THE FARM

Continued from page nine.)

able form at such a time would seem to promise good results. Furthermore, marked benefits from the use of nitrate of soda in vegetable production have been reported from certain experiment stations of the East. In view of these considerations, it was thought best to make some tests with this material in the production of vegetables on the brown silt loam of the corn belt. Accordingly a series of tests was planned, including eight kinds of vegetables, viz., radish, turnip, beet, onion, spinach, lettuce, cabbage and cauliflower. The tests were begun in 1907 and continued for six years.

Conclusions

In the light of the data secured in connection with the nitrate of soda experiment reported on the following conclusions are warranted:

1. Under the soil and climatic conditions attending these tests, nitrate of soda usually does not induce an excessive development of foliage on the common early root crops, radishes, turnips and beets, without a corresponding development of the roof.

2. Top-dressings of nitrate of soda may reasonably be expected to have a beneficial effect upon the following crops of early vegetables, on well-manured brown silt loam in the corn belt; radishes, turnips, beets, spinach, cabbage, cauliflower. The beneficial effect may consist in a higher percentage of plants reaching marketable size or condition within a given time, greater size of the individual specimens, or greater toast yield. (If the stand were uniform, the last two points would be correlated.)

2. Under the conditions of these tests, the benefits to be derived from top-dressings of nitrate of soda to onions and head lettuce do not appear to be sufficiently marked or consistent to warrant the use of this fertilizing material on these crops.

4. Nitrate of soda applied at intervals of two weeks seems to be fully as effective as when applied at more frequent intervals, even though the aggregate amount of material is correspondingly less; in many cases it is more effective.

5. Under the conditions of these tests, the beneficial results of using nitrate of soda, in the production of early vegetables do not appear to be so pronounced as results which have been reported from certain other sections of the country.—University Bulletin 184.

WHEN EGGS COST MOST.

Have you ever tried to figure why egg production is so greatly reduced in the Winter time?)This happens just at the season when we find the market the most profitable. It isn't because the hen is a hothouse fiend and dislikes the cold, bracing atmosphere. Though hens are more adapted to Summer than Winter, they are very few days in the Winter that the hens refuse to be happy, if properly cared for.

Mother hen doesn't suspend business in the Winter because of her health, for she is warmly clad and the feed bills show she eats more than she does when in the open. Then where does this trouble lie? It lies in the fact that while the Winter has no terror for mother hen, the same cannot be said of bugs, beetles, worms and small animals, and plant life generally'

These choice dietary morsels are most important factors in her business of egg production. She is unable to find them during the cold months. Of course, a hen can "get along" on corn wheat, etc. But the difference between five and six dozen eggs a year and 200 is quite another thing. You should look upon the hen as an "investment," and you want to "force her," just as the florist forces his flowers to bloom earlier than the other man's flowers. If you want more eggs you must furnish your hens with the necessary material with which to make eggs.

Hens must have green food. If you were a thoughtful man you sowed a plat to beets, or you raisd an additional amount of acreage of oats, and these are being fed as green food. It is a very easy matter to sprout oats. Ordinary green bone, obtained at the butcher's at a little or no expense than anything else. Few men feed green ground bone. But the small majority who do earn their reward in a full egg basket, other things being equal as to balanced poultry ration. Buy a bone grinder at once, and arrange to get the bones from the butcher. The bone must be ground fine, and the cost of the machine is small in comparison with tht results it will bring to your income.— Earl W. Gage.

PLANTING STRAWBERRIES.

"Ever-bearing" strawberries are varieties that bear and ripen fruit long after the ordinary kinds have finished for the season. They have many advantages over the old standard varieties, and should be grown more generally in field culture. Do not discard the standard strawberries, but plant generously of the ever-bearing varieties this spring, for they are profitable.

The culture of standard and ever-bearing sorts is practically the same. While the former do not produce a crop the first year of planting, the ever-bearing varieties do, a consideration in itself of great importance. The plants are set in spring in a very fertile soil. Soon after planting many blossoms will be produced, but the first stems should be picked off as they develop until early July. This gives the plants an opportunity to become well developed. After July permit all fruit to set for late summer and fall bearing. The initial crop will pay the cost of the entire plants and planting and give a profit besides.

In picking the spot for the strawberry patch the portion of the farm that is well covered with snow during the entire winter will be found favorable if other conditions are favorable. Soil that has had previous good cultivation should be chosen and plowing should be deep and thorough. Manure or strawberry beds may be applied early in spring, before planting, but should be well rotted; barnyard manure may be drawn for the purpose during the winter and placed in good tight piles near the proposed beds.

CHOPPED STUFF

It is a good time now to get out and fix up that telephone line.

Plan to attend conventions this winter. Agriculture must not lag.

Gather the eggs several times a day, to prevent freezing in the nests.

Feed your sows liberally when dry. It will repay you during the milking period.

