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## BEETS ON DRY LAND

May Be Successfully Grown Without Irrigation by Summer Fallowing Dry Land

BOX BUTTE MAY GROW BEETS

There are theories and theories in regard to dry farming. No matter how plausible a theory may look, if it doesn't pan out when put into practice it is no good, but a theory that has been tried and proven successful is deserving of consideration. From time to time there has been talk about growing beets without irrigation in western Nebraska and some experiments have been made. It is generally believed that much of the soil of the country surrounding Alliance is adapted to beet culture, the one difficulty standing in the way of growing beets being lack of irrigation.

There are some who believe that growing beets here without irrigation should be thoroughly tested. J. N. Johnston is one of these persons. The fore part of last month he wrote to the Colorado State Agricultural College, located at Ft. Collins, for information on this subject, and has received the following two letters from Prof. Alvin Keyser, chief of the department of the agronomy:

Fort Collins Colo., Dec. 21, 1911.  
Mr. J. N. Johnston,

Alliance, Nebr.

Dear Sir: I have your letter of the 11th inst., addressed to the Experiment Station, which has just been referred to me for reply.

We have had some experience with beets on the dry land, and as a general result of that experience we can say that beets should be put on well prepared land. Usually this will necessitate deep plowing and the summer tillage system of culture. In the summer tillage I would use a modified system, say disking the land in the spring to retard the growth of weeds which will start, and to make it better able to catch moisture, and then plowing in July. When the plowing is done it should be very deep, 10 or 12 inches. The plow should be followed with the disk and harrow and the land left with perhaps occasional surface cultivation, until the following spring, when it should be plowed very early and as deeply as possible. The beets can be planted in the proper season, which will be in April or May in your locality, where land is prepared in this way.

The thinning process differs somewhat from irrigated conditions, in that the beets should be thinned somewhat more. Under irrigated conditions it is the usual practice to thin to about 8 inches on rich land. Under dry farming conditions, even where the land is prepared as already indicated, I would thin to 12 inches in the row and have the rows at least 20 inches apart.

Very truly yours,

ALVIN KEYSER,

Chief of Dept. of Agronomy, State Agricultural College.

Fort Collins, Colo., Jan. 4, 1912.  
Mr. J. N. Johnston,

Alliance, Nebr.

Dear Sir: I have your letter of the 29th ult., in regard to further information concerning beets on the dry land.

Beets on the dry land differ from beets under irrigation largely in yield. Their quality has been high wherever they have done well at all, altho the tonnage is usually much less. Under the summer fallow, by the accumulation of one season's moisture to help out the moisture falling during the growing season, yields as profitable as yields under irrigation have sometimes been obtained. The uncertainty of obtaining as high yields makes the question of profits quite uncertain as compared with irrigation. I have seen as high as 23 tons of sugar beets produced on the dry land in the vicinity of North Platte. I have also seen in certain seasons yields so low that they did not pay the cost of production.

The thoroughness of culture and the amount of moisture present will largely regulate the profits.

The cost of cultivation on the dry land is not as great as it is under irrigation, as it is not necessary to furrow out and do the irrigating. Irrigation simply furnishes water necessary for high yields. If the water is not used properly it will result in injury to the crop, which is not a question that you have to consider in your problem.

Years of severe drouth like 1911 and 1910, in most localities, will not usually produce a profitable crop. Yields large enough to pay handsome

profits could be obtained in seasons like 1909. Some profitable yields were obtained in 1910 on summer fallowed land. In Colorado there were a number of farms that obtained profitable yields in 1911 on land that was irrigated in the fall of 1910 but received no irrigation during the season of 1911. I think this brings out the point which insures success or spells failure, viz., the necessity of having water in the soil. If this can be kept by summer tillage or the summer fallow, profitable crops can be grown. When the yields are fairly good, investment considered, the profits are usually larger on the dry land than under irrigation, because the costs are not so high. The question which arises is that the crop is not so certain on the dry land as under irrigation except under the most favorable and advanced culture conditions.

Very truly yours,

ALVIN KEYSER.

It will be noticed that Prof. Keyser, while believing that sugar beets may be profitably grown in the semi-arid belts without irrigation, is not extravagant in his claims. The plan that he outlines for experimenting is very simple, it looks practical, and could be easily tried by any farmer. The Herald would like to see the experiment tried extensively in Box Butte and adjoining counties because we believe it may be made a great success. We wish to call the attention of our readers to the fact that other root crops are grown much more successfully without irrigation in this part of Nebraska than they have been in the part of Colorado that Ft. Collins and Greeley are situated in, which we suppose is the part of that state where the experiments referred to by Prof. Keyser have been made. If beet growing without irrigation may be carried on fairly successfully in north central Colorado, we believe that it may be done very much more successfully in northwestern Nebraska.

