

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

THE STOCK SHARE LEASE

A western tenant farmer has the following to offer regarding the advantages of the stock share lease system: I am on a share system and will say there are a great many things to be considered in such a contract. On a 50-50 proposition each should furnish as much as the other. If we have a proposition where the landlord furnishes 288 acres of land that is worth \$100 an acre rental, then the landlord is furnishing \$2,880. If each furnishes the same number of cows, sheep, hogs, the tractor and truck on a dairy farm of 40 cows, it will take a tenant and one man for 12 months and probably another man for eight months. The tenant will probably furnish horses and machinery to a value of \$2,000, which, at an interest of 6 per cent, would be \$120, depreciation of \$200, and upkeep, repairs, and overhead of at least \$600 yearly. The total of these items would be \$920. If they each pay one-half of the help, that would leave the tenant \$1,950 a year, which is not too much for a manager capable of handling 288 acres with probably 100 head or more of livestock. If he has to furnish the labor, one man at 12 months, plus board, equals \$900, and the second man, plus board, would be \$600, which makes a total of \$1,500, or it would leave only \$450 for the tenant if it was subtracted from his share on a basis of equality with the landlord. Now, the tenant can not live on \$450, so he pays his landlord more than \$2,600 rent if he makes a living. The average farm wife does enough chores to offset all the chickens on the average farm. Now, some may think \$1,950 large wages, but I would not consider \$3,000 large wages for a man capable of handling a purchased proposition of this size. What do our high class farm managers get? Usually they are not financially responsible, either. Possibly this farm would rent for more than \$10 an acre and possibly less, but in making a lease like this all of these things should be considered. I have successfully run a stock farm on shares for six years and my landlord is 100 per cent perfect. We have each made money, but I have recently awakened to the fact that I am paying \$30 an acre rent for the land. I could rent as good land for \$15 or less. This is figuring my wages at only \$125 a month. I am going to be criticised severely by bankers, college professors, landlords, politicians, land boomers, publishers and others, but I really believe all of these things should be taken into consideration. My figures should not be considered for all farms, but figures should be taken that fit local conditions. First take the rental value of the land and the earning value of the tenant, then adjust other things so that they will equal.

12-HOUR SHIFT FOR HENS

This is not an argument for either union or nonunion hens but just a request to their owners so that the hens will have a chance to earn their way in the best manner possible. Egg production is the backbone of the poultry business. There are but few farmers that would keep many hens if the only returns were from birds sold for meat. In Iowa, even though our average egg production is lower than it should be, the total returns from eggs is approximately three fifths of the total poultry receipts. Winter eggs are the ones that bring the highest prices. They are the hardest ones to secure for the cold weather and the short days encourage hens to eat only sufficient feed to maintain their bodies without exerting themselves to the point of producing eggs to help pay the expenses. That is one reason for asking for the 12-hour day for hens. The use of lights in the poultry house is the only method for increasing the winter days so that they can be stretched to the 12-hour limit. Experience has shown that maximum egg production can not be secured when the hens have to sit on the roost for a longer time than 12 hours without having a chance to fill up. On the other hand, if lights are used to make the day much longer than 12 hours and the nights much shorter, the hens are apt to "go to pieces" from overwork. In using lights in the poultry house it is well to start their use when the days begin to shorten so that there is not 12 hours of normal light. Most people prefer to use morning lights in the house than evening, as the scratch grain may be put in the litter in the evening and the lights turned on with some type of a mechanical arrangement. If one method is started, it should be continued throughout the season so that the birds will be given regular attention. Pullets should be well matured and up to weight when the lights are started. If the lights are kept on for too many hours, there may be a tendency to force production to such an extent that the birds will become underweight and then go into a partial molt. It is always well to be satisfied with a 12 or 13 hour day, rather than to push the pullets too fast.

HOW ABOUT THE WEEDS?

Are we getting any place in our fight against weeds? Anyone who drives corn belt country roads must doubt it. Under the Iowa law, the responsibility for weed control and eradication is put on township trustees. The last legislative session improved the law slightly by providing that one trustee should be designated to take charge of carrying out the law. This is an improvement since it centers responsibility. Yet the odds are that the trustee selected will not be much of a weed expert; he could be, no doubt, if he took time to check up on methods of weed control; however, he has his own farm to run and can hardly afford to take the time to find out how to do the job most efficiently. Then, too, the present plan of control is to have somebody go out and

WEIGHT DESIRABLE

Some people have a false idea that size within the breed is not an essential quality in dairy cows. As a result they fail to pay as much attention to the development of size in dairy cattle as they would pay to the development in other types of livestock. It has been estimated that the additional production of the well grown dairy cattle is worth approximately \$5 per hundred pounds more for each lactation period. This would make a 1,100-pound cow worth approximately \$25 more than a 1,000-pound cow, providing she would live for the normal five years' work in the dairy herd. Liberal feeding during the first and sec-

ond winters has more to do with size than any other factor. Legume hay is essential in furnishing both protein and mineral matter for growth. If silage is available, this can be utilized, especially during the second winter. In the second winter a ration comprised largely of legume hay and silage will make a fairly satisfactory growth when fed in liberal quantities. During the first winter, some grain will have to be fed along with legume roughage in order to develop the rough flesh. With the older heifers, other forms of roughness than legume hay and silage will require that some additional concentrates be fed

WATCH "GREEN STUFF"