Labor is going to be scarce this coming season; plan where you can save it.

Rheumatic and stunted pigs are the result of damp pens. Give them plenty of dry litter.

In about a month's time pruning may be commenced. Get the saws and clippers in shape.

More milk will require either more feed or more judicious use of the feed fed. Study rations.

Inspect the engines, motors, pumps and other machinery about the farm, and make frequent use of the oil can.

With cheese from nineteen to nineteen and a quarter factories have poor excuses for closing down for the winter.

Clean up the seed again with the fanning mill, then hand pick it. The latter job may be a hard one, but it pays.

The heavy winter milker is usually the best and most persistent cow; give her an opportunity to make reatest profits.

THE ICE HOUSE

For any country residence, that is, one too far removed from the route of the iceman, this is the last chance of building the icehouse with comfort An earlier start would have been better but the frost is not yet so far into the ground as to make it impossible to dig for the foundations. The first thing to be considered in chosing the site for the icehouse is convenience combined with good drainage; the drainage is of importance to both the keeping of the ice and the health of the people who are to use it. With a well-drained spot, near the dwelling house, picked out, building should be started at once with the idea of good insultation always in mind. Painting the structure may have to be left till Spring,but every essential to the preserving of the ice must be attended to now; skids must be made, hooks placed for hanging pulleys, sawdust drawn and stored in a dry place, and ice tools bought or made fit for use so that there'll be no time lost when the ice harvest is ready. The tools needed, for working ice, are not many nor expensive. A steel scraper to remove snow that covers the ice. An ice-plow, a slice bar, a saw, a few pike poles, ice tongs, and some chain will be found sufficient, and some of these are already in use on most farms.

Ice should be stored as compactly as possible to prevent circulation of air through the mass and to expose as little surface as possible, for these reasons, a pile of ice that is as near as possible to a cube is advisable,and the icehouse should be constructed so as to accomodate such a body.

KEEP TO ONE LINE

Diversification has become the most used of any striking word in connection with the practice of agriculture during the past year, it is emphasied by nearly every person who makes a report of his farming operations, and the fact that the user has decided not to "put all his eggs in one basket" seems to be considered by him a discovery, or at least the close following of a new idea.

Specialization in some certain line of farming has been preached and practised for years, and where the idea has been properly grasped it has proved a success, but the greatest mistake made has been in specializing in one crop instead of in one type of farming. The farmer who specializes in the raising of live stock, or better still, in one species of live stock makes no mistake, but to raise and finish horses, cattle, sheep ,or swine he must diversify in the matter of crops. Rotation enforces this use of different crops, and to be a benefit to the farm the rotation must consist of grain, grasses and legumes, and hard crops in regular order, but then the best suited varieties of these have been decided on there is no need of going outside them just for the sake of diversification.

Improvements are being made in the various farm plants every year by the official experiments and others, and to overlook the new or improved varieties would be foolishness on the part of the farmer, but before a change of seed is made the new kind should be tried out on a man's own farm in a small way.

To "let good enough alone" may not be the best means of progressing in the farming business, but 'tis better than shopping and changing with every wind that blows, and the wisdom of sticking to one line is nowhere better realized than in the breeding of live stock. One great cause of complaint by the packers is the appearance of too many types of cattle at the stock yards, and what is worse the mixture of many breeds of the different classes of stock, and it would be unsafe to say which is the best, but there are certainly better and worse breeds, and the better ones must be kept intact and the worse ones dropped entirely by the man who expects ever to do well with animals.

Only the fittest can be allowed to survive in farm animals and farm plants, and failure follows the wasting of time and space on any but the best types obtainable.

DISTANCE FROM TOWN.

A Fair Distance From Main Centres Best for the General Farmer.

Their distance from city or town to a large extent governs the price of farms that are for sale, and the condition of the country roads is a factor that should be considered in making a purchase of a piece of land for farming.

The use of an automobile will greatly lessen the time lost in getting to town for market or for pleasure if the roads travelled are fit for the upholding of the machine. This matter is sometimes overlooked by the intending purchaser of a farm who considers first the proximity of neighbors, and is willing to pay high for the pleasure of seeing his friends as often as possible.

If a hundred-acre farm, situated ten or fifteen miles from the nearest railroad town, can be bought for two-thirds of the price of one that is only two or three miles out, the saving in purchase price should pay for a good, useful car and its upkeep, and the added distance from town or city should appeal to the man who wishes to make farming his life work or to the one who takes to farming as a change from city work. The regular, out-and-out farmer can stay on his place of business nearly all the year round, to his own advantage, and occasional necessary trips on business need not be neglected on account of a fifteen-mile drive on snow roads, when an automobile cannot travel; while the man who farms as a side line to some city business does not, as a rule, intend to spend much time in the country during the Winter months.

