HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS

For Every Department on the Farm.

BY J. S. TRIGG

Des Moines Iowa. Correspondence Solicited.

Some way we always enjoy seeing a boy and a dog as playfellows, and it is not seldom the case that the dog makes a far better companion than some of the boys of the neighborhood.

The young robin is said to be a prolific eater, keeping its mother on the hop all day picking up worms. Between fifty and sixty worms have been observed to form a day's ration.

If your butter does not possess just the sweet and nutty flavor so much desired, see if neat and convenient shaped packages won't help you out. That's the way the merchant does when he wants to get rid of a mediocre quality.

The earth wakes up from its long winter sleep much as a child awakes after a refreshing afternoon nap. It is all smiles and good nature, ready for a hair brush by the March wind and a face wash by the April showers and hungry for the sunshine and the birds.

Our experience with shade trees, covering a period of years, is that in case of those trees which can be transplanted at all the best results are obtained by cutting back the top and roots of a three or four inch tree rather than in transplanting a two or three year old sapling.

The young trees of the orchard are in greater danger from rabbits during February and March in case of a heavy fall of snow than in any other months of the year. A small boy with a ferret, or soap or liver rubbed on the trunk of the trees, is a safeguard that may be profitably employed.

The rivalry in American rural communities that crops out in an attempt to see which farmer can sport the most lightning rods or the best carriage finds expression among the Swiss peasants in the purchase of sweet toned bells for their family cows, some of which cost as high as twenty francs.

The farmer who worries because he is not sure whether the law requires him to cut the weeds along the roadway bordering his land should take the benefit of the doubt and get busy with his mower. When in doubt about questions of right and wrong it often helps to act in accordance with common sense.

We are in no sense a prophet, but we will venture the prediction that there will be the usual number of bugs, beetles, borers and insect pests of high and low degree to wage war on all vegetable and animal life on the farm this coming season. Between the weeds and the bugs it is often nip and tuck for the farmer to see where he comes in.

Some people love money because it is money, while others seek it because of what it will bring to them. The former hoard it, deprive themselves and others of legitimate pleasures and finally leave it to be contested for by all possible and rightful heirs. The latter earns the dollar, appreciates its value and spends it in bringing happiness both to himself and others.

The observance of birthdays, anniversaries and holidays in the home is not always possible, but it is well to keep the fire of sentiment at least smoldering. It may mean planning and sacrifice on the part of the mothers and sisters, but remember that it will be the green and refreshing oasis in the memory of the child when it looks back upon it in after years. You were a child once.

When we see a house all done up in several colors on the outside, while paint and all its kith and kin are strangers to everything else about the place we are forcibly reminded of the woman who keeps everything spick and span in the front part of her house, while the back portion is simply a sight for sore eyes, to say nothing of the sanitary condition. If you are going in for style let it prevail throughout the premises.

Did you ever size up your own farm as a whole and notice how many scattered and dilapidated buildings dotted it here and there which had no legitimate use? Built in your less palmy days or in some stress of emergency they have continued to hold their own until now they represent a fine supply of kindling wood. If you are going to have a toolhouse, a woodshed, a shelter for buggies and machines and all around workhouse, think out some plan whereby convenience and stability may be combined under a fewer number of roofs.

There are other ways of making money on the farm besides raising hogs and cattle, and one of the best is to keep the loose ends about the place well gathered up. No man is making money who has to buy a new binder every few years just because he let his old one stand out in the field with a little straw thrown over it or under a leaky shed where the water all runs through in one or two places and those right where it shouldn't. There is as much difference between a well and slovenly kept farm as between a thoroughbred Shorthorn and a scrub Jersey steer.

Don't plan too much work for the boys and girls. We sometimes judge their capacity to do things by our energy and ambition.

In the long run seasonable repairs to harness are cheaper than runaway smashups, which are likely to occur when the little breaks are neglected.

There never were so many men engaged in farming who want to find out better ways of doing their work than at the present time.

The sweet peas should be planted early in rich soil at a depth of about six inches in a locality where they will have plenty of sunshine and be near the water supply.

One might as well neglect to plant half the area of his cornfield as to use seed that will produce but a 50 per cent stand. Yet in spite of this fact the number who will use such seed is beyond belief.

