

## GOOD CURE WILL STOP HAY FIRES

Heating Process Begins as Fermentation Produced by Growth of Bacteria.

### NOT MYSTERIOUS TO CHEMIST

Danger of Spontaneous Combustion Must Be Anticipated Before Feed is Stored—Moisture is Controlling Factor.

The risk of fire from spontaneous combustion in mows and stacks may be done away with almost entirely if hay is put up only when properly cured, says the United States Department of Agriculture. To the chemist and bacteriologist there is nothing mysterious about these fires. The heating process begins as a fermentation produced by the growth of bacteria in moist hay. When conditions are right the temperature mounts until the organisms that started the process are killed; from then on the heating is the result of chemical action—a slow oxidation when it is away from contact with the air and a rapid oxidation, or fire, when the heating area breaks through to the open air.

When one of these fires breaks out there may be time to save the live stock, unless it occurs without warning in the night, but there is small chance of saving the structure and the feed stored in it. The danger of spontaneous combustion must be anticipated before the feed is stored. Most farmers know when hay is cured properly, but because of threatening weather or for some other reason some men compromise and put in feed that still contains too much moisture, sometimes giving themselves a false sense of security by scattering salt in the mow or stack. Moisture is the controlling factor, whether it is rain that has fallen on the cut hay or water within the stems makes no difference. If the moisture content is low enough the hay will not heat to the danger point.

**Alfalfa a Trouble-Maker.**  
Alfalfa and clover and other hays made from rather succulent plants cause the most trouble from heating, and they should be given particular care in curing. In some parts of the country where rains are frequent at haying time it is hard to get hay into ideal condition. Some farmers cure it in cocks and use canvas caps, but this is expensive in time and materials. In humid regions the danger from spontaneous combustion in mows and stacks may be lessened by the use of a box-like ventilator, a skeleton tube 12 to 15 inches square and of any length desired, depending upon the size of the mow or stack. The corners are 2 by 4 inches and the crosspieces 1 by 3 inches placed close enough together to keep the hay from falling through and blocking the air passage. Diagonal braces are placed in the box at intervals to keep it from collapsing under the weight of the hay. These ventilators are usually placed across the mow at intervals of 7 or 8 feet.

In some localities curing frames or tripods are used to hasten curing. They keep the hay loose and up off the ground so that the air may circulate freely through it.

**Stirring is Worst Thing.**  
When a mow or stack has become badly heated there is a strong temptation to go in and stir up the hay, but often this is the worst thing that can be done. Admitting air to the hot center of fermentation may be just the thing needed to start a fire. If air does not get in a part of the hay may be charred without starting a fire; gradually the mow cools and the only loss is the hay that has been carbonized. However, in the early stages when the hay is heating it is sometimes advisable to move hay from one mow to another or to restack. But be sure it is not too hot.

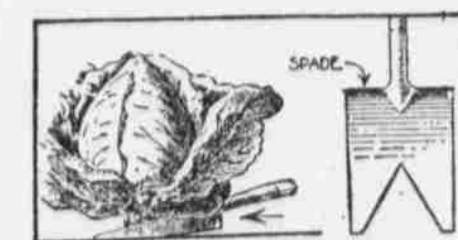
Slow combustion inside the mow can be detected by a peculiar sooty odor or by smoke that is irritating to the eyes.

Danger of spontaneous combustion is not confined to hay. It may occur in damp fodder and straw, as well as in bias of moist grain and seeds.

### CABBAGE CUTTER IS USEFUL

Garden Implement Easily Made From an Old Spade—Cut Out Wedge-Shaped Portion.

A very useful cabbage cutter can be made from an old spade. In the first place, a wedge-shaped portion is cut



The Sharp Edges of the V Sever the Cabbage From Its Stalk.

from the spade, as is shown in the picture. The edges of this are then sharpened with a file.

In using the cutter, the open part is pressed against the stump of the cabbage. When this is cut through, the cabbage falls on the spade and can then be tossed into a cart.—S. Leonard Bastin in Popular Science Monthly.

## THOUSANDS OF RATS DESTROYED IN TEXAS

Rodent-Control Specialists Aid Local Authorities.

Counties Divided into Zones and Money Raised to Give to Men and Boys as Prizes for Killing Largest Number.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Six hundred and seventy thousand rats were killed in the extermination drives in Texas last year. County agents employed co-operatively by the United States Department of Agriculture, state agricultural colleges, and the counties promoted many of the campaigns with the help of members of local farm bureaus and chambers of commerce and under the general supervision of biological survey rodent control specialists.

Some counties were divided into zones and money was raised to be given as prizes to men, boys, and schools killing the largest number of rats. The county superintendent of



A Few of the Thousands of Rats Killed in Rat Extermination Campaign.

schools and school teachers assisted particularly in stimulating the interest of the pupils.

