing, discing, rolling, etc., according to circumstances. As soon as danger of killing frosts is over, cultivate again to kill any weeds that may have appeared and to break up the crust that may have formed on the surface of the ground. Then sow the seed. Inoculation: If it is thought that the alfalfa bacteria is not already in the soil, material for inoculating the seed may be obtained from Dr. Geo. T. Moore, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C., by simply writing him, stating the amount of seed to be sown and approximately the date of seeding. It is necessary to give Mr. Moore a little time to enable him to send the inoculating material in due season. Inoculation may also be made by hauling surface soil from an old alfalfa field and scattering from 300 to 500 pounds per acre on the surface of the new field just before seeding. Sowing the Seed: If sown broadcast 12 to 15 pounds should be sown per acre. Cover lightly by harrowing. If drilled 10 pounds of seed per acre will be sufficient. I know of some who use only 15 pounds of seed per acre when sown broadcast and they claim it ample on dry upland. The common grain drill with grass-seeder attachment may be used in sowing alfalfa seed. Take the spouts of the seeder off and put them on again so that they point backward instead of forward. Then loosen the rubber tubes from the main drill, pull them forward and attach to the spouts of the seeder by wire or otherwise, so that the seed will drop in the holes or beside the discs of the drill and be covered in the usual way. In the dryer localities where the soil is light or no danger of crusts forming on the surface, the seed can be covered as deep as two inches. In moist localities, however, the seed should be covered lightly. Treatment the First Year: If weeds are troublesome, the fields should be mown with sufficient frequency to keep them from smothering the alfalfa. Mow low enough to keep the weeds down and yet cut off as little alfalfa as possible. If a good stand is secured and the field is not weedy, or more cuttings of hay may be taken from the field the first year. Alfalfa should not be pastured the first season. Treatment the Second Year: When the alfalfa is one year old, harrow with a drag harrow in the early spring as soon as the ground is in good working condition. Give it the same treatment after removing each crop. Treatment the Third Year: At the beginning of the third year or

when the alfalfa is two years old, in the early spring, as soon as the ground is in good working condition, setting the harrow about as straight as possible. This splits the crown of the root of the alfalfa plant and, it is said, causes it to send up more young shoots than it would. After loosening up the ground with disk harrow, use the drag harrow freely to form a dust mulch on the surface of the soil that all the soil moisture possible may be consumed. Treat the same way after removing each crop. This cultivation of the surface to form mulch and thereby conserve the soil moisture is an absolute necessity where the rainfall is scant. When the field becomes older and the roots larger, the disk harrow may be set to run deeper. It can then be disked two or three times at each cultivation. Although it is necessary to go to some trouble and expense in order to put the soil in proper condition for alfalfa, yet paying returns will be obtained so much quicker and the meadow is so valuable and lasting so many years, that the extra time and expense are amply repaid. Byron Hunter, Ass't. Agrostologist, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. Have you seen our assortment of waist sets? Aschraft Jewelry Co. 20 lbs. California prunes for \$1 at Thompson's. **Mormons go to Illinois.** Bloomington, Ill., March 25.—The Mormons have decided to come back to Illinois. At the Illinois conference of the Mormon church, just closed in Warren county, it was decided to invade the land of their fathers and three churches will be built, one at Monmouth, where Joseph, the first prophet was tried in 1841, on an old Missouri warrant charging him with arson, murder and other crimes. The trial, which ended in acquittal, was presided over by Stephen A. Douglas, then judge of the circuit court. **ASSESSMENT NOTICE.** Teton Irrigation and M'fg Company Canal. Principal place business Teton Ida. Notice is hereby given that at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the aforesaid company held on Saturday, March 25, a cash assessment of 5 per cent. was levied upon the capital stock of said company. Said assessment is now due and payable to the secretary, and unless paid on or before the 25th day of April, 1905, will be delinquent, and advertised for sale according to law. U. C. Pogge, Secy. **OUR NATIVE APPLE.** Almost every section of the United States has some peculiar flowering tree or shrub that is its especial pride and glory. Throughout the upper Mississippi valley there is nothing that can compare in exquisite beauty and fragrance with our common wild crab. This tree, botanically known as *Pyrus coronaria*, has its eastern limits on the western boundary of New York, but grows in greatest numbers and reaches greatest perfection in the states along the Father of Waters, from Minnesota to Arkansas. Naturally it is of spreading habit, and when growing in the open seldom attains a height of more than twenty feet, but, surrounded by other forest growth, often towers up for more light, to a height of thirty or forty feet. The foliage, serrated on the margins, is of a dark, glossy green on the upper surface and in spring the tree is covered with its loose corymbs of large, rose-colored blossoms, from which the most enticing but delicate perfume is wafted, it is impossible to imagine anything more perfectly lovely. So an ornament for the lawn or shrubbery the crab apple has not been fully appreciated, and as the country is becoming more closely settled and wood lots cleared for cultivation and the mowing and cutting of the roadsides committed to ignorant men, who do not make any distinction between valuable and pernicious growths, there is much danger that this beautiful aborigine may be utterly exterminated. It is easily transplanted and will grow on hill or in dale, singly or in groups, and some varieties do not send up troublesome suckers at all. Landscape gardeners and florists, as well as others who are interested in the preservation of our native flora, should give this matter consideration and do their part toward preserving and multiplying this tree for the benefit of future generations. If Portland cement can be bought at \$3 per barrel it is as cheap as plank and timbers for stable floors, and far more durable and economical of manure. Besides it permits greater cleanliness and leaves no place for generation of ammonia.



