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FARM AND GARDEN

Feeding Discarded Lambs.

There are various ways suggested to make a ewe mother her own lamb or a twin from another ewe that has not enough milk for both.

Some advise whipping the ewe into submission, but this is very cruel and seldom satisfactory. When a ewe loses her own lamb and it is desired to make her own another it has been recommended to skin her own dead lamb and tie the pelt over the lamb that is to be adopted.

This plan is sometimes satisfactory if the ewe's sense of smell is not very keen, although it more often fails. Other breeders have tried tying a dog near by, claiming that the maternal instinct of the ewe will exert itself and it will own the lamb while trying to sheld it from the dog.

Perhaps the most satisfactory method when a ewe refuses to own her lamb is to fasten her in between hurdles.

This gives her a chance to eat and at the same time prevents her from turning around to butt the lamb. In such a position, however, the ewe will often lie down. This may be prevented by passing a light pole through the hurdles, resting it on the lower bars beneath her belly.

The ewe can be confined this way throughout the day, and if the lamb is at all lively he will manage to get enough to eat. The ewe should always be released at night.

A day or two of such confinement is often sufficient to bring an obstinate ewe to reason. Such hurdles can easily be made by any farmer, and it is well to have them on hand for just such emergencies.

Protecting Orchards from Frost.

Some of the South Texas orange growers have taken up the study of devices to protect orchards against winter cold. The California plan of burning oil in pipes laid throughout the orchard and perforated at intervals of 50 to 100 feet seems most likely to be favored in South Texas. This region has the oil at its door, and it is more easily handled than wood fires. It is a certainty that South Texas orange orchards ought to be given this protection, especially after the planting of other and more delicate varieties than the Satsuma becomes general. It may not be needed often, but once in two or three years, but at such times it will save orchards that, lacking this protection, might be ruined. The orchard fires in California, where oil is burned, and in Florida, where wood is handled and cheaper and therefore most generally used, are regarded as a legitimate and necessary charge against the business. Not all the growers make fires—there are some men in every business that delight in taking chances—but the majority of the best growers in both States, and especially in California, are prepared thus to save their orchard investments. —Houston Chronicle.

Profit in Sheep.

Sheep eat and thrive on weeds and material that other stock do not relish. Every fence corner, fence row and weed patch will be more completely cleaned by them than by the acyrie or hoe. A hundred sheep could be kept on any Western farm of eighty acres and one would scarcely miss the cost of their care and keeping. They return in fertilizers about 95 per cent of all they have eaten. There is an old Spanish proverb, "The sheep's foot is golden," originating doubtless from the fact that sheep enrich the soil. No expensive buildings are needed. Secure some good range ewes and a pure-bred ram of some breed, and in a few years an excellent grade of sheep will result. We know a man over on the Western slope who runs a little band of sheep on his home ranch and gives them very little attention, yet they keep the pasture free from weeds, and the returns from the lambs and the wool net a satisfactory profit. —Denver Field and Farm.

Bureau of Entomology.

The work carried on by the bureau relates entirely to injurious insects, and the direct object of this work is to discover remedial measures and to make them known to the public. The object of the work, therefore, is of the most practical character, and every effort is devoted to the practical end. It has been conservatively estimated that the United States suffers an annual economic loss from injurious insects of one kind or another of surely \$700,000,000. This estimate includes the damage done to agricultural industries, to live stock and to stored products, to forests and forest products, and to other property; but it does not include the economic loss to communities and to the nation through the lessening of the productive capacity of the population through the prevalence of diseases that are carried by the insects, such as malaria, typhoid fever, yellow fever, and possibly many others.

For Alfalfa Bleed.

If a case of alfalfa bleed is discovered in time an ounce of hypophosphite of soda, dissolved in water, and given as a drench will prove effective. This can be repeated every half hour for two or three doses. Two ounces of aqua ammonia, well diluted with water or common soda, in half ounce doses can be given. Many cases of bleed can be relieved by causing the animal to stand with the hind feet in a ditch and the fore feet on the bank, as this position causes belching. From two to ten minutes' time is required. Some people claim to have observed that experienced bleeders learn to get themselves into such a position for blowing off the burden. Blankets wrung out of cold water and wrapped around the abdomen or cold water dashed on with a bucket often gives relief.

Ground Corn for Hogs.

