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ANGORA GOATS ARE PROFITABLE ANIMALS



Angora Buck and Does.

The fleece of the Angora goat, known on the market as mohair, will sell at 60 cents to \$2 a pound. The price depends upon the length, fineness, and amount of coarse hair. The average amount of mohair varies from about five to fourteen pounds a head.

The United States has the reputation of producing the best quality of mohair. It is used to make plush carpets, chair seats, braids, curtains and many articles of women's clothing.

The original home of the Angora goat is in the village of Angora, in Asia Minor.

The Angora goat was introduced into the United States in 1849, when the sultan of Turkey presented nine of his choicest goats to President Polk.

EASILY MADE HOTBED

Many Little Details Go Far Towards Making Success.

Much Care Is Necessary in Preparing Soil—No Set Rule Can Be Applied to Manure on Account of its Composition.

(By JOSEPHINE DEMAR.)

At the very first stirring of the soil comes to most of us a longing to see Dame Nature make and do about her spring business. We eagerly look for the first signs of life in the meadows and in the sheltered recesses of the woods under the dead leaves.

When I feel the first hint of spring I start my hotbed. This I fashioned out of an old glass cupboard door, some old boards, a saw, hammer and nails. Critics may find fault with it but as it has been a decided success I do not mind the verdict of the critics. Utility, not beauty, is my aim.

The glass cover had done duty as a cupboard door for many years and when the house was remodeled it was consigned to the attic until it was pressed into its present state of usefulness.

The frame measures 22 inches high at the back and slopes down the sides to the front to 12 inches; the glass frame is fastened to the back with hinges. An excavation was dug and the frame placed upon it. The excavation is eight or ten inches deeper than the frame, and the frame stands 12 inches above the soil at the back, and the front five inches. A stout stake was driven in the four corners of the frame to support it.

The bed is located south of the summer kitchen, a well-drained spot where it will get the sun all day.

The earth is banked around the frame and a ditch carries all the surface water away. In the meantime the heat material was prepared. This was horse-manure gathered from the stalls each day and put in a cone-shaped pile.

One-third leaves were added to assist the manure to "sweeten." Manure alone is too dense and will not ferment properly unless leaves, straw or some sort of litter is added.

As soon as the pile looked large enough to fill the frame it was allowed to ferment evenly. When the mass was moist and steaming it was put into the hotbed.

It is impossible to give any hard and fast rule in preparing manure for the hotbeds, for so much depends upon the composition and texture of the manure and the state of the weather.

It is safe to say, however, that the pile must be worked over several times and when it is moist and warm it is ready for the frame.

In the bottom of the excavation I always place a thin layer of conkasteak cut a foot long, for protection against the cold earth. When the manure is put in it nearly reaches the top of the soil; then it is well tamped, and after tamping, it should reach within ten inches of the top of the frame in front.

As a usual thing eight inches of thoroughly prepared manure will heat a spruce hotbed. The bed is then covered with the glass door and left to itself for a few days.

Then five inches of fine, rich, well-prepared soil is added; again the cover is let down and the bed allowed to heat, a thermometer placed in it and when it registers 85 degrees the seeds are sown.

The amateur will want to sow seeds when the bed is entirely too hot, but make haste slowly is a good policy in this case.

Before sowing the seeds rake the soil to destroy the weed-seeds which have sprouted. Sow such seeds as tomato, cabbage, lettuce, peppers, etc., but be sure to reserve several rows

for your flower-seeds. Make the rows run north and south. Water the bed with a sprinkler having a very fine nozzle.

The little seedlings are very delicate and care must be taken not to bake, starve or chill them. Too much heat is worse than too little, therefore, it is necessary to air the hotbed by opening the frame when the sun shines and the weather is warm.

Water with a fine hose when the soil looks light in color and is dry to the touch. Thin out the plants if they stand too thickly in the row.

When the plants have attained two or three true leaves they must be transplanted into a cold frame. This is done with the same cupboard door. The frame is placed on the top of the ground.

The earth should be banked all around the frame and during cold days and nights both the hot and cold frame were covered with board shutters, and carpet thrown on top for further protection.

After the hotbed has been emptied into the cold frame it may be used to grow another crop of seedlings. The hotbed is also a good place to start cuttings. Slip the cuttings, place them in a dish containing sand which should be kept as wet as mud, and the slips will grow in a short time.