Conducted by M. J. WRAGG. (Mr. Wragg invites contributions of any new ideas that readers of this department may wish to present, and would be pleased to answer correspondents desiring information on subjects discussed. Address M. J. Wragg, 300 Good Block, Des Moines, Iowa.)

A BIT OF HISTORY.

It seems remarkable that a forage plant that has been cultivated since the first twilight of civilization should be so little known in the South. It was a familiar plant to the Egyptians, Medes, Assyrians, Persians, Greeks and Romans and no doubt grew on the plains of Mesopotamia and supplied herbage to the flocks of Nebuchadnezzar. It has been long known in France and Italy under the name of lucerne. The Moors introduced it into Spain in the eighth century, and called it by its Arabian name, alfalfa (best kind of fodder). The Spaniards took it to South America; from Chile it was carried to California in 1853, and from thence eastward to the Mississippi river and to the regions beyond. It was brought from Europe to New York as early as 1825, but it did not give satisfaction, and its cultivation was practically abandoned.

Alfalfa is a leguminous plant akin, botanically, to clover and peas, and it has the power of assimilating nitrogen from the atmosphere through tubercles on its roots, and so improves the soil upon which it grows. Unlike clover and peas, it is a perennial plant, and will grow for many years upon the same land without reseeded. Clover is a biennial, and must be re-sown after two crops have been produced. The cowpea is an annual. The great advantages which alfalfa possesses over any other forage plant is the number of cuttings that it will bear every year and also its permanency.

Generally the most desirable situation for the growing of alfalfa is a well-drained river or creek bottom, high enough to escape overflows. Standing water is fatal to the alfalfa plant, and it will prove fatal if the water table under the plant rises to within a few inches of the surface. Any soil that will produce a good crop of corn will grow alfalfa, provided always that it is not subject to inundations.

After all, if it can be shown that the thinner soils of the south may be made to grow successfully this valuable plant, it will be a gain worth millions of dollars to our Southern States.

There would no doubt be much more corn fodder saved were it not for the trouble in loading and unloading the heavy stalks. To avoid this, have a long frame built for your wagon, with a solid floor. Then put the front wheels on front axles. This will cause the rear end of the frame to reach nearly to the ground, and the loaders can step on it and walk forward with their arms full. Begin loading in front and load backward.

TO MAKE HENS LAY IN WINTER.

In planning the winter campaign with the hens, the first consideration is the poultry house. Examine it carefully; give it a thorough cleaning and whitewashing and carefully batten all cracks to keep out the cold. In some cases it is a good plan to bank up the building with earth for a height of two or three feet. Cover the floor with straw or chaff which should be renewed at least once a week. This covering is for two purposes—to keep the hens' feet warm and to furnish exercise by making them scratch for their grain, which should be scattered in the straw. For the morning feed give the hens a mash made of a mixture of bran, shorts and corn meal, chopped clover hay and a little condition powder in the form of red pepper. This should all be stirred up with enough hot water to make a thick, crumbly mass. It is a good plan to put in a handful of broken plaster for every ten hens. If you have no broken plaster make mortar the same as for mason work and let it harden, then break it up. Give the hens only as much of this mash as they will eat up clean in a short time. At noon give them some cabbage, beets or turnips or any kind of green food to keep them busy. Feed them their grain (wheat or oats) toward evening and let them scratch in the straw for it. Vary their feed once in a while by cleaning out the horses' manger and giving the chaff to the hens to scratch over.