Owing to the very limited digestive capacity of swine for the consumption of bulky feed, corn cobmeal is not very satisfactory for purposes of swine feeding. This class of farm animals can use a much more concentrated feed than any other class and are much more inconvenienced by the presence of an excessive amount of crude fiber in rations, owing to their small stomach capacity. We should much prefer cornmeal to corn cob at that account. Breed sows or other hogs with plenty of framework could use a little corn cob meal to better advantage, but we see no particular reason in supplying it because such material contains practically no nutriment, and, while it is sometimes used to make a ration more bulky for sheep and cattle, it is a positive hindrance to swine.

Free Poem.

A North Missouri farmer whose boy was killed by a train wrote to the company's claim agent for a settlement. He penned his communication thus: "Dear Sir—My razorback stroffed down your track a week ago today. Your twenty-nine came down the line and snuffed his life away. You can't blame me, the hog, you see, slipped through a cattle gate, so kindly pen a check for ten, the debt is liquidated." He received the following reply: "Old twenty-nine came down the line and killed your hog we know, but razorbacks on railroad tracks quite often meet with woe. Therefore, my friend, we can not send the check for which you pine. Just plant the dead, place over its head, 'Here lies a foolish swine.'" —Wall.

Alfalfa Meal for Children Feed.

A combination of alfalfa meal, beef scraps, cut bone and a few other ingredients of minor importance makes the best food for chicks and laying hens that can be secured and would be more generally used, not so much labor involved in the preparation. As most egg foods contain these ingredients it follows that they must be valuable for the purpose for which they are compounded. With alfalfa meal a poultryman need not hesitate about keeping laying hens confined the year round if necessary for the meal is fully as valuable in maintaining health and productivity as the best natural grass. —Mail and Breed.

Care of the Heifer.

The treatment a heifer receives before freshening not only determines to great extent the character of the calf which she is expected to bring forth, but also influences largely her entire future life as a dairy cow. The time was when many people held fast to the opinion that if a dairy cow or heifer became fat her prospects for ever becoming a profitable producing cow were small, indeed. Experience has taught, however, that many of the best milk and butter records have been made by cows which had rested from four to eight weeks prior to freshening and had calved in strong, vigorous and rather fleshy condition. The feed given should be determined by the condition of the animal. If fat and in strong, vigorous condition, her feed need not be great in amount nor fattening in its nature. On the other hand, if she is poor she should be well fed with corn meal, alfalfa hay, oats, etc., with a view to building up all the nerve force, energy and power possible before parturition time.

Barbed Wire Reel.

Here is a device on which we can wind barbed wire which is much better than an old barrel. The reel is mounted on a truck made of old buggy wheels with short shafts. The cart may be drawn along by a man while a boy steadies the reel to keep it from unwinding too rapidly. For winding up wire the machine is best pushed just fast enough to keep up with the wire as it is being wound on the reel. A crank placed upon the reel proves serviceable in winding up. —Farm and Home.

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WHAT KIND OF FERTILIZERS?

Dr. Hopkins Discusses Content and Cost of Commercial Kinds as Compared to Simple Elements, and Shows Soil Needs.

The above topic was ably discussed by Dr. Cyril G. Hopkins, university soil expert, at the Rockford meeting of the Illinois Farmers' Institute. Here are a few of his ideas:

None of the commercial fertilizers contain more than three valuable elements of plant food, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. No soil in Illinois is deficient in more than one, or at most two, of these. Buy water if you can in time of drought, but don't buy nitrogen for general farm crops. The air has an inexhaustible supply of it, and it can be brought into the soil by clover and all leguminous crops. Potassium is very abundant in all normal soils of Illinois. Phosphorus is becoming deficient in most of the common prairie and upland timber soils, and it will be necessary to buy this element.

COMPARISON IN COST.

One ton of the most common commercial fertilizer contains about eighty pounds of phosphorus and costs \$25. Phosphorus costs 30 cents a pound in complete fertilizers, 12 cents in acid phosphate, 10 cents in steamed bone meal, and only 3 cents a pound in raw rock phosphate.

CAN'T AFFORD ENOUGH.

