

FARM AND GARDEN

PRODUCTION OF ONION SETS

Industry is Now Receiving More General Attention Than Formerly—Market is Wide.

(By W. K. BEATTIE.)

The term "set," as applied to the onion, indicates a small, undersized bulb which, when replanted in the ground, will produce a large onion. This method of producing onions is perhaps the oldest and now the most universally employed for the growing of small areas of onions in the garden and where an early crop is desired. The common method of producing sets is to plant a large quantity of seed on a small area of rather rich land and



Onion Sets Drying on Trays Piled in a Field.

thus procure a great number of bulbs that are undersized, owing to crowding and lack of plant food. The greater number of these bulbs do not attain sufficient size or maturity to produce seed the following season and are really plants in which the process of growth has been arrested.

In the United States the onion set industry is largely confined to a few areas. The crop is extensively grown near Louisville, Ky., Chillicothe, O., and Chicago, Ill., in the Platte River valley of Nebraska, in southwestern New Jersey and in southern California. The entire area devoted to this enterprise in these localities is estimated at from 2,500 to 3,000 acres. The yield to the acre varies with the locality, but the average about 300 bushels. The market for onion sets is found throughout the entire country, the greater portion being disposed of in small quantities.

The climatic conditions governing the production of onion sets are practically the same as those for standard onions, although it is not necessary to plant quite so early in the spring. Onion sets can undoubtedly be grown in any part of the northern states where suitable soil conditions can be obtained. The soil adapted to onion set culture is, as a rule, about the same as that required for the growing of large onions, except that the land should not be so rich.

SET ALFALFA BY MACHINERY

Experiments Made in Transplanting by Use of Machine Used for Tobacco and Tomatoes.

Prof. H. A. Hansen of North Dakota, who has introduced many hardy plants from Siberia for the department of agriculture, among them hardy strains of alfalfa, has been experimenting in transplanting the latter with a machine, using one employed for tobacco, cabbage, cauliflower and tomatoes. At five points in the state he set the plants at the rate of 6,000 an hour. At other points he set them with a plow. He thinks this will do away with dodder and injury from disking. Some of the Russian alfalfa plants when given room in the garden had 500 shoots from one crown. Over 1,200 farmers are co-operating with Professor Hansen and many reports are coming in showing their remarkable resistance to the drought of last year.

LETTERS FOR MARKING BAGS

Initials Can Be Made of Beets or Potatoes—Ordinary Shoe Blackening Used as Ink.

An initial marker for bags can be made of a beet or potato. Cut off enough of the vegetable to provide a flat surface of sufficient size and then cut out the letter as shown in the sketch, from the Popular Mechanics, and use shoe blackening as ink. In cutting, remember that most of the letters must be made reversed in



Initial for Bags.

order to print right. For example, in making a B, draw it out on paper and cut it out, then lay the face of the pattern on the flat surface of the vegetable and cut around it.

Average Fertilizer for Corn.
Use 300 to 1,000 pounds per acre of a fertilizer containing actual potash 5 per cent; available phosphoric acid 10 per cent; and nitrogen, 3 per cent. The plant food in a ton of fertilizer may be supplied in the form of 100 pounds of sulfate of ammonia, 100 pounds of superphosphate and 100 pounds of potash.

QUALITIES OF LITTLE QUAIL

Food Consists Largely of Seeds of Noxious or Troublesome Plants—Eats Scales.

(By F. E. L. BEAL.)

The natural food of the quail consists of the seeds of the vast number of plants known as weeds, with a little foliage of the same, especially in winter, when the leaves are young and tender. Considering how small is the amount of fruit usually found in the stomach of this bird, it is a surprise to learn that it sometimes does serious damage to vineyards. Investigation, however, shows that, as in most other similar cases, the injury results only when too many birds gather in a limited area.

Nearly all the complaints against the quail for eating fruit are that it visits vineyards in immense numbers and eats grapes. When thousands visit a vineyard, even if only occasionally, and each bird eats or spoils at least one grape, the result is disastrous.

In the laboratory investigation of the food of these quail 619 stomachs were examined. Animal food, principally insects, amounted to 3 per cent. of the food, and 97 per cent. vegetable food. This latter consists of seeds of plants, most of which are of noxious or troublesome species.

Ants appear to be a favorite animal food, but the quail will eat caterpillars, beetles, grasshoppers, flies, spiders, snails and scale insects.

In this connection the following extract from a letter from Dr. W. G. Chambers of Los Angeles is interesting:

"Last May during the hatching season one of my female quail died a week prior to completing the hatch. An incandescent light eight candlepower was substituted, the result being 15 baby quail, very wild at first, not understanding human sounds or language, but finally becoming as



California Quail.

docile as pet chickens. They were raised in my back yard, running at large after the first week. "A number of Marguerite bushes which grow in profusion in the yard were so infested with black scale that I had decided to uproot them and had postponed doing so as the little quail worked so persistently among the branches; upon investigation I discovered them eating the scale and twittering happily; they would swallow the fully developed scale and thoroughly clean the branches of all those undeveloped."