The most rats were killed in Denton county. The boy having the greatest number to his credit killed 15,000 in six weeks. In Williamson county another boy killed 900 in two weeks.

It is estimated that the rats averaged about a half a pound each, making about 167 tons of rats killed during the campaign. It is also estimated that each rat, had it lived a year, would on an average have eaten or damaged property worth \$1.00, making the results of the campaign worth approximately \$670,000.

### SECRETS OF COOKING BACON

To Fry Until Thoroughly Delicious and Crisp, Though Unburned, Is Not Difficult.

Frying bacon so that it is thoroughly delicious and crisp, though unburned, is not such a hard thing to accomplish as has sometimes been supposed. According to the office of home economics of the United States Department of Agriculture, it makes no difference whether the cooking is fast or slow, and to keep pouring off the fat as it tries out is more work than is really necessary for a perfectly good result.

Frying bacon so that it is crisp is chiefly a matter of getting the water and excess fat out of it. In order not to burn it, one should be very careful that neither the bacon nor the fat in the pan becomes overheated. Throughout the process the fat should remain a light brown color and should not be allowed to get dark brown. It is easier to cook bacon slowly than to cook it fast, because it is easier to keep the fat a uniform pale color when one takes plenty of time for the task.

Bacon to be crisp does not need to drain while it is cooking. It can even be fried in deep fat with excellent results. After it is cooked and before it is taken from the pan it should be thoroughly drained while still hot; then it should be served at once.

### REMEDY AGAINST LAWN ANTS

Entomologists Recommend Drenching Nests With Boiling Water or Using Kerosene.

To get rid of lawn ants entomologists of the United States Department of Agriculture suggest drenching the nests with boiling water or pouring in a small quantity of kerosene oil. Similar treatment may be applied to nests between or beneath paving stones. Spraying the lawn with kerosene emulsion or with very strong soap wash is also recommended. For large ant nests disulphid of carbon injected into the nest by means of an oil can or small syringe is recommended to kill the ants. The fumes of disulphid of carbon have a very disagreeable odor, and are inflammable, but they are not injurious to higher animals in the open air.

### FREE RANGE OF IMPORTANCE

Chicks Confined Continually in Brooder Do Not Secure Proper Amount of Exercise.

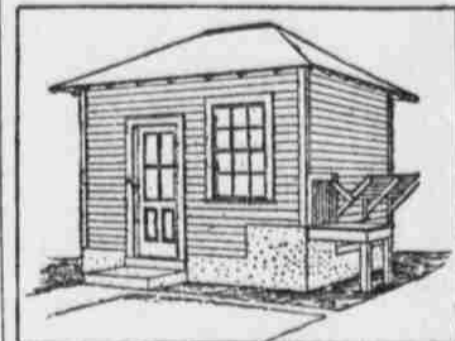
Healthy chicks are very active. Chicks that are confined in a brooder house continually are not apt to have sufficient exercise, which frequently gives rise to toe picking, feather pulling and other brooder evils. Free range gives them something to do and keeps them healthy.

## DAIRY POINTS

### BEST SITE FOR MILK HOUSE

Not Good Plan to Get Them Too Near Cow Barn—Must Be Clean, Airy and Dust-Proof.

Milk houses must be clean, airy dust-proof places, free from all insects and bad odors. They should not open directly into the barn, but it is equally injudicious to build them a very great distance away from the barn. Prompt removal and quick cooling are the main points to observe in handling milk. Put the milk house on a well-drained spot and away from rubbish heaps, manure piles and fly-breeding places. The outer walls, if of concrete, should be from 6 to 8 inches thick; if of brick,



Milk House Suitable for a Ten to Twenty-Cow Dairy.

8 inches; if of tile, 8 inches; if of stone, 14 to 18 inches; and if of wood frame, 6 inches.

Authorities say that particular care should be exercised in constructing milk house floors. Concrete is by far the best material for this purpose, as it resists moisture, decay and wear. Concrete floors should be built of a base made up of one part cement, three parts sharp, clean sand and five parts stone. This base should be about five inches thick and should be covered with a top coat one inch thick made by mixing one part cement and two parts sand. The top coat should be troweled hard and smooth.

### SAFEGUARDING MILK SUPPLY

Form of Ordinance Drawn to Guide Communities in Framing Practicable Law.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In properly safeguarding the milk supply of a community, the enactment of a suitable and enforceable law is usually the first step, according to a reprint of department bulletin 585, "A Guide for Formulating a Milk Ordinance," just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. Milk, in its composition and natural qualities, is a most useful and acceptable food, but may acquire one form or another of insanitary taint on its way from the cow to the consumer; and it is not always possible to require either producers or distributors to observe all the precautions which science has shown to be necessary, unless there is a law to back them up.

