

vision of the farm adviser and representative from the University of Missouri. Here the representatives from the district and townships met in individual and school competition, this being the culmination of all previous events.

"Only pupils who are regular attendants in the rural school that they represent, between the ages of ten and eighteen, are allowed to enter. All material shown in any exhibit in competition must have been made, prepared or gathered by the one in whose name it is entered. The students usually work in teams of three members. The agricultural extension service of the college of agriculture hopes to interest many more counties in these contests this spring.

"Both boys and girls are eligible to all contests but it is the aim of the farm advisers to get the boys interested in the particular lines that apply to their interests and the girls to theirs. They believe that it is far better to center a girl's work and ambition on a desire to bake a prize loaf of bread than to be a good stock judge."

PRUNING TREES AFTER PLANTING

When the trees are taken from the nursery row, a large part of the root system is left in the ground; the equilibrium between the roots and the top of the tree is thus disturbed; and it is obvious that a part of the top should also be removed, states the department of horticulture, Nebraska university farm. Should the top be left unpruned, transpiration

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will take place too rapidly. The large amount of foliage requires more water and food material than the short root system can supply. Trees which have not been cut back will often start growing too vigorously only to die when the food and water, which is stored in the plant, or which is easily available, is exhausted.

All branches and torn roots should be cut back to healthy tissue, leaving smooth cuts that will readily heal. Long, straggly roots should be shortened, and any masses or tangled roots should be shortened and thinned.

ADAPTATION OF SWEET CLOVER

Sweet clover will thrive upon any nonacid soil suitable for other cultivated crops. It will do especially well on a fertile soil with an abundance of rainfall, says Extension Bulletin 22, Nebraska experiment station. However, when a stand is once obtained, it will make a comparatively vigorous growth on thin, clayey, or sandy soils, containing but little humus. Satisfactory stands and yields are often obtained in central and western Nebraska where the rainfall is light. Its production has been too limited in western Nebraska to permit a definite statement regarding the likelihood of success in regions where alfalfa is a failure because of deficient rainfall. On account of the limited experience with this crop in Nebraska, it is advisable to plant only a few acres until results have shown it to be a suitable and well-adapted crop for one's own conditions.

CAUSE FOR LOSS OF SPRING PIGS

One of the principal reasons for the loss of spring pigs at this time, as well as any other, according to the Nebraska Experiment station, arises from the fact that the brood sow has been stuffed and fattened with a heavy corn ration. The sow becomes lazy and does not take exercise, an important thing for keeping an animal in healthy condition. The ration should be limited enough to keep the appetite keen. The feeding floors should be at some distance from the sleeping quarters in order to induce exercise.

A ration of corn or ground barley, seven parts, and oil meal one part, or corn and ground barley nine parts to one of tankage will give satisfactory results, if fed in limited amounts. Good alfalfa hay should be provided in such a way that the sows can have access to it at all times.

OATS TO GROW

Twenty varieties of oats tested at the Nebraska Experiment station show that the early varieties out-yielded the late varieties 14 bushels an acre. The early varieties which ripened July 11, on the average, yielded 53.9 bushels, while those that ripened on July 20, produced about 40.1 bushels. Kherson, Burt, and Texas Red are among the early varieties that proved best. Among the late varieties, the Lincoln oats have given the best results.

About eight pecks an acre gives the best results when Kherson oats are drilled, and about 10 pecks an acre when they are sown broadcast. Varieties with larger grains require a correspondingly heavier rate of seeding.

THE GARDEN PLAN

The garden should not only be planned to furnish the table during the summer with fresh vegetables, but also enough for winter. There should be plenty of sweet corn for canning and drying, enough tomatoes for canning, preserving and pickling;

peas, greens, string beans, beets, carrots, etc. for canning. Cucumbers, onions, cabbage, peppers and string beans for pickles. Besides plenty of carrots, onions, beets, parsnips, salsify, winter radishes, cabbage, rutabagas, celery, squash and pumpkins for storing in the cellar for winter use.

THE POULTRY FLOCK

Cleanliness is the silver key to success in the poultry business. It is so strongly essential that, given good poultry to start with, it is nearly all of it, and yet it is the last thing many poultry keepers think necessary at all.

Do not give ducklings water to swim in; they do not need it and will not thrive as well with it as without. Keep drinking water before them all the time; a duck has no crop as a hen has, and needs water to wash down her food.

The inexperienced incubator operator should know that frequent opening of the incubator doors at hatching time is harmful. Another thing to remember is that one of the chief causes of chicks dying in the shell is allowing the heat to run too low when chicks are hatching.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES

The largest record of any Ayrshire cow in Nebraska is that of Lady Lincoln, owned by the Nebraska agricultural college, and which at seven years seven months of age produced in a twelve-months period 14,778 pounds of milk and 511.57 pounds of butter fat. Her five yearly milking periods average 11,789 pounds of milk and 397 pounds of butter fat.

Kansas consumes about twenty million pounds of twine a year in binding its wheat crop, besides that used for corn, kafir, etc. The state penitentiary twine plant has a production of about three million pounds annually.

Kansas has 7,137 silos. This is something like fifty-one silos to every county in the state, but there are twenty-one counties having less than a dozen and several having no silos whatever within their boundaries. Five of the rich Kansas counties have more than 200 silos and are reporting constant increases.

The cultivation of potatoes, which were originally introduced into Germany from the United States, has been brought to such a wonderful stage of development that two distinct classes of potatoes are raised, the one rich in carbohydrates, but poor in nitrogenous matter for the fermentation industry, and the other rich in nitrogenous matter for eating purposes.

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