A sixty-bushel crop of corn removes from the soil about twice as much phosphorus, ten times as much potassium and twenty-five times as much nitrogen as would be applied in 200 pounds per acre of commercial fertilizer costing \$2.50; and this small quantity of the fertilizer—it is too expensive to apply as much plant food as the crop removes—acts in part as a soil stimulant and indirectly injure the soil. It also contains land plaster, a powerful soil stimulant. Commercial fertilizers enable the farmer to wear out his soil more quickly.

MUCH NITROGEN NEEDED.

Two tons of clover hay or eight tons of manure must be plowed under to supply the nitrogen for a fifty-bushel crop of corn, and whoever fails to do as much as that will finally have soil that will not produce fifty bushels of corn.

EXPENSE EQUALS COST FOR FIFTY-FIVE YEARS.

Heavy applications of commercial plant food have established the Rothamsted Experiment Station, England, to average thirty-seven bushels per acre of wheat for fifty-five years, but it took the thirty-seven bushels of wheat to pay for the plant food. Pennsylvania experiments for twenty-four years show the same thing. From all information the world affords, commercial fertilizers do not solve the problem of permanent agriculture in Illinois.

SOMETHING THE FARMER CAN AFFORD.

Less than a dollar an acre a year invested in raw rock phosphate, and applied once in five years, will make the soil grow richer in phosphorus the longer it is farmed. It must be plowed under with manure or clover. It is the original and natural phosphorus of the soil and will never injure the land.

Where potassium is needed for peaty swamp land and some very sandy soils, it can be applied most economically in potassium chloride.

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FRANK J. CHENEY.

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Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1896.

A. W. GLIBSON.

(Seal.) Notary Public.
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BIRDS AS MEN'S SAVIORS.
Without Their Presence Human Life on Earth Would Die Out.
Dr. Charles A. Babcock, originator of the bird day movement in the schools, which, by legislative enactment, has been taken up by the schools of twenty-one States, drew a gawwesome picture of life on the earth without bird life at the East Side settlement house, in East 79th street, last night, according to the New York Times. He based his predictions upon the fact that with man added to the natural enemies of birds their extinction would soon follow.
With a passing reference to the peril of this state from the gypsy moth, which is advancing from New England, Dr. Babcock drew a picture of man living on small oases harassed by a crawling creation, with his harvests and food gone.
"It should be realized," he said, "that without birds to hold in check the insects, vegetable life soon would cease and life for man would become impossible upon the earth. Birds are nature's check to the amazing power of insects to increase. If insect life were allowed free course it would soon overpower plant life, and, therefore, animal life, including that of man, would be impossible. This is an astounding conclusion, but it is the conclusion of science.
"If the birds were gone, very soon the leaves would disappear from the trees, and the limbs would be festooned with the webs of caterpillars or with masses of their nests. These would move from tree to tree, increasing by the million as they advanced. In the course of a few seasons there would be no trees.
"In the fields other species of insects would destroy the grain and the grain and all vegetable life, and the ground would be as if a sea of devouring mouths had passed over it.
"Man, by his utmost efforts, could preserve only small oases in this desert for a time. Then these would be overwhelmed and man himself would disappear."
Misunderstood.
The Tragedian—Yes, sir, I was called at the end of every act.
The Comedian—What did they call you?

GOVERNMENT LAND OPEN TO SETTLEMENT
Some of the richest and most productive farm lands in the world lie in the "Big Horn Basin" of Wyoming. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT is spending seven million dollars in building great concrete dams and ditches in order to lead an inexhaustible supply of water to irrigate some of the best of these lands and make them independent of rainfall. A great portion of this work is completed and

The Government Now Offers the Land to You
You have the opportunity to get from the Government a wonderfully productive farm, with water whenever you want it, regardless of rainfall; in a country where a single crop can be made to pay for the land; where 50 bushels of wheat or barley and 75 bushels of oats are commonly grown to the acre; where fruits grow luxuriantly and where the glorious air and sunshine, Summer and Winter, make life a joyous thing.

This wonderful country is developing fast. Churches and schools abound. The population is intelligent, God fearing and law abiding, and any man out there who is half a man has the opportunity to quickly make himself independent.

Land in this great country is going fast. If you have any thought for the welfare of your self or children, find out all about this offer from the United States Government.

We have Government folders with maps and description of the rich lands you can have, and I will send you a copy free, and explain to you how easily and cheaply you can go out to this country and see for yourself what the Government has done for you and yours.

Very low round trip rates on the Great and Third Tuesday every month. \$30.00 from Downers Grove.

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