OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

PRODUCING ALFALFA SEED

One of the perplexing problems relative to alfalfa seed production in our alfalfa states is the question reldtive to the factors which have an influence on the setting of seed. For many years the ablest authorities and the best growers have differed to a considerable extent on the reasons for a short seed crop. Some have said that seed production is helped by dry, hot weather, whole others claim that the weather should be damp and a little cloudy for the best setting of seed. Perhaps the fact that alfalfa has for 2,000 years been grown mainly for hay, has made it act adversely as regards seed production. There is now a general feeling among the best observers that dry, sunny weather is not conducive to seed setting. At the same time, too much moisture in the air seems to hinder the development of pollen. The insects which play a part in tripping the alfalfa blossoms, are not active in damp weather. It is known that the bumble bees are useful in helping to increase the setting of alfalfa seed, and so are the wild bees. Lack of a suitable number of insects capable of tripping the blossoms, probably plays as important a part in the poor setting of seed. In addition, it is probable that many alfalfa plants are naturally sterile and in that case insects and weather would have no particular effect. The fact that the best seed-producing plants are often found to be the least vigorous ones, suggests a relation between vigor of plant and the amount of seed produced. It is pretty evident that conditions which make for growthy, vigorous plants, also are adverse to seed production.

GOOD COW POKE

There is nothing in the world more exasperating than a cow with the fixed idea that the grass beyond the fence is more desirable than that within her confines. She passes from panel to panel loosening the single wires, curving the woven fabric, and bending the posts until she learns to crawl through bodily and thereafter becomes an unmitigated nuisance, says an experimenting farmer. I have seen various devices contrived to stop her; huge wooden structures built around her neck, forked limbs of trees, wooden blocks wired to the skin of the upper neck, and natent pokes arranged to prod her neck with a little weapon when she crowded the wire. All of these have proved unsatisfactory because of weight, clumsiness, tendency to cause sores, or simple failure to do the business. I believe I have evolved the best and most practical way to convince bossy that she must leave that fence alone. It is neither clumsy nor cruel. Just bend a piece of gas pipe into the shape of a hairpin and drop it over her neck. The two lower ends should hang about to her knees and be bent forward. That is the whole story except for the refinements involved. The forward bends should be gradual and come to a right angle so as to hook solidly on the fence. A sharp bend will last for a while but ultimately break off. On each side of the lower neck a kink should be made in the pipe to permit a wire to be fastened solidly thereto reaching across under her throat to the other side and keeping the device on. The best way is to make this wire double and then with your pliers twist it in the center until taut. You will be be surprised how the cow will learn to handle her new necklace. After a few tries she will carefully avoid any entanglement although she can easily disengage the hooks. I find that one made of¾-inch pipe will last for years but a ½-inch pipe can be broken too easily. If your pipe is heavy enough, the two hooks are not necessary. One end of the hairpin can stop just low enough to wire across to the other side. Try it.

TO IMPROVE THE FLOCK

More and more farm flock owners each year are finding that it pays to have a small special breeding pen headed by the best male bird that they are able to secure. The value of such a special flock is seen in two ways. The cockerels raised may be used on the general flock another year. The pullets, if given a little special attention, should prove to be the best winter layers on the farm. Even when the very best of management methods are applied in handling a poultry flock from year to year, there is a limit beyond which it is not possible to go in the direction of increased egg production unless advantage is taken of breeding methods. Ordinarily the special mating will consist of a few of the best females in the old flock and a pedigreed male of known high producing ancestry. Since the male bird used in this pen is to exert an influence on every chicken raised the second year, provided his sons are used on the entire general flock, it is very important that he be carefully chosen. He should be better than anything already in the flock in order that his use may bring about a definite improvement in the quality of the stock to be raised.

GARDEN LABELS

To maintain a satisfactory labeling system in your flower garden demands eternal vigilance. Those who wish to know their plants by name find it desirable to have a simple system. Unfortunately some of our plants have names not easily remembered. Others, such as bulbs, have all of their vegetative parts hidden part of the year, so labeling is necessary to keep their names and locations distinct. Some labels on the market are durable, and lettering will remain legible on them for a long time in spite of adverse weather conlitions. But the weather is not the only factor. Neat black and white or shiny labels often attract children who carry them away. To provide against losing the name of a plant because of the disappearance of the label, draw a plan of your garden showing the planting arrangement and the names of the plants at each location. Then if labels are lost or misplaced you have only to refer to your plan to straighten out the names. Many types of labels are suitable for marking plants. They may be made at home from thin pieces of wood for sticking into the ground, or they may be provided with a soft metal wire for suspending from trees and shrubs. One side at least should be sandpapered to provide a smooth writing surface. If the labels are painted they will resist decay for several years. In newspapers and garden periodicals you will find various types of labels advertised. They are usually of wood, metal or a celluloid-like substance. These may be lettered with a pencil, a stylus, paint or a chemical solution which acts on the metal to make the letters visible. To become familiar with your plants, label them when you first acquire them, but remember also that you must be ever on the alert to keep your system effective.