## RESURVEY OF TOWNSHIPS

Letter from Congressman Kinkaid to Box Butte County Citizen

As many Herald readers are interested in the resurvey of parts of western Nebraska, we take pleasure in publishing the following letter from Congressman Kinkaid to A. D. Weir of the northwestern part of Box Butte county:

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27, 1911.  
Mr. A. D. Weir, Marsland, Nebr.

My dear Mr. Weir: I have this morning received your esteemed favor of the 23rd inst., and have carefully noted its contents. It will be a pleasure to today order the bulletins you specify sent you, and if you do not receive the same in due time, please advise me.

Noting what you say relative to the resurvey of your township, and replying, will say the difficulty as to resurveys not only in our district but in other districts is that the demands for such resurveys are so very, very great that it is impossible for the Department to keep the work current. I have all along done the Congressman's part, having provided the law and the money, and it remains the duty of the Interior Department to perform the work. During the past four seasons I have secured four separate resurveying corps to be kept constantly at work in our district, and shall continue to do everything I can to expedite this work. I have a bill pending now asking for a special appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of resurveys in Nebraska, and shall do all I can to secure a special appropriation for this work at this session.

Regretting I cannot advise you definitely as to when a resurvey may be made of your township, but trusting the same may not be too long delayed, I remain, with compliments of the season,

Very cordially yours,  
M. P. KINKAID.

## KNOCKERS

The men who knock should all be hung, they're better off if they are strung; but then, I s'pose they still would kick and say that they were feeling sick. A knocker knocks—he knows not why—he knocks if men attempt to fly, he says that aeroplanes are punk and battleships should all be sunk; he says that system is a thing that's only used by Prince and King, and if a man would make some dough he needs must let the "red tape" go. The expert knockers "know it all," they keep it up from spring till fall, they knock on snow, they knock on rain, they give the weather man the blame. But somehow every now and then the knocker surely gets his when a man shows up who really knows and does not care for all the blows; he shows the knocker up just right and makes him with his goods take flight, and leave his paltry 'steep per week that other suckers he may seek. The way to show a knocker up, make him

vamoose and thus shut up, and wish he'd never seen the sun is simple and it's lots of fun. You get him started to explain the failure of the aeroplane; just why it won't amount to much and why the men who work with such are foolish cranks and crochety, and are too dumb to think or see. Then ask some questions on this line, 'twill make him shut up every time: What is the difference between a Farman and a Wright machine? If aviators are insane, pray tell, why is the aeroplane? If Bleriot flies out of sight, please tell us now, is Orville Wright? If business colleges you slur, then what is the stenographer? If editors you do not bless, Oh then, what will the printing press?

—Harscomas.

## TWENTY-FOUR FIRE ALARMS

Alliance Averaged Two Fire Alarms per Month in 1911

Following is a list of fires in Alliance last year, or rather a list of the calls responded to by the fire department, some of the calls being false alarms, submitted by the secretary of the fire department, in which the date of fire, name of property or owner thereof, loss, and cause of fire are given.

Jan. 5, Mrs. Lotspeich, no loss reported, water front in stove blew out account frozen. No fire.

Jan. 7, false alarm.

Feb. 16, Alliance Shoe Store, \$1,615, spontaneous combustion.

Feb. 7, Catholic church, \$4,000, defective furnace flue.

Feb. 22, hay rack in Simonson addition, \$5.00, small boys and matches.

March 5, Baptist church, \$47, defective furnace.

March 9, small coal shed, \$15, unknown.

March 24, false alarm at Star restaurant.

April 18, W. G. Zediker, wood shed, \$100, unknown.

May 24, Mrs. Owens, false alarm, gasoline stove.

June 10, 114 Yellowstone Ave., \$30, defective chimney.

June 24, barn at 7th and Laramie Ave., \$150, unknown.

Sept. 6, false alarm at Holsten's.

Sept. 6, Pardee bakery, \$100, defective chimney in bake oven.

Sept. 22, E. Adams in West Lawn, \$144.50, defective chimney.

Nov. 1, Mrs. Holdrege, \$3250, defective furnace.

