

Social Forms and Entertainments



The Postage Stamp Code.
Ever since I have had this department, lo, these many years, I have been besieged by youthful readers for the "stamp language." As these little messengers go around the world, some one has devised these significations accordings as to how they are placed on the envelope. I cannot imagine remembering all the various positions, but I am glad to print them as they are, for all those who have asked for them, and hope a long felt want has been supplied.

A stamp placed at the top right-hand corner means—Business; or I wish your friendship.

Same corner, upside down—Write me more.

Same corner, crosswise—I send a kiss.

Same corner, horizontally—Do you love me?

At the bottom right-hand corner—You are very cruel.

Same corner, upside down—Can you not trust me?

Same corner, horizontally—You are changed.

In the middle, at right side—Write soon.

Same place, upside down—I am sorry.

Same place, horizontally—I am married.

At the top left-hand corner—Good-by, sweetheart.

Same corner, upside down—I love you.

Same corner, crosswise—My heart is another's.

Same corner, horizontally—I hate you.

At the bottom left-hand corner—I seek your acquaintance.

Same corner, upside down—I wish you joy.

Same corner, horizontally—Will you meet me?

In the middle, at left side—Accept my love.

Same place, upside down—I am engaged.

Same place, horizontally—I long to see you.

In the middle at the top—Yes.

Same place, upside down—On conditions.

Same place, horizontally—Are you jealous?

In the middle at the bottom—No.

Same place, upside down—You are too loving.

Same place, horizontally—My parents object.

Of course all these messages are carried by a single stamp—either a

two-cent one fixed on a letter or a penny one on a postcard.

Two penny stamps on a letter carry quite different set of meanings, as the following list will show:

Two stamps at the top right-hand corner mean—Meet tonight, same place.

Same corner, upside down—Your father suspects.

Same corner, crosswise—Danger.

At the bottom right-hand corner—Going away.

Same corner, upside down—See you on Sunday.

Same corner, crosswise—Can I call?

At the top left-hand corner—Why are you silent?

Same corner, upside down—Do you love another?

Same corner, crosswise—Hope you are well.

At the bottom left-hand corner—Don't forsake me.

Quotations for Farewell Dinner.
Here are some appropriate quotations for use at a dinner given in honor of a guests who is about to depart upon a long journey:

Though lost to sight, to memory dear.

Absence breaks slender ties, but rivets strong ones.

I count myself in nothing else so happy

As in a soul remembering my good friends.

Where'er I roam, whatever realm to see,

My heart untraveled, fondly turns to thee.

Farewell; a word that must be and hath been;

A sound that makes us linger; yet—farewell.

What shall I do with all the days and hours

That must be counted ere I see thy face?

The place cards may be pointed with a bunch of forget-me-nots, or tie a spray of artificial ones on with a bit of "true blue" ribbon.

A Good Thing to Know.
To increase the lasting capacity of candles keep them in the icebox for 24 hours before using. They will burn much slower, and to the up-to-date hostess who uses candles constantly this is quite an item. It is quite customary to light the dining room almost entirely with candles placed around the room or the plate rail, mantel and sideboard. These are not shaded, and it is a very pretty idea to have individual candles at each plate. These are usually shaded.

Motto for a Sun Dial.
Could you have anything more beautiful than these lines by Henry Van Dyke? It is called "The Sun Dial at Wells College:"

"The shadow of my finger cast
Divides the future from the past;
Before it, sleeps the unborn hour,
In darkness, and beyond thy power;
Behind its unreturning line,
The vanished hour, no longer thine;
One hour alone is in thy hands—
The now on which the shadow stands."
MADAME MERRI.

NOTES from MEADOWBROOK FARM



Never excite a dairy cow.

Furnish homes for the birds.

Comfort is cheaper than corn.

The colt needs good attention.

The charge of milkers is, as a rule, detrimental.

Clip the horse. It will help to keep him healthy.

Irregular times of milking are always damaging.

Plenty of shade for yarded poultry flocks now is required.

It is not a good plan to mix warm milk with that already cooled.

Keep the chicks growing. They will appreciate any tender green feed.

For the fence flying habit, try clipping the larger feathers off one wing.

Corn stalks are good fertilizer and should be left on the field after cutting.

Exercise is better laying stimulant for the hens than heat-producing condiments.

Eggs deteriorate rapidly in the pantry or kitchen these days. Keep them in a cool place.

Establish, if possible, a brand of eggs which will in itself be guarantee of good quality.

A small box to sit upon is a great back saver in the garden. Try one when picking the currants.

Overfeeding of green cut bone is apt to cause leg troubles, diarrhoea, bowel complaints and worms.

Nothing aids so much in destroying a herd by tuberculosis as a poorly lighted and ill ventilated stable.

Every heifer calf should have an inheritance that will make it possible for her to make a better cow than her dam.

The cow with the biggest appetite, other things being equal, is the one which will give the most milk and butterfat.

If you wish that young heifer to develop into a wild cow, turn her in an out-of-the-way pasture where you seldom see her.

The lower the temperature at churning time the smaller will be the loss of butter fat and the less washing the butter requires.