The public and officials of a city realizing this need may sometimes, in their zeal to make the new regulations strict enough, go too far and insert provisions that cannot readily be enforced or administered. Even health department officials may not be familiar with all phases of this subject, unless they have already been engaged in the enforcement of milk regulations; and in any case, whether the city is just starting milk regulation or is revising its ordinances to bring them up to date, it is desirable to take advantage of the experience of other communities.

The United States Department of Agriculture has drawn up a form of ordinance to guide communities in framing a finished and practicable law. Copies of the bulletin may be had free upon application to the department at Washington, D. C.

### IRREGULAR MILKING IS BAD

Not Only Lessens Output, but Tends to Disturb Functional Activity of Animal.

Early milking morning or evening one day and later milking morning or evening another day not only lessens the output of milk, but tends to disturb functional activity and prevents a maximum yield for the lactation period.

### MIXTURE FOR YOUNG CALVES

Ground Corn, Oats, Bran and Oilmeal Is Recommended for Those Under Six Months.

For calves under six months old in good condition and having a soft, mellow hide, a mixture of 30 pounds ground corn, 30 pounds ground oats, 30 pounds bran and 10 pounds oilmeal, fed three to five pounds daily, is recommended.

**Hard to Get Flow Back.**  
If a cow's milk flow is allowed to go down through neglect, poor feed or any other cause, it is almost impossible to get the flow back up to the first mark.

**Milk Only Good Cows.**  
Milk more cows—but by all that's sensible, milk only good cows.

**Cause of Stringy Milk.**  
Stringy milk does not occur frequently unless the cows drink water from stagnant pools, etc.

## WORKS IN VAIN TO FREE DYING WIFE

Pinned Under Overturned Auto She Is Strangled to Death Before Husband's Eyes.

Franklin, Pa.—While her husband vainly tried to lift an automobile which had overturned and pinned her neck beneath the running board, Mrs. William Howser, forty-eight, struggled to death before his eyes.

Mrs. Howser was able to talk with him for a time, but as the heavy car settled in the soft earth her breath became slower, and she died as he strove in desperation to lift a weight he could not budge.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Ferringtons, who were also occupants of the car,



Struggles in Vain to Free Wife.

suffered injuries and were unable to assist Howser in his efforts.

Howser was driving so fast at a bend that he was unable to make the turn. The car shot to one side of the road and went over an eight-foot embankment. Howser and the Ferringtons were thrown clear of the car, but Mrs. Howser was caught under it when it landed, upside down. The running board rested on her neck.

### SELL EIGHT \$1 BILLS FOR \$1

Alleged Confidence Men Find Many Rich Suckers—Political Leader Under Suspicion.

Okmulgee, Okla.—An alleged confidence game, in which three men are charged with having offered \$1 bills for sale at the rate of 12½ cents each, finding a lively market, but failing to deliver the cheap money after they had received their price, was uncovered here with the arrest of "Jack" Gardner of Muskogee on charges of fraud and robbery.

Warrants also have been issued for the arrest of Robert Smith, pool hall operator and former political leader in Okmulgee county, and Bert Davis of Tulsa on similar charges.

They are alleged to have said they received a large number of \$1 bills from the banks failing in this section, and that, to handle the money conveniently, they had to have it in large denominations. They offered eight \$1 bills for \$1, taking \$20 and \$50 bills in payment, according to the county attorney's office.

### POLICE ACCUSED BY PASTOR

Officers Alleged to Have Tried to Attack Women Prisoners at East St. Louis.

East St. Louis, Ill.—An affidavit that two police officers had attempted to attack a woman prisoner at headquarters has been made public by Rev. W. R. Evans. He is chairman of a citizens' committee interested in charges of brutality against police. Resignation of Chief of Police Mulconery, Chief of Detectives Neville and seven other officials was demanded by the outgoing board of fire and police commissioners, following an investigation of brutality charges, one of which was that John Campanella, a prisoner, had been beaten to death, but on advice that the action was illegal they are holding over.

### Jailbreaker Is Trapped by Cat and Sardines

Sacramento, Cal.—A cat stung a can of sardines stood between Frank Owen, Folsom state penitentiary convict, according to the testimony of Owen, on trial on the charge of escaping.

Owen made a cache of food and bedding under an old stairway of a guard's house.

He planned to remain there a week or ten days, but on the fourth day he opened a can of sardines, which attracted a cat.

The cat tried to gain entrance to the hiding place and Owen, fearing the animal's action might lead to his detection, made a break for liberty.

He was caught a few miles from the prison.

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—Judge.

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Dish washing being hateful, why isn't it done by itinerants, like lawn mowing?

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