

Gem State Rural

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Caldwell, Idaho, July 6, 1905.

No. 30

Inoculating of Squirrels.

Government Experts to Exploit the Matter of Destroying Mischievous Rodents by Resultant Diseases.

Weiser, June 26, 1905.

Mr. A. E. Gipson, Editor,
Dear Sir:

In the Gem State Rural of the 22d inst., you invite your readers to furnish information concerning the inoculation of squirrels with a virus for the purpose of destroying them through a resultant disease. I will furnish you with the information I received from the United States Department of Agriculture in answer to my inquiry for light on this subject, from which I judge that nothing of the kind has yet been discovered:

"Mr. Norman Jackson,
Weiser, Idaho,

Dear Sir: In reply to your communication of the 6th inst., asking for information in regard to the inoculation of ground squirrels with a view to diminishing their numbers, I have to reply that as yet our department has not experimented in this direction. More or less successful attempts have been made in Germany to produce bacterial cultures to be used in the destruction of rats and mice. It is our intention in the near future to investigate the subject of destroying mischievous rodents by means of bacterial cultures in cooperation with the bureau of animal industry. The great difficulty is to obtain diseased animals for such experiments, and any assistance you may be able to lend us in this connection will be appreciated.

Respectfully,
C. Hart Merriam,
Chief Biological Survey."

So much damage is wrought through out this section by ground squirrels that our people could well afford to aid the department in the efforts about to be undertaken.

Yours truly,
Norman Jackson.

Gasoline To Destroy Dandelions.

The following from Professor Judson, horticulturist of our State University, will be read with interest:

Moscow, Idaho, June 29, 1905.

Mr. A. E. Gipson,
Editor Gem State Rural,

I have your letter of June 17th., and have read the clipping you enclose. (The clipping referred to was one which has been widely published, recommending the use of gasoline to destroy dandelions on lawns). A few people about town have been trying the gasoline on dandelions, and have met with some, though variable success. Prof. French tried it in his yard and killed most of the plants to which he applied it, and in some cases the roots have rotted out. He has killed the grass around them in a good many places, however, and made his lawn look pretty spotted. Of course some spottiness would result even from digging them out with a spade, but the gasoline spreads to the adjoining grass

unless great pains are taken. I know of no experiments on dandelions with Bluestone, but am planning to make some experiments with this and also with gasoline within the next few days and shall be glad to inform you of the result.

Very truly yours,
L. B. Judson,
Horticulturist."

Butter Makers Must Label Butter.

Boise Idaho, July 6, 1905.
To the Editor Gem State Rural:

I wish to call the attention of the public, and especially the butter making part of the population, the requirements of the new law governing the branding or labeling of butter or butter wrappers.

A part of Section 18 of the New Pure Food Law reads, "All butter sold or offered for sale within the State shall have the name of the manufacturer and place of manufacture stamped upon the label."

A portion of Section 20 reads; "Each package of butter offered or exposed for sale shall have stamped upon the wrapper or the package, the actual number of ounces contained in said package. Each square or roll of butter kept, exposed or offered for sale in the State of Idaho, which is represented to contain one pound in weight shall contain full sixteen ounces; and a square or roll representing two pounds in weight shall contain full thirty-two ounces". All butter which has been packed in tubs, firkins or other vessels shall be known as "tub butter", and when placed upon the market for sale shall have stamped upon it, or if wrapped, upon the wrapper in addition to the above, the words, "Tub Butter", in one half inch Roman letters.

The above law includes all butter, whether creamery, dairy, separator or ranch butter. I wish to state that the use of coal tar dye coloring material in butter is prohibited by law.

The law does not state as to the kind of brand that shall be used, but we shall insist upon a brand of good sized type, and the ink used shall be of a quality that will not "run" or go through the wrappers into the butter and damage the quality of the same.

The State Board of Dairy, Food and Oil Commission at the meeting held on July 1st, ruled that butter must be of full weight when sold to the customer; so due allowance must be made for shrinkage. This is a new law and farmers especially may not be familiar with it; therefore I am going to give a good length of time for every one to get their butter wrappers printed or get their own stamps for printing the same, but I do urge all butter makers to fall into line as soon as possible and comply with the law.

I shall give until September 1st, 1905 to comply with the law, and I hereby advise all dealers in butter not to handle for sale any butter not properly branded, after September 1st, next. I believe this will raise the standard of butter and if John Doe does not make as good butter as John Smith, it will soon be found out and Mr. Doe will have to go out of business as a butter maker. No butter maker should be ashamed to brand his butter, and if

he will stop to think he cannot help but see that a nice, clean-cut attractive brand will help to sell his butter, just the same that a nice fancy brand helps to sell other goods. The aim of the law is to raise the standard of dairy products and give the producer a chance to protect his products against an inferior class of goods.

