

# HAS LARGEST APPLE ORCHARD IN ALL WESTERN MICHIGAN

J. R. Merritt of Maaniste, is the owner of the largest apple orchard in all Western Michigan. It is located near Maaniste and comprises 175 acres. Mr. Merritt has other orchards besides this large one, so that he starts the new one with the assurance that in a few years it will be a big paying proposition. The soil of the new orchard is light, much like most of the soil of western and northern Michigan, but it is doing well with all fruit.

Mr. Merritt, during the years the orchard is coming to maturity, utilizes the land between the rows of apple trees by raising other crops, usually using a leguminous crop in order that the soil shall be enriched at the same time it is producing a paying crop. In many instances in western Michigan the cost of the land is so high that it is not profitable to keep it harvested from this secondary crop which in other years the farmers and fruit growers never thought of, or at least never bothered with.

From the moment his apple trees