Kent Farm Notes Of Vital Interest

SPRAYING TIME AT HAND

Peach growers will have applied the dormant spray to control leaf curl. The next ten days to two weeks the dormant spray for apples should be applied. Notice will be mailed to growers giving details.

EXTENSION SERVICE CO-OPERATES WITH RED CROSS

The Extension Service has been requested by the National Organization to co-operate with its local Red Cross Chapters in the giving of suggestions or guidance in the cultivation of gardens and in the use of the resulting crops in the family diet.

Some 500,000 seed collections, totaling fifty car loads, have been prepared for distribution by the Red Cross Chapters. Each seed collection is supposed to carry sufficient gaden seed to supply vegetables for a family of five persons from spring until September.

PRODUCE HEALTHY PIGS

The sanitation plan used by successful hog growers and now commonly known as the McLean County system after the Illinois County, where the plan was first proved is the most effective means of producing thrifty, healthy pigs. The idea is to have the pigs born in clean quarterson clean land so that they may be kept free from round worms during their early months. The sows at farrowing time approaches have their udders scrubbed clean with soap and water, then moved to a clean house. Do not neglect protein and mineral matter in the diet of any hog, especially growing pigs.

For further details inquire of the County Agent.

MARKET LAMBS EARLY

Farmers should market their lambs as soon as possible in order to save pastures later. Usually lambs will net more young than when they are six or more months of age. It is advisable to market early to avoid the harmful effects of internal parasites.

The flock should be treated frequently for the control of internal parasites. The cheapest treatment is the Copper Sulphate or Bluestone solution. The addition of Nicotene Sulphate will aid in the control of tape worms. The commercial capsules are easier to administer but are more expensive.

It would seem advisable to feed corn, oats, bran or mixture to lambs in a creep in order to hasten their growth and condition of flesh, so that they will be in marketable condition at an early age. Any lambs not sold as "baby lambs" should be docked and the ram lambs castrated.

Too many ewe lambs were carried over last year, due to the low price offered. As a result the wool clip is at a very high level in spite of the depressed market. It would therefore not seem wise to increase breeding flocks unless for replacing old ewes.

CAN THE SURPLUS

Farmers with surpluses of products which they cannot market at a profit can be canned as a means of lessening living costs. Lambs, calves, beef, fish, chickens can be canned and stored for later use, and usually save on the feed bill since they can be canned whenever they are ready instead of being carried along from week to week hoping for a market outlet. Likewise, many of the garden vegetables can be canned and stored for year round use. The garden season is fast approaching. Any body that has a garden would do well to arrange for tilling it intensively as a means of lowering the cost of living. The "live at home" idea is sound at any time and becomes a necessity in most cases in times of depression. All drought relief plans are based primarily on helping the distressed to help themselves by producting food for the family and feed for the livestock as main considerations. Surplus milk would better be used at home for the family butter supply, for cottage cheese and for feeding to poultry and pigs. Those doing home mixing of poultry mashes can substitute skim milk for one-half of the meat and bone meal commonly used in the mash. In fact, those in position to do the work can reduce the cost of producing farm products very materially by study and forethought.

EARLY TOMATO PLANTS BEST

Experience reveals that the early tomato plant set in the field by May 25th far excells both price and yield of the late set plant. To insure these early plants—sow seed before April 1st in the muslin covered bed. The muslin covered bed is extremely popular with those who have used it. It is being adopted very rapidly.

The County Agent has plans and instructions for building the muslin covered bed.

PLANT SPRING CROPS EARLY

Farmers should plant crops as early as possible in order to utilize whatever moisture has seeped into the soil in the late winter said Dr. T. B. Symons, director of the University of Maryland Extension Service.

There will be a deficiency of water due to the subnormal rainfall of the winter Dr. Symons explained and it is necessary, especially with crops for canning such as tomatoes and corn, to get them out as early as possible.

He urged clean cultivation and early plowing in order to insure the best crops of an adverse year.

Pointing out that Maryland was in the territory effected vitally by the drought, Dr. Symons said that while he was hopeful of the weather, due to the disturbances of the last few days, he was anticipating a rather dry summer.

It has been said, Dr. Symons continued that the radio is about four to one for a dry year to be followed by another dry year.

LANDLORDS MAY BORROW FOR THEIR TENANTS FROM SEED LOAN FUND

Such landlords as do not care to, or are not in position to sign the waiver which gives the Government first chance to collect loans from the proceeds of crops, may borrow from the Seed Loan Office if necessary. Landlords arrange with their tenants for the distribution use and repayment of the loan from 1931 crops. The Landlord with a number of tenants, by meeting requirements, may borrow up to a total of two thousand dollars for the use of all of his tenants in any one county.

