

BOX BUTTE COUNTY LEADS IN POTATOES

522,785 Bushels of Potatoes Raised in Box Butte County in 1912. Valued at \$392,088. Other Big Crops

Interesting Facts and Figures

Bulletin No. 26, issued by the Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics, covers crop statistics of Nebraska for the year 1912 and comparisons with preceding years. This includes acreage of crops, orchard statistics and live stock statistics. The report shows as follows for Box Butte county:

Farms

Box Butte county has 368 farms on which the owner resides, and 88 farms which are farmed by tenants. This total of 456 farms contains 355,486 acres, of which only 46,070 acres are in cultivation. Hundreds and thousands of additional acres are being placed under cultivation each year and the larger farms are being subdivided into smaller holdings by the influx of new settlers from eastern points. The average size of the present Box Butte county farm is 779.5 acres, each farm having an average of 103.2 acres under cultivation on each average farm. Less than one-seventh of the land now in farms is cultivated.

Potatoes

Box Butte county leads the state in the production of potatoes. This year 5,503 acres were planted to potatoes in the county, producing a total of 522,785 bushels, valued at \$392,088. The average per acre is 95 bushels. The average value per acre of the potato crop is \$62.25. Contractors in Box Butte county will furnish the seed and do all the work, including planting, cultivating and harvesting for \$12 per acre. This would leave a net profit of \$50.25 per acre on land which can now be purchased at an average price of \$30 per acre. These figures seem rather fanciful but the Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics has compiled its figures with painstaking care and infinite labor.

Flax

Box Butte county had 516 acres planted to flax during the year. The statement does not show the income from this crop but well informed local men state that the average worth of the crop per acre is \$30.00. Separators, Milch Cows, Live Stock

In the county there are a total of 71 hand separators and 2,052 milch cows. There are 13,112 head of other cattle, 2,064 head of hogs, and 6,493 horses and mules.

Poultry

There are 1,969 dozen chickens and 62 dozen other fowls, making a total of 24,373 fowls in the county.

Corn

There were 13,330 acres planted to corn during the year 1912, on which the total production was 362,576 bu., or an average of 27.2 bushels per acre. The value of this crop is \$217,545.

Winter Wheat

There were 1,643 acres planted to winter wheat. 34,566 bushels of winter wheat were raised, an average of 21 bushels per acre, with a total value of \$29,381 for the year's crop.

Spring Wheat

6,484 acres were planted in spring wheat. The total production was 129,680 bushels, an average of 20 bushels per acre. The total value of the crop is \$110,228.

Oats

6,878 acres were planted in oats, producing a total of 226,974 bushels, valued at \$79,440. The average yield per acre is 33 bushels.

Barley

992 acres were planted to barley, producing a total of 30,752 bushels, valued at \$16,913. The average yield per acre was 31 bushels.

Rye

1,985 acres were planted to rye, producing a total of 40,692 bushels, with a valuation of \$28,484. The average yield per acre was 20.5 bushels.

Alfalfa

1,825 acres were planted to alfalfa, which produced a total of 4,330 tons, valued at \$54,570.

Hay

The hay acreage in Box Butte county is 13,975. The total production for 1912 was 19,984 tons, valued at \$229,816. The average yield of hay was 1.43 tons per acre.

Speltz

411 acres were planted to speltz with a total production of 9,864 bu.,

valued at \$4,241. The average yield per acre was 24 bushels.

Millet and Hungarian Grasses
2,931 acres were planted to millet and Hungarian grasses. 5,275 tons were raised, with a total value of \$60,662. The average yield per acre was 1.8 tons.

Sorghum Cane

291 acres were planted to sorghum cane and a total of 1,600 tons was raised, with a value of \$12,800. The average yield per acre was 5.5 tons.

Totals

The total value of crops raised by Box Butte county farmers during the year 1912 is, according to the report, \$1,251,648. The average value per acre of cultivated land of crops raised during the year is \$27.16.

The values placed on the crops named in the report were the average prices received for the crops in the state during the year and were as follows:

Crop	Price
Corn, per bushel	\$.50
Winter wheat, bushel	.85
Spring wheat, bushel	.85
Oats, bushel	.35
Barley, bushel	.55
Rye, bushel	.70
Alfalfa, ton	12.50
Hay, ton	11.50
Speltz, bushel	.43
Millet, ton	11.50
Hungarian grasses, ton	11.50
Sorghum cane	8.00
Potatoes, bushel	.75
Kaffir corn, ton	3.00

The total number of farms in the state farmed by owners is 72,448; by tenants is 55,275. The total number of acres included in the grand total of 127,723 farms in the state is 27,821,994, of which 12,468,663 acres, or a little less than one-half, are under cultivation.

