

inches deep with stock yards supply. He uses but little fertilizer, yet his yields indicate a profit of about \$350 to \$400 per acre on the average. Some of the reasons given for his success are that, in planting, he places the crown of the plant about two inches below the surface of the ground (not in a ditch), spreading the roots on the slant of this spaded hole, drawing the earth firmly on the plant. Cutting is done during six weeks only, while the gardeners usually cut eight or nine. Clean cultivation is practiced during the cutting season, running the cultivator through as often as possible until the season ends. Before the plants appear in the spring all the ground is harrowed over. The shade of the asparagus stalks is so light that the only remedy for weeds after the plants are allowed to grow is continual vigilance with the hand and hoe.

CULTIVATION IS IRRIGATION

Less irrigation and more cultivation is the proven result of many experiments and investigations in the irrigated sections of the country, says the Arizona experiment station. In other words, the irrigation water can be made to do twice the good, perhaps, if the soil is kept stirred after each application of water. This is also a valuable lesson for those who farm in non-irrigated sections. The water which falls from the clouds can be economized in the same manner. The soil mulch three or four inches deep is a means by which droughts may be fought in every section. A drought is merely a scanty supply of water. The cultivator will help out in case of a scanty supply of rain water, as well as when it is irrigation water, which is scarce. Even young alfalfa and grain crops may be cultivated by using a weeder, or a spiketooth harrow with the teeth set backward. A case is given of the harrowing of a field of young alfalfa with a loss of only one per cent of the plants. Twenty-five per cent of the water may sometimes be saved by cultivation, and frequently this 25 per cent means the difference between growth and failure.

SILAGE BEST FOR SUMMER

A series of tests, covering three successive summers, in feeding the

dairy herd at the University of Wisconsin college of agriculture, proves conclusively that silage is better and cheaper than soiling crops for tiding herds over the periods of short pastures.

Soiling crops, such as red clover, peas, oats, green corn, and a mixture of these were fed in the trials in competition with corn silage. A careful record of the cost of production was kept, as well as the yield per acre and the food value of each crop. It was found after the trials were completed that silage yields more and better food from the same area than do soiling crops; that less labor and seed is required in the growing and feeding of silage; that while the relative production of milk in each case is about the same, the cost of production is much greater when soiling crops are fed.

The carrying over of the corn crop from year to year by means of the silo tends to equalize the quantity of feed available and insures against slumps in milk production. Few farms are properly equipped for feeding summer silage, as the silo for summer feeding should be of smaller diameter than for winter feeding. For best results, at least two inches of silage from the entire surface of the silo should be removed each day.

IMPORTANCE OF BALANCED RATION

A balanced ration is one in which each of the nutrients or the different food materials is present in just the right proportion and amount to meet the needs of the animal, says Professor Fraser of the Illinois college of agriculture. If there is too much of either carbohydrates or protein, the excess becomes a waste; if there is too little of either, the others present will not be used to the best advantage.

There is a large difference in the amount of milk produced from a balanced ration. Dairymen fail to understand that quantity of feed can not be made to take the place of quality and that there is a necessary connection between the nutrients in the feed and those in the milk; hence they are inclined to look on the cow as a machine which can turn out any kind of feed which she will eat into the constituents of milk. She can no more do this than a mason can build a house with sand and brick without lime or cement.

She may and does change the form of the nutrients of the feed, but she can not put into her milk what she does not receive in her feed. She will yield just so far as the material supplied her will permit, or up to the limit of her capacity.

The cow keeps the proportions of the constituents in her milk practically the same, and when one material is lacking the milk flow is limited by the need of this one material no matter how much of the other nutrients may be present. With unbalanced rations, the cows do not keep in good physical condition, and therefore can not consume as large quantities of feed nor produce as much milk.

