

a few of them through their second winter. Pullets in permanent quarters should be well fed, and if they have been hatched at the proper season they will begin laying during the fall months.

HOGGING OFF CORN

The practice of hogging off corn is one that is meeting with much favor among hog producers, says a Missouri station bulletin. The scarcity of farm labor, the cost of harvesting and the further fact that it has been demonstrated that more pounds of pork may be produced from an acre of corn when harvested by the hogs themselves are good reasons for the growing popularity of the practice. Nor must the importance of pasturing off the crop on the ground, and thus returning to the soil the greatest amount of fertility, be overlooked in discussing the merits of pasturing off corn with hogs.

Another fact which makes corn as a crop to be hogged down of importance to the man who plans forage rotations for hogs and handles them most economically is that on most forage crops the hogs do not come off well enough finished for market. By having enough corn to finish the hogs which have been on other forage through the summer they will be made to harvest their feed for the whole of the feeding period. If such a practice is to be most profitable it must, as in the case with any other method of harvesting, be rightly managed. For best results the hogs should not be given access to the entire field but should have only the run of what they will clean up in ten days or two weeks. For this purpose some kind of a movable or temporary fence must be provided. Before placing the hogs on the corn they should be gotten on full feed of new corn gradually by starting them on a few stalks and increasing until they are getting about all they will clean up. Then they may be placed in the field to do their own harvesting. The hogs should be turned into the cornfield when the dent has just formed in the kernel. They will do better at this stage than if the corn is allowed to get harder. For profitable results it is of importance to supply an abundance of water to hogs on a full feed of corn.

MULCHING VEGETABLES

At the Nebraska experiment station mulching gave favorable results for cabbage, tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, potatoes and sweet potatoes. The yield of each of these crops was materially increased by mulching and the labor required was considerably less than in the case of cultivation alone. Mulched cabbage produced larger heads than cultivated cabbage, and there was less injury from rot. The vigor of tomato plants was decreased by mulching, but the yield of fruit increased. The fruit was also cleaner and less subject to rot. Mulched cucumbers produced perfect fruit during dry periods when the fruit from the cultivated plants was small and imperfect. The quality of potatoes was not hurt by mulching except in wet places. Celery is another crop often much benefited by heavy mulching.

POISONING GRASSHOPPERS

For 25 cents an acre, farmers can poison grasshoppers with a Paris green bran mash. When done properly this method of killing the hoppers will be effective, according to the bug men at the Kansas agricultural college, who have proved this conclusively. Many farmers, also, who have carried out the instructions sent from the agricultural college, have saved fields of crops at no greater cost than that mentioned. On the farm of Senator Jouett Shouse, near Kinsley, a field of kafir was saved

from an invasion recently by the poison bran mash method. Two days after the poison bran was put out, a representative of the agricultural college, with the foreman of the farm, made counts of the dead hoppers in various parts of the field. As many as 200 hoppers were found on spaces only two feet square. An average of the field made from a number of counts was found to be twenty-three dead hoppers to the square foot—enough to destroy the entire crop in a short time.

To prepare the poison bran mash, mix twenty pounds of bran, dry, with a pound of Paris green or arsenic. Squeeze the juice of three oranges or lemons into three and one-half gallons of water. Chop up the pulp and peel of the fruit and add that to the water and then wet the bran and poison with this mixture, stirring so as to dampen the mash thoroughly. This amount of poison is enough for five acres. It is important that it be sown broadcast over the field, and not deposited in small piles, as these might contain enough poison to kill farm animals, while there will be no danger to farm animals when the poison is sown broadcast.

MONEY IN RAISING HORSES

According to a report submitted by experts of the department of agriculture at Washington, horse breeding in the United States is a very profitable industry. These conclusions are based on the reports of ten thousand breeders in all corners of the country, and as a result it is declared there is a profit of approximately forty per cent in a three-year-old colt over and above the cost of raising. The experts announce that the net cost of producing and raising a colt to the age of three years averages \$96.54, while the selling price of the animal averages \$136.17. The principal cost of rearing a foal to maturity is chargeable to feeding, fifty-four per cent of the outlay going to keep it in hay, grain, pasturage and other feeds, and sixteen per cent to care and sheltering it. The remainder is necessary to meet the cost of breaking to halter, veterinarian service and miscellaneous items.

