

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

CROSS-BREDS PROFITABLE

When you take a bunch of purebred sows of one breed and cross them with a purebred boar of another breed, you are likely to get pigs which will gain faster and require less feed per unit of gain than will purebred pigs of either parent breed. This is the conclusion one must draw from three years of experiments carried on at one of our foremost experiment stations. In these crossing experiments Poland-Chinas and Duroc-Jerseys have been used. In the three years, the cross bred pigs have gained an average of 1.41 pounds per pig daily, as compared with 1.32 for their purebred half brothers and sisters, both groups being fed side by side on the same ration and handled in exactly the same manner. In other words, the cross breeds have gained about a tenth faster than the purebreds. In going from an average weaning weight of 75 pounds to a good marketable weight of 225 pounds, the cross breeds would get to market from 10 days to two weeks sooner than the purebreds. This is important in the fall, when hog prices normally take a rapid downward trend. In addition to the more rapid gains, the cross breeds use their feed to better advantage. In the Iowa tests, the cross breeds have required an average of only 340 pounds of feed for each 100 pounds of gain, while the purebreds have taken 365. This means that for every 100 pounds of gain made, the cross breeds would require about 16 pounds less feed. Still other advantages have been noted for the cross breeds. They have developed more uniformly, have shown greater vigor and a more healthy appearance. This may justify the claims made by some farmers, that cross breeds are more disease resistant than purebreds, though they are not yet prepared to say to just what extent this is true or how important this difference may be. The cross bred pigs in the three experiments have averaged nearly five pounds each heavier at weaning time than the purebreds, even though both had the same mothers. That is, in the tests the sows each year have been double mated, or bred to two boars—to one of their own breed and to a boar of the second breed used in the cross-work. By this system, both purebred and cross bred pigs have been obtained in the same litter. The plan has been to breed the sow to one boar and then to the other within a few minutes. With two breeds of distinctly different color—red and black in this instance—the cross bred pigs have been readily distinguishable from the purebreds. This system of breeding to two boars has eliminated the differences in the gaining ability of the pigs due to breeding, as far as possible. It makes more certain that the difference in gains and economy of gains are due to crossing. The ration used in all three years from weaning to market in the crossing tests is as follows: Shelled corn, self fed; supplemental protein mixture (50 parts by weight of tankage, 25 of corn cake oilmeal, 25 of alfalfa meal), self fed; plus mineral mixture, self fed. The mineral mixture contains 19.9 pounds of flake salt, 32.9 pounds of wood ashes, 39.9 pounds of ground bone black and 0.95 pound of potassium iodide. This mineral mixture was self fed. The pigs have had the run of a blue grass pasture. In this cross breeding work, those in charge emphasized from the first that if the cross breeds were used for breeding purposes, their pigs probably would not be so good as either the cross breeds or purebreds. In order to test this out, last year and bred to purebred boars of the parent breeds. The pigs from these cross bred sows bore out what the experimenters had contended—they did not gain so fast nor so economically as either the cross breeds or purebreds. To test this breeding back toward purebreds still further, a few of the pigs from the cross bred sows (these were either three fourths Duroc and one fourth Poland or three fourths Poland and one fourth Duroc) were kept and bred to the boars of the breeds from which they derived most of their blood. This cross resulted in seven eighths Durocs or seven eighths Polands. These seven eighths pigs looked much like purebreds and could hardly be distinguished from them. Also, they were about the equal of the purebreds in ability to gain rapidly and economically.