Box Butte county has the land for more farmers. It leads the state in potatoes and is near the head of the list in many other crops. In spite of the fact that practically every acre of many counties in the eastern part of the state is being farmed, while here only one-seventh is under cultivation. Land is cheap and opportunity awaits the farmer who desires to grow high priced crops on low priced land.

BEE KEEPERS WANT INSPECTION

Big Loss to State Through Disease

The State Bee Keepers' Association will again ask the legislature to pass the bee inspection law which was favorably reported at the last session. The bee men say that the disease known as "Foul Brood" is causing a total loss of not less than a quarter million dollars in Nebraska every year. This disease, which is of bacterial nature, is rapidly transmitted from hive to hive, destroying the bees in the infant state.

The average hive of bees is reckoned to be worth about five dollars, and will produce under good management another swarm and five dollars' worth of honey during the summer. Besides these valuable elements of profit, the bees perform an important economic function in the pollination of fruits, vegetables and farm crops. The department of entomology of the State University has been conducting an exhaustive field investigation of the relation which bees sustain to the successful pollination of alfalfa and the increasing of the seed crop. These investigations will show that the honey bees sustain a vital relation to successful production of alfalfa seed.

The bee keepers state that the disease which threatens the extermination of their industry can be readily controlled under competent inspection, and they will ask that the State Entomologist be officially charged with this duty in conformity with the system which now prevails in a majority of the honey-producing states.

CORN IMPROVERS' BANQUET

The Corn Improvers' Banquet has become an annual affair and is pleasantly anticipated by all members and friends of the Association. It will be held at the Lindell Hotel on Monday evening, January 20th, at

6 p. m. This is the regular supper hour and the banquet will make it unnecessary to buy any other supper. The most important feature of the banquet is the toast list. The toastmaster will be one of the best in the state—a man of statewide reputation. Those on the list will include the governor of the state and distinguished gentlemen and ladies. Ladies are especially invited to attend. The price is seventy-five cents per plate. Reservations must be made early in order to insure a place at the table. Those desiring to attend should send notice to Chairman Banquet Committee, University Farm, Lincoln, Nebr., together with 75c for each place desired.

THE CATTLE SITUATION

The cattle market at the present time seems to be in a rather disorganized condition. However, we see no reason whatever for alarm over the matter. This is grand weather for cattle feeding. There has been and is now an abundance of both roughage and fattening food, and people will eat meat. Why, therefore, should the unfinished product be sacrificed because of a flurry in the market? The thrifty growing steer nicely laying on flesh is paying his board and keep by added beef value. Production is not keeping pace with consumption. The slaughter of potential beef supplies goes on; the calves are ruthlessly killed, and the numbers of cattle on feed are decidedly below normal.

It is well to ship good cattle just as fast as their condition warrants. Holding cattle that are ready for market with the expectation of a rise in values has been, and always will be, a risky proposition.

Abnormally high prices cannot be reasonably expected to be obtained indefinitely at any season. There will come a recession, which cannot be essentially called a slump. In other words, we believe the margin between the raw and the finished product will be wide enough to give the feeder the wage of which the laborer is worthy. The market is not. The American people love beef too well to allow it. We will have recoveries. Avoid the former by striving not to feed a declining tendency. By all means ship your finished cattle but don't rush in the unfinished simply because someone gets scared and cries, "Ship everything, the market's ruined."

NEBRASKA'S RECORD AS A FRUIT STATE

Winner at World-Shows Forty Years

Before you invest in orchard land a thousand miles away, listen to a few facts: Forty-three years ago Nebraska contracted the habit of winning first prizes at world fruit shows and has kept it up ever since. Among the treasures of the State Horticultural Society are a lot of medals awarded for the excellence of Nebraska fruit in competition with the best that could be produced by skilled horticulturists from every section. Ex-Governor Robert W. Furnas was during all the long period of his public life one of the most loyal and consistent boosters for Nebraska, and his chief pride was the development of her fruit interests. The following medals awarded to Governor Furnas for Nebraska fruit are now in the possession of the Horticultural Society:

Massachusetts, silver medal 1869
New Jersey, silver medal 1871
American Pomological Society, bronze medal 1871

Centennial Exposition, Philadelphia, one bronze, one gold and five silver medals 1876
Columbian Exposition, at Chicago two bronze medals 1893

Trans-Mississippi Exposition, Omaha, two bronze medals 1898

Beside these permanent trophies, the records of the Horticultural Society disclose a bewildering array of minor winnings at practically every exposition of national scope for the past forty years. At the Paris Exposition Marshall Bros. of Arlington won two gold medals on Nebraska apples. At the National Horticultural Congress in 1909 Nebraska growers entered thirty plates in the single plate competitions for varieties of apples; in these classes they competed with thirty-one states; out of the thirty entries, Nebraska won twenty-eight premiums, as follows: ten firsts, eleven seconds and eight thirds.