A good idea of the growth of the rice culture in the south is gained from the figures showing that in 1890 there were but 8,700 acres of this cereal under cultivation, while at the present time 234,000 acres are devoted to the growth of this product.

The owner of a very good hundred and sixty acre farm said to us lately that he had come to the conclusion that he had too much land; that he was going to dispose of half of the farm and work the balance better. He struck us as being one of the wisest men we have met for many a day.

The shellbark hickory and the white oak are very fastidious as to the soil whereon they grow. These trees like the same sort of soil, a stiff clay, and one never need be looking for a sand pit anywhere near where they may be found. White oak and shellbark hickory lands are nearly always good wheat soils.

A farmer who had bought a cheap John cook stove from a mail order house registered a kick with the house because the griddles warped after a few weeks' use. The letter sent in reply suggested that he had undoubtedly had too hot a fire and that he should turn the griddles over and let them warp back again.

That windbreak on the west side of the farm would be improved mightily if you were to build a bonfire nearby and use part of it for illuminating material to help see to dig some new holes in vacant places. The new trees would grow quickly and soon fill in the empty spaces instead of resembling one of a jaw with half the teeth gone. Thrift keeps things up.

A BIT OF SENTIMENT.

A case which came under our notice the other day nicely illustrates how prevalent is the tendency to sacrifice the beautiful to the material and contentment to cold cash. A hard working and successful farmer was busily engaged in cutting down a row of thrifty and beautiful black cherry trees that skirted his field on the north when his neighbor mildly protested, claiming that the trees were a real ornament to his farm, furnished shade for beast and shelter for the birds of the air. The former replied, "W-e-l-l, I guess they don't do anybody any good if they are left standing and will make good stovewood if I cut them down," which was quite characteristic of the man and typifies a view of life that is all too common and needs no encouragement. There is altogether too little sentiment in our lives at best, and what we do possess, rather than be stifled by a too practical and utilitarian conception of existence, should be cultivated and developed so far as in our power lies. The materialist sees in the tree not symmetry and the working out of marvelous natural laws, but so many feet of lumber or cords of wood; sees in the summer cloud not the majesty of God's power, marvelous cloud forms and iridescent rainbows, but merely water for his fields, begrudges the space devoted to lawn and flowers about the homestead and would rather see in their place a pig pen or a potato patch. The materialist needs reforming and to be brought to the place where he can realize that birds and trees and flowers and the wonders of the sunrise and sunset have a mission to perform for humanity even though their value cannot so readily be expressed in terms of dollars and cents.

Last spring, with a view to determining the relative merits of early and late planted potatoes, we made a first planting as soon as the ground was in a working condition, about the 1st of April. Three weeks later a second planting was made, when several hills of the early planted seed were examined. It was found that these potatoes had sent out sprouts about a quarter of an inch in length, which were apparently at a standstill, proving quite conclusively that there is no great advantage in planting potatoes until the ground is sufficiently warm to secure their germination and growth.

A little girl living on a large stock farm in the middle west describes herself as being passionately fond of her dog and pony and skillful with her rifle. She is bold, brave and free, knowing the responsibilities as well as the privileges of a boy—she has no brothers and is often called upon to do a boy's work—and in closing her letter adds that she dearly loves to dance and never stops till daylight. This is a pretty good record for a little girl who lives miles away from any town and is not yet fourteen years old. Just the same, there is good material for a woman there if the energy is directed in the right channel.

A GOOD SHOWING

Made With Holstein Cattle in the Dairy.

AVERAGE NUMBER

Of Pounds for the Year Was 5,815.

