

AGRICULTURE

INFORMATION FOR FARMERS AND ORCHARDISTS

STOCK-RAISING

U. S. DOMINATES HOG PRODUCTION

Raises Over One-third of the Swine of the Entire World.

The United States contains considerably more than one-third of all the swine in the world. Swine are less numerous than either sheep or cattle in the world at large, but are more numerous than either in the United States, which this year has more hogs than its 10 nearest competitors combined.

These facts showing the vast extent of the American hog growing industry are cited by Dr. J. R. Mohler, chief of the bureau of animal industry, United States department of agriculture, as "an anchor of confidence for weathering periods of adversity in pork production."

He concludes that pork products have become as well established in the diet of the American people as hogs have become established on farms, and that as more than two-thirds of the total 1918 exports of meat were pork products and more than five-sixths of the animal fats exported were lard, there is a great potential pork-absorbing ability in the densely populated European countries.

"We must take care of that business properly and realize that conditions are constantly changing both at home and abroad," says Dr. Mohler. "We must study carefully what to do next and then do it promptly."

Foreign Demand For American Pork

Latest reports from department representatives in foreign countries indicate that pork importation by the United Kingdom may be considerably smaller in the future than during the war, price being an important factor. In general, it appears that American fresh pork products have met with favor on the British market, but there is room for improvement in the curing of hams and bacon. It is reported from France that the swine industry there decreased most rapidly between 1913 and 1916, but the decrease since 1915 has been comparatively small. Rapid recuperation seems possible with a good grain and potato crop this year and a continuation of present high prices. While the best grades of American hams and bacon met with French approval, it is said that these products are too expensive for the average French family. It is not likely that France will import breeding swine to any large extent, although continued importations of meats and fats are expected.

South America, on the other hand, is importing swine from the United States with considerable regularity. Since the first of this year there have been seven purchases and shipments ranging from about 30 to 70 head each of pure-bred stock for breeding, in addition to a number of smaller shipments.

Replacing Inferior Sires.

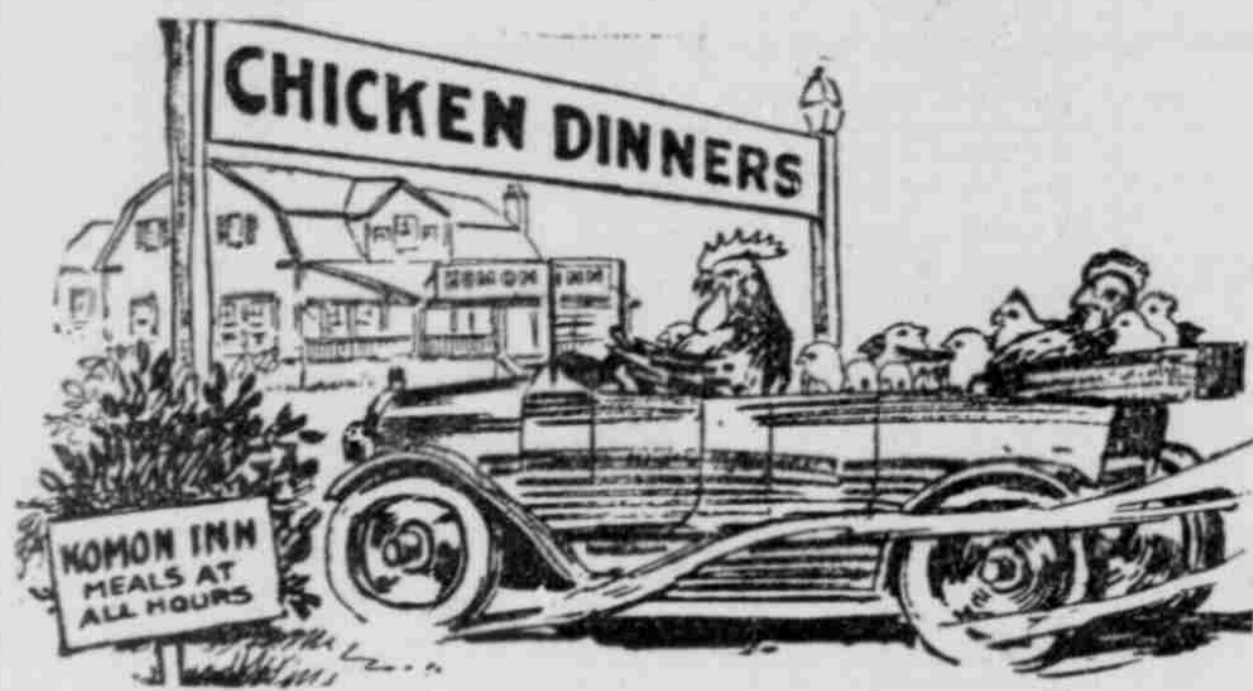
"The most recent activity of the department likely to affect the swine industry, as well as other live stock, is the proposed new plan for hastening the replacement of inferior sires by good pure breeds. Early in June an outline of the plan was mailed to about 1,200 prominent breeders, live stock officials and extension workers, soliciting their comments before the campaign is definitely launched. Briefly, the plan includes recognition for the owners of pure-bred sires of the main classes of live stock, namely cattle, horses, swine, sheep, goats, and poultry. The recognition will take the form of a printed emblem bearing the breeder's name and which he may display. We feel that this plan will considerably hasten live stock improvement in the United States and discourage the use of inferior sires. Inferior sires include inferior pure-breds as well as scrubs. In a few months the campaign is expected to take definite form."

