AGRICULTURE NOTES

TOP DRESSING WHEAT MAY BE ADVISABLE

The use of nitrate of soda as a top dressing for wheat has been found advantageous where the crop has come through the winter in poor condition as indicated by short growth and pale color, says F. W. Oldenburg, specialist in agronomy for the University of Maryland Extension Service.

Demonstrations conducted on several farms in Talbot, Kent and Queen Anne's counties in 1925 showed that the use of nitrate of soda as a top dressing increased yields from two to more than eight bushels per acre. In these demonstrations, the nitrate of soda was applied at the rate of one hundred pounds per acre and was broadcast by hand during the spring, after first being mixed with a reasonable quantity of wood ashes to provide the necessary bulk for handling.

Results were apparent within a few weeks after the applications by the vivid green color of the plots to which the fertilizer had been applied, it is said. Yields in most cases were so striking as to leave little doubt about the advisability of top dressing wheat that starts into the spring in poor condition.

Another advantage in the use of the nitrate of soda was observed in fields in which grass had been sown. The fertilizer stimulated the growth of the grass, although in this particular year excessively dry weather occurred about harvest time and the grass was largely killed.

Club Boys To Attend National 4-H Camp

Maryland's delegation to the National 4-H Camp to be held in Washington, D. C., in June has been completed with the announcement by E. G. Jenkins, State boys' club agent, of the selection of Billie James, Dublin, Harford County, and Austin Miller, Middletown, Frederick County, as State representatives of the club boys. Miss Gladys Bull, of Pocomoke, Worcester County, and Miss Mildred Tucker, of Forest Hill, Harford County, have already been announced as the chosen representatives of the club girls of the State.

Maryland Lamb Crop Is Moving To Market

Early lambs from Southern Maryland and sections of the Eastern Shore are already moving to market and returning good prices to sheep growers who managed their flocks last year to secure lambs in December and January, says K. A. Clark, livestock specialist for the University of Maryalnd Extension Service.

"It is probable that Maryland will have fewer early lambs this year than last," says Mr. Clark, "but the quality is good and is beginning to show the effects of the purebred sheep introduced into the State during recent years.

"Three things are necessary for the sheep grower who desires to produce early lambs. The first is the use of good breeding stock. Grain feeding coupled with good management and early production are the other essentials.

"A desirable Easter lamb must have grain and other feed in addition to its mother's milk. Some protection from the weather is necessary for best results. Too often early lambs are given the run of open fields in cold, wet weather. Lambs that have been docked and castrated are usually worth from one to three more on the market.

"Desirable weights for early lambs may vary from thirty to sixty pounds The value,however, is not dependent so much upon weight as upon the extra quality, breeding and finish. Lambs to sell well must be fat at any weight.

"There is evidence to indicate that late shearing, flushing and keeping sheep on low cool pastures will aid somewhat in securing lambs in time for the early market."

Sweet Potato Seed Should Be Treated

Blackrot,a disease of sweet potatoes which last year inflicted heavy losses on some growers, can be controlled by treating the seed with bichlorideofmercury and planting the crop in disease free soil, says Dr. R. A. Jehle, plant pathologist for the University of Maryand Extension Service.

"The disease is caused by a fungus which lives over from year to year in the seed and in the soil and can only be controlled by planting disease free seed in disease free soil.

"Sweet potatoes intended for seed should first of all be sorted and all affected potatoes discarded. The selected seed should then be soaked in a solution of four ounces of bichloride of mercury to thirty gallons of water for a period of from five to eight minutes. After treating ten bushels of seed in the original solution, a fourth ounce of bichoride of mercury should be added to the solution and enough water to again make thirty gallons.

"After the seed has been treated it should be bedded in clean sand or soil in which sweet potatoes have not been grown for at least three years. Slips with blackened stems should be discarded. The healthy slips should be planted on land in which sweet potatoes have not been grown for three years or on land which has grown sweet potatoes practically free from the disease.

"Bichloride of mercury is a deadly poison and care should be used that it is not taken internally by human beings or livestock."

WORTON

Mrs. Thomas Parsons and sons spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. Helen Atwell, of Wilmington.

Mrs. Lester Carter and daughter, Sarah, spent Monday with Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Nichols.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Crowding had as their guest over the week end Messrs. Jacob William and Maxwell Crowding, of Philadelphia, and Miss Muriel Wells, of New York.

Mrs. James Matthews entertained a few friends at a birthday dinner and quilting party on Wednesday. Those present were: Mrs. P. B. Rasin, Mrs. E. J. Rouse, Miss I. C. Cooper, Mrs. H. M. Matthews, Mrs. John Duyer, Mrs. Earl Nichols and Mrs. Henry Rasin.