A reader of these notes who resides in southern Minnesota writes us inclosing a statement of the receipts from his herd of Holstein cows from Jan. 1, 1905, to Jan. 1, 1906. He mentions the prevailing dislike which the average farmer entertains for the dairy cow particularly, but considers his showing so good that he sends it with the request that we publish it, which it is a pleasure to do. The gentleman is an enthusiastic supporter of the Holstein breed of cattle and believes they take the lead over other breeds as money makers and all round purpose animals. A year ago the herd in question numbered thirteen milkers, and the 1st of July these were augmented by the addition of two young heifers. The books of the creamery show the following yield from the animals during the year:

	Pounds milk.	
January	5,666	$50.74
February	6,739	77.90
March	8,847	105.28
April	10,491	97.56
May	9,984	97.45
June	11,520	91.01
July	12,347	83.96
August	10,948	77.73
September	7,759	58.19
October	7,522	60.18
November	6,585	52.02
December	4,756	41.85
Total	102,235	$893.87

Figuring upon fifteen cows milked during the year and not considering that two of these were milked only half the year, the average number of pounds of milk received from each cow for the twelve months was 6,815, bringing $59.52 in cash at the creamery. Our correspondent states that he gets from $10 to $15 per head for calves at three months, while $25 is the price from this age up to a year. The showing made is an excellent one and should serve to influence a number to change from a quite general grain selling to the dairy method of farming.

If the potatoes you raised last year are scabby and you do not want to buy new seed, soak the tubers you have for two hours in a 40 per cent solution of formalin at the proportion of one pint to thirty gallons of water. This can be done most easily and with greatest economy to the solution by putting the "praties" in a gunny sack and suspending them in the solution. At the end of the time mentioned they may be raised and the solution allowed to drain back into the barrel.

We have a number of inquiries regarding those sections of the country in the far west which are being brought under irrigation by the several schemes which the government has undertaken. This information we are unable to supply in any detail, but we take it that the land department of any of the great railways traversing the states where these irrigated districts are located can furnish much valuable information along this line, and they ought to get at it, for many people want to know.

It is pretty near time to be making that hotbed. The expenditure of a very little time and trouble will enable any one to have a fine supply of early radishes and lettuce and plenty of early cabbage plants, tomatoes and peppers to set out in the garden later—a couple of loads of fresh horse manure banked up against the south side of a shed or fence, well tramped down and wet down with water, then a six inch frame to place on top, then fill with soil and lay on some old sashes. As soon as it cools down sow the seed and then watch things grow.

WASTEFUL SYSTEM.

The time is fast approaching if not already here when all landowners living west of the Mississippi will be compelled by very force of circumstances, as those have in the east, to abandon the quite prevalent wasteful and shiftless method of using one plot of ground for a meadow and a second for corn, with little effort made to save the enormous amount of valuable fodder that could, with care, be secured from the latter field. True, the clover meadow, properly rotated with other crops, should be a factor in the agricultural operations of every intelligent farmer, but its purpose should be secondary—that of restoring the fertility of the soil—and not primary, for the sake of the crop of roughage which it will produce. The advance in price of land and the accompanying increase in rental values renders necessary a change in methods which will stop the enormous waste of the present system. There are two ways out of the dilemma—a cutting of the corn at a time which will insure the largest returns in grain and fodder and a shredding of the product, or, secondly, the installation of the silo, which furnishes the simplest and most satisfactory solution of handling the corn fodder problem.

VALUE OF EXPERIENCE.

There was once a man who ran a grocery store for many years, but finally decided that he would sell his grocery business and invest all the proceeds in poultry raising. His plan was to buy all the eggs his neighbors had to sell and turn them into chickens by the incubator method, thinking thereby to arrive at a state of wealth in short order. Never having had any experience with the chicken business he went the way you might expect—through the bankruptcy court. Experience is an asset very much underestimated by some people.

On Washington's birthday dealers all through the country were paying but 10 cents per dozen for fresh eggs, the mild winter of the preceding month having started biddy to laying, with the result that a $1,750,000 corner on eggs was knocked higher than a kite and the cold storage product thrown on the market to prevent absolute loss. The American hen is a power in her way.

The dairy, the silo and the red clover meadow are the keys to one of the greatest sources of wealth in the country.

Pork and beans is a well balanced ration. So are oatmeal and cream, roast pork and apple sauce, boiled beef and potatoes.

The time spent in selecting and testing all the seeds planted on the farm is the most remunerative devoted to any farm operation.

MARKET PRICES.

Paid By the Logan Merchants

FOR COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Corrected Weekly by Leading Dealers.