GARDEN and FARM NOTES

Peaty soils need fertilizers running high in potash.

Topping corn serves to materially reduce the yield.

A hive of bees makes a delicious thing to have about.

Early oats almost invariably yield more heavily than late oats.

The use of a tile under four inches in diameter is not to be recommended. There is little practical benefit resulting from the use of a mulch with wheat.

Spraying of potatoes with Bordeaux mixture is a preventive of potato blight.

Any impervious covering will check but not entirely prevent deterioration of silage.

Get that plover ready for alfalfa. Better double disk it again just for good luck.

You cannot keep your farm permanently productive without the use of legumes.

Don't put in the alfalfa seed too deep; and remember to roll it well after sowing.

A barnyard full of manure never produced a big corn crop until it was spread on the field.

Tobacco uses up a large amount of plant food and for that reason should be heavily fertilized.

Now and then old cisterns are used for silos and make good receptacles for preserving silage.

The average acre of corn will yield ten tons of silage while a good field will yield considerably more.

Running over a field with a disk does a great deal to restore capillary activity after land is plowed.

Sandy soils are usually deficient in most of the elements of fertility. Potash is especially lacking in such soils.

Keeping any machine well oiled and in proper repair not only increases efficiency, but decreases the amount of power required to run the machine.

DAIRYING DURING FLY TIME

Two Most Needed Things Are Sprayer and Repellent—Cool Blanket is Also Beneficial.

(By M. A. COVERDELL.)

A good sprayer and reliable fly repellent will pay for themselves about twenty times during the fly season, to say nothing of the comfort afforded the animals and the satisfaction you will derive from milking a quiet cow.

If you don't feel like investing in a spraying outfit, have your wife make you a long, cool blanket out of cheesecloth or some other light material and spread it over the cow while milking.

This, however, is beneficial at milking time only. The one thing that will prevent the flies from sucking the life blood and consequently the milk from the best of your herd, is to spray, and spray thoroughly while you are at it.

See that the cows have some sort of good shade. They simply cannot stand out in the scorching heat all day and do as well as they would if protected from the midday sun.

If natural shade is not available, it will take you but an hour or so to set some tall posts and make a satisfactory shade out of small brush, old straw or boards. The cows must have shade.

Too many farmers let their cows rustle water from foul sloughs or from a tank filled with water warm enough to wash dishes in.

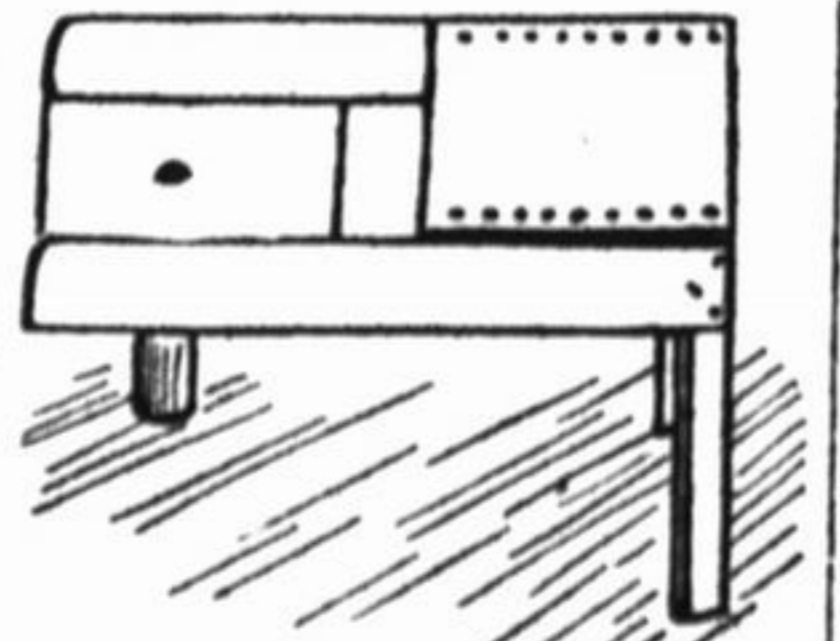
This is not merely a question of comfort and satisfaction to the cows. Neither is it necessary simply to add to your dairy products.

Sanitation demands that the principal element entering into the composition of milk be strictly pure—free from every vestige of disease or filth.

ANOTHER STOOL FOR MILKING

Directions for Making Light and Convenient Device by Anyone Handy With Tools.

