

THE RANCH

A JOURNAL OF THE LAND AND THE HOME IN THE NEW WEST.

Vol. XX--No. 10

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, MAY 15, 1903.

Subscription \$1 Per Year
Worth Two Gold Dollars



Power Spraying Outfit. In use on F. Walden's Fruit Farm, Yakima County, Wash. See Page 8.

PEARL MILLET.

Washington, D. C., May 7, 1903.

Editor The Ranch: Permit me to call the attention of your readers to a farmers' bulletin just issued by the Department of Agriculture on "Pearl Millet." This bulletin was prepared in the office of the agrostologist, and gives the results of experiments with this crop during the past few years. The special reason for its preparation at the present time lies in the fact that seed of this crop has been extensively sold under the names, "Pencilaria" and Mand's Wonder Forage Plant," at a great advance in price. The bulletin gives an account of the origin and history of the crop as well as of its cultivation and utilization. Any one who is interested can secure a copy of the same by addressing the Division of Publications, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

W. J. SPILLMAN, Agrostologist.
U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The first Young People's Farmers' Institute in Illinois and probably the first in the United States, was held last week at Woodstock, McHenry county, and its developments are of unusual interest. Here was attempted the problem of bringing the young men and the young women into all kinds of institute work—planning and preparing for the meeting, serving on all committees, being largely represented on the program, the whole program being made expressly for the young people, and they being the sole

exhibitors.

The audience was chiefly made up of young people, several of whom had put much earnest work into this institute, and felt a corresponding interest. At least four good papers on the general program were prepared and given by young people, besides the prize essay by boys and girls which were read at two different sessions. Some very excellent things were said, and said in an attractive way.—Farmers' Call.

It is high time that newspapers look elsewhere than to farmers for subjects for jests and cartoons. In this country there are upwards of 6,000,000 of farmers who own their own land, their horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, and the aggregate of their wealth is greater than the combined riches of the Steel Trust, the Standard Oil Company and of all the railroads of the United States. They live comfortably and they enjoy life. Place them side by side with city people and they will compare most favorably with them in intelligence and in education. They are sensible and conservative. They believe in law and order. They select good men as candidates for office and usually elect such. All of their influence is cast for what is best in manhood, and they are intensely patriotic. As a class, they are just, upright and honest. Newspapers which hold them up to ridicule do but belittle themselves when they do it. Farmers are readers of newspapers, and above any other class are educated to rely

upon advertisements to tell them where to go and buy goods.—National Advertiser.

IN AND OUT OF THE HOG BUSINESS.

The way some people go into the hog business reminds one of the way bees have of starting out on a search for honey. They fly around and around, wabbling and turning, and finally strike out in a straight line, and keep going until their going amounts to something.

Every time pork prices go up, as they are at the present time, thousands at once plunge into the hog business, only to go out of it the moment live hogs touch 3 or 4 cents, or the spring proves a hard one on pigs, or cholera, or some other trouble, thins out the herd. They do this perhaps two or three times, and then—finding their farm is adapted to pork growing, that one year with another, if thoroughly understood, it is one of the best paying things on the farm, they settle down to growing and turning off about so many hogs a year, according to the size of their farms, the love they have for the business, or the amount of other stock they keep.

We will say one thing, that we have yet to know the man whose farm was at all adapted to the business, and who made it a study to grow his pork in the most economical way, who, if he stuck to it long enough, did not

make money growing hogs and a pret-good lot of it.

GO A LITTLE SLOW.

Pork and mutton have soared side by side this year, while finished beef seems to have run off on a lower tangent all its own. This has been very discouraging for the beef man and many who have made little money or lost more feeding steers, are scouring the country for a few brood sows or a lot of pigs, with which to embark in the hog business. Hogs have been paying so well, however, that they are hard to get, and good prices are often demanded for very poor stuff. The buyer should be more careful than usual therefore, but for the very reasons given, he is apt to be less so. Good hogs are scarce and high, but we believe there are enough to go around, and if the cost will make us more careful with what we do get, the extra money will be well spent. The scarcity may also prevent beginners from going in too heavy and indirectly insure their staying in longer than they would if good stock were more plentiful.

It is so much better to grow into any business than to go into it, it is perhaps well that all who would rush into hogs on a large scale are unable to do so. A half dozen good brood sows properly cared for and bred, hold greater possibilities than four times that number poorly managed and poorer bred.