A REAL BUSINESS

Business is defined by Webster as being "that which occupies the time, attention and labor of men, for the purpose of profit and improvement." Had Webster been well acquainted with the poultry business, he had known the part that the present-day farm woman plays in the poultry industry, he certainly would have included women along with men in his definition. Possibly Webster, like many other good men in days gone by, didn't consider poultry keeping a business, but thought of it as being a task for women only. I can recall when the average farmer considered that it was entirely beneath his dignity to aid his wife in any way with the "conserved" chickens. I remember one old farmer who, when his wife would send a basket of eggs with him to trade for groceries, would dump them along the road just as soon as he was out of his wife's sight. He would then proceed to town and buy the groceries. Times have changed, however, and today we find poultry keeping in a most dignified and enviable position. No longer is the poultryman regarded as a crank and a hobbyist. No longer does the average farmer regard his wife's chicken as a necessary evil. He has gradually

DON'T GUESS

Have you prepared to keep farm records this year? Have you determined to ascertain what your production costs are? What it costs to keep each of your cows a year and what each returns for the feed she consumes and the labor she makes for you? All these things and many others, when fully understood—no guessed at—will go a long way toward enabling the farm manager to operate his farm on a more economical basis. We need more definite knowledge on the farm if we are to do our best.

been brought face to face with the fact that the lowly, much maligned chickens have been paying for the groceries, the shoes and his "smokes." He has become interested in this poultry business and now plans with his wife to build a brooder-house, fix up the hen-house, learn more about correct feeding, and try to make their poultry-keeping more profitable.

BINDWEED CONTROL

Bindweed spreads by both runners and seeds and in a few years can cover a whole farm with a heavy growth. During this period the value of the farm will be reduced from that of improved agricultural land to the value of poor grazing land and the farm will become a source of danger to the entire neighborhood. The best way to eradicate bindweed is through clean cultivation the first year, followed by alfalfa or some such another crop as came the second year. The first year the field should be plowed early in the spring, shortly after the weed starts, and from then on should be cultivated frequently, sometimes as often as twice a week. A spring tooth cultivator equipped with sharp broad chovels is best for this. This summer fallow cultivation will so weaken the bindweed plants that they cannot compete the second year with a heavy feeding crop like alfalfa or cane. If cane is planted the ground should be cultivated through the early spring and the cane sowed about two weeks after corn planting time. Alfalfa may be planted in August after the first summer of cultivation. It should begin growth so early in the spring that it will smother any bindweed plants that start to grow.

DON'T FORCE PULLETS

Pullets should not be allowed to come into maturity too quickly. Normally, a pullet starts to lay eggs as soon as she has reached maturity and her body has ceased to grow. Sometimes laying starts somewhat before full growth has been reached and further growth may cease. Such pullets may remain undersized and their eggs may be defective and small. If pullets are maturing too rapidly their mash and animal food should be reduced. The grain rations also may be slightly increased, as pullets should have a good reserve store of body fat before they start laying. Otherwise they will not stand up well under the strain of laying and may fall considerably short of the possible maximum egg production. For that reason, many poultrymen make a marked increase in the quantity of grains fed to the pullets as their combs begin to redden. At the same time, they cut down on the mash and animal food; beef scraps or similar material. The main reason for this is that the animal food being no longer required for muscle building as the birds reach maturity, may start egg production before it is desirable.

ONCE WEED, NOW CROP

If there is any one thing that stands out prominently as now in legume growing, it is the "discovery" of sweet clover. This plant itself has long been known—mostly as a weed. Its great usefulness is a discovery of the last 10 years. So recent has been the use of this plant to fame, that until the last census no record of its acreage was available. We now know that as a pasture and green-manure crop, it is unexcelled where it can be grown. Its very exacting demand for lime is the only check on its rapid spread to those sections where it is not now being grown. Three things stand out as essential to the successful use of sweet clover for soil improvement—lime and lots of it, inoculation, and plowing under far enough in advance of planting time of the crop that it is to follow. A new effect of sweet clover, as yet little recognized, is that of increasing the effectiveness of commercial fertilizer, under certain conditions. One experiment station reports experiments in which the use of fertilizer increased the corn yield (in a corn-soybean rotation) only 3.5 bushels, as an average for eight years. When the rotation was changed to corn and grain (sweet clover seeded in grain and plowed under the following spring) the average increase from the fertilizer was 8.6 bushels of corn per acre, the most favorable treatments giving increases much larger than that.

