

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN
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CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED



One of the necessities of the farm home is an accessible and convenient clothesline, especially during the cold weather.

The more attractive the immediate vicinity of the back door is made by throwing table scraps and dish water the more friendly will the chickens, cats and stray dogs become. The invitation is too attractive to resist.

Some people claim that parsley cannot be grown successfully in the house during the winter, as it becomes infested with insects. However, the leaves carefully washed and dried can be kept and are good to use in flavoring soups.

As a result of orders lately issued by James Wilson, secretary of agriculture, no canned meats which do not fully conform to the inspection label can be accepted by the railroads for interstate commerce. It begins to look very much as if Uncle Sam meant business when he enacted the recent pure food law.

Like some other institutions of long standing, the popularity of the county fair has reached its zenith and now is somewhat diminishing. People still attend the fair, but more to have a day off and a general good time with their friends than for what they may learn and see. The novelty has passed, and with it some of the spirit of rivalry and enthusiasm.

What can exceed the comfort, cheer and hospitality the farm homestead when the cool days come on with the bright blossoms in the windows, the soft glow of the evening lamp, the cheerful sparkle and roar of the fire, the tempting fragrance of the supper and, above all, the gay frolic of the children? And the nicest part of it all is the fact that there is no sham about it. It is all real and honestly afforded.

We know an orchardist who has been greatly troubled with grasshopper this year who is going to raise a hundred turkeys next season chiefly with the idea in view of having them run over his orchard and keep this pest in check. A number of newly set trees in the writer's orchard are dead this fall as a result of having the leaves entirely stripped from them by grasshoppers, while the damage done by them to ripe apples has been considerable.

There are portions of the corn belt where the chief topic of conversation the past season touching this crop has been the ravages of the corn root worm. A resident of such a locality told us recently that in one field which he examined early in September 50 per cent of the stalks inspected were affected by the worm, while in another it was found in all, although there was no outward evidence of the presence of the worm in every case. The only remedy for this pest seems to be a systematic crop rotation.

There is no one of the faculties in children that should be more closely watched by parents than that of the eyesight. It is all too often the case that defects which develop in the growing child, accompanied by severe headaches, are not given proper attention, and as a result conditions which might have been removed by providing proper glasses become permanent, entailing an expense and proving a handicap from which one is never free. If the child in the home complains of eye and headache, there is something the matter, and the cause should be removed as soon as possible.

We once heard of a real decent young man—educated, too—who went to work upon a farm during the hot, sticky season. Naturally he was very tired and dirty after working all day in the field. He had been used in days past after such exercise to relieve his feelings by taking a bath and putting on fresh clothing, even though old. He thought to do the same at this place. Having secured the water, he sought for a place of seclusion where he might use it, but a large family and a small house did not ease the situation. As a last resort he waited until dusk had enshrouded the place; then he quietly slid out behind the straw stack. This is a situation too often to be contended with in the farm home. It seems a pity not to be able to keep clean when one is naturally inclined that way.

Few people realize that one quart of milk has the same nutritive value as three-fourths of a pound of steak. Many do not use milk as a food, but as a drink.

This is the time when you want to get things snugged up for winter. All water pipes used to convey water during the winter should be well covered before the first cold blast comes on.

When bees are kept for honey or for work in the orchard they become as property, and the owner is responsible for any damage done by them. This is necessary for the protection of the bees as well as the neighbors.

Out in Arizona, where irrigation supplants rainfall, a good ten acre farm is worth one ten times that size farther east, and there is just about one-tenth as much civilization out there too. We rarely find all the good things in one place.

Little trouble is experienced in keeping the boy on the farm who wins substantial prizes in corn growing contests. The success he attains in such contests is all the evidence that is needed to prove that he is interested in agriculture, and this, after all, is the key to the situation.

Some time before it freezes up a supply of clean sand should be put in the cellar in which to pack the carrots, turnips and other root crops of the garden. Stored in this way they will keep crisp and fresh for months and come out in almost as good condition as if taken from the garden.

If fish which contain too large a percent of oil, such as whitefish, lake trout, etc., an objectionable feature to some, are baked on a piece of clean pine board, much of the oil will be absorbed in cooking, while the woody flavor which the fish will absorb from the pine will give it a desirable taste.

As a rule, it is inadvisable to try to raise a type of corn in the northern part of the corn belt which one has to reach above his chest to husk. Where the stalks bear their ears higher than this it not only causes inconvenience in husking, but indicates a likelihood that such corn does not mature sufficiently early to escape the frost.

While the statement of the scientist is to the effect that frosts have nothing to do with the coloring of the autumn leaves, it was very noticeable on the 22d day of September that, with no frost to date, every bush and tree still wore its June-time dress of dark green. While the leaf coloring is doubtless due to chemical changes in the leaf itself, may it not be that frosts tend to superinduce these conditions?

Fowls as well as horses and cattle need exercise. One way to give them this is to make them do a little scratching for a living—in other words, don't place their food too conveniently or pay too much attention to them. They seem to know that they have a supper time, and they stand around and wait instead of getting out and doing a little scratching on their own account. Otherwise they get dumpy and fail to maintain a good healthy condition.

There is much to be commended in the plan followed by a good many farmers in allowing the good wife to have for her own all the money made from the chickens and turkeys which may be raised on the farm. If she should get every cent of it, she would be only getting what she has in nine cases out of ten earned, but yet a great deal less than she would be entitled to under an equitable division of the proceeds derived from the management of the farm.

Three things are to be considered in permitting the immigrant to come into our country. They are physique, destination and the presence or absence of disease. Those of weak constitutions flock to the large cities, where they herd together in the tenement, not only polluting the already bad air, but also aggravating the crowded and poverty stricken conditions, while those of the more rugged and hardy frames scatter out over the broad and fertile prairies, where they make homes and build cities and become actual as well as nominal citizens. The latter class are not only welcomed, but encouraged to locate within our borders.

Many things combine today to help him who would till the soil and live close to the heart of nature. Uncle Sam is most generous in sending out researches, reports and general information along agricultural lines, and many there are who show their appreciation by the good use they make of the knowledge sent out. Especially valuable to the settler or to one who contemplates settling in a new country are the pamphlets descriptive of soil, climate and general conditions which are published. The information thus furnished, if properly heeded, might be the means of saving one a bad move and expense, or, on the other hand, it might lead to a move which would change one's condition from poverty and debt to wealth and influence.

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