TOMATO POLLINATOR

One thing that occasionally cuts a slice from the tomato grower's income is the failure of early blooms to set fruit. Apparently the weather has to be just right for pollination; and though plants may blossom early, there will be no sets without pollenation. In order to have satisfactory pollination, the air inust be warm and dry. Artificial pollination is the answer to this difficulty, of course. Several methods are in use—shaking the vines, tapping the blossoms, and actual transfer of pollen by hand. Now comes a new wrinkle—an electrical tomato-pollinator—a device not unlike an automatic pistol, with a vibrator on it. This electric vibrator seems to do a good job, even on damp, sunless days. Some of the Oregon tomato-growers used it with fine results last year. The pollinator will run on a six-volt dry battery which can be strapped over the operator's shoulder.

GOOD SPRAY MATERIAL

Fruit growers and truckers who are looking for a substittue for arsenic in sprays and dusts will be glad to learn that the Tennessee station has experimented with cryolite and barium fluosilicate and found them quite promising. A summary of experimental results with thees two materials is about as follows: These materials have a comparatively low solubility and are therefore reasonably safe on foliage. They can now be obtained in commercial quantities at about the sae price as lead arsenate. Cryolite and barium fluosilicate are both highly toxis to insects. In small quantities, such as might occur on plants, fluorine compounds, so far as known, are not dangerously poisonous to man. For adult insects, barium fluosilicate is more toxic than cryolite. Both materials gave excellent control of the Mexican bean-beetle when used as a spray at the rate of one pound to 50 gallons of water. At the rate of six pounds to the acre, neither cryolite nor barium fluosilicate used as a dust caused foliage injury on beans. Thirty pounds or more to the acre produced moderate burning. Five weekly dustings on tobacco produced no foliage injury with either material, and controlled the hornworms and flea-beetles. Both cryolite and barium fluosilicate, used in the dust form at the rate of six pounds to the acre, gave very good control of the bean-beetle. These materials were also used successfully when mixed with two parts of lime.

BUNCOING THE COWS

Temptation comes to the dairyman not in the form of an apple, in the cool of the day, but in the form of lush green grass in early spring. Many are the dairymen who fall for this temptation, quit feeding grain and silage—the cows hardly touch them anyway after getting a taste of grass," says the tempted one to his conscience. "Now my feed bills will be lower, and I shouldn't be surprised to see the milk flow pick up a little. I'll get my profit while I can. When the grass is gone I'll have to feed grain." This April-fooling of cows and conscience hurts just one thing—dairy profit. The tonic effect of early-spring pasture makes the cows outdo themselves. For a short time they literally turn the tissues of their bodies into milk. Then comes a slump. The essential thing to remember about grass is this: Grass should take the same place in spring and summer rations that hay and silage hold in the winter rations. In short, grass is roughage. Just as grain i sneeded with hay in winter, so is grain needed with grass in spring and summer. Don't try to April-fool your cows or your conscience by believing otherwise. Cows able to do as well on grass alone as on grass plus grain are not the best cows for progressive dairymen to keep. After a cow has filled herself with the first green grass, she will not be so eager for grain—may refuse it altogether. Don't blame the cow. Give her grain before she goes to pasture.

NO UNIVERSAL PANACEA

Present-day reliable veterinary medical opinion holds that no known drug or mixture of drugs can be considered efficacious in the treatment of such diseases as contagious abortion of cattle, hog cholera, hog flu, fowl cholera, diarrhea of chicks, coccidiosis, roup, gapes, chickenpox, blackhead of turkeys, distemper of dogs, black tongue and running fits of dogs, influenza, distemper, and heaves of horses. In spite of this well established fact, preparations prescribed for use in such affections are constantly being put on. As a result of an intensive campaign uder the food and drugs act, the greater part of these alleged remedies, which a few years ago flooded the market, have either been entirely withdrawn or have had their labels and circulars so changed as to prevent their being bought under misapprehension of what they can really do.