In Kent thus far, the landlord's or crop mortgage owners have waived in some cases and in some cases have not signed the required waiver. It is the latter group who may see fit to borrow from the Seed Loan Fund and thus enable their tenants to carry on in a nearly normal manner. Just what the tenant or the landlord will do to get in crops where the tenant can not get the waivers to enable him to borrow from this fund, and the landlord refuses to borrow, and at the same time neither has credit or capital to use in preparing for the crop and in planting, tilling and harvesting remains to be seen. It would appear that neither will have much to share at the end of the year.

ELECTRICITY TO BRING PROSPERITY

Writing in Public Utilities Fortnightly, Raymond Francis Yates asks a question: "Will the Electric Utilities Lead Us Back to Prosperity?" In his opinion, the answer is yes.

He points out that after every depression some great industry has come to the fore. The clipper ships did this in the forties, the railroads after the Civil War, the automobile industry in 1920. And now the electric industry is our logical economic savior.

Mr. Yates points out two great and almost undeveloped fields for electricity: Use of power by domestic labor-saving machines, and electricity on the farm. Only a small part of our homes have electric sewing machines ironers, ranges and the like —even electric toasters, percolators and such common appliances are comparatively rare. With the single possible exception of the electric iron, the saturation point for any device is still far in the future.

On the farm, conditions are similar. A few farmers have power—an overwhelming majority have not. Yet, according to Mr. Yates, ten cents worth of electricity will churn 40 pounds of butter, separate 2800 pounds of milk and cream sharpen 12 axes, pump 4 days supply of water, and do four large family washings.

No other industry has greater possibilities than the electric, and no other has even shown a finer spirit of progress. It is not difficult to believe that the future prosperity will be largely the result of electrical developments.

Japanese Sacred Flower

The Japanese interpret the symbolism of the lotus as "the symbol of triumph over self; of extinction of the fires of passion; of abnegation and self-control." The flower is the token of all that is best in man and woman. It is the Buddhist emblem of death.

Always at Hand

Patience is the greatest of all shock absorbers. The only thing you can get in a hurry is trouble.—Thomas Dewar

Cistercian Robe

When the order of Cistercian monks was established in 1098 the habit was brown, but it was soon changed to white.

Measuring Instrument

A Westphal balance is an instrument for measuring the specific gravity of minerals, liquids, etc.

CANNERS SHOW INTEREST IN GRADING OF TOMATOES

Much interest is manifested by both canners and farmers in the new method of grading tomatoesintrdouced by F. M. Shook, field secretary of the Tri-State Packers' Association.

By this system, which is in operation in Indiana, California, and other States, tomatoes are classified as No. 1, or ripe, firm and red; No. 2, or one third not red, with long cracks; and culls, which are too green, decayed or mouldy.

For No. 1 tomatoes, it is customary to pay one and one-half times the price paid per basket on a flat basis and for seconds, one-half of the price paid for first grade fruit, the culls having no value whatever.

KEEP STEP WITH PROGRESS

With farmers more interested than ever in lower crop production costs, the subject of power equipment is deserving of much consideration. Just as the reaper cut as much grain in a day as 4 or 5 men with cradles of 12 to 16 men with reaping hooks 100 years ago, so tractors and tractor equipment are today enabling one man to double and triple his daily capacity for work. He has additional time available for planning and carrying out diversified farm operations building up the soil, improving the quality of live stock, and many other activities that result in better and more productive farming.

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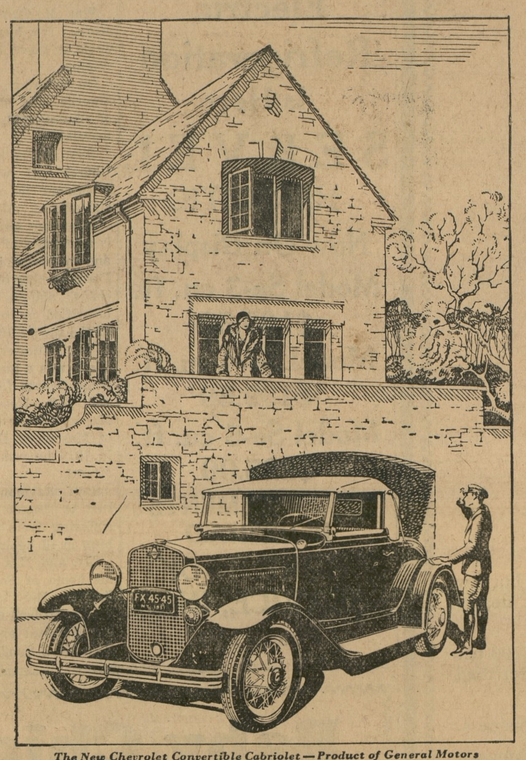
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