ANNOUNCEMENT

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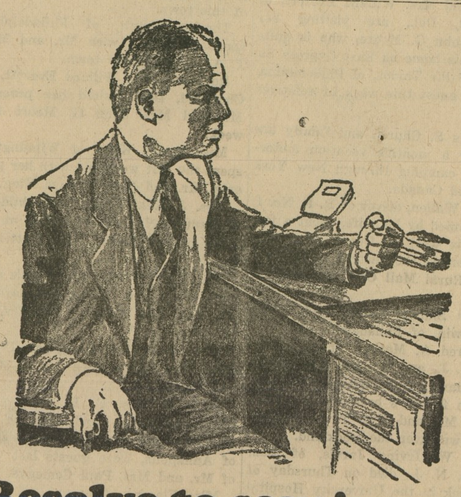
KENT NEWS $1.50 A YEAR

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of our dear mother, Mrs. Harriett R. Satterfield, who left us July 14th, 1919.
Each lonely hour that we have spent
Is woven through and through
With golden threads of memory,
Dear mother, just for you.
Her daughter, Bessie.

HOME DEMONSTRATION NOTES

Wednesday, July 18, Flatland Girls' Club at Mrs. L. A. Sutton, 2 p. m.
Thursday, July 19, Chestertown's Women's Club at Mrs. Hugh Hartman's, 2 p. m.
Friday, July 2, Quaker Neck Girls' Club at Mrs. P. V. Hendrickson's, 2 p. m.



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ALFALFA HAY A REAL FIND

From 1880 to 1895 Kent County, one of Maryland's finest, was a veritable garden of peaches. Agriculture prospered, business was good and Kent countians were happy. Then came an over-production of peaches, low prices, and the peach trees disease known as the "Yellows." The peach industry passed out of the picture and fields of waving grain appeared.

The fertile soils, grew beautiful fields of grain and harvest yields set record upon record. Tomatoes became a good money crop. Poultry and asparagus production increased constantly, while some fruit growing continued. Kent farmers deserve to be proud of the splendid agricultural practices during the height of the grain and tomato growing period. However, grain farming for 20 to 25 years materially reduced the productivity of Kent farms. This fact, together with increasing labor wages and higher costs of farm implements and machinery, manufactured articles, and the higher standard of living, brought about an economic condition that caused a great increase in livestock in the county, which since the agricultural depression of 1921, has crystalized in the dairy industry. The year 1928 finds Kent farmers, while still large producers of grain, firmly in the dairy business.

The census report of 1925 places the number of dairy cattle in Kent at 10,910. It also places the average prodction of milk per cow for Kent county at 3,260 pounds per year. It is generally considered that an individual cow must produce 5,000 pounds of 3.5 butterfat milk in order to be profitable. Such figures cause one to think and to analyze the situation. Wherein lies the trouble? It is the cows, the feed, or the management It is true that there are some unprofitable producing cows in Kent, but there are also many good ones. Would the average Kent County cow produce more if properly fed? Tests have shown that she will. What feed is fed to Kent dairy cows? Most stalks contain 2 per cent protein and mixed hay about 4 per cent protein, If we compare this to the best dairy sections, we find they feed a legume roughage, like alfalfa, which contains 11 per cent protein, and bought or mixed grain feeds. How about the management? Kent dairymen are certainly giving their herds better than average attention. From this brief analysis, it is obvious that the dairy feed problem is the most important dairy problem in Kent. Corn stalks, mixed hay and wheat straw are all too low in protein for the most economical milk production. The dairymen feeding alfalfa are reaping fine results. The records of Dairy Herd Improvement Association show that alfalfa roughage porduces milk most economically of all roughages. Alfalfa hay is produced and fed to dairy cattle, as a general practice, in the best sections of the United States, in the best dairy counties of Maryland, and on Kent's best dairy farms.

Kent county has about 10,910 dairy cattle and about 1,500 acres of alfalfa, or an average of about one (1) acre of alfalfa for every seven (7) head of dairy cattle. Then there are 5,895 horses; 6,615 sheep; 7,985 swine, and 92,610 chickens in Kent, all which may profitably be fed alfalfa hay.

With the above figures in mind, it is obviously good business for Kent farmers to increase their alfalfa acreage. The campaign under-way has a goal of only 1000 additional acres of alfalfa to be seeded in Kent county during August 1928. This is a most conservative, progressive program. If Kent farmers should see fit to exceed the goal set, they will be the ones to reap the benefit.

Alfalfa hay was bought and sold with Kent this year at $35 per ton and the buyer hauled it, too. The average yield of alfalfa hay in Kent is a little over two tons per acre, or more than $50 worth of hay per acre. A good stand may last five or ten years. The cost of harvesting per acre is rather small. Few other crops grown in Kent compare with alfalfa hay, for value received per acre.

Marketing this additional 1000 acres of alfalfa should be considered. It is the primary object of the alfalfa Campaign that the alfalfa seeded this August should be used as a hay crop, and the hay fed to dairy cows. The alfalfa hay will then be marketed through the milk. Therefore, it is necessary to look into the present and near future market for milk in Kent county. With Milk Receiving Stations located at Chestertown, Worton, Kennedyville, Massey and Millington, and operated by reliable dealers, a ready market is within reach of all Kent county dairymen. The Inter-State Milk Producers Association, with nearly 25,000 members, is looking after the best marketing methods and price of milk for its members. Practically all Kent county dairymen are members of this organization. The steadily increasing demand for milk in Philadelphia and this section, is indicative of a constant market. It must be concluded, therefore, that from the marketing angle, the growing of a nadditional 1000 acres of alfalfa in Kent county is a safe and profitable investment.

The reasons for the lack of sufficient alfalfa in Kent may be summed up as, grain farming, comparatively recent dairy development, and difficulty in securing stands. The last mentioned problem has largely been done away with, by using approved methods. There are good stands of alfalfa in all sections of Kent. It is the purpose of the campaign to give out the approved methods by press, letters, and meetings.

Since Kent has had 40,000 acres of land tested for acidity in the past few years, farmers are generally aware of the lime requirements of their soil. However, the County Agent will gladly test all samples of soil for Kent farmers, which are brought to his office during this campaign.

In order to bring about the most successful results of this alfalfa campaign, the full cooperation of all Kent county farmers, dairymen, business men, the Farmers, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Editors and other interested parties is necessary. Every good word for the alfalfa campaign will help, and every acre seeded to alfalfa in Kent this August will increase the county's wealth.

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