A high-bred hen scored 97 points at a western poultry show not long since. Scrub hens could have scored 100 had they just gone to laying.

AVERAGE.

"I was passing through a class room in one of the big down town schools the other day," said a certain superintendent during a lull in a board meeting, "when I heard a remarkable definition of 'average.' In answer to the teacher's request to define the word, a little black-haired beauty cried out: 'The thing that hens lay eggs on.'"

"When the teacher told her she was wrong she produced a book in which she pointed out the phrase, 'A hen lays on an average five eggs a week.'"

We know a man who says his boys are not worth shucks, and there is nobody to blame but the old man himself.

IMPROVING THE FARM.

Every thoughtful farmer wishes to improve his farm, just as the business man wishes to improve his business so that it shall become more valuable each year.

Some farmers seek to increase the value of their farms by adding acres, others by building new barns or new fences.

There are farmers who become poorer with every quarter section they add to their farm. They have more acres, but the original homestead is more indifferently cultivated, and the little details in keeping things up are neglected. The children and wife, as well as the farmer, are obliged to pay for the last quarter section bought, and the home farm is not worth as much as an investment as it was before, being mortgaged to secure the payment on the latter purchase.

New barns and new fences are not the only things that improve farms. Sometimes their addition to a farm makes the lack of other improvements more apparent. Again, not every farmer is able to build a new barn when he thinks he needs it, but this should not prevent him from making improvements each year—should not prevent him from keeping up the improvements, so that each year his farm would sell better than the year before should he wish to dispose of it.

Many dollars could be added to the selling value of the majority of farms by a single day's work with man and team. On many farms this addition to the selling value could be made for several days in succession in the same way—simply cleaning up an outhouse and barn, making firewood and scraping iron of all worn-out wagons and implements and all other trash that can be used that way. All other rubbish that cannot be burned should be carted into some draw or water course on the farm, where it will make a dam and save tons of valuable soil. If the farmer is so fortunate as not to have such a soil deleter, let him take a plow and scraper and make a trench deep enough to bury the trash below the reach of the plow when plowing the field—dump the unsightly things, scrape the soil back and let them rest.

So much done, the improvement of the farm will be so great that more will be apt to follow. A few trees doubtless will be planted or the old ones trimmed, perhaps steps made so the front door may be entered—and is it too much to suggest that a coat or two of paint would add five times the cost to the selling value of the house? And if money value doubled, how much greater will be increased those values which are measured by the sense of pleasure and of pride in the home, the esthetic enjoyment and moral uplift and all the other comforts and joys which troop with beauty and a cultivated taste! Then the front fence would have to be straightened up or taken down—let the improvements once begin and keep going on and it will not be long before old passers-by will have to look the second time to locate themselves, and newcomers will say, "What a pretty place; wonder if it could be bought?"

A colt which persists in carrying its head to one side while being broken must be put into the bit-rig and allowed to wander from one to three hours in the yard, and if necessary be driven in such a rig until broken of the habit of carrying to one side. This rig consists of lines from the bit to rings at turrets and stirrups, which force him to carry his head straight forward.

THE SMALL FARMER.

The small farmer who is not too high-toned to cultivate the land himself will succeed where a gentleman farmer, who employs hired help and sends his children to college, will fail, even though the latter may control ten times as much land as the former and possess a few thousand dollars. Give the former a chance, select him with care and back him \$500 cash for a start, and he will succeed better than the latter every time. What our arid West needs is not non-resident gentlemen farmers, with staffs of cowboys, but resident, twenty-acre, horny-handed sons of the soil, who do not consider it beneath their own, or their children's dignity, to drive the plow, milk the cow and earn an honest living by the sweat of brain and brow.

We have not heard of a single case of cornstalk disease this season, the stock having had the run of the fields without loss. Just why this should be so it would be interesting to know. There was apparently just about as much smut in the cornfields as usual.

WARM WATER FOR COWS.

It has long been known that the more water a cow drinks the more milk she will give, but it is not generally known that the cow will give much more milk if she drinks water at 75 degrees than at 32 to 33 degrees. This is the only legitimate way to water milk, and milk sellers should remember it pays to warm water for milk cows in winter.

Put that little timid calf where it can set its share.

