

# News of Special Interest to Nebraska and Iowa Farmers

## Wallace Tells of Need for Better Market Service

Secretary of Agriculture Describes Work of Department and Aim of Extending Activities.

Henry C. Wallace, Iowa man, and secretary of agriculture, gives some interesting information on the needs of the farmers for more reliable and specific marketing information, in an article in the Market Reporter, published by the United States Department of Agriculture for April 30. In this article Mr. Wallace points out the need for detailed information on prices and market conditions and gives some of the aims of the department of agriculture in the future.

The article is as follows: The work of the department of agriculture in helping the farmer solve his marketing problem does not stop when he has been shown the best forms of organization for marketing farm products. These marketing organizations need information with regard to market conditions. In the case of perishable products such as fruits and vegetables, they need daily information from the principal markets in order to know how freely to ship so that there may be an adequate supply evenly distributed instead of gluts in some markets and a scarcity in others.

They need, also, to be kept informed as to the rate of consumption of the various farm products in different parts of the world. The department of agriculture should furnish this information, both as to supply and demand. This information is important to farmers, not simply at the time when the products are ready for the market, but when the farmers are deciding what to produce. And it is equally important to the consuming public in order to have a continuing supply at reasonable prices.

It is coming to be recognized that greater efficiency in getting the product from the farmer to the consumer is only one phase of the marketing problem and the problem of a fair price to the farmer. I believe it is coming to be recognized that if prices are to be satisfactory there must be a right adjustment of production to marketing conditions. This information, then, relating to the world's production and consumption which the department of agriculture should make available, especially useful and necessary in aiding farmers to decide what to produce and what not to produce, or in what quantities given commodities should be produced in order that they may be an adequate supply, but not a destructive glut, which inevitably reacts upon production in a restrictive way that is equally harmful to both producer and consumer.

Should Investigate Costs. And in its studies of the marketing of farm crops the department may very properly go a step further. It should make thorough inquiry into the costs of marketing at every stage from the time the crops leave the farm until they reach the consumer. It should turn on the light, if there are points along the way at which there is unnecessary waste, that should be made known. If there are men along the way who are taking too much toll for the service they render, that also should be made known. A plentiful supply of food at prices which are just to both producer and consumer is vital to our national welfare and it is a proper function of the government to do what it can to insure it. An accurate estimate of the fair cost of marketing the products of our farms is a necessary preliminary to any real improvement in our marketing system.

Purpose of Cost Studies. Such inquiry as the department may make into this matter of marketing costs should be with the sole purpose of getting at and making known the facts, in order that improvements may be made and costs lessened, whether by existing agencies or by others which may follow them. Its marketing experts should approach such studies in exactly the same spirit that its scientific experts pursue their search for scientific truth. They must be free from preconceived notions and their inquiries should have nothing of the nature of persecuting investigations. I have tried to make clear that the market news service of the department is glad to render help to organizations of farmers, co-operative or otherwise. Let me make it equally clear that the same sort of service will be rendered with the same good will to everyone who has anything to do with marketing our crops and who is striving to improve his marketing methods. It is the purpose of the department to do everything it can to improve our marketing system, to the end that both producer and consumer may receive better service at less cost, and its services are available to everyone who is interested in this matter.

Bargains of all kinds in Bee Want Ads.

## Gladiolus Easily Grown in Garden

By FRANK RIDGWAY.

Out of the jungles of South Africa many years ago came the gladiolus, with its tender sword-shaped leaves, to fight its way into its proper position in the flower kingdom. It was half starved, tattered and torn for want of culture when it came from its home in the cape region. In spite of its condition, botanists recognized its kindly characteristics and the possibilities of giving it a prominent place among the other royal families of flowers.

In America today the gladiolus is a supreme ruler in flowerdom and bears the distinction of being the only flower that is able to exhibit all colors of the rainbow.

Are Easily Grown. The grower does not have to wait a year for the plants to bloom. Bulbs planted this spring will bloom this summer. In most cases the blossoms come out within about three months after the bulbs are planted. They will stay in bloom for at least eight weeks and frequently longer, depending on how early they are planted. Plants that are started early often begin to bloom about the middle of June and continue to bloom until the frost kills them.

The gladiolus is not only easy to grow, but will do well in almost any kind of soil, while the plants seem to be partial to sandy loam. The principal requirement is plenty of sunshine throughout the entire day. Shrubbery furnishes an especially good background for the gladiolus. When the planting is done in front of the shrubs there is plenty of contrast for the flowers when they are in full bloom.

