THE FARM FRONT
by John Russell

Clean your grain before harvest is a piece of advice you've probably heard before—but it's such an important matter that another reminder needs no apology. For the insects that lower the grade of your grain, and cause you a loss when you come to sell it, do not get into the bin along with the new grain. In most cases they're in there when you put in the new.

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Cleaning and spraying grain bins is insurance against such damage. Walls should be thoroughly swept down. Floors—especially the corners and between the studdings—should be swept and scraped. And it's a good idea to see to it that the sweepings are burned, since they are liable to contain eggs and larvae that might get back into the bins.

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Steel bins should be caulked to make them more weatherproof. Make wooden bins and granaries as tight as you possibly can.

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Walls, ceilings and floors should be sprayed with a five per cent DDD emulsion applied at the rate of one gallon per one thousand square feet. Or you can make a 2½ per cent DDD spray by adding two pounds of DDD wettable powder to five gallons of water. This mixture should be applied at the rate of two gallons per thousand square feet.

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A problem that frequently comes up on various farms is how to kill stumps and prevent resprouting. The following suggestions will be—I hope—of value.

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Ammate (ammonium surfamate) has been successfully used in many places both to kill tree stumps and to stop any resprouting. On freshly cut stumps it can be applied dry at the rate of about one ounce per inch of tree diameter.

* * *

You can also use this ammate as a spray for stump sprouts or weeds by dissolving it in water at the rate of one pound per gallon of water. It should be applied on cool, cloudy, moist days when plants are growing rapidly. Spray sprouts or weeds until they are thoroughly wet.

Many sorts of stump sprouts can also be killed with 2, 4-D, 2, 4, 5-T or a mixture of the two. As 2,4-D is the cheaper, you might try it first. Then if the sprouts do not react, try 2, 4, 5-T or a mixture of both. A mixture often gives better results than either chemical used by itself.

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The fact that damp hay can cause a fire is well known to almost everyone living in a farming community. Yet for all that over half of all farm fires start in the haymow. And the critical period for spontaneous combustion fires is generally about a month after hay is put into the barn.

* * *

How can you tell if your hay is getting too hot? Usually you can smell a strong burning odor in the barn. Later a steam-like vapor may rise from the hay.

* * *

Surest system though, is to take the temperature of your hay. This can be done easily with an ordinary dairy thermometer. A 10- or 12-ftt. piece of pipe, large enough to lower the thermometer into, is driven into the hay. The thermometer then is dropped into the pipe on a piece of string.

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A pointed plug in one end of the pipe will simplify the job of driving the probe into the hay. And a series of three-eighths-inch holes drilled in the pipe just above the plug, will give you a more accurate reading.

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Good quality hay seldom will reach a temperature of more than 120 degrees. If the temperature gets up around 160 degrees, check the hay frequently. And if hay temperature reaches above 200 degrees, fire is almost sure to follow.

* * *

What can be done about hot hay? Your first thought may be to remove it as quickly as possible. Don't do it—unless you have the fire department standing by.

* * *

First thing to do is find out how much hay is involved. Maybe only a load or two is heating dangerously. Check with your probe and thermometer to find out how widespread the danger is.

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When you've got the hot spot located, don't throw water on it. That will only increase the danger by wetting previously dry hay.

* * *

Liquid carbon dioxide, which you can get at most drug stores, can reduce the temperature of heated hay as much as 100 degrees. Hay can be dosed with it through the same pipe you used to check temperature.

* * *

Whenever you're checking suspiciously warm hay, avoid inhaling the fumes from it. And whatever you do, don't fall into a spot that has been charred out. Walk on a plank laid across the hay. Or tie boards to your feet so you have extra support.

* * *

Actually, most haymow fires could easily be prevented. Crushing stems in the field so hay dries evenly is one solution. Another is to dry hay artificially in the mow.

* * *

Or store your hay in small quantities and provide good ventilation. Mows containing 10 tons or less are not likely to heat much.

* * *

Thorough curing in the field, of course, means loss of valuable leaves. But overheating—aside from the danger to buildings and livestock—can wipe out just as much nutritive value.

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Can you tell when hay is safe enough to put it into the barn? Farm specialists say it's safe if moisture content is under 30 per cent.

* * *

A good home-made test still is the old system of twisting a handful of stems in two. If no moisture appears, the hay probably is safe enough to put into the mow.

I didn't accuse anyone of cheating: I just said I hoped they would play the hands I had dealt them.