Besides costing a smaller cash price the outlying farm provides, as a rule, better chances of growing large crops without great expense, because, although possibly rough, and in want of clearing, the land is less worked out as the distance from markets enforces the keeping of live stock.

In the case of a run-down place, live stock will build it up and there is a much better chance of clean farming where the manure used is produced on the place rather than purchased from the city. The small place is no doubt necessary in these days of big cities, and will appeal to the man whose chief interest is in the growing of crops, but the lover of animals and he who longs for the freedom of the country needs more room than can be found on the intensive ten acres or less.

With good roads that allow of the hauling of big loads of staple products and the travel of automobiles when speed is necessary, the hundred or two hundred-acre farm, devoted to live stock and grain or to dairy farming for the supplying of cheese or butter factories will develop the country more quickly and more thoroughly than will the small places, that are dependent on railroad transportation for its crops, or the proximity of town or city markets.

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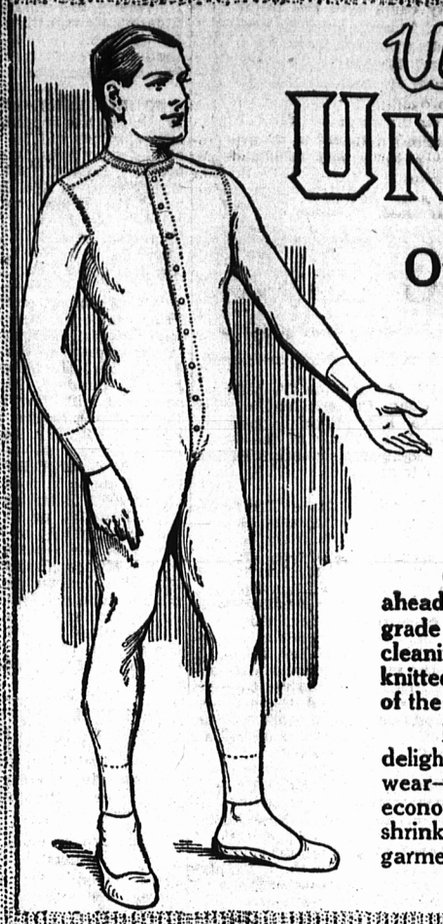

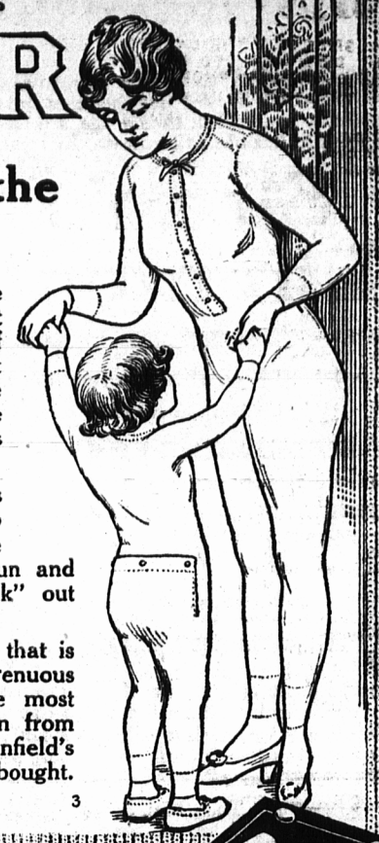

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Our practice is to buy our wool supply months ahead of requirements. This gives plenty of time to grade it accurately and clean it thoroughly. During the cleaning, and before it goes to the machines to be spun and knitted, a secret Stanfield's process takes the "shrink" out of the wool.

Made up into garments, this wool has a softness that is delightful to the skin—strength that will stand the most strenuous wear—durability that makes it, in the long run, the most economical underwear you can buy—and such freedom from shrinking that even after several seasons' wear a Stanfield's garment is as ample and comfortable as the day it was bought.

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No. 77—One of our old reliables—two-ply, medium weight, in natural color, for men and women. Very soft, warm and comfortable. No. 73 is the same weight, in white, for women. No. 88 is the same quality, in heavy weight, natural color, for men.

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Have You Talked to the Likely Young Man Who Works For You about the Work that the King Has For Him to Do?

Why not let the Likely Young Man Know That Your Business Might be able to get along for a time without his assistance. Talk to Him About it. Let Him Know that You're likely to have a place for him when he comes back again Let him know how] much more you'll think of him if he goes with the King, than if he stays with you

YOU DO YOUR PART WELL AND HE'S LIKELY TO DO HIS PART WELL TOO

THINK IT OVER: If the British Conscription Bill were to Become Law in Canada next week who would it take out of your employ? Why wait for Compulsion? Why not clear the Business Decks for Action now. Why not run your business with the help of married men and girls and boys—or those who have been rejected by the Regimental Medical Officer.

THERE IS ROOM IN THE 105th BATTALION FOR THREE HUNDRED MORE MEN