In a recent issue I noticed some cuts of milking stools, so I thought I would send you a description of mine. I have used such a one for many years and find it very handy, writes A. O. Toune in the Wisconsin Agriculturist. The side pieces are of inch stuff, 3 inches wide by 20 inches long. The



Handy Milk Stool.

seat, 10 by 11 inches, is nailed across the top of the side pieces. The board for the pall, 8 by 11 inches, is nailed across the under side of the side pieces so that the pall is 4 inches lower than the seat of the milker. The back legs are 2-inch pieces, 11 inches long, and the front leg is a round piece attached by nailing a small piece of inch board below the pall rest, and boring a hole through both boards. This stool is light and handy, and easily made by a boy handy with tools.

Protect From Flies.

Remember that it takes as much energy and feed to fight flies as it does to grow a calf. Then will it not pay to cut out the flies by giving the calves access to a dark stable or shed, and also apply a little "fly dope."

You may rest assured that they will grow and lay on flesh twice as fast from now on if they are afforded a means of thus protecting themselves than they otherwise could possible do.

DAIRY NOTES

Don't give the calves too much skim milk these days.

Clean mud off of the cows' udders and flanks before milking.

The hand separator must be washed and scalded twice a day now.

The separator should never be allowed in the barn or near it.

Milk from a fresh cow is good for the table after the ninth milking.

Don't neglect regularity in milking just because other work is pressing.

A good cow is hard to buy nowadays. The only alternative is to raise her.

Never attempt to keep summer butter for early fall prices because it will not keep.

Cows fed well before turning them on a heavy forage crop will not be in danger of bloating.

Sometimes a dose of Glauber's salts will cure a case of bloody milk. Depends on the cause.

For a cow that refuses to let down her milk, a feed of something while milking is often helpful.

The production of high grade dairy products without a plentiful supply of ice is next to impossible.

A little hay for the cows to pick at will help keep the bowels in normal condition, while grass is watery.

Skim milk fed to shoats with grain is worth about 40 cents per 100 pounds at present prices of hogs.

Four ounces of paragon in two doses, given at over 24 hours apart, has been recommended as a cure for scours in cows.

A half dozen window sash glass will make a dustproof box in which the dairy vessels can be cleaned and kept absolutely clean.

