

Agricultural Department

Millet as a Late Crop

There is still time to fill up any vacant places on the farm with a crop of millet. Such varieties as German, common and Hungarian millets are good forage producers. They head out in from 45 to 60 days after seeding, hence there is plenty of time to secure a good hay crop. When seeded for hay, drill in broadcast, at the rate of one bushel per acre. Remember that millet should be cut in the dough stage. If it is cut much later than this the stalks become coarse and rough, the beards on the heads stiff, and, in fact, the hay becomes generally unpalatable. If it is to be cut for seed, this should be done when the seeds are in the stiff dough stage. If it is allowed to become fully ripe it shells badly and much of the grain will be lost.

As a grain crop millet is meeting with considerable favor both in South and North Dakota. It has been fed with much success, at the stations in these two states, to cattle, sheep and swine. In a recent feeding experiment at the South Dakota station it was found that it required only .37 of a pound more of ground millet to produce a pound of grain in a steer than it did of ground corn; hence where a crop of from 30 to 35 bushels per acre be produced, as it can in many sections of both the states mentioned in average years, millet becomes a very profitable crop. If millet is fed as hay to cattle it ought not to be fed as exclusive roughage. From 10 to 12 pounds per day is probably the largest amount that should be fed per head to mature cattle. Millet is not a good feed for horses and the less there is fed of it to the equine race the better.

Spraying Potatoes

The season for spraying potatoes is here. The bordeaux mixture has been found very effective where used for blight, rot and the flea beetle; with paris green added for the Colorado beetle, it is also destroyed.

The mixture is made by using six pounds of copper sulphate along with 50 gallons of water. To this is added four pounds good stone lime, which neutralizes the acid of the sulphate. The mixture with paris green added has given better results than any other used. The number of the sprayings of course varies, but usually not fewer than three are made and generally a considerably larger number. With a suitable equipment, 15 acres may be sprayed in a day.

The New York state experiment station has studied this question with much care. Many co-operative experiments have also been conducted. In fourteen of these it is stated that the average increase in yield due to spraying was 62 1-4 bushels per acre. These experiments embraced 180 acres. The net profit per acre was estimated at \$24.86. This of course is the profit after the cost of spraying practically \$5 per acre, was deducted. In addition to increasing the yield, it is claimed that the quality of the potatoes is also improved in the sense that they are more mealy and contain a higher per cent of starch. These claims are doubtless true, for whoever tends to increase and perfect natural growth also improves the quality of potatoes.

NEW CURE FOR HOG CHOLERA

Dr. M. Dorset, of the bureau of animal industry, department of agriculture, has obtained a patent for a process of protecting swine from hog cholera, which patent he has given to the United States without one cent of compensation. His method is the injection of serum from the blood of

an immune hog, after that immune has been treated similarly with the serum from hogs afflicted with the disease. Heretofore the treatment for hog cholera has been the injection of the cholera virus directly. About 20 per cent of the treated animals have died. Farmers throughout the country are eager for a sure cure, on account of the great loss when an epidemic of cholera strikes their swine herds. It is estimated that the money value of hogs that die annually from this disease is about \$15,000,000, the figures for the last five years being \$77,000,000. The invention of Dr. Dorset may be used by any of the employes of the United States government or by any other person in the United States without the payment of royalty.

LAYING ASIDE THE INCUBATOR

When the last hatch is out of the machine do not fail to cleanse the machine thoroughly. Wash the inside with strong soda water, wash and air the trays, sun every part that can be sunned, remove the lamp, empty and dry the bowl, and remove the wick. Place all parts that belong to the incubator inside of it, and take off the parts of the regulator that are apt to be damaged. This may seem unnecessary advice, but we have seen incubators that have had the filth of chicks hatched the year before still over them when the machines were started the following year. We have seen incubators left under the trees through the summer exposed to sun and rain, and we have seen them with books and papers piled high about and over the regulator. An incubator cared for in this manner can not give good results. Treat your incubator as a fine piece of machinery. If it has an asbestos jacket do not leave a full lamp inside to soak the jacket with kerosene which will cause a smoke the next time the incubator is started. If you want to use it as a table remove the regulator parts. For good results with an incubator you must care for it. A poor, cheaply built machine will warp in one season, and be unfitted for use, but it is possible to make the best machine unfit for use in one season, and this is what you want to guard against.

GOOD AUTHORITY IN FEEDING HORSES

No people in the world are more skilled in horse feeding than the French. For hundreds of years they have tested methods of all kinds of feeding, and the following comes from that country on this subject:

"Three meals are necessary and sufficient with an interval of four or five hours between, to keep a horse in good condition. Oats take at least two hours to digest, hay takes three hours, and because it takes so long to digest it should be given when the day's work is over. The evening meal should be a full meal, the animal being then at rest, and able to digest its food at leisure. There should be an interval of half an hour between the return of the horse to the stable and his getting his evening feed. Too much food at a meal or too long abstinence between meals followed by voracious feeding is conducive to colic and indigestion. Irregularly fed, he is given to showing his impatience by letting his hoofs play about the woodwork of his stall. Giving 'refreshers' at odd times is also bad. Remember that both stomach and bladder should never be loaded in work time, whether light or heavy work is done. A horse, therefore, should not be ridden or driven immediately after a meal, on the same principle that it ought not to be fed sooner than half an hour after work is over. Between one end of the year

and another a horse consumes an amount of dry heating food which calls for special regimen to neutralize the excessive protoid consumption that has taken place. Thus, in autumn, a ration of oats is good, and so in spring, at the fall of the winter coat, a little green meat in beneficial, mixed with hay and oats, for the evening meal. Another maxim much disregarded in practice is that the horse should be watered long before being put to work, and then sparingly."


SORGHUM FOR ROUGHNESS

An abundance of forage in the winter time is one of the necessities on any farm where cattle and horses are raised. This material, whether it be prairie hay, wheat straw, corn or Kafir fodder, alfalfa hay, cowpea hay, millet or sorghum hay is classed as "roughness." In some other places

and in books on feeding, they call it "roughage."

The big thing about sorghum is the certainty of its producing a crop and the palatability and keeping qualities of the hay. There are many methods of growing this crop. The most general method is to broadcast it in May, June or early July and cut it when heading out. After wilting, and partially curing in the swath, it is placed in large piles and hauled in as fed or else stacked after thoroughly cured. A few place the sorghum in piles while still green and report good results, but it seems likely that there would be trouble in some seasons if this plan were followed.

Early planted sorghum is often put in rows two to three feet apart. The first crop is cut and shocked and the second growth is plowed under or cut just before frost.



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