CULTIVATING CHERRY TREES

Cherry trees should be given the very best of clean cultural methods up to four or five years of age, and never allowed to become sod-bound during that time. After this period the grass may be permitted to grow right up to the trees. Young cherry orchards may be profitably intercropped for the first few years without injuring the trees, providing cover crops are used to restore the fertility taken from the soil by the intercrop. The cultivation of bearing orchards should begin early in the spring, and as soon as the crop is harvested a cover crop should be sown that will add nitrogen to the soil and increase the humus content when it is turned under.

NEW WAY TO HANDLE CORN FODDER

Farmers generally are becoming more appreciative of the value of corn fodder. One of the most potent factors in bringing this about is the high price of hay. This year the hay crop is going to be very short in many localities, and many will find a good substitute for hay in corn fodder. As a stock feed it is nearly as valuable to the farmer as hay. Baling corn fodder from the shock with a hay press is a comparatively new idea, and seems to offer an excellent solution of the fodder handling question. By this method fodder can be baled without being cut up or shredded in any way; and yet, when the bales are opened, the fodder is found to be broken up in excellent condition for feeding. Convenience

is one of the most essential features of a press that is to be used for baling corn fodder. The bale chamber and feed table must be low enough for easy feeding. The farmer with baled corn fodder is in a position to sell his hay at high prices and still have good roughage to feed to his own stock.

HIS OWN EXPERIMENT STATION

In order to find out the best way of fertilizing his farm to produce the highest results, Anson Schwoyer, a farmer of Bethel, Pa., had eighteen wire baskets made, placed soil from his farm in them, and then grew alfalfa in the soil. In each basket he placed a different fertilizer, or a different proportion of fertilizer. From the result of this farming on a small scale he knew just what fertilizer produced the best results with his particular farm soil, and this year he is getting the best alfalfa crops on his farm that it is possible to get. He says: "I could have sent a description of the soil on my farm to the department of agriculture, and they would have been able to tell me what certain methods should be pursued with it to produce a good crop of alfalfa. But this test would not have been definite. They would probably have told me that my soil was lacking in certain chemical qualities and suggested certain fertilizers, after a chemical test, and then I would have to try them all to find out which was the best. If I did this it would take a long time and would prove very expensive. Many farmers can not wait to experiment with their land, but they all have time to experiment the way I did. The results have been very gratifying to me, and my land is now in fine shape."

SIZE OF THE FARM ENGINE

Just how large an engine to purchase to get the most economy from its use, is a problem that requires some forethought on the part of the purchaser, according to Prof. H. H. Musselman, of the Michigan agricultural college. Engines may be divided into three general classes. Those under 3 horse-power, those from 3 to 6 horse-power, and those from 6 to 10 horse-power. The first are adapted to pumping, running washing machines, cream separators, small dynamos for lighting purposes, grindstones, etc. Those from 3 to 6 horse-power could probably give greater satisfaction to the average farm home. The engine can be centrally located and used for all the above purposes as well as running small ensilage cutters, feed grinders and wood saws. From 6 to 10 horse-power engines may be used for running large feed grinders, wood saws and other heavy work. There is little demand for engines on the farm with a rating of more than ten horse-power, until we come to consider the gas tractor. The nearer an engine is worked to its full capacity the more economical it is in the use of gasoline. For the average farm the middle class of gas engines will be found most economical and advantageous.

ADVANTAGE OF EARLY FALL PLOWING

Fall plowing should be done as early as possible, as more weed seeds are started in the early plowing, the stubble decays better and more nitrates are formed and other plant food is liberated in larger quantities. Early fall plowing can be plowed deeper than late fall plowing without so much danger of bringing up too much soil at once from below.

KEEP THE WEEDS DOWN

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