In the fall and winter, when we can no longer go to the garden and secure nice crisp radishes, you probably remember how good it seems to bite off a big piece of cabbage stalk. Hens are a good deal like us in their desire for something that is green and succulent. "Green stuff" not only tastes good but it is good for the system, whether it be bird or owner. It keeps the digestive tract operating on a regular schedule and enables us to make better use of our other food. The food nutrients that are contained in such feed are readily digestible so that it supplements the remainder of the ration. There are two types of succulent feed that are generally available for chickens. Some people meet at least a part of this need by storing cabbage and root crops. These are chopped up and fed to the hens and pullets. Other people meet the need by sprouting oats. Oat sprouters may be constructed or good ones may be purchased at reasonable rates. Some people prefer oats that have just nicely started to sprout rather than those with sprouts of considerable length. The latter, which are usually called germinated oats, may be more easily prepared than sprouting oats as they take less room. Where no better equipment is available fairly good results may be obtained by using several candy buckets. Oats may be soaked in one bucket overnight, then drained the following morning and set to one side until evening, when another bath is started. At that time the oats in the first bucket are emptied into another pail. Moving them helps to give them air and the stirring insures that they are all getting uniform treatment and heat. This method may be continued until a constant supply is available.

SOYBEAN INOCULATION

A western farmer who has had many years of experience with soybean culture, has found that it is necessary always to inoculate the seed with a bacterial culture even if it is to be sown on land that has produced soybeans two or three years before. On the other hand, he says that he knows of men who have had so much experience with this crop as he has himself, who claim that once a well inoculated crop of soybeans has grown on a certain piece of ground, the soil will remain inoculated for at least eight years. This, too, is based on experience. "How can these two apparently opposite observations both be true?" is asked. The explanation is as follows: Most soybeans are being grown on acid soils, because they are about the only legume that will do well on soils that are deficient in lime. The man whose soil is too acid to produce alfalfa or a good crop of clover, and who is not in position to start liming, is not in position to start liming, may successfully grow soybeans for hay until such time as he can get his land ready for alfalfa and other legumes. While soybeans will grow well on acid soils, they do still better on soils that are well stocked with lime. In this fact is concealed, partially at least, the clue to the apparent contradiction expressed in the two views presented by our correspondents. It has been definitely demonstrated in a large number of field tests by the Illinois experiment station that the bacteria which produce nodules on the roots of soybeans, and through which the plant assimilates free atmospheric nitrogen, cannot maintain themselves in an acid soil for more than a year or two, while in a soil that is well supplied with lime they will retain their vitality for eight to ten years without presence of soybeans. This well established fact no doubt explains why some farmers find it necessary to inoculate the seed beans for every crop and others find that when a field has once been thoroughly inoculated with soybean bacteria, inoculation may not be necessary. However, it is a good plan to inoculate for each crop, even though the land may have grown soybeans three or four years before, since the cost of inoculation is slight anyway.

Q. Is wheat harvested during March in any country? D. N. A. In Upper Egypt and India wheat is harvested during February and March.

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From Missal to Sword



Rev. William Graham Everson, Indiana clergyman, who has left the pulpit to take up a position as Chief of the Militia Bureau of the War Department.

Rough Rider's Grandniece



Miss Helen Robinson, daughter of former Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Theodore D. Robinson, and grandniece of the late President Theodore Roosevelt, whose engagement to John Arthur Hinkley is announced.

A Royal Dancer



Alexander Zoubkoff, the former Kaiser's brother-in-law, performing as a dancer in a Paris cabaret on the Grand Boulevards. He has been confined to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and longs to return again to trip the light fantastic on the Boulevards.

Girl Flyers Are Out to Break Record



(Left to right) Elinor Smith and Bobby Trout, two plan to make an attempt to break the record for sustained flight.

The World's First Air-Born Babe



Mrs. Margaret Dorothy Evans and her baby girl, which was born in an airplane flying twelve hundred feet over the city of Miami a few days ago. The baby is declared by specialists to be a perfect specimen despite the unusual birthplace.

Pledges Fortune to Wall Street Losers



Julius Rosenwald, wealthy Chicago merchant, pledged his fortune without limit to guarantee the stock market accounts of the 40,000 employees of his company. Mr. Rosenwald decided to take this action, it is said, following the market drop last Thursday.

Countess Found Dead



Mrs. Eve Waddington Greenley, of Chicago, who is believed to have been an English countess, was found dead in her home on the fashionable North Shore with a bullet in her head. Police are unable to determine whether she was a suicide or was murdered.

Surprise Witness in Father's Trial



Virginia Warder, who took the stand in defense of her father, Frank H. Warder, former New York State Banking Superintendent. Miss Warder said that the late president of the defunct company gave her a sedan just because it was difficult for her to get to school. She testified that her father was not at home at the time he was supposed to have accepted the bribe.

Yankee Grit



Lillian Foster, American actress now appearing in London openly slapped the face of an English critic aroused by what she believed an unfair criticism by the Anti-American writer.

Doheny Returns Home



Edward L. Doheny, oil magnate, and his wife are shown as they appeared upon arrival in Chicago from Washington where Doheny has been attending the trial of Albert Fall, enroute west.

The Gates Are Open



Countess Catherine Karolyi, who, with her husband, Count Michael Karolyi, who was barred from entry to the United States, have been granted visas to enter the United States on the basis of a new application made through the American Consulate in Paris.