BEEKEEPERS WILL MEET AT GOSHEN AUG. 6.

Arrangements have been made for an all-day meeting of the Elkhart-LaGrange County Beekeepers' association at the home of W. H. Mays in Goshen Wednesday, Aug. 6. The beekeepers will enjoy a basket dinner, with honey and its products forming the principal part of the menu. Vernon Crider of Goshen will speak on "The Value of Bees to Pollenize Fruit Blossoms"; Ross Scott, LaGrange, and a state inspector, will discuss "Some Problems Confronting the Bee Men," and Prof. E. G. Baldwin of the Purdue university agricultural extension staff will speak on "Poul Brood and its Control."

This is the second meeting of the bi-county association which was organized on this basis because of the similarity of the problems of beekeepers in the two counties.

It is usually assumed that hens prefer darkened nests in which to lay. Cheapness in construction of nests and ease of removing for cleaning are of much more importance, however. The question of tightness or darkness in the nests seems to be a minor point since open nests are used satisfactorily at Purdue university as well as on many Indiana farms.



Preparation for Winter Laying.

That's what everyone is raising their pullets to do and that's what brings in the profits.

Healthy pullets hatched at the right time in the spring, depending on the breed, and properly handled ought to begin shelling out the eggs when the prices go up and keep doing it right through. How to do it? There is no royal road to success but there are a few fundamentals that should be observed. As much range as possible, an abundance of clean, cool water, and a well balanced ration are the prime essentials.

Never let your hens go to bed hungry. Keep a varied scratch feed

before them at all times.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that the bugs and stray food that the pullets can find in foraging are enough. Make sure that they are getting plenty of choice feed—your local dealers probably have just the mixture best suited to your locality—as nothing will kill your chances of getting strong, lusty layers this winter so quickly as stunting their growth and taking away their "peep" by making them depend on what they just naturally find laying around.

Just remember—if you feed 'em right, they have to lay or "bust." Don't neglect their water supply—keep it fresh.



One Reason Why Milk is High

A very interesting study was made by the Illinois Agricultural college (Cir. 118). The figures were taken from 534 cows in 38 Illinois dairy herds. When divided into four classes—best, next best, poor and poorest—it was learned that taking an average of the best of these cows, the one cow represented by that average made as much money for the owners as 40 cows in the poorest class of the same 534 cows.

The poor cows each gave a profit of 1/2¢ every four days or about 71¢ per cow profit for the whole year after deducting the feed. Each one of the poor cows required on an average just as much feed and care as the average good cow; in other words, the 40 poor cows took 40 times as much feed and care as the one average best cow.

Cows differ widely in their productive ability and the only accurate measure of a cow's produc-

tion, is obtained by weighing and testing her milk.

The most practical method is found in the Cooperative Cow Testing association, since it furnishes a cheap accurate method of testing.