The space left between each bulb depends upon the size of the bulb. The average distance in beds is about three inches in the row, leaving just enough room between the rows for hoeing. A simple way to plant the bulbs is to open up a furrow deep enough that the bulbs may be covered with four or five inches of dirt. If planted shallow the plants bend over easily, often exposing the bulbs to the sun. Some cover them about two inches deep.

at first and rake in loose dirt as the plants grow. From the time bulbs are planted until the end of the blooming season the ground must be cultivated frequently. It is probably best to have the rows a foot or more apart where the gladiolus is being planted for cut flowers.

Always plant the bulbs right side up. For a succession of bloom where plenty of space is available the bulbs should be set from time to time until about July 1. Begin planting as soon as it is warm enough to work outdoors, and set out more bulbs about every two weeks. Bulbs that are sprouting should be planted first. After the plants come up the ground must be kept free from weeds. They respond to plenty of water, but the watering must be done after sundown. Cutting the Spikes. Gladiolus is primarily a cut flower, and as such it is a strong competitor of all other plants. Cut the spikes when the first bud opens and if kept in water in the house every bud will open. In cutting the spikes leave about three leaves on the bulb roots. As soon as the foliage turns brown in the fall the bulbs should be pulled up and stored, after having been cured in the sun or in a cool place. Store them in trays or baskets. Whenever Irish potatoes will keep, gladioli bulbs will be safe. Storing in a cool place, where the temperature is about 40 degrees Fahrenheit, is considered the best.

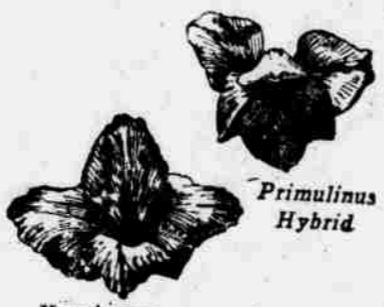
In selecting varieties to plant this spring you should have no trouble in getting all sorts of colors with marvelous and infinite variety—spotted, striped, splashing and blotching of petals. There are thousands of varieties from which to choose.



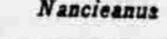
Gladiolus Spike.



Gandavensis.



Primulinus Hybrid.



Nancieanus.

## Farmers of Nebraska Deeply Interested in Legislation on Wool

With approximately 200,000 pounds of wool in the state pool or on consignment and the total clip coming on, the farmers of Nebraska are watching with interest national legislation which will affect the wool industry, according to H. D. Lute, secretary of the State Farm Bureau. The wool market has been lifeless for months and the farmers can only secure relief through protective measures, he pointed out.

Congressman Burton L. French of Idaho has again introduced the bill, which during the last session of congress became popularly known as the Truth-in-Fabric bill. The purpose of the bill is to prevent deceit and unfair prices resulting from unregulated presence of substitutes for virgin wool in woven fabric purporting to contain wool and in articles made therefrom.

In introducing a bill providing for an embargo on wool tops, wool wastes and wool on the pelts, Senator Reed Smoot pointed out that the domestic wool market has been hit by exceedingly heavy imports during the last few weeks. During the week ending April 16, approximately 15,000,000 pounds of wool in the grease, 800,000 pounds of scoured wool and 7,600 pounds of mohair were imported into this country. A majority of the importations were Argentine wool, indicating lower grades.

## Demand for Draft Horses Stimulating Breeding

The demand for draft horses is stimulating breeding this spring, according to the state college of agriculture. Good drafters weighing 1,500 pounds or more are being raised in the country and in the cities. The eastern markets are bidding up for better quality of draft animals. The medium weight horses of not too good quality are finding a slow sale, especially in the east.

There are indications that medium weight horses of good quality will bring good money in the future for farm purposes. The tendency of farmers to return to more extensive use of horses will, in all probability, send up the price. The general horse shortage, together with the tendency to use more horses, has opened up a good market for the better quality animals.

Frisky Hancock has put a tin roof on his stable and now his mule can tell when it is raining. The Tickville town marshal has received a post card which announces that there is a reward of \$1,000 for a bank robber in New York, and he shadowed a mysterious stranger all day yesterday, but gave up the case late in the evening when he found the man was nothing but an innocent millinery drummer.

## Huge Decrease in Prices Shown Since Year Ago This Month

Table showing price changes for various commodities like corn, wheat, and cotton, comparing prices from May 1, 1920 to May 1, 1921.

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## Increase in Freight Charges More Than Double Rates in 1914

On January 1, 1914, it cost 17.5 cents to ship 100 pounds of live stock from North Platte, Neb., to Omaha. Today it costs 29.5 cents. And it cost 68.5 cents to ship 100 pounds of meat in 1914, from Omaha to New York City and today it costs 132.5 cents. These figures have just been made public following an investigation made by the transportation department of the American Farm Bureau federation.