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

My neighbor says to me, "By jing, first thing we know it will be spring, it's time to fix the harnesses and grease them all up nice." He says, "I warn 'em up and wash 'em good to get the dirt all out, it would surprise you at the dirt there is in them old harnesses, gee whiz. When they are all washed clean, each piece is treated to a coat of grease; I rub it in, that's what I do, until each harness is like new. It makes 'em last lots better so each winter I don't have to go and buy new harness at a sale. I just stay home and save my kale." I told him that one time I tried greasin' up the old cowhide that made them harnesses of mine, when I got done they looked right fine. But it was sure a dirty job, that harness grease. It just played hob with my complexion, grease and dirt were smeared all over my good shirt, it was a week or two from then before my hands were clean again. I'd rather wear my harness out than put the dirt and sweat to rest by makin' such a mess as that; I'll leave the dirt where it is at and when the harness gets too stiff I'll buy a newer one, and if I happen not to have the dough, that's one more bill that I will owe!

RABBITS FOR PROFIT

We have been raising Chinchilla rabbits for over five years, says a farmer who believes in diversification. We find them one of the most economical sources of wholesome and nutritious table meat, and in addition the pelts are now bringing us quite a little additional revenue. Rabbits are very prolific. A good doe may be expected to raise four litters a year, averaging from six to seven to the litter. They grow rapidly and are ready for the market in three or four months. However, we let spring-born litters grow out till fall, at which time the pelt becomes prime and at its best.

Probable Successor



General Maxime Weygand, said to have been right-hand man of late Marshal Foch, and on whose shoulders the mantle of the departed war leader will probably fall. The General's genius as a military leader has long been known and the additional fact, just revealed, of the intimacy he enjoyed with the Marshal will probably be the deciding factor in his appointment as successor.

Air Novice Risks Life



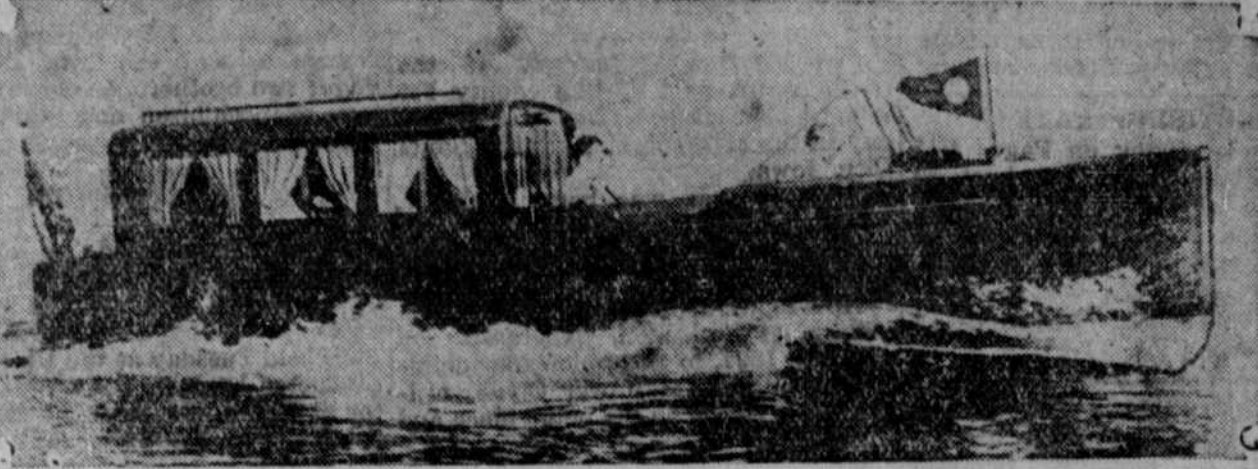
In spite of the fact that she had never been up in a plane, Marie Smullen, employe of Naval Aircraft Factory at Philadelphia, Pa., was willing to risk her life in testing new parachute device. "As long as I'm getting a thrill," she said, "I might as well get a real one." She got it, too, when she made the 1,000-foot jump, proving that new device was O. K.

Leads Yale Prom



One of the most important positions in the power of Yale undergrads to confer, chairmanship of the Yale Senior Prom has been awarded to George Wells, 2nd, of Dayton, Ohio.