Brough Triumphs—Margaret Dupont (left) of Bellevlue, Del., congratulates Louise Brough, after Miss Brough defeated her to win the Wimbledon Women's Singles Championship for the third straight year. Later, she teamed up with Mrs. Dupont to win the Women's Doubles. Still later, with Eric Sturgess of South Africa, the rugged Miss Brough achieved victory in the mixed doubles championship match.

HOW CAN I?

By Anne Ashley

Q. How can I relieve the painful sting of a mosquito?

A. Bathe the affected part with spirits of camphor, or with witch-hazel.

Q. How can I make a water filter?

A. Cut a hole in a shelf so that by inverting an ordinary lamp chimney, it will pass about halfway through the hole. Fasten securely to the lower end of the chimney about three thicknesses of cheesecloth; then stuff in absorbent cotton to the depth of three or four inches. Renew the cheesecloth and cotton as often as necessary.

Q. How can I keep moths away from garments that are stored in wardrobes, trunks and in a chest of drawers?

A. Pour a little turpentine into the corners of these containers.

Q. How can I improve the flavor of coffee?

A. Try sprinkling a little salt on the bottom of the coffee pot before the coffee is put in.

Gold Changed Into Lead In Transit

Armed guards stood by at a London airport the other day, when more than £1,000,000 worth of gold was loaded on to a Belgian Dakota. Facked in 54 steel crates, it was taken to the airport in a Bank of England van and later flown safely to the Bank of Brussels.

Transporting gold by air, sea and land can be a tricky business. A man who has flown more than £7,000,000 worth of gold bars, six-foot-tall Jelke Braaksma employed by a Dutch air line, says: "It's quite a responsibility, but I never worry. The gold bars are not actually packed; they are usually left loose, because they are easier to handle that way."

Aircraft are about the safest means of carrying gold long distances, although a large consignment once vanished mysteriously during transit from Baghdad to Croydon by air. Treasure-ships of the air are sometimes used in America to transport gold from a bank's headquarters to remote branches.

The transport of two billion dollars worth of gold from San Francisco to Denver, Col. (nearly 1,000 miles), proved a gigantic task. Three hundred sharpshooters, postal inspectors and police were on duty round the old Mint in San Francisco and 200 macine-guns bristled from all adjacent buildings as a dozen armed mail trucks backed up to the Mint's loading platform. Each was loaded with a ton of gold.

The only audible voices as this took place were those of two beggars asking: "Brother, can you spare a dime?"

In caravan formation and surrounded by troops, the trucks moved off to the railway station, their way being blazed far ahead by powerful searchlights. Infinite precautions were taken at the station in transferring the immense wealth to a train of armoured coaches.

When gold goes by sea it is loaded into a liner's strong-room only at the last minute before the ship is due to sail. This is to thwart any desperate gang who might decide to have a shot at getting the gold.

In 1924 a vast quantity of gold was sent from Salisbury, Rhodesia, to Cape Town. It left Salisbury in a huge steel safe, which was carefully stowed away in the bullion room of a liner sailing from Cape Town. But when the gold reached London, its final destination, and was escorted to the offices of a bank, the officials had a nasty shock. It was found that lead had been substituted for about $50,000 worth of the gold.

Police are still looking for that gold—and the men who stole it.

How to FIX-IT
BY HAROLD ARNETT

PLANT SPACER - A MOTORCYCLE WHEEL FITTED WITH LUGS MAKES A SIMPLE PLANT SPACER. BOLT OR WIRE THE BLOCKS TO THE WHEEL, SPACING THEM EQUAL DISTANCES APART, AND PUSH WHEEL WITH TWO WOODEN HANDLES.

SPORTS
by A Sixbit Critic

A writer in the latest issue of the News Bulletin, put out by the Toronto Anglers' and Hunters' Association, brings up a point which should be of interest to many who—unthinkingly—do harm to the very creatures they try to befriend and protect.

* * *

Not long ago a friend brought to that writer a small, young bird which he had found in a stoney feld near a body of water. From its long spindly legs and marked grey down it was soon identified as a baby sandpiper.

* * *

The baby bird had been caught with the best of intentions—its captor believing that it had been deserted by the mother bird. Which brings up the point that has been stressed by all fish and game departments lately—that persons in the out-of-doors **should not handle or capture the young of any wild creature.**

* * *

This is because, in many cases—such as that of a young deer—it will be deserted by the mother should she detect on it any trace of human scent. The mother, although you do not happen to see it, is in all probability hiding nearby where you catch the young one, and if the juvenile is left strictly alone she will soon return. But—if you handle it—the chances are that she will have nothing more to do with it.