COMBATting POULTRY PESTS

The approach of warm weather brings with it the usual increase and annoyance of the pests of the poultry yard—the mites. One of the best mixtures to use in combatting mites is kerosene emulsion. It is made by mixing two gallons of kerosene oil, one-half pound of whale oil soap, one quart of home-made soft soap, and one gallon of water. Dissolve the soap by boiling the water, then remove from the fire and add the kerosene at once. Churn the mixture rapidly and violently until it is as smooth as beaten cream. One part of emulsion to several parts of water is used to dilute the mixture for application to buildings, dropping boards or nest boxes. Add one or two ounces of carbolic acid to the emulsion just before applying. This is a splendid disinfectant and insecticide to use about the poultry house.

RELIABLE BREEDERS FURNISH PEDIGREES

A man buying pure-bred hogs should never buy breeding stock without demanding that the pedigrees or proper papers for the registration of the animals be furnished at the time the animals are shipped, says the Kansas Farmer. Even thoroughly reliable breeders are sometimes negligent in this matter of properly turning over the necessary papers for the registration of the animals sold. The prompt delivery of papers is good business practice on the part of the breeder, since it is bound to create a favorable impression upon his customers. The necessity of writing and asking several times for the papers is of frequent occurrence and such necessity is certain to prejudice the buyer against the breeder. The purchaser of pure-bred hogs has a right to demand that he receive the papers at once and is justified in looking upon the breeder with suspicion who puts him off in this matter. He is also justified in viewing with suspicion the hog breeder who gives no evidence of keeping a thoroughly reliable system of marking and keeping track of his own private herd records. The hog breeder who does not have a positive means of identifying at once every pure-bred pig on the place is not a safe man to do business with.

DANDELIONS

An agricultural writer says that dandelions are not wholly without value. If you will watch the cattle in the pasture you will see that they eat dandelions with apparent relish. These weeds have a considerable feeding value, being quite rich in protein. They are a nuisance chiefly in lawns.

Various methods of getting rid of this pest in the lawns have been resorted to. Gasoline or kerosene, applied at the crown of the dandelion, will kill individual plants. On badly

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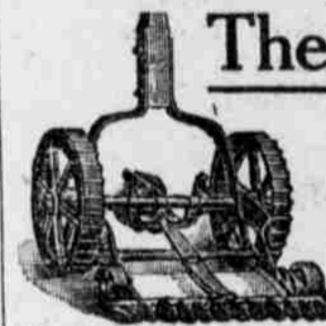
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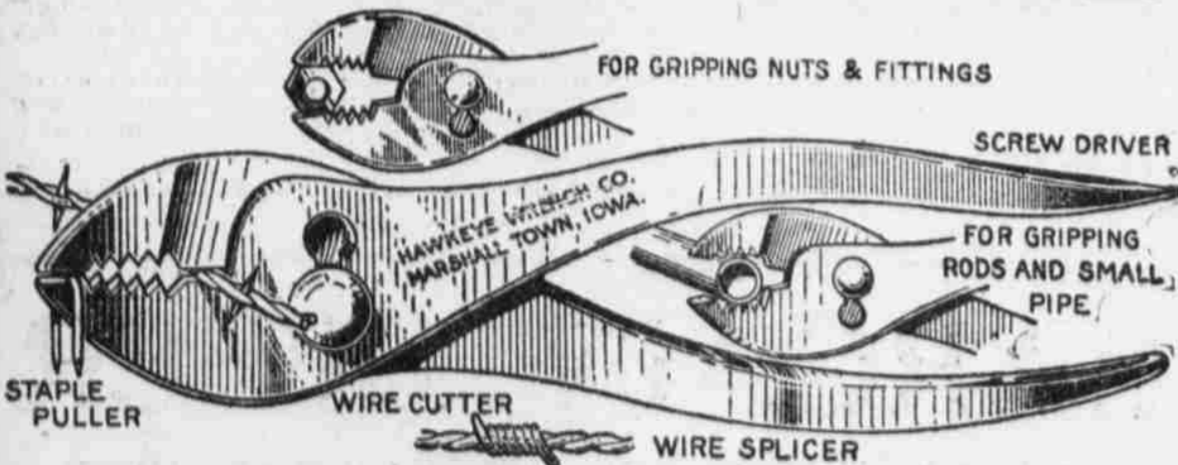
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