A LABOR SAVING METHOD

"I just let my hogs fatten themselves," says a successful swine raiser. "I plant soy beans and corn in the same field, and along about the first of September I turn the hogs into the field, where they feed themselves, and fatten at a far less expense than the old way of feeding them husked corn. In that way of feeding corn has to be hauled several times, while in my present way of feeding the corn is not touched. I find hogs do better running in the field, as they get exercise, and eat better and do better than where they are housed in a pen. I make it a rule to raise two carloads of hogs a year, and never have any losses. But I take care of my growing pigs, and keep them free from worms."

NEW PETTICOAT

A new lingerie set has brassiere, circular stepins and a little wraparound petticoat of white satin and ecru lace.

Keep drinking vessels and everything about the brooder house perfectly clean.

Texas Prosecutor to Get Honorary Degree

John A. Valls, Texas District Attorney at Laredo, will have the degree of Doctor of Laws conferred upon him by President J. M. Walsh at Spring Hill College, Mobile, Ala., from which Valls graduated in 1888. Valls is now serving his fourteenth term as District Attorney, and during that time he has not lost a single case in which he was the prosecutor.
(International Newsreel)

Fumigating Parrot Fever Ship at Baltimore

Equipped with gas masks at work fumigating the steamer Craigwen, which docked at Baltimore, Md., from the west coast of Africa, with three members of the crew suffering from parrot fever.
(International Newsreel)

Nail File Enables Steel Heir Get Divorce

Mrs. Marion Converse, the former Marion McCall from whom Converse M. Converse, steel heir, was granted a divorce in Reno, Nev. He charged that she was extravagant and that their marriage was a mistake. He said in his suit that his wife threw things at him and one time at Berne, Switzerland, jabbed him in the ankle with a nail file.
(International Newsreel)

Ford Family Visitors at White House

Edsel Ford, son of the famous automobile manufacturer, and his two sons are shown after their visit to the White House, Washington, D. C., where they were presented to President Hoover by Phelps Newberry. In the group are, left to right, Edsel Ford, Henry Ford, 2nd; Denson Ford, Phelps Newberry, Jr., and Phelps Newberry. In the rear is Richard B. English, manager of the Washington branch of the Ford Motor Company.
(International Newsreel)

Hard-Boiled Regime Follows Prison Riot

Warden Leslie Rudolph, of the Missouri Penitentiary, announces that he has placed the prison on a "hard-boiled" basis following the recent rioting among prisoners, which resulted in forty of them being injured. It became necessary for guards to administer beatings to the men in order to restore order, hand grenades and clubs being used.
(International Newsreel)

First Woman Commissioner

Emma E. Raymond was elected on the City Commission of St. Cloud, Fla., by a two to one majority over half a dozen male opponents. She won her decisive victory in sponsoring the soldiers' colony movement. Emma Raymond is the first woman in Florida to be elected to this executive office.
(International Newsreel)

Ends Epic Trans-Continental Flight

Captain Frank M. Hawks, guiding his glider Eaglet to an easy landing in Van Cortlandt Park, N. Y. (right). In cockpit of the Eaglet, greeted by his wife at the end of trans-continental flight, after his epic eight-day glide trip from San Diego, Cal., to New York. The glider was cast loose from the tow plane (piloted by J. D. "Duke" Jernigin) at an altitude of 5,000 feet and coasted to its landing place about ten miles northward. Jernigin alighted at Newark Airport, N. J., and was rushed by automobile and motorcycle escort to Van Cortlandt Park to participate in the welcoming ceremonies.
(International Newsreel)

Society Beauty and Fiancee

The engagement of Miss Alexandra Van Rensselaer Devereux and Rodman Wanamaker, 2d, grandson of the late John Wanamaker, has been announced by the young woman's mother, Mrs. Radcliffe Cheston, Jr. The date of the wedding is not announced. Mr. Wanamaker is a well-known aviation enthusiast.

Charges Methodist Board Is Anti-American

Representative George H. Tinkham, of Boston, Mass., as he testified before the Senate Lobby Investigating Committee and charged that church lobbyists surround the United States Capitol. He also attacked the Methodist Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals, which he charged with violating the Corrupt Practices Act by failing to report its political expenditures.
(International Newsreel)