* * *

Every year there are many incidents where kindly and well-meaning folks feel that they are doing a good deed when they rescue the young of some moose, deer or bird from apparent desertion, when, as a matter of fact, they are really doing harm. And it is also pointed out that it is against the law to take the young of any wild life in the closed season unless you are certain that the mother has been killed by some accident. Even in such cases it is best to get in touch with the local game warden as quickly as possible.

* * *

Down at the Polo Grounds in New York this Sunday (July 30) they are going to throw another of those "Old Timers' Days," featuring some of the Giants of 20 or so years ago up against their ancient and bitter rivals of the same vintage, the St. Louis Gashouse Gang.

* * *

It should be interesting—even if a bit painful to those who remember them in the days of their greatness—to see Mell Ott, Blondy Ryan, Hughie Critz, Pepper Martin, Joe Medwick, Leo Durocher, and all the rest of them in uniform once more, even if some of them are liable to bust a gusset trying to reach down for a grounder, or require oxygen treatment after a dash all the way from home plate halfway to first base.

* * *

On the mound, as opposing starting hurlers, will be Carl Hubbell for the Giants, and Dizzy Dean for the St. Louis crew. And while baseball has long been marked by keen pitching rivalries, there are few that have matched the spectacular duels which involved this particular pair. Maybe Cal Hubbell wasn't the greatest southpaw that ever lived; but we wouldn't mind making a small wager that you can't name three better. In fact, we wouldn't mind making the same bet with regard to Dizzy Dean, as a right-hander.

* * *

The Dizzy one broke into big league ball with a bang. Gabby Street was manager of the Cardinals back in 1932 when Dean arrived and the newcomer was so cocky and brashly self-confident that before many days had passed everybody on the team, from manager down to water boy, was longing to see him get his come-uppance.

* * *

The chance to see that he got just that, and in plentiful measure, came on after he joined the team. In an exhibition game the Philadpelhia Athletics were giving the National Leaguers a terrific mauling and Dean — sitting on the bench — kept saying: "I jest wisht I was in there a-throwin'."

* * *

Manager Street heard what he was saying and made up his mind to give the fresh busher the lesson of his life. Waiting till the A's had the bases loaded, with nobody out, he turned and yelled at Dizzy: "Get in there and pitch—and I hope you get your brains knocked out."

* * *

Nothing abashed, Dizzy confidently strode to the plate and calmly fanned in succession—read 'em and weep— Al Simmons, Jimmy Foxx and Black Mike Cochrane, about as dangerous a trio as ever loaded a side with potential dynamite. Right away the Cards knew that while Dean might be the world's champion sounder-offer, he also had something to sound-off about.

* * *

Hubbell was a little slower in making his true worth apparent to the Giants; but when he did—well, for years he wwas known as Manager Bill Terry's Meal Ticket, which was no bad description. One of the really outstanding double-headers of all time was the one in which Hubbell and Dean took part, although not as opposing moundsmen.

* * *

This was on July 2, 1933, when the Cards and Giants were scheduled to play twin bill. Hubbell pitched the opener against Tex Carleton. It was a honey of a battle all the way, with Jess Haines taking over from Tex Carleton in the sixteenth.

* * *

For inning after inning Hubbell mowed them down just about as fast as they got up there. In the eighteenth inning a New York run trickled across the plate, and that was all Cal needed. He won by a score of 1 to 0, giving up only six hits, fanning 12 and issuing not a single pass.

* * *

Dizzy Dean went to the mound for the Cards in the second game, with Roy Parmalee serving them up for the Giants. It was another magnificient pitching battle, the only run of the game coming when Johnny Vergez teed off on one of Dean's pitches for a homer. Two games—twenty seven innings—and only two runs scored. And still they try and tell us the ball isn't any livelier than it used to be.

* * *

Altogether Dean and Hubbell pitched against one another a total of ten times—with the great left hander triumphing on six occasions. Sunday, they'll be facing one another again. Wonder what they'll be thinking about, even if it's only an exhibition affair? Probably wishing that Old Father Time would get busy and shift twenty or twenty-five years off their respective shoulders. Well, there are lots of others—and not by any means all ball-tossers—who have that sort of hankering once in a while.

When people start throwing mud they can't be standing on firm ground.

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