Demand Inquiry Into Boarding Yacht



Here is the yacht "Restless," belonging to Stuyvesant Fish, Jr., which customs men admit firing on and boarding in search of liquor in New York harbor. General condemnation of the action and a wide protest for investigation by Congress has resulted.

Father-in-Law Slayer



Just 16 months after her happy wedding, Mrs. Elizabeth T. Mayher of Fairfield, Conn., met death at the hands of her father-in-law, Joseph Mayher, a shoemaker, when he slashed her throat and his own in a fit of insanity. He had been released from a state insane institution a short time ago.

Most Popular Non-Pro



Miss Jerry Chenoweth, whose charm and loveliness has won for her more beauty prizes than any other girl in the United States, can well claim title of "Most Popular Non-professional Beauty." She made an added conquest recently when she was elected "Miss Portland" at the Portland, Ore., Rose Carnival.

Martyr of New "Spy" System



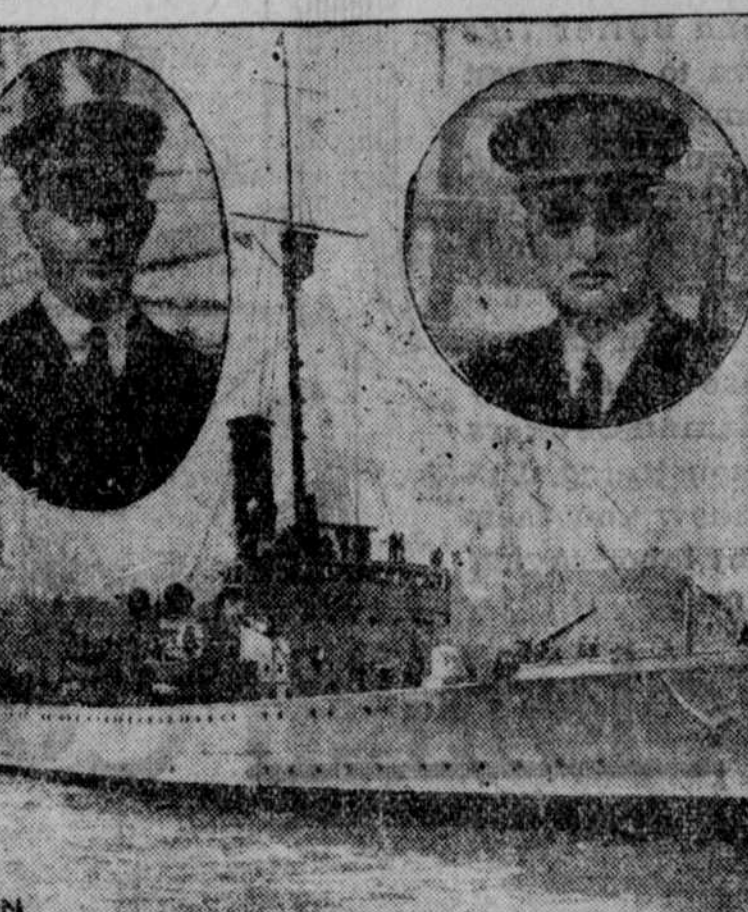
John W. Snook, ex-warden of the penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., forgets his prison worries and takes a new and genuine interest in domestic activities. Snook became "ex" when he resigned from his post as a protest against the spy system in penitentiaries inaugurated by the indomitable Mrs. Mabel Willebrandt. He is shown here at his Atlanta home with his son, Quinton, and toys.

New Chinese-French Minister



One of the latest political developments in France is that of the appointment of Mr. Kao Lou, left, as new Chinese Minister to France. He is shown here with the Right Monsignor Carrier, right, leaving the Elysee Palace following Mr. Lou's formal presentation to M. Gaston Doumergue, President of the French Republic.

Coast Guard Ready for Duty



Inset, Commander S. V. Parker (left) and Commander L. C. Farwel (right), in charge of U. S. cutter "Champlain" (below), one of five new ones, will base at New York, equipped to aid ships in distress at sea, also to remove "derelicts" which menace navigation.