Oftentimes the one who has dairy butter for sale must take his pay in trade, while those who sell cream get nothing but cash.

A good way to strain milk is to put several thicknesses of cheese cloth over the can and hold the cloths in place with clothes pins.

A large digestive tract should be developed in the heifer so she will be able to handle large quantities of food when she reaches milking age.

Manure does not improve the taste or quality of the milk. See that the cows are clean before milking, especially about the thighs and flanks.

Young turnip, cabbage and beet plants make the best of greens. It is but a small job to plant these at different times, and they can be had all summer.

Lack of care in feeding is far and away the most fruitful cause of trouble, and the man whose horse is troubled with indigestion has usually only himself to blame.

If you haven't a silo, a small patch of roots will make succulence for your cows next winter. Mangels yield heavily per acre. Only a small amount need be planted.

According to the New York experiment station, the cost of food, per chick, to weigh one pound, on ground grain, is three cents; on whole grain, three and seven-tenths cents.

If celery rots quickly in your cellar it may be retained in the garden through the early winter by banking up well and covering with boards and straw. There is a fresher flavor when it is kept near the soil than when grown in the cellar.

After the vegetables are matured there is a tendency to let the weeds take care of themselves and they do it to the tune of hundreds or thousands of seeds annually. If they are kept down there will be much work saved next year.

Feed sheep regularly.

Keep the lawn well rolled.

Give the hens a dust bath.

The bean can be grown anywhere.

Give the cows all the roughness they will eat.

Crop rotation is the best way to get rid of the corn root worm.

We can palm off stale eggs to our customers once, but only once.

Many a cow that is almost a failure can be made good by proper feeding.

Do not forget that good water should be within reach of the calves at all times.

Dynamiting is coming into favor rapidly for tree planting and stumping new land.

Fruit of fine appearance sells better than fruit of extra quality, but not so showy.

Silage made of corn and soy beans is more digestible than that made from corn alone.

In hot weather, renew the water for poultry two or three times a day and keep it in shade.

Onions make a good tonic for poultry of all ages. Cut them up in the mash occasionally.

Cows have peculiarities that should be studied, and met as nearly as possible by the feeder.

If the geese are hiding their eggs, watch them early in the forenoon, the time of day they lay.

Be careful with the mares in foal, and don't let them slip down nor hold heavy loads down hill.

Wire strainers get only part of the dirt out of milk. Several thicknesses of cheesecloth are better.

The number of chicks brought to the frying stage is what really counts—not the number hatched.

Don't keep unsightly or crippled chickens, even though they have been valuable birds in their day.

The Ayrshire and Guernsey types of dairy cattle are increasing in favor in the middle western states.

Dry mash, charcoal and grit can be fed in a box covered with half-inch poultry netting, without waste.

Use insect powder freely on the sitting hen and her nest. Nothing worries a sitting hen more than lice.

Cream should have a uniform consistency as well as being of uniform ripeness when it goes into the churn.

As soon as it can be had give the hens some good fresh loam. If the sods are with the earth so much the better.

Properly conducted the poultry business will give a fair profit, steady work and a good living for the average man.

The silo today furnishes the most economical, the safest and the best means of storing the corn crop for feeding purposes.

Dust the hens with insect powder before sitting, and twice more while hatching, then chicks will not be full of lice to begin with.

According to a report issued by the United States agricultural department, there are in the world more than 200 different kinds of cheese.

Keep the cultivator going in the garden. It is easier to get rid of the weeds when they are small than when they are well established.

Begin picking the cucumbers as soon as the pickles form. Every cube one and one-half inches long should be cut off with a knife or shears.

Not enough shade in some chicken yards. Hens need a shaded loafing place when they go around with their mouths wide open panting for breath.

It may be thought clever to deceive a man in a horse trade, but if you want to secure a permanent customer it is mighty poor business to do so.

Keep a sharp lookout for new weeds. They appear in all places and at all times. Some of them may prove hard to get rid of if they once gain a footing.

Clean the incubators up thoroughly and store them away until next spring. The way you do this work may tell more than you think on another season's success.

Do away with the weeds. The weeds only rob the soil of the food materials that would make some other crop a bumper. Do away with them before they go to seed and make trouble for another year.

If you have no cistern, and the water in your well is too hard to wash with, a large oil or molasses barrel set under the leader which takes the rain from the roof at the corner of the house nearest to the kitchen, will supply plenty of water, except in a dry time.

RESULTS SECURED BY SPRAYING POTATO



Good Showing for One Hill of Potatoes.

The early blight of potatoes appears in Wisconsin between August 15 and September 25, and does considerable damage to fields not sprayed to control the disease. The excellent results secured by spraying by the horticultural department of the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin show the advantages of such treatment.

This department advises that growers spray at once after August 15, and not wait until the blight appears. If the grower is then careful to note the condition of his vines and the development of the true early blight disease, he can govern the subsequent application of the mixture according to the weather and the appearance of the field. Usually at least three applications will be necessary to get the best results, and in some seasons four applications are advisable.