The land which has been growing his fruit for forty years is just being discovered by Nebraskans, who need not go outside their own state to find abundant opportunity for successful fruit-growing. The great fruit show which will be made at Lincoln the week of January 20-24 will demonstrate to the world again that Nebraska ranks high in opportunities.

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A CONDITION, NOT A THEORY

A Sensible Woman Writes Interestingly on Saving the Girls, and Gives Good Advice

ARTICLE WORTH REPRINTING

The Norfolk, Nebr., Press is edited by a woman, a married woman, a sensible woman, Mrs. Marie O'Donnell Weekes. She writes interestingly on some subjects that we men editors do not mention often, perhaps not as often as we should. In the issue of the Press of January 2nd, Mrs. Weekes had an article under the caption, "A Condition, Not a Theory," which we are pleased to publish, as follows:

"There is not much use in trying to save her, she has gone beyond recall," declared a well-meaning man the other day when he was asked if something couldn't be done for a wayward sixteen year old girl who is traveling a pace that is significant of an ignominious end. And the poor girl, sad commentary on our methods of civilization, is no more and no less than environment has made her. Were a new and strange disease to strike its venomous fangs into a valuable horse, cow or hog, in a little while the red tape of a great government bureau would be unwound and everything possible would be done to save the stricken animal or at least to save those of the herd in danger of contagion. To be sure we have jails and police courts and homes for wayward girls but we never put them in any of these places until it is too late, until they have shown symptoms of the destroying germ and there is little chance for recovery and less of retaining their original moral vigor. In the name of all that is good, what can we expect of the girl born of careless if not immoral parents whose home environment is anything but what it ought to be, whose education is gained in the street, the not over carefully conducted dance hall, whose body is half clothed and poorly nourished and who has nothing, nothing, nothing in all her life to teach her the love of beauty, cleanliness, morality, service to others and most of all to a Supreme Being, whose tenderness could forgive a Magdalene? "Pretty little chicken," the prey of the man who admires the face but sneers when she turns her back and who wouldn't marry her because she is not of his class, at the depots, on the streets, here and there and everywhere, where little girls should not be, listening to the sweet, and insincere, stories of some selfish man who would strike down his best friend were he to talk in the same way and for the same purpose to his sister or daughter. But did you ever stop to think that those poor girls whom you contemptuously pity are sisters and daughters—sisters and daughters who lack the things your sisters and daughters have but who by reason of human merit long for those things that delight every woman. Good clothes, entertainment, prettily furnished homes, appetizing viands—how many girls have these material things to blame for their downfall? Norfolk has its quota of pretty, helpless chickens and, yes, more than its share of hungry, pitiless wolves and worse than all it has scores and scores of disinterested, inactive and don't-have-time-to-bother-with-some-body-else's-girl people.

OBITUARY

Francis M. Baker was born in Indiana, February 8, 1852, and died at his home in Alliance, Nebr., January 10, 1913. He would have been sixty years old next month.

In infancy his parents moved to Fairbury, Ill., where he grew to manhood, and resided for about half a century, coming from there to this city nine years ago last October.

In Fairbury, Ill., Oct. 18, 1883, he was united in marriage to Miss Lena B. Zbinden, who with three children survive him. Mrs. L. D. Eaton of Torrington, Wyo., Mrs. C. S. Olson of Everett, Wash., and Albert M. Baker of this city. There are also living four sisters and three brothers.

Mr. Baker had been a member of the Presbyterian church in Fairbury since 1893. He was a mason by trade, and a member of the Brick Mason's union. Much of the time he labored under great difficulty because of impaired health. For twenty-five years he was a great sufferer, the cause of which medical skill was unable to remove. Four years ago he met with an accident which aggravated the trouble and the past two years he was almost a constant sufferer until death came to his relief.

Funeral service was held at the house, in charge of Pastor of M. E. church, Interment in Greenwood cemetery.

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