The only means we have of getting this before the general public is through the medium of the press, and we hope all newspapers in the State will copy and publish this article.

Kindly thanking all publishers in anticipation of a compliance with this request, I am,

Yours most respectfully,
A. F. Hitt,
State Dairy, Food & Oil Commissioner.

A New Live Stock Sprayer.

The practice of dipping cattle has not been entirely satisfactory, and cattlemen have objected to it as being severe, and even dangerous, if not cruel, to the stock treated. Spraying has been suggested as a cheaper and more humane way of treating live stock, and is especially effective in results; and a spraying machine has been invented and is now on trial in Colorado. It is called the Seabury Live Stock Spraying Machine, having been patented by Dr. G. T. Seabury state veterinarian of Wyoming. The plan and working of the machine is described as follows:

It stands on its own wheels and is practically a covered tank, the floor of which is a moving sidewalk. The stock are driven by a chute at one end and pass through the tank down another chute. After being run up the chute the animals have no chance to balk because the moving sidewalk carries them right on through. On the way through the tank they are doused with a spray from 250 jets, each with three holes, placed on all sides of the interior. The spray is under eighty pounds pressure and drenches the animals to the skin.

The machine is operated by a traction engine, and may be moved over the country from one bunch of cattle to another, just as threshing machines are moved in the farming districts. The spray is similar to the dips used for years past, composed of Beaumont oil, lime, sulphur, etc.

The work of spraying may be carried on very rapidly, as an animal can be passed through in thirty seconds. The first extensive test of the machine is to be made at Corona, Colo, on a bunch of 75,000 head of range cattle.

The owners charge from 15 cents to 25 cents a head for spraying according to the size of the bunch, and they propose to operate the machines in that way, rather than sell them outright. The cost of constructing a machine is given at \$2,000. It is proposed to turn out the machines as rapidly as possible, and if the manufacturing company are not able to do the work as rapidly as desired they may erect a plant of their own. Their patents cover the United States and seven foreign cattle countries. The company reports having orders to place the machines at the Omaha stock yards, with Miller & Lux, the big cattlemen of California; in Iowa, Montana and Old Mexico.

Interesting Experiment in Horticulture.

County Assessor, J. W. Watkins, while doing official work the other day, visited the home of Harry Shearer, at Squaw Butte, above Emmett, and was greatly interested in what he found in the shape of experimental work which Mr. Shearer is conducting. The farm of 160 acres is on the west side of the Butte, and 5 or 6 acres are devoted to fruits and nut bearing trees. There are many varieties of orchard trees, consisting of apples, pears, peaches, plums, nectarines, apricots, quince, etc, besides small fruits in great variety. A fig tree is also one of the attractions. Mr. Shearer has four different varieties of walnuts,—the black, white, English and Japanese. A sample of walnuts grown on the Shearer place was left by Mr. Watkins, at the Rural office. They are smaller and more pointed in appearance than the English variety, but are similar in quality. Many of these nut trees are bearing and the orchard fruits are generally full. One of the novelties which Mr. Shearer has, is an apple tree, with euphonious name, Undnleskina, the wood of which is of a carmine color and the meat of the fruit is a blood red. It is not of special value. He has many other things of interest on the place.

Mr. Watkins says that Mr. Shearer as been quietly experimenting for many years and has become quite skillful and expert. He also enjoys his experiments very much. When irrigation is needed he utilizes a large spring near at hand. His location is favorable for fruit growing and especially for dodging unseasonable frosts.

Government to Test Dry Land Farming.

It seems that Uncle Sam is to test the merits of dry land farming. A location has been secured on the western slope of Colorado, in Garfield and Pitkin counties, far above the irrigating canal, and where "the only possible moisture will come from nature itself." The station, or farm, will be under the direct management of experts from the U. S. agricultural department, who will determine what kind of grains and grasses, or other crops, shall be planted. The State Agricultural College will keep in close touch with the experiments, and take up the work when the government specialists have finished. This appears, to the Gem State Rural, to be an important step in the right direction and one that ought to be extended to other portions of the arid west.

Pumping Is Feasible.

W. M. Fritz, a Dry Creek farmer, has solved the problem of raising a fine garden by irrigating with a pump and windmill. He pumps the water into a large tank, from which he conducts it to the garden as required. The feasibility of irrigating any sized tract, from a garden tract to a homestead, by the use of pumps, where water can be obtained at a reasonable depth, has been so fully demonstrated that it is expected the method will ere long become quite general. — Twin Falls Ex.