Nov. 2, false alarm at Drake hotel.

Nov. 3, J. B. Denton's store, \$685, small stove in one of up-stairs rooms.

Nov. 6, T. J. Threlkeld and Owls, \$582, fire started in bath room.

Nov. 10, false alarm at Bill Becker's restaurant.

Nov. 10, Mrs. Elmore, \$75, defective furnace.

Nov. 11, Dan Fitzpatrick, \$1,359, fire started in cellar where they had been thawing out water pipes.

Dec. 27, false alarm at barber shop.

Dec. 29, John O'Keefe, \$10, defective furnace flue.

Total number of fire alarms for year 1911, 24; total loss reported, \$12,167.50.

## SNEAD SLAYS AGED MAN

Husband Kills Father of Man Who Eloped With Wife.

A. B. Boyce, father of the man arrested recently in Winnipeg, charged with abducting Mrs. J. B. Snead from a hospital in Fort Worth, was killed by J. B. Snead, a banker of Amarillo, Tex., husband of the woman with whom young Boyce is said to have eloped.

## THE MARKETS

Chicago, Jan. 15.—Closing prices: Wheat—May, 99½c; July, 94½c.

Corn—Jan., 61½c; May, 64½c@64½c.

Oats—May, 49½c; July, 44½c@44½c.

Pork—Jan., \$15.82½; May, \$16.30.

Lard—Jan., \$9.37½; May, \$8.55 7½.

Ribs—Jan., \$8.60; May, \$8.77½-80.

Chicago Cash Prices—No. 2 hard wheat, 99c@1.02; No. 2 corn, 63c; No. 2 oats, 49c.

## Chicago Live Stock.

Chicago, Jan. 15.—Cattle—Receipts, 17,000; mostly 1½c up; beefs, \$4.75@8.60; western steers, \$4.75@7.25; stockers and feeders, \$3.50@5.90; cows and heifers, \$2.00@6.70; calves, \$6.50@9.50. Hogs—Receipts, 32,000; 5@10c up; light, \$5.95@6.35; heavy, \$5.15@6.50; rough, \$4.15@6.25; pigs, \$4.50@5.50; bulk, \$6.30@6.45. Sheep—Receipts, 20,000; weak; natives, \$3.40@5.00; westerns, \$3.65@5.00; yearlings, \$5.35@6.25; lambs, \$4.80@7.40.

## South Omaha Live Stock.

South Omaha, Jan. 15.—Cattle—Receipts, 4,100; 10c higher; beef steers, \$5.55@7.25; cows and heifers, \$3.00@5.50; stockers and feeders, \$4.00@5.90; bulls, \$4.00@5.45; calves, \$5.00@7.75. Hogs—Receipts, 7,900; 5@10c higher; best lard hogs brought \$6.35; good butchers, \$6.20@6.25; light, \$5.85@6.15. Sheep—Receipts, 3,700; steady; wethers, \$4.00@4.75; ewes, \$3.00@4.35; lambs, \$4.65@6.65.

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## If You Winter in California

You can go there over a very attractive route—one of sunshine, low altitudes and mild climate. You can go Burlington-Santa Fe, via Denver to Pasadena and Los Angeles in personally conducted tourist sleepers, leaving Omaha every Tuesday night, train No. 9, and Denver every Wednesday evening. Experienced conductors are in charge of these excursions; you will enjoy your ride to California over these two first-class railroads. If not convenient to connect with No. 9 enroute through Nebraska, use any of the Burlington trains into Denver, and let me secure a through berth for you, to be taken at Denver.

Then there is the scenic way to California via Denver, Colorado, and Salt Lake, with standard and tourist sleepers to Denver and from Denver to the coast.

## NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

This is held at Denver, January 15th to 20th. Everyone going will receive a big welcome in Denver—the city of sunshine and hospitality.

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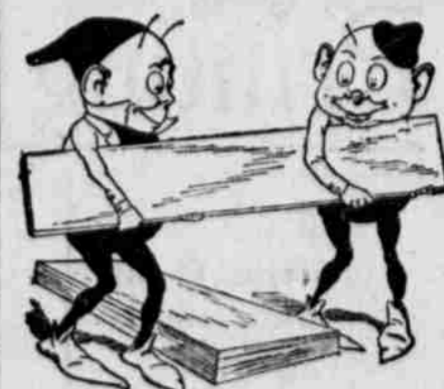
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