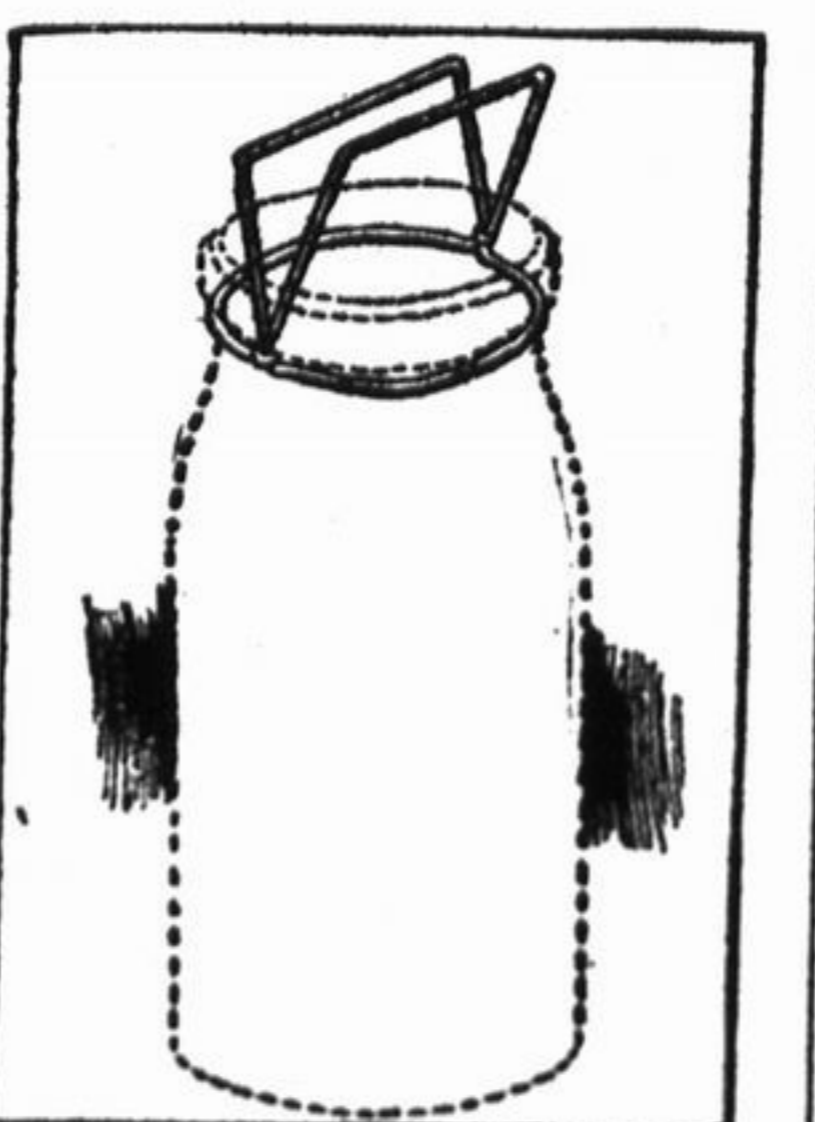
The DAIRY



HANDY MILK BOTTLE CARRIER

Wire Clips Instantly Engage Neck of Bottle and Can Be Released Almost Instantly.

A bottle-carrier particularly designed for milk bottles, but useful for others with large mouths or for jars, has been patented by a Maryland man. Two pieces of wire are bent into square form at one end and semi-circular form at the other. When connected the square ends form clips to engage the neck of the bottle. When these handles are spread apart the circle formed by the two clips is at its widest circumference and will eas-



Milk Bottle Carrier.

ily encircle a bottle. When the handles are pressed together the circle is compressed and grips the bottle, making it easy to carry. By setting the bottle down and releasing the grip the improvised handle can be released in an instant. The milkman will find plenty of use for this device.

INTEREST IN DAIRY FEEDING

Bulletin of Pennsylvania Experiment Station Discusses Matter in Most Thorough Manner.

To those of our readers who make a careful study of dairy feeding, bulletin 114 of the Pennsylvania experiment station will be very interesting. The principles in dairy feeding are gone into both in a theoretical and practical manner. In a rough way the following rules are laid down as good: 1. Feed grain in proportion to milk yields; that is, give her, for example, one pound of grain mixture per day for each three or four pounds of milk produced. 2. Feed all the roughage which the cow will eat up clean, up to the point where she gains too much weight. 3. Whenever she becomes too fat reduce the amount of roughage, leaving the amount of grain to be determined by the milk yield.

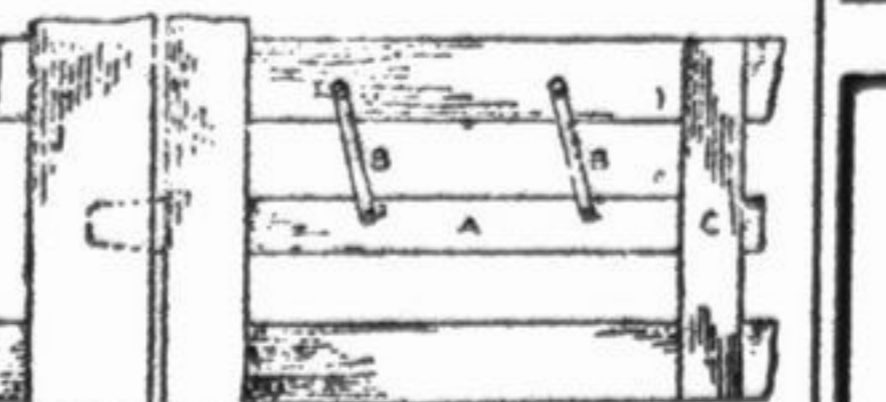
Food requirements for cows of different weights and cows producing different amounts of milk are given in tables. Most of our readers will find the methods as described in the bulletin extremely unscientific, but after they have studied it a little they will find it quite simple and, we believe, quite practical. Of all the experiment stations the Pennsylvania has done the most scientific work with feeding stock.—Pennsylvania Experiment Station.

LATCH FOR A SWINGING GATE

Illustration Given, Together With Directions for Making Convenient Little Farm Device.

A good latch for farm gates may be made as shown in the accompanying sketch. The slide, A, is suspended by the hangers BB, which are placed on each side of the gate. The back end of the latch works between the guides C and the front end between the end pieces of the gate. The slide engages with a slot in the gate post when the gate is shut.

The hangers BB are made in any convenient length. The holes are one-fourth inch in diameter and the bolts are used as fasteners. The holes for the hangers should be drilled one-third of the width of the latch from its top to make the largest



Latch for Swinging Gate.

part of the weight fall below the fastenings of the supports, writes Willard H. Elder in Popular Mechanics. The slide being in a horizontal position, it works better between the guides. When the slide is in the gatepost slot, the hangers should be at the angle shown, so that the weight of the slide helps to hold it in place.

The Farm Separator. The farm separator is too good a character for the calf to get along without.

THAT BOY OF YOURS—

We mean the little fellow—in knee breeches—is coming sooner or later to a point where an intimate acquaintance with a bank may be worth more to him than an inheritance of dollars and cents.

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