

# Agricultural Department

Keep the garden seeds free from mice by storing in tin cans. Store in dry place.

Young trees should have some protection from mice and rabbits if planted in the fall. Paper wrapped around trees is most commonly used, is cheap and answers every purpose. Corn stalks are sometimes tied about trunks. Wire netting with a fine mesh is the most permanent.

### Keeping the Boys on the Farm

Much is written these days advising fathers how to treat their sons in order to keep them on the farm, but it seems to me that mothers need advice and caution. A mother's influence over her children is second to none, and as she yields the greatest power over the destiny of her son, if she is a wise woman, she will see that her influence is backed by irresistible but outspoken argument.

First, why do boys leave home? The same reasons exist in the country as in the city—the boy is dissatisfied with home; he rebels against restraint of any and all kinds; he thinks if he had untrammelled opportunity he could shape his affairs to greater advantage to himself.

Not all boys are intended to be farmers; not all should be expected to follow that avocation simply because it was pursued by their fathers, but I am dealing with boys in general, and what a mother can do to make a home for her boy as well as the rest of the family, and keep him in it.

Teach the boy to love his home by giving him good cause for doing so. Make it the most comfortable and inviting spot on earth for him, and surely every woman knows how to do this if she has husband and children, for the homemaking instinct is innate in every wife and mother.

Consideration should be shown the boy; his tastes should receive attention, and he should be shown that he has his place in the family as well as any member of it.

Unfortunately the growing boy is misunderstood; his shyness and awkwardness taken for rudeness, and his bravado and bluster given too much attention.

The boy's room is usually the dumping place for things that nobody wants. "Tommy don't care," you say, but he can and should be made to care.

Let his room be comfortably if plainly furnished, but above all let him regard it as his castle where he can reign supreme. If he wants his fishing tackle and gun there, and the usual clutter dear to the boyish heart, well and good. Teach him to keep his possessions in reasonable order, or forfeit the right to store them in his room. In this way you will impress on him the importance of order and neatness.

If he wants to let him hang his hammock across the room; it won't hurt anything, and may prove an added attraction. Allow him occasionally to entertain his friends in his room.

Give his sisters to understand that they must not belittle Tommy's friends and impress on their minds that Tommy's friends are held in as high esteem by you as their friends.

Above all show the boy that he is appreciated and loved. Boys are strange creatures, neither man nor child, and while they scoff at demonstrations of affection they crave them; and while they would readily risk their necks in your behalf, they do not want to mention it.

### The Farm Garden

Plans for a good garden should never be delayed until the time of spring planting. The preparation of the soil and the starting of a hot-bed should be taken up at least the fall before.

Every farmer should have a hot-bed. Start this in the fall by digging a hole two feet deep and six feet wide and as long as you want the hot-bed. A frame the size of the hole on the surface covered with boards will keep the sun out over winter, and be ready in the spring to receive the fresh, hot manure which furnishes the heat for the hot-bed.

Either fence in the garden, or, better, locate the fence some little distance from the house so that the fowls will not run in it all summer and destroy the plants. A dressing of coarse manure applied late in the fall and plowed under will enable you to work your garden early in the spring.

A little system facilitates work in any occupation. There is no reason why farmers should be behind the times in handling the garden any more than any other line of farming. The acre, more or less, devoted to this purpose should be the most profitable of any acre of the farm, and requires but little more actual labor. The garden should be so planted that much of the work can be done with a horse. Many a farmer shudders at the thought of a garden because he thinks more of his back, and justly so, than the products of the garden. Hand weeding and hoeing should be reduced to the minimum.

In addition to the tools necessary for caring for ordinary farm crops every farmer should have a one-horse cultivator, a garden seeder, a wheel hoe, or the latter two in combination would answer. What is most needed, but very seldom at hand is a greasy rag which should be applied to every tool as often as used. I have seen but few farm spades that were not rusty, and the average farm hoe is entirely unusable, which makes garden work a drudgery, whereas, with bright tools it would be a pleasure. At this time of the year especially we should see that all these tools are well greased and kept in a dry place over winter.

### Winter on the Farm

Good farm management will provide work in the winter months as

well as summer.

The saying that a farmer must work hard six months and then live up his profits in the next six is not in line with good farm sense. It is not always requisite or expedient that such winter work return direct profit, although as the boy says, a winter income is "very handy." Where this is desired the cows, pigs, and poultry can not be overlooked either, and any one separately or a combination of them all. If one is favorably located, where it is possible to secure private customers for the butter, milk, eggs chickens and the home butchered meat, and rendered lard from the hogs, it should be very profitable.

During inclement weather work may be had in the farm workshop which is a necessity on any farm. It should be large and well lighted with provision made for a stove, a small blacksmith's forge, a complete assortment of tools for carpentering, blacksmith work, harness repairing, etc. It might also contain a small grinding mill, corn sheller, bone cutter, and feed cooker together with feed bins for the storing of the feed for the poultry.

All farm implements should be looked over, sharpened where needed, broken parts repaired or replaced and repainted where necessary as may also the wagons, buggies and carriages. Various home made conveniences can be made; tool chests, barn cupboards, chicken coops, brooders, feed bins, farm tools, gates, and many handy devices.

In good weather, fences can be repaired or built where needed, new buildings erected or the old ones repaired, pastures can be cleaned, manure hauled and spread on the land, tile drains laid, and perhaps the yard may be graded, the driveways graveled, a new gate added and even painting may be done, which all adds to the attractiveness of the farm, and while much of this work is not directly profitable from a money point of view, yet it is from the added beauty to the home, and the increased value of the farm, and above all, from the cultivation of the pride and inspiration towards a more beautiful and enjoyable farm home. Let us not be selfish and make money getting so great an object, that we cloud up the all important home, for nowhere can this be made more attractive and pleasurable than on the farm.

### Cement Fence Posts

Fence posts of cement can be easily made at home for use on the farm. It is perfectly possible to make strong fence posts, of concrete by the reinforcing method says a writer in Kansas Farmer. The posts may be reinforced by iron wire or iron rods which should be put as close to the outside surface as possible. The reinforcing pieces should run lengthwise of posts and should be bent or looped at the ends to prevent slipping between the iron and concrete. Barbed wire is good but is hard to handle on account of the barbs. The posts should be about 6 inches square at the bottom and 6 inches by 3 inches at the top. This gives a taper on two sides. In order to fasten iron to the posts, it is a good idea to imbed staples or

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