The Ladies Aid met in the Church Hall Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Margaret Duyer, who has been quite sick at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Carroll Loller, is better at this writing.

Mr. H. E. Cooper spent a few days this week with his son, Mr. G. N. Cooper, of Chestertown.

Mrs. Joseph Duyer visited friends in Chestertown Monday.

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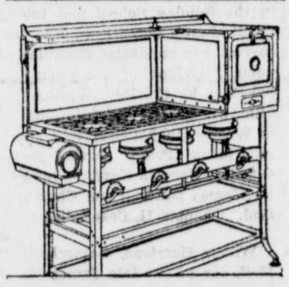

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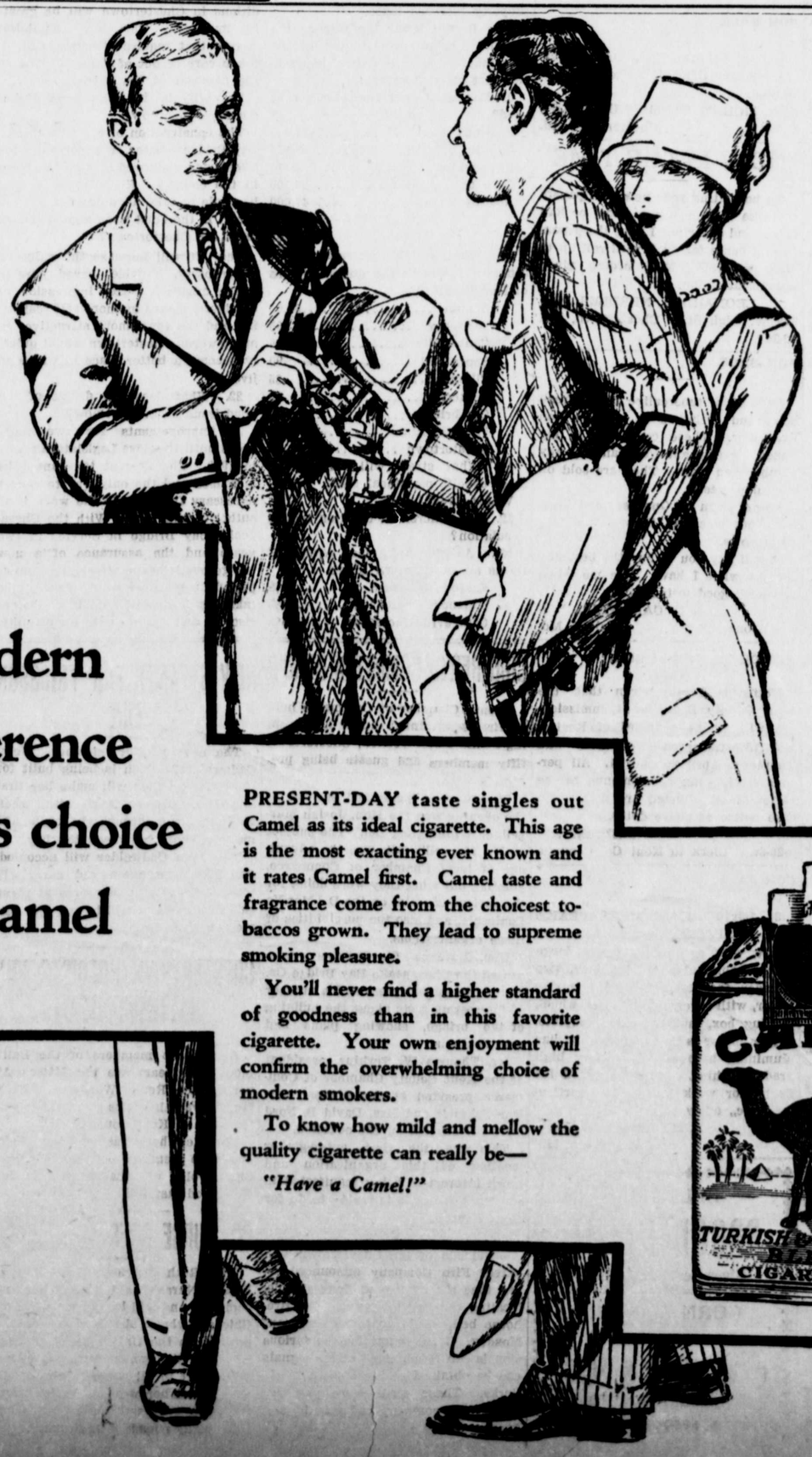

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