BUYING PRICES

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.	
Apples	$1.25
Potatoes	60c
Turnips	40c
PRODUCE.	
Butter	23c
Eggs	15c
Lard	9c
POULTRY.	
Live Chickens	8c
Dressed Chickens	10c
Live Turkeys	12½c
Dressed Turkeys	15c
GRAIN AND HAY.	
Wheat	85c
Corn	55c
Oats	40c
Choice Timothy	10.00
Mixed	8.00
Straw	5.00
LIVE STOCK	
Hogs, on foot	5½
Hogs, dressed	7c
Steers, on hoof	4c to 4½
Cows, on hoof	3 to 3½c
Heifers, on hoof	3 to 4c
Bulls, on hoof	3 to 3½c
Calfs, on hoof	5c

MARKET REPORTS.

EAST BUFFALO—Cattle: Export, good to choice, $5 00@5 50; shipping steers, $4 25@4 75; butcher cattle, $3 00@4 75; heifers, $3 00@4 00; cows, $2 25@3 60; bulls, $2 25@3 75; milkers and springers, $25 00@55 00. Sheep and Lambs—Good to choice yearlings, $6 00@6 25; wethers, $5 50@5 75; mixed, $5 50@5 75; ewes, $5 25@5 50; spring lambs, $6 00@7 50. Calves—Best, $7 50@8 00. Hogs—Heavies, $5 10@5 15; mediums, $5 10; Yorkers, $5 00@5 05; pigs, $5 00; roughs, $4 00@4 50.

CLEVELAND — Cattle: Steers, choice fat, $4 50@4 75; coarse and rough, $3 25@4 15; heifers, $3 25@3 50; cows, $2 00@2 75; bulls, $2 50@2 75; milkers and springers, $15 00@50 00. Sheep and Lambs—Good to choice lambs, $7 15; culls, $6 00@6 50; wethers, $5 00@5 50; mixed, $4 50@5 25; ewes, $4 25@5 00. Calves—$7 00 down. Hogs—Mixed weights, $5 05@5 10; Yorkers, $5 00@5 05; medium heavy, $5 10; pigs, $5 00; stags and roughs, $4 00@4 25.

CHICAGO—Cattle: Common to prime steers, $3 25@6 40; cows, $2 75@4 00; bulls, $2 00@4 25; stockers and feeders, $2 15@4 25; heifers, $4 50@5 00. Sheep and Lambs—Sheep, $4 00@6 25; lambs, $5 25@7 50. Calves—$2 00@7 25. Hogs—Choice to prime heavy, $5 10@5 15; medium to good heavy, $4 95@5 05; light, $5 10@5 15; good to choice heavy mixed, $4 90@5 05; packing, $4 50@5 00. Wheat—No. 2 red, 89@91c. Corn — No. 2, 46@46½c. Oats—No. 2, 30@30¼c.

PITTSBURG — Cattle: Choice, $5 25@5 50; prime, $5 00@5 20; tidy butchers', $4 15@4 50; heifers, $2 50@3 80; cows, bulls and stags, $2 00@3 50; fresh cows, $25 00@50 00. Sheep and Lambs—Prime wethers, $5 25@5 50; mixed, $4 40@5 20; lambs, $5 00@7 50. Calves—$6 00@8 00. Hogs—Prime heavy, $5 20@5 25; mediums, $5 10; heavy Yorkers, $5 05@5 10; light Yorkers, $5 00@5 05; pigs, $5 00@5 05.

CINCINNATI—Wheat: No. 2 red, 89@90c. Corn — No. 2 mixed (new), 47½c. Oats—No. 2 mixed, 32½c. Rye—No. 2, 72c. Lard—$6 60. Bulk meats, $7 37½. Bacon—$8 75. Hogs—$4 00@5 15. Cattle—$2 00@4 60. Sheep—$3 00@4 75. Lambs—$4 50@7 35.

NEW YORK—Wheat: No. 2 red, 93½c. Corn—No. 2, 62c. Oats—Mixed, 26 to 32 lbs., 35c.

TOLEDO—Wheat, 89c; corn, 49c; oats, 33½c; rye, 72c; cloverseed, $8 02.

OUR FASHION LETTER.

Parisian Day Hats Are of Satin and Black Taffeta.