DAIRY AND STOCK.

Remember the pedigree speaks only for the offspring; the animal must speak for itself. It is what you are, and not what your grandfather was, that counts.

New line of crockery at Thompson's.

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WINTER WHEAT.

The reports of the condition of winter wheat are not very favorable. There has been some damage from the Hessian fly in some sections, but this damage is less than is usually reported. The average condition of the winter wheat crop is now about an average. The germination was good last fall and a good stand was secured. The weather has been very favorable this winter. More than the average amount of moisture has fallen and in many parts of the country the wheat has been covered with snow. Unless something unforeseen occurs, the coming crop of winter wheat will be above the average in volume.

The feeding of frozen swill and other half frozen articles is the cause of much indigestion and lack of thrift with our swine during the winter months. This should never be done. It chills the stomach and the whole animal system, causes a temporary standstill in assimilation and growth and requires unnecessary expenditure of food and energy to bring the animal back to its normal working order.

HAVE THE NESTS NICE.

To keep hens cheerful and have them lay well in winter, clean, soft nests of warm hay or straw, placed where they will be protected from cold winds, snow and rain, should be provided for them. They should be cleaned out occasionally and fresh hay put in, and when an egg is found broken it should be removed at once, for, aside from the fact that the more enterprising layers might out of curiosity taste of it and thus acquire the hateful egg-eating habit, a single broken egg in a nest will soon cause millions of lice, which, once they have secured a foothold, are not to be expelled without more or less heroic treatment. It is advisable to have either tobacco dust or earth saturated with carbolic acid convenient for scattering in the nests when they are cleaned.

It is a saving of grain to grind it for stock. If ground at home there is a further saving of the toll, and this is sometimes an unknown quantity, as different millers appear to have different rules for tolling. And then by grinding at home at frequent intervals, the feed is always fresh and sweet. Most stock-keepers, nowadays, have their own power.

EARLY POULTRY.

The incubators must be started now if early broilers are wanted. The brooder and its proper management is more than half of artificial rearing.

Have regular hours for feeding, and you will always find the fowls ready at the appointed time.

If you want eggs to hatch and to sell from March to June, do not push your hens now; feed a maintenance ration and let them rest for six weeks.

The droppings of poultry fed on grain and meat at this season are too valuable to be wasted. Carefully store in barrels, mixing with dry earth and plaster, and keep for the truck batch.

Swifts Hams, 12½ at Thompsons.

Idaho Plans for Exposition.

A meeting of the Idaho commissioners to the Lewis and Clark fair to be held in Portland this year have been in session in the government's office at Boise. Those present were Executive Commissioner McBride and Commissioners James R. Steele of Bingham county; M. J. Wessels, of Kendrick, and Fredrick Bradley of Hailey; Dr. Harold J. Reed and Mrs. Mansfield of Nampa were not present.

The commissioners went over the plans of the building which were drawn by Wayland & Fennel and approved of them. Other matters pertaining to the construction of the building and the Idaho exhibit were gone over and discussed at considerable length.

Commissioner McBride and Mr. Fennel, who drew the plans, will leave Sunday night for Portland to let the contract for the construction of the building. It is estimated that the building will cost in the neighborhood of \$9000. Commissioner McBride is rapidly getting the Idaho exhibit in shape to be shipped to Portland as soon as the building has been completed. Four carloads are already been shipped, three of which were sent direct from the exposition at St. Louis and is ready to be installed as soon as the building has been completed.

The commissioners are desirous of making the Idaho exhibit one of the finest at the fair and to that end every energy is to be bent. While the appropriation is not as large as the commissioners would like it is believed that the loyal people of the state will contribute liberally of their products to make the exhibit commensurate with the importance of the state.

In the Probate Court of Fremont County, State of Idaho.

In the matter of the Guardianship of Frank T. Antes, a minor. Order to show Cause why Petition for Order of sale of Real Property should not be Granted.

It appearing from the petition of Sara H. Warner, the Guardian of the estate of Frank T. Antes, a minor, that it would be greatly for the benefit of her ward, that the whole of said minor's real property in this County be sold:

It is therefore ordered that the next of kin of said ward, and all persons interested in said estate, appear before this court on the 25th day of April, A. D., 1905, to show cause, if any they can, why such sale should not be ordered.

Dated this 25th day of March, A. A., 1905.
John Donaldson,
4t. Probate Judge.

CASTORIA.
The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*