Other figures brought to light by this investigation are as follows: For wheat from Minot, N. D., to Minneapolis, from 16 to 27 cents; for wheat from Hutchinson, Kan., to Kansas City, Mo., from 13 to 21 cents; for flour from Minneapolis to New York City, from 25 to 30 cents; for flour from Kansas City, Mo., to New York City, from 27 to 50 cents; for hogs from Ottumwa, Ia., to Chicago, from 21 to 36 cents; for meat from Chicago to New York City, from 45 to 96 cents.

## Poultry

There is considerable excitement among poultrymen over the proposed addition to the "Standard of Perfection," which will admit capons. The "Standard of Perfection" is the book published by the American Poultry association which pictures and describes the perfect fowls of all breeds and varieties that are recognized as purebreds. George Benoy of Cedar Falls, Kan., known throughout the world of poultrydom as the "Capon King," is the author of this amendment to the Standard. The subject was discussed in detail at the last meeting of the American Poultry association and will be passed on at the next meeting at Seattle, Wash., in August. If capons are admitted to the Standard, poultry shows will then carry capon classes for all varieties exhibited, and no doubt a large following of capons will spring up for show competition. This should be a boost to the industry. Aside from this, science is required to produce a fancy capon just as it is required to produce the perfect specimen in cock, cockerel, hen or pullet, so there can be no objection on that score. All in all, the idea is unquestionably a good one, and broad-minded poultry raisers should rally to the support of Mr. Benoy and urge the acceptance of his amendment. Time enough to throw it out if it is found that it doesn't work.

In the feeding of early hatched pullets, some experts cling to a set and fast rule of one-half as much mash as gray mash per day. While this plan has worked out satisfactorily, yet it is believed by a large number that the growing stock should be allowed to consume as much mash feed as they will eat. I believe the better plan is the latter and that ultimate results will be better if the fowls are fed dry mash rather than wet mash. Start right by accustoming chicks to dry feeding and you will never have any difficulty in getting the older birds to continue the consumption of the dry. It is largely a matter of "bringing up." Save yourself later trouble with dry feeding by raising the birds that way from the beginning. While grain may be fed twice daily, the heaviest feeding should be about an hour before roosting time so that the birds will go to bed with

## It Helps Keep Disease Away

Advertisement for Pratts Poultry Disinfectant, describing its benefits for poultry health and disease prevention.

## Grain Growers Plan Membership Drive in Nebraska

One Million Members Goal Set by New Farmers' Marketing Organization—Plans Outlined.

One million members this year is the goal of the United States Grain Growers, Inc., the new farmers' grain marketing company, according to national officers who announced that the membership campaign would probably be launched in Nebraska within the next 30 days. The board of directors met in Chicago all last week and outlined a definite organization plan.

Conferences of officers and directors of farmers' organizations in some central point in each of the marketing zones outlined some time ago, will be announced in a short time. The meetings will be called by the sales department of the new company for the purpose of getting suggestions relative to the establishment of the zone sales offices, their management and other details.

The first conference will be held at Columbus, O., on May 12, and will be in charge of J. M. Anderson of Minnesota, chairman of the sales committee, and H. W. Robinson, a member of the committee. Similar conferences will be held at Kansas City, Omaha, Ft. Worth, Spokane, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Chicago. Dates for these conferences have not been arranged. Invitations will be extended to the officers of the farmer organizations of each territory and all such official representatives of farmers will have an impartial voice in these meetings.

C. H. Hyde, chairman of the pooling committee and Clifford Thorne, general counsel, have been given authority to confer at an early date with reference to the proposed second order government departments in the contracts that will provide for pooling one-third of wheat for export. These clauses must comply with the statutes which legalize export pools under the Webb act and cannot be drafted in their final form until the exact government interpretation of the act has been ascertained.

Preparations are being made for the immediate formation of a finance corporation, an export company under the provisions of the Webb act, and other subsidiary corporations in certain states. More than \$50,000 has been pledged by county farm bureaus over Illinois for the establishment of the national headquarters in Chicago. President C. H. Gustafson of Lincoln and W. G. Eckhardt of Illinois, treasurer, have been authorized to raise sufficient funds to get the organization and other work under way at once.

Where It Started. Originally "Brokers" were public inspectors, whose duties were to inspect imported goods and reject any that were unfit for use. This custom originated in Russia. The term "Broker" is used because originally bankrupts, or broken persons, were allowed to follow the trade. Later, middlemen came also to be styled "Brokers."

Advertisement for Pratt's Better Chicks and Pratts Buttermilk Baby Chick Food, highlighting the quality and benefits of the products.

BANK STATEMENT. REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE PETERS NATIONAL BANK AT OMAHA, NEBRASKA, AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 28, 1921. Table with columns for Assets and Liabilities.