SMART DEMISEASON CHAPEAU.

Toques of Gold Galloon—Spring Sleeves Will Be of Moderate Size. Petticoat Flouncings—Blue and Red In Combination.

The latest hats from Paris for day wear are of black taffeta and satin. The satin is stretched plain over the shapes, but the taffeta models are shirred, plaited and fancifully treated. Some of the sauciest little shapes are made up in these materials, but the satin ones are just a trifle more dressy than the silk hats.

Smart evening hats are made of fine gold tulle, to be worn with costumes in which gold trimmings play a prominent part, or they may be donned with equally good effect with a gown innocent of these adornments.

Possibly the prettiest demiseason hats being displayed just now are in a harmony of two shades in one color, or two well contrasted colors are used.

Toques entirely of gold galloon, with heavy gold embroidery around the upturned brim, are favorites for evening. White ostrich plumes continue to be much worn on hats, while gold braid rolled around a small crown and tied in a little bow and ends suffices for the top trimming of many hats.

CLOTH COSTUME.

The costume pictured is of beige cloth trimmed with stitched bands of the same. Straps of the material fastened with cloth buttons ornament the jacket and the front skirt panel. The hat is of tan straw trimmed with quillings of brown silk.

SARTORIAL FRIBBLES.

It is not considered smart for the top fullness of the sleeve to incline toward the front or toward the back. It should be so tacked to the sleeve lining that it falls directly down the center of the arm.

The spring sleeves will be of moderate size, and radical changes in shape and style are not looked for.

Petticoat flouncings are to be procured of silk, lace, chiffon or lawn, all ready for adjusting to any plain foundation. These are supplied with buttons so that they may be easily varied at will. One silk foundation can by this means be induced to serve many ends.

From an economical point of view it pays to get a dress of voile or similar fabric to tide over the intermediate season. It will be found useful, too, for early spring street wear.

Coat and skirt suits in pastel shades of cloth such as crushed raspberry, mauve, Parma violet, lettuce green and Chinese blue are to be high in favor. These suits are severely tailored and usually made with a short semifitting jacket trimmed with braid military fashion and rows of small bullet buttons. The skirts are circular, with a seam down the front and the fullness at the waist put into tiny tucks. The long skirt is either plain or trimmed with a circular ruffle eight inches deep above a wide hem.

PEAU DE CYGNE WAIST.

The waist pictured is of peau de cygne silk. A yoke trimming is formed of Irish lace headed top and bottom with bias bands of the silk. This yoke is crossed in front and adorned with buttons. The sleeves have similar bands.

Princess gowns are now in full possession of the fashion field. If this gown is to look either smart or picturesque it demands a perfect figure, with full round curves and lines. Curiously enough, all the wearers of this style appear to have developed the princess figure. This figure, to tell the truth, is made to order. Horsehair neatly padded and quilted is the secret of the princess form. A breastplate of horsehair makes up for the thin bust. The shoulders and hips are thickly padded with the same material. Even the sleeves are molded into beautifully rounded curves over a couple of thicknesses of wadding.

COOKING APRON.

A novel trimming has lately been introduced in the form of woolen embroidery for cloth gowns.

Striped materials are increasing in popularity every day, and many of the new brocades have wide velvet stripes quite in the style of many years ago.

Every mother who has a little tot to dress takes as keen an interest in juvenile modes as she does in fashions for herself. A child can never be unattractive in a freshly washed frock, no matter what its material, and all suits should be made with a view to frequent tubbing. This year the eyelet embroidery done entirely by hand is engaging the attention of enterprising mothers, and the result either on china silk, fine handkerchief linen or coarse weave is very effective.

A truly Parisian hat is a creation somewhat on the directoire order of fine yellow straw draped with the palest green gauze and topped by the palest blue tips.

Very useful and neat is the cooking apron depicted. It is made of fine though rather firm linen. It is nothing more than a triangular piece of the required size rounded at the top to fit the belt. The bib is fashioned in the same manner, with the fullness gathered into the belt.

DAINTY HEAD WEAR.