The amount of spray mixture applied per acre will depend upon the size of the vines. Early in the season 100 gallons of the mixture may be needed to cover from one to three acres. At the last spraying, when double nozzles should be used, 100 gallons will cover from one to one and one-half acres, and possibly two acres in some cases. The mixtures can be economized greatly by avoiding any leakage in the nozzles and running the mixture through as fine a cap as possible and still cover the foliage.

Spraying is generally better adapted to the standard late varieties. Substantial increases in yields have been obtained from spraying early varieties which were planted late. Success from spraying early varieties, which were planted late, is exceptional in this state.

Failures in spraying for blight are often the result of one or more of the following causes: Impoverished soil, weakened potato seed, injury from the potato beetle, carelessness and inattention to essential details.

The first three causes are especially noticed during the dry season. The more favorable the tillage conditions, the larger the returns which may be expected from spraying.

MANAGEMENT OF THE CLAY SOILS

Unless Conditions Are Very Favorable Fertility Remains Quite Unavailable.

(By W. MILTON KELLY.)

The average clay soil possesses an abundant supply of natural fertility, but unless conditions are very favorable this fertility remains in an unavailable condition.

In the management of clay soils the practical point that we need to keep in mind is the fact that we must modify conditions so that this locked up fertility may become available for the growing crops.

These stored up elements in the soil are to be regarded as so much potential energy, which by our methods of cultivation and soil management, may be converted into active energy.

We must therefore seek to adopt such methods as will conserve and preserve this stored-up energy, or fertility, except such as is necessary to produce crops from year to year.

Clay soils must be properly drained before they can be brought under a profitable system of cultivation. Without attempting to name all of the advantages of thorough drainage on clay soils; by taking away the water from under the surface and giving the air and moisture an opportunity to separate the soil particles permits a better growth of roots.

Drainage also prevents the washing of the surface, and assists in conserving available fertility. Its influence on the temperature of the soil, especially in the spring, is of particular importance, as it lengthens the growing season, and makes it possible for us to begin work earlier in the spring, and to perform the work in a more thorough manner during the whole of the growing season. It is impossible to cultivate a soil saturated with water.

In addition to these direct benefits there are a number of indirect ways in which the soil is improved by drainage, such as the influence of higher temperature of the bacterial and chemical changes going on in the soil.

There are bacterial processes that play an important part in this branch of natural economy, and we must so shape our methods of cultivation and management as to get the most benefit from these processes.

These clay soils, which are the most benefited by a thorough system of tile drainage, are the most fertile soils in the country, and they will therefore warrant the largest expenditure in improvement and development.

While not every farmer is able to put in a complete system of tile drainage the first year, he can so plan his work that what he is able to do from time to time will fit into and form a part of a permanent system and not be a haphazard, disconnected work.

I believe more injury has been done clay soils by plowing too deep than by all the cropping yet done in the country. One fact worthy of our attention is that in the cultivation of clay soils we must keep the humus or organic matter as close as possible to the top of the soil until the physical condition of the soil is such that the air may have access to the soil as deep as the organic matter is turned under.

Vegetable matter, when exposed to the action of the air, will soon decompose into carbon or vegetable mold and carbonic acid. Large quantities of vegetable mold and carbonic acid make the soil plow up light, loamy and free from clods. On the other hand, if this organic matter is plowed under deep, the air cannot reach it in the saturated, wet soil, and the decomposition goes on slowly, and the product will be widely different. Under such conditions the nitrifying bacteria cannot perform their work.

When the air can have free action through the soil, the clods will decompose into carbonic acid, which will liberate the plant food in the soil and provide the growing plants with nourishment.

When it is desired to deepen the cultivation of clay soils, the work should be gradual and there must be a thorough intermixing of the soil with vegetable matter as fast as it is brought up from below.

As a general rule it will be better to apply fresh manure to the clay soils, for the reason that fresh manure mixed with the soil goes through a process of fermentation which not only increases the availability of its fertilizing elements, but also assists in rendering soluble the portions of hitherto insoluble constituents of the soil.

On a large proportion of clay soils there will be more benefits from the manure when it is applied as a top dressing to the grass lands. In this way we grow more manure to incorporate with the soil when it is plowed.

After a clay soil has been improved by underdrainage, tillage, and fertilization so that it will grow good crops of clover, it is an easy matter to adopt a rotation of crops in connection with live stock feeding that will make sufficient manure to return to the soil to maintain it in a high state of fertility.

Strawberry Plants.
Some people say that strawberry plants set out the last of July or the first of August will give a paying crop the next spring, but we believe that to be a bad practice. Better set plants in the spring, permit not a single blossom to come to fruit the first year, and then the second year will give you a bountiful crop.

Species of Grapes.
There are about 40 species of grapes in the world, more than half of which are found in North America. Few other plants on this continent grow wild under such varied conditions and over such extended areas.

COIFFURE THAT HAS WON ADMIRATION



Striking coiffure worn by a Spanish beauty at the Theater du Chatelet, Paris. Pan-shaped gourah feathers in a deep shade of blue arranged as a headress.