It is not fair to the public to base the price of milk upon the incompetent dairyman who is always complaining that he can make no money in the dairy business.

Good dairy cows may be fed the very highest rations and make a great deal more money by so doing than to feed an ordinary cow in the ordinary haphazard way.

Very few farmers can raise all of the feed their cows need. A commercial mixed feed is better than a home mixed feed, as the proportions are more uniform and the protein and food percentages are generally much higher than in home grown feed. That is the reason why the more successful dairy people prefer a commercial mixed feed rather than to try to do the mixing themselves.

SIMPLE CATCHING CRATE SAVES WORK

Culling Farm Poultry Crop is Simplified by Mechanical Process.

Much of the trouble and mechanical work connected with the culling of the farm poultry flock can be eliminated by the use of a catching crate and several shipping crates, according to poultry extension men at Purdue university. Shipping crates can usually be borrowed from the local dealer while the poultry men have prepared the specifications for a satisfactory catching crate.

The device should be two to three feet wide, three to four feet long and 18 inches high. One end should be made into a slide door similar to the end gate of a wagon box. In the top of the crate, near the center, should be a hinged door about a foot square to permit the convenient removal of the fowls.

Farm poultry flocks which are to be culled should be placed in the hen house the night before. The hen house itself should have a small hen door level with the floor against which the open end of the catching crate can be set. When ready to cull, the worker can step into the house, open the small hen door and drive a number of hens into the catching crate. The end door of the device is then dropped into place and the worker has a crate full of hens ready for examination.

Complete plans of the crate may be obtained from county agricultural agents or direct from the department of agriculture extension at the university.

Every alfalfa field should be started with a liberal dressing of stable manure if possible and this should be reinforced with a high grade phosphate. Experiments have proved that manure is usually valuable in straining alfalfa, since it not only supplies the plant food but also improves the physical condition of the soil and facilitates the inoculating process.

PENDULUM SWINGS OTHER EXTREME

Saving of Food and Avoiding of Waste No Longer a Necessity.

Saving of food, except as a matter of reasonable economy and to avoid wanton waste, is no longer necessary, and the continuance of this form of conservation will work hardship to consumers and injustice to producers, the department of agriculture announces.

There is now in prospect the greatest crop of wheat ever grown in this country, and many cattle reared in response to the demand for meat for the army are now maturing, the department points out. If these cattle are forced to sale on a declining market there will be heavy loss to the producers this year and a decrease in production in the future.

"Stockmen do not deserve to be penalized for their patriotism, but should be supported by the consuming public in an effort to restore consumption to the normal without delay," says the department in a special statement on the subject.

Although short of food, Europe does not need beef from the United States so much as it requires our pork, according to the department. The stocks of cattle in practically all of Europe have not suffered so seriously in numbers during the war as was supposed. Outside of the areas over which the conflict raged cattle have either held their own or have been multiplied. Stocks of hogs and sheep have been greatly depleted.

As soon as shipping was resumed Europe turned to South America and Australia for beef and lamb. England and Italy are buying in these markets. The beef and lamb in the United States, it is pointed out, must find a market at home.

With prices to the consumer so high that he is denying himself, and the market for live stock so unattractive that the producer loses money when he sells his beef and mutton, the problem is one that calls for adjustment, the department of agriculture contends.

Representatives of Sec'y Houston have conferred with members of congress to cure the present conditions.

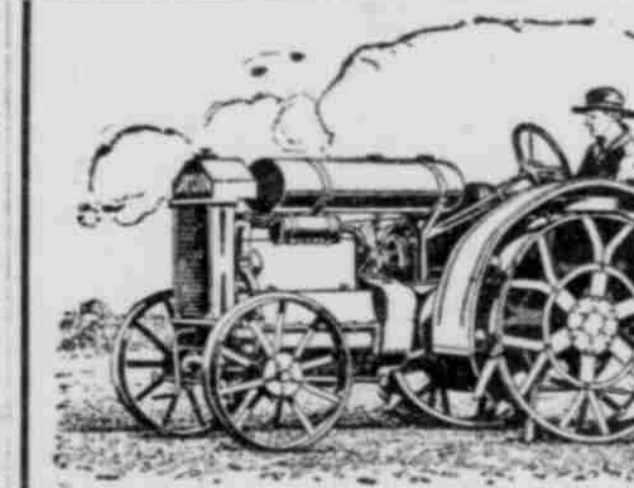
The department holds that the United States will never have a satisfactory and permanent solution of the problem until the manufacture, sale and distribution of meat products are officially supervised by agents of the government, cooperating with state and municipal authorities.