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DIVERSIFICATION IN SOUTH

Farmer Who Raises All His Own Supplies Can Market His Cotton When Prices Suit Him.

The cotton grower who diversifies his farming, at least to the extent of rendering himself independent of outside source of supply for all of the fruits, vegetables, meats and dairy products consumed on his farm, says W. W. Finley, president of the Southern railway, is enabled to market his cotton when there is an economic demand for it.

He is not compelled to sell regardless of market conditions, as has so often been the case, under the necessity of meeting obligations incurred for foodstuffs and other necessities of life by reason of failure to produce them on his farm.

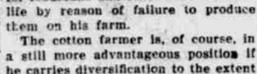
The cotton farmer is, of course, in a still more advantageous position if he carries diversification to the extent of having something besides cotton for sale. It is particularly desirable that the farmer should have a steady source of income throughout the year.

The local demand throughout the south for dairy products, poultry and eggs is such as to enable the farmer who produces a surplus of the commodities to have a weekly income throughout the year sufficient to meet his bills with local merchants, and a regular income such as this, even though the amount received per week may be small, will go far in assisting him to market his cotton when there is an economic demand for it.

Utility of Cement Fence Posts.

Farmers are now beginning to make cement fence posts quite extensively in some localities. They seem to be a success when properly made, and they are not expensive, especially when they are made on the farm on rainy days or at odd times when work is not pressing. Once they are made and in the ground they are there to stay, perhaps one hundred years.

Champion Holstein Bull.



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Champion Holstein Bull.

General Farm Notes.

Millet seed is a great egg producing grain. It is never out of season to fertilize the garden. Scour, paint and sharpen tools and implements. The sugar beet is a valuable adjunct to the dairy foods. Apoplexy and egg bound are the results of excessive fat. It is expensive to let a cow fall in her milk because of the lack of proper feed. Better try a few sheep on the farm. Pigs on the farm help swell the bank account. For market purposes plant but one kind of potatoes, "mixed lots" do not command the best prices. Frequent changes of the litter on the hen house floor is advisable for the sake of the health of the flock. One seldom sees a vicious horse that is bad by nature. He is usually spoiled by his trainer in his youth. The barn owl has a voracious appetite for rats and mice; he should be encouraged, but not with a shotgun. Lambs should be taught to eat a mixture of two parts bran and one part oil meal by weight as early as possible. If a young horse breaks his halter at the first trial he is pretty sure to be a puller the rest of his life unless broken at the very start.

TO REPLACE DESTROYED CROP

Ground Can Quickly Be Prepared for Soy Beans and Crop Sown Broadcast or Drilled.

Soy beans are of particular value as a substitute for any earlier planted crop which has been destroyed by drought or flood, or which for any reason will not pay to let stand. The ground can be quickly prepared and soy beans sown broadcast or drilled for a forage crop. In this case a heavier seeding per acre should be given. The Missouri experiment station found that from one bushel to 1½ bushels of soy beans per acre produce a paying stand of forage for hog pasture later in the summer.

A light, loamy soil is best, although any soil that will produce corn will grow soy beans with about the same relative degree of success, providing inoculation is present. Although this



Soy Beans.

plant is a legume, it needs the proper bacteria in the soil, as do clover and alfalfa, before the nitrogen-storing nodules can be formed on the roots. For this reason it is frequently advisable to sow from 1,200 to 1,500 pounds of soil from an old soy bean field on and intended for this crop. A good dressing of barnyard manure will answer well. By this means not only is a heavier crop production encouraged, but the plant is enabled to store away nitrogen from the air for the enrichment of the soil.

The crop may be used either for forage or for grazing. It is particularly adapted to grazing hogs. If used as a soiling crop it may be cut and fed from the time the plant begins to bloom until the pods ripen.

COLD DESTROYS BOLL WEEVIL

Entomologists Express Hope That Severe Winter Has Exterminated Little Cotton Pest.