New hats are out in the smartest shapes in milan, chip and neapolitan straws. The colors are beautiful, and the tendency is to trim light hats with dark colors and dark with light. Ribbons are to be lavishingly used; also velvet, which in a number of instances is the sole adornment. A white chip hat trimmed with black velvet and red cherries is a pretty model; also a black straw laden with pink lilacs and bows of pale pink ribbon.

FLOWER HAT.

Chiffon cloth will make most of the dressy spring and summer gowns. This material is very serviceable, although fine enough to be drawn through a ring. It must be lined with a good quality taffeta to look its best. Indeed, any other foundation is not to be thought of.

Quantities of velvet ribbon are the modish trimming for frocks, and the wise woman will pick up bargains, which are to be found now in the shops.

New imported belts and girdles are made of silk elastic so that they fit any waist. They are usually shaded, being dark at the bottom and light at the top. These belts come in pink, blue, violet and white and are useful and dainty for evening waists. The effect is novel, as the belts are trimmed with steel or narrow shirred ribbon and braid sewed on in all kinds of pretty designs.

A Pierrot ruff of gray net spotted with black is modish for an elderly woman.

Flower hats are the last cry in millinery. They do not take the toque form, but are rather large, picturesque affairs. The hat in the cut is composed of coral geraniums, the crown wreathed with a roll of soft moss green velvet and a bow of the same at one side, holding an aigret of shaded pink and red.

SMART ACCESSORIES.

Grouped tucks in varying series between rows of velvet ribbon are a pretty and modish gown trimming.

Embroider your belt in colors if you wish to be distinctive.

White gloves are not as fashionable as pale yellows and grays.

Elbow sleeves are found on all the spring and summer gowns.

The most charming little theater head-

PINK ORGANDIE FROCK.

dresses are made out of silver and gold lace.

Bows of plaited tulle are again worn under the chin.

Lace coats in short, natty lengths and linen and lace jackets are seen on handsome linen costumes.

Ribbon work is a modish trimming on very dressy gowns and wraps.

The princess skeleton idea has extended to linen costumes, and a blouse of lace accompanies the linen shirt.

The girl's frock seen in the cut is of pink organdie elaborately trimmed with valenciennes lace.

IMPORTANT TRIFLES.

In many of the smartest spring hats black, white and light blue are seen in combination.

Flowers are to be abundantly used in millinery this season. Indeed, toques made of small blossoms are again in vogue.

The trained skirt when it appears on a party frock is only of moderate proportions, just the most graceful length there is to show off the beauty of the material to advantage.

PRINCESS GOWN.

Black and white combined with pale blue is a modish mingling of colors.

The fashion for long, wrinkled gloves has brought about an economical fad—that of sending to one's glover the upper parts of shoulder length gloves the hands of which have become soiled or worn out and having him supply a new pair of hands.

The princess dress illustrated is carried out on severe tailored lines. The ecru broadcloth skirt is trimmed with braid in wide and narrow widths, and the short braid trimmed bolero has a tiny vest of pale blue cloth.

JUDIC CHOULET.

Bad For His Business.

Mick O'Flannigan of Liverpool is an Irish gentleman who pursues the humble but useful occupation of a ragman, though at one time he served her majesty in foreign parts as a soldier of the line. Mick is a great orator in his way, frequently addressing local meetings, at which he generally draws upon his military experience for appropriate illustrations.

On one occasion he was endeavoring to prove that even a savage state is better than the condition of Ireland.

"Gintlemen," he exclaimed, "I saw little children out in Africa there. They had no clothes, it is true. They were naked, but they were free!"

"Bad place for a ragman, Mick!" shouted a small boy at the rear, and the orator collapsed amid the laughter of the audience.—London Telegraph.

Simple Pat.

A poor Irishman one day went to the office of an Irish bank and asked for change in gold for fourteen one pound Bank of Ireland notes. The cashier at once replied that the Cavan bank only cashed its own notes.

"Then would ye gie me Cavan notes for these?" asked the countryman in his simple way.

"Certainly," said the cashier, handing the fourteen notes as desired.

The Irishman took the Cavan notes, but immediately returned them to the official, saying:

"Would ye gie me gold for these, sir?" And the cashier, caught in his own trap, was obliged to part with the money.—London Answers.