When the government is enabled to maintain such supervision to prevent unfair dealings, speculation and profiteering, and to furnish the public with all the facts regarding the production and distribution of meats, equitable and stable prices for producers, and consumers can be assured, the department says.

An effort to regulate the business of manufacturing and marketing meat products will be made by the department to safeguard both those who raise and those who consume livestock. Present conditions, it is asserted, are unjust to both producer and consumer.

PROPER FEED NECESSARY IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION.

"It is not enough to eliminate the inferior sire. Farmers must place greater emphasis on the selection of females in the herd. They must also keep in mind that while 'blood will tell' the old worn statement that the corn crib cross is necessary still applies to other words, farmers must give greater attention to the more liberal feeding, study and understanding of the relative value of different kinds of feed and various combinations in the ration." —Dean J. H. Skinner, Purdue university.



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MUCH SMUTTY WHEAT LOCATED IN STEUBEN

County Agent T. A. Parker of Steuben county and H. A. Borthwick, of the department of agriculture, found one field of wheat in that county recently with as much as 84 per cent. of smutted heads. Considerably more than 50 percent of the crop of the one field was lost because of the smut ravages. Other fields showed as high as 40 to 50 per cent of scab. Where wheat has been sown in corn stubble ground the scab was much worse than where it followed other crops, thus showing the relationship of this cereal disease between corn and wheat.

In a 37 acre field on the farm of Glen Brown, Jamestown twp., Steuben county, wheat sown in corn stubble ground showed 5 per cent. of scabbed heads and that sown on another field showed no scab. To control smuts and other diseases the county agent will demonstrate methods of treating seed before all threshing rings during the rest of the season. Of the 14,000 acres of wheat in the county this year 2,820 were sown with treated seed.

KILLED 10,000 RATS ON KNOX COUNTY FARMS

Knox county comes to the front with the best report of any in the entire state on the results of the observance of Rat day, May 27. County Agent W. J. Piggott, reports that 10,000 rodents at least were on the casualty list that day. On one farm of 2,500 acres, 1,102 rats were killed in one day and on another large farm more than 500 rats were slain. On several farms whose owners thought they had no rats to "speak of" from 100 to 250 were killed.

W. Q. Pugh, assistant secretary of the Indiana committee on food production and conservation, who had charge of the rat campaign says that the work is being followed up throughout the state. He raised his recent estimates of 50,000 killed in one day to 60,000 following receipt of the report from Vincennes.

LAKE COUNTY BREEDERS TO HAVE BIG EXHIBIT

Breeders of Holstein cattle in Lake county are planning to take one and possibly two car loads of their best animals to compete in the dairy show at the Indiana state fair at Indianapolis the first week of September. These men won several championships at the fair last year and are going back this season to better their records, if possible.

The association had a float carrying a pure-bred cow and four calves in the Fourth of July parade at Crown Point, and at the celebration near there, sold Holstein milk in a specially constructed booth. The show will be made by the Lake County Holstein Breeders' association.

SEED WHEAT TREATING RESULTS TO BE SHOWN

An interesting feature of the Hendricks county exhibit at the Indiana state fair the first week in September will be a display of wheat from the farm of Guy Rushton, living south of Danville. Mr. Rushton cooperated with County Agent R. E. Arnett in treating enough seed wheat to sow one field, using the hot water method to control loose and stinking smut. A small quantity of the wheat plants from the treated field and another, the same size, from an untreated field sown from the same seed, will be arranged to show 14 per cent. of the crop lost on the untreated field because of the ravages of smut.

Announcements of the National dairy show to be held at Chicago Oct. 6 to 12 inclusively have been sent to the governments of the states of the world according to announcements which are being sent out by the promoters of the show. According to present indications a keen interest is developing and commissions are being appointed to represent many counties.

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