It is the hope of entomologists that the severe winter which has been on the country will kill all the boll weevil. We have heard a good many tales about this pest, about his hardihood and his persistence, but the government reports say that only about 3 per cent. of them get through our ordinary winters. It is further said that 2 degrees above zero gets them. We are not an authority on the subject, but we would suggest that lots of this pest has been for a long while in Mexico it would have also been for a long while in this country unless there had been some difference of conditions. We further suggest that for ten or twelve years there has not been much difference of conditions—our winters have been mild; and we have become interested during this time with boll weevil. But this winter is making a difference, with a vengeance. If it shall result in exterminating the weevil it will have been a great blessing. We shall see.—Western Methodist.

FEEDING DAIRY COWS

Test Proves Great Value of Cottonseed Meal.

Georgia College Establishes Efficiency of This Product in Securing Larger Production of Milk at Less Cost.

Literature has recently been distributed giving the results of experiments with cottonseed meal as feed for dairy cows on the college farm at Athens, Ga. One of the bulletins in substance says that the efficiency of cottonseed meal as feed for dairy cows has been established beyond question. The best results are obtained when cows are fed with meal during the pasture season, or when winter grazing crops are provided. It is better when feeding silage and cottonseed meal to cows to feed a little roughness also. For this purpose cottonseed hulls in quantities of five to ten pounds per head per day are excellent.

In tests made at the farm by Prof. A. M. Soule the cows were divided into groups of four each. The first group was fed cottonseed meal six pounds, silage thirty pounds and corn stover six pounds. The second group was given cottonseed meal four pounds, bran four pounds, silage thirty pounds and stover six pounds. The third group received: Bran ten pounds, silage thirty pounds and stover five pounds.

The first group made a gallon of milk at a cost of 5.97 cents, the second group at a cost of 7.5 cents and the third group at a cost of 10.07 cents. The cost of the feed per cow per day was 12 cents for the first group, 15 cents for the second group and 19.9 cents for the third. These figures certainly show that at the prices prevailing for feed when these tests were made cottonseed meal clearly outclasses wheat bran as a source of protein for dairy cows. In these tests the cottonseed meal was charged at \$23.50 a ton and the wheat bran at \$30 a ton. The same relative figures apply to these two feeds today.

Professor Soule said: "Having fed cottonseed meal as the principal concentrate to dairy cows for many years, it would appear that its use in the quantities indicated resulted not only in the production of milk at a lower cost, but it also secured the health and longevity of the cows receiving it. In my own experience cottonseed meal has been fed in disposition to cornmeal, corn and cob meal, chopped sorghum hay, alfalfa hay, beet pulp and wheat bran. In every instance it has proved the cheapest source of protein and the most desirable concentrate to feed to dairy cows."

"Some have experienced dissatisfaction from the use of cottonseed meal, but such persons have in most instances fed it in too large quantities, or have not provided any succulent food for the ration, such as silage or good pasture may be made to furnish. Persons who simply feed cottonseed meal at random will not secure good results from its use. It should be fed according to the weight and size of the animal and the quantity of milk she is giving. It is a simple matter to buy a pair of scales and a property gauged measure to enable one to do this work quickly and economically. The overfeeding of cottonseed meal, like any other concentrate, is likely to produce digestive disorders, and may even produce derangement of the nervous system. This is only what may be expected from careless feeding. But those having trouble of this kind should attribute it to the proper source and not charge it up to the meal. Dairy industries can be conducted as successfully in the south as elsewhere. Protein is one of the costly elements in the ration of a dairy cow. Cottonseed meal furnishes it in abundance and at a relatively low cost."

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RIGHT AGE TO BREED HEIFER

Excellent Plan to Allow Animals to Get Fairly Advanced Before Breeding for First Time.

As early breeding of heifers is almost sure to prove detrimental to perfect development, it is well to allow them to get fairly well advanced before breeding for the first time, says C. W. McNutt of the North Carolina station. The dairy breeds vary in length of time required for maturing, so it is necessary to breed some heifers later than others. Heifers of the Jersey or Guernsey breeds may safely be bred to drop their first calf when they are 24 to 30 months old, provided they are well grown. If not well developed it will be advisable to give them a little more time.

Stomach of the Calf.

The stomach of a little calf is very sensitive and easily ruined. Nothing will do this quicker than keeping the calf confined in a wet, dirty stall or pen. Clean the calf pen often and put in a liberal supply of dry straw or bedding.



An Excellent Milk Type.

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