

In the Field of Agriculture

ORGANIZING FARMERS' CLUBS

The agricultural extension division of the Minnesota university farm is trying to have a farmers' club organized in every community. These clubs are simply local organizations of a group of farmers and their families who have adopted a constitution, elected necessary officers and meet once a month or oftener at some farm home, school house, hall, or other suitable meeting place, where they spend a few hours together, visiting, and giving their regular program. The work taken up by these clubs usually is more diversified than that of any other organization in a community as they are not organized for any one purpose. They must be of advantage to a community in three ways, socially, educationally and financially. The social advantages come through their meetings by bringing people together. The educational feature of these club meetings is the strongest argument in their favor. They help to develop latent talents in the membership, and the exchange of experiences is often of the greatest advantage in raising the whole standard of farming in a community. Another feature of these clubs is their ability to bring in outside talent which will add to the general information of the community. Many of these clubs invite business and professional men to their meetings and ask them to talk. Another good feature of these clubs is the ability to get the concerted action of all in a community on matters which are of interest to all. The club meeting is the place where things of community interest can best be taken up and discussed, and when definite action is taken it is quite sure to

follow the wish of a majority of the people and carries more weight because it is known to be a wish of a body of people. Legislation and the action of public officials also can be influenced by these farmers clubs.

WHAT ONE WOMAN IS DOING.

There are other farms in the northwest as large and larger, other farms managed as well and just as scientifically as in Beach Place, the home of Clark Kelley in North Dakota, says Farm, Stock and Home. The unique feature of this farm is that it is a farm managed and worked by a woman. The owner is a city business man. Fourteen years ago he had a good investment in the shape of a farm offered to him. The farm was large but not ideally beautiful, except as to location on the shores of a good lake. The land was good and was a good investment, and there it would have rested if Mrs. Kelley hadn't conceived a real love for it and developed a desire to make of it a home in every sense of the word. So she took hold of the work and has gradually grown into the true managerial office of getting right into the middle of the work and personally supervising it, with the result that she has made a splendid success of the farm and made it a point of interest to the whole community. There are 800 acres in the place, 600 in crop. Though not in a semi-arid region dry farming methods are practiced to a large extent with excellent results. Deep plowing, much dragging and soil packing are practiced as the texture and physical condition of the soil demand. The cultivated land is divided into acreage plots and each plot has a regular rotation, using

corn as cultivated crop, timothy or clover or mixture for two years and two years grain. Mrs. Kelley has specialized for the last five years in growing a white dent corn. Mrs. Kelley selects all her seed herself, tests for germination and supervises the planting and occasionally rides the cultivator to see what is going on in every part of the field during the growing season. Nearly all the grain grown on the farm is marketed for seed and the screenings fed to a bunch of cattle, hogs, horses, chickens, geese and turkeys. Mrs. Kelley is a thorough believer in scientific farming, believes in the best farm and public roads, and aims to market produce to the best advantage by having enough to ship in car lots to the best market centers.

LESSONS FROM THE DROUTH

A member of the crop production of the University of Illinois reports that the results as seen in crops last year seem to emphasize stronger than ever the importance of good tillage. They have shown also how important it is in a year like the past to prepare good seed beds for the grain; that the beds should be well packed, and soil on top loose, and a mulch on the very surface, in order that the moisture be conserved. There were two crops in Illinois that seemed to have stood the drouth especially well. Those were alfalfa and soy beans. The average yield was only a few bushels lower than the previous year, perhaps one-fifth, while the decrease in the yield of oats was about one-half less than the previous year. These facts seem to be important ones for the farmers to consider. It would seem advisable that every farmer wherever possible should have a good field of alfalfa and a field of soy beans to meet just such emergencies as the one that occurred over a greater portion of the corn belt last year.

SPRAYING FOR SOUND FRUIT

The man who still clings to the idea that spraying does not aid in the production of fruit should be convinced by the report of W. L. Howard of the department of horticulture of the University of Missouri. By taking orchards here and there over the state of Missouri, Prof. Howard finished a series of experiments that show that practically all unsprayed fruit is ruined by diseases or insects. In one orchard where a part was sprayed and a part left unsprayed, only 1.2 per cent of the Arkansas black apples could be classed as clean fruit after the trees had been left unsprayed. In the same orchard, where the same brand of apples had been sprayed, the crop of clean fruit was 76.7 per cent. Another orchard of Missouri pippin apples experimented with the same way resulted in 2.1 per cent clean fruit for the unsprayed fruit and 88.5 per cent for that which was sprayed.

SPRING POULTRY PLANS

It is not too early to begin planning and making preparations for raising the flock that will take the place of the two-year-old hens now in the laying pens. The winter nights afford an excellent opportunity to study incubator literature and, in fact, every kind of printed matter re-

lating to poultry. Before you buy an incubator, make a thorough study of the different designs and types, and when you decide on a certain kind make yourself thoroughly familiar with the way to get proper results from it. If broilers are to be raised it is not too early to start the incubators now, but the hatching of chicks that are to become next fall's layers may be delayed for a while. If you need eggs for filling your incubator, other than those produced by your own flock, get in touch now with the kind you want just when you need them. If you are to make up your own breeding pens for the spring give considerable thought now to choosing the flocks, and if you want to introduce new blood into your flocks look up the breeders of the kind of poultry you fancy early enough to get some of their birds. Be sure that you have enough ventilation in the chicken houses at this time, and be careful as possible that there are no drafts. Open up the coops as much as possible on sunny days. Keep plenty of scratching litter on hand, and have it fine enough to cause the grain to drop out of sight. Be sure that your rations contain enough variety, and try to provide green cut bone and some beef scrap. Both are excellent aids to egg production. If your hens are not laying now, look well to the question of proper rations, enough exercise, cleanliness, ventilation and freedom from drafts and dampness in the house.

PLANNING FOR THE GARDEN

City people who buy their vegetables at the stores really don't know what quality vegetables are like. A few hours in a store will make a vast difference in some vegetables in the matter of sweetness. Sweet corn

WONDERED WHY

Found the Answer Was "Coffee."

Many pale, sickly persons wonder for years why they have to suffer so, and eventually discover that the drug—caffeine—in coffee is the main cause of the trouble.

"I was always very fond of coffee and drank it every day. I never had much flesh and often wondered why I was always so pale, thin and weak. About five years ago my health completely broke down and I was confined to my bed. My stomach was in such condition that I could hardly take sufficient nourishment to sustain life.

"During this time I was drinking coffee, didn't think I could do without it.

"After awhile I came to the conclusion that coffee was hurting me, and decided to give it up and try Postum. When it was made right—dark and rich—I soon became very fond of it.

"In one week I began to feel better. I could eat more and sleep better. My sick headaches were less frequent, and within five months I looked and felt like a new being, headache spells entirely gone.

"My health continued to improve and today I am well and strong, weigh 148 lbs. I attribute my present health to the life-giving qualities of Postum."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs.

Postum now comes in two forms: **Regular Postum**—must be well boiled.

Instant Postum—is a soluble powder. A teaspoonful dissolves quickly in a cup of hot water and, with cream and sugar, makes a delicious beverage instantly. Grocers sell both kinds.

"There's a Reason" for Postum.



JUST SUPPOSING

What if Abraham Lincoln had directed his early studies along lines popular today.—Milwaukee Daily News.