

CAN NEBRASKA MAKE AS GOOD OR A BETTER SHOWING?

For a long time THE CONSERVATIVE has held that county and state fairs have outlived their usefulness. State boards of agriculture and county agricultural societies should turn their attention to the collection of agricultural data and statistics. In Kansas this system has long been in vogue. The results are classified knowledge as to the live stock products, the cereal products and dairy products in that state. Below THE CONSERVATIVE furnishes from the proper Kansas authorities some tabulated facts and figures which Nebraska agriculturists, stock-raisers and dairymen may read with profit. There is no reason why we should not have equally accurate statements for the whole commonwealth of Nebraska:

Assessors' returns compiled by the secretary of the State Board of Agriculture indicate that the dairy interests of Kansas have been in a very healthy and prosperous condition during the past year. The butter made in families and factories is reported as 41,450,981 pounds, worth at home \$5,320,144. This is an increase for the year of 4,237,053 pounds or 11.38 per cent, and the increase in value amounts to over 16 per cent.

Of cheese the quantity made was 1,418,969 pounds, worth \$113,517, an increase of quantity and value of 24.09 per cent.

The value of milk sold for other than butter or cheese making was \$615,890, an increase of 5.64 per cent.

The total value of the state's dairy output was \$6,049,552, which amounts to an increase over the preceding year of \$789,800, or 15.01 per cent.

The following table shows the value of butter, cheese and milk sold in Kansas in each of the last 10 years:

1889	\$ 4,451,927
1890	4,145,555
1891	4,958,961
1892	4,665,497
1893	4,846,738
1894	4,870,480
1895	4,510,631
1896	4,937,885
1897	5,259,752
1898	6,049,552

Total in 10 years.....\$48,696,978
Annual average value... 4,869,697

For 1897 the value of animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter in Kansas was returned to the State Board of Agriculture as \$37,781,678, and for this year it is \$49,123,517, showing a gain of \$11,341,839, or 30.02 per cent.

The increase in value of poultry and eggs sold is \$294,736, or 7.65 per cent. A decline in the wool clip from 762,464 to 654,708 pounds brings down its value from \$91,495 to \$75,112.

These values, together with those of the cheese, butter and milk sold, com-

prise the year's income for the products of live stock, and aggregate \$59,393,913, as against \$46,983,922 the previous year, and show a total gain of \$12,409,991, or 26.41 per cent, making the largest amount and largest increase shown for any year in the history of the state.

Prior to 1898 the largest value returned for products of live stock was \$51,225,617, in 1893. The largest value previously returned for animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter was \$42,874,761, in 1893.

The following table tells the story of value of animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter in each of the past 19 years, and the magnificent growth of the stock interest in Kansas in spite of fluctuating and sometimes depressed and depressing prices:

1880	\$ 12,700,045	1890	\$ 33,450,990
1881	16,251,134	1891	37,922,192
1882	20,689,651	1892	35,280,273
1883	25,804,684	1893	42,874,761
1884	31,059,300	1894	42,069,703
1885	30,465,212	1895	40,691,074
1886	29,026,013	1896	36,592,057
1887	30,447,801	1897	37,781,678
1888	29,978,254	1898	49,123,517
1889	33,593,115		

TREES NOTED FOR SPECIFIC VIRTUES AND USES.

GUELDER ROSE. From the bark of the root birdlime is made. The shoots make excellent bands for fagots.

Evelyn says a decoction of the leaves will dye the hair black and strengthen it.

HAZEL TREE. The wood makes excellent charcoal for forges. Fishing-rods, walking sticks, crates, hoops for barrels, shoots for springles to fasten down thatch, hurdles, etc., are made of this wood. Hazel chips will clear turbid wine in twenty-four hours, and twigs of hazel twisted together will serve for yeast in brewing.

Hazel wands were used in divination, for detecting minerals, water-springs and hid treasures.

By whatsoever occult virtue the forked hazel stick discovers not only subterraneous treasure, but criminals guilty of murder and other crimes, made out so solemnly by the attestation of magistrates and divers other learned and credible persons who have critically examined matters of fact, is certainly next to a miracle, and requires a strong faith.—Evelyn, Sylva, (1664).

The small hole bored through the shell of hazel nuts is not the work of squirrels, but of field mice; squirrels always split the shells.

HOLLY TREE. Birdlime is made from it. The wood is used for veneering, handles of knives, cogs for mill-wheels, hones for whetting knives and razors, coachmen's whips, Tunbridge ware.

IVY. The roots are used by leather-cutters for whetting their knives; and when the roots are large, boxes and slabs are made from them.

It is said that apricots and peaches protected in winter by ivy fencing become remarkably productive.

JUNIPER is never attacked by worms. The wood is used for veneering; and alcohol or spirits of wine, impregnated

with the essential oil of juniper berries, is gin (or juniper water); for the French *genevre* means "juniper berry." Ordinarily, gin is a malt liquor, distilled a second time, with the addition of juniper berries, or more frequently, with the oil of turpentine.

LARCH, very apt to warp, but it resists decay. It bursts into leaf between March 21 and April 14.

LIME OR LINDEN TREE. Grinling Gibbons, the great carver in wood, used no other wood but that of the lime tree, which is soft, light, smooth, close-grained, and not subject to the worm. For the same reason, it is the chief material of Tunbridge ware. Bellonius states that the Greeks used the wood for making bottles.

Lime wood makes excellent charcoal for gunpowder, and is employed for buttons and leather-cutter's boards. The flowers afford the best honey for bees, and the famous Kowno honey is made exclusively from the linden blossoms.

It was one of the trees from which papyrus was made, and in the library of Vienna is a work of Cicero written on the inner bark of the linden.

One other thing is worth mentioning. Hares and rabbits will never injure the bark of this tree.

The lime is the first of all trees to shed its leaves in autumn. It bursts into leaf between April 6 and May 2.

At Deopham, in Norfolk, was a lime tree which, Evelyn tells us, was 36 feet in girth, and 90 feet in height. Strutt tells us of one in Moor Park, Hertfordshire, 17 feet in girth (3 feet above the ground) and 100 feet high; it contained 875 feet of timber. He also mentions one in Cobham Park, 28 feet in girth and 90 feet in height.

The lime tree in the Grisons is upwards of 590 years old.

MAPLE TREE, employed for cabinet-work, gunstocks, screws for cider presses, and turnery. The Tigrin and Pantherine tables were made of maple. The maple tables of Cicero, Asinius Gallus, King Juba, and the Mauritanian Ptolemy, "are worth their weight in gold."

At Knowle, in Kent, there is a maple tree which is 14 feet in girth.

MOUNTAIN ASH OR ROWAN TREE, used for hoops, and for bows, comes next to the yew. It forms good and lasting posts, and is made into hurdles, tables, spokes of wheels, shafts, chairs, and so on. The roots are made into spoons and knife-handles. The bark makes excellent tan.

Twigs of rowan used to be carried about as a charm against witches. Scotch dairy maids drive their cattle with rowan rods; and at Strathspey, in Scotland, at one time, sheep and lambs were made to pass through hoops of rowan wood on May-day.

In Wales, the rowan used to be considered sacred; it was planted in church-