## PLANTING LORE

by DORIS BLAKE



If slips are cut from plants with shears, they will not live. They must be broken off to do well. When drops of water hang on the leaves of plants, they will soon bloom.

If plants received as gifts grow and flourish, it is a sign that the giver is a true and faithful friend, but if they wither and refuse to grow, the giver is false and an enemy. Count the blossoms on your favorite plant; if they are odd, you will have no enemies, but if even you have at least one.

When you free your plants or shrubs of broken twigs and dead leaves never burn them, as it will make the plants sick and probably cause them to wither away. If a house plant suddenly withers, it is a sign that some one will soon die in the room. If a person purchase a plant that another person intended to buy, it will wither and die.

Old wives, when gathering herbs for their salves and simples, were wont to judge of their luck during the year by the facility with which they found the desired plants. If you pick up a shrub or plant of any kind after it has been discarded by some one else and the plant grows, it is said to mean certain old age to you.

A cutting of a stolen plant will surely grow. It is believed in Cornwall, England, that household plants will wither and die soon after there has been a death in the house, unless a piece of black cloth is tied to them. Greeks believe that some plants have immortal souls. If the dirt from your plants falls to the floor, you will soon see a newly made grave.

A childless woman is believed by the Irish to have the strongest power over herbs, especially those used for maladies of children. If a little fresh dirt taken from the grave of a child which has been baptized within a 12 month, is sprinkled on potted plants, it will make them flourish and have large, handsome flowers.

In Mexico, there is a herb that is popularly called the "rattleweed"; if horses eat of it, it is believed that they will go mad. Plants having "lady" attached to their names were formerly dedicated to the ancient goddesses; but Christianity claimed these flowers for the Virgin Mary. They are of good medicinal virtues.

In Tuscany, there is a little plant which grows on the walls, whose tiny flowers are of whitish rose color. It is gathered on Ascension day and hung up until the 8th of September; and for those who do this, the virgin has great favor and will protect them from all evil. If this plant will not blossom while hanging, it is a bad omen.

Parents' Problems. Should games be played for prizes at a children's party? No; this is never wise, either in its immediate effect, or in its impression on the character of the children. Games should be played for their own sakes, for the pleasure in doing something together.

Principal of Fairbury School Goes to Steele City. Steele City, Neb., May 8.—(Special)—Mrs. Smitia of Fairbury, has been employed as city school superintendent of Steele City by the board of education. She has been principal of the Central school in Fairbury two years.

## High Schools of State To Meet In Title Debate

Eleven District Champions, Picked From 85 High Schools, Will Hold Three-Day Contest.

Lincoln, May 8.—(Special)—Eleven Nebraska high school debating teams—winners of district championship honors against 85 contesting schools—will compete at the University of Nebraska, May 12-14, for the state championship honors in the fourteenth state debate of the Nebraska High School Debating League. This concluding league event of the year will be a three-day tournament.

The 33 debaters are the surviving victors over some 250 members of teams, who, in turn, were selected from nearly 800 candidates for the honor of representing 97 schools in the league contests. To this state tournament the teams come prepared on a few hours' notice, to shift sides on the league question for the year. "Resolved, That the Literacy Test for Restricting Immigration Should Be Repealed," upon which question over 80 debates since January have been held from one end of the state to the other.

To premium all-round grip on the subject under discussion and to put still greater emphasis on off-hand rebuttal—on the ability to meet emergencies rather than the ability to make merely a "speech," Prof. M. M. Fogg, professor of English in the university, and president and organizer of the league, states was the main reason why the league decided on the innovation tournament—bringing to the state contests, not individual representatives of the district championship schools, but all the teams prepared to maintain either side of the question.

Five simultaneous debates will be held Thursday evening, May 12. After these debates, lots will be drawn for sides and pairing for three debates Friday morning, May 13. Lots will then decide sides for the debate Friday evening. The state championship, which Beatrice won from Lincoln in 1920, will be decided Saturday morning, High School Fete Day. High scholarship standing characterizes this group of picked debaters. Ability to think and to express orally ideas with precision, clarity and vigor, and willingness to work are qualities debate team membership demands. Over two-thirds of these debaters have already determined to go to college.

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## Expensive Hands!

Leopold Godowsky, famous pianist, has insured his hands for \$250,000.00. A temporary damage to one finger pays \$25,000.00—a permanent damage to one finger \$125,000. Unless you are a Godowsky, you perhaps don't value your hands at \$250,000, but do you realize how much your health and time are worth to you?

Upon them depends your happiness and your income—your most important assets. Accident and Health Insurance costs but little, and is well termed Time and Income Protection. Let us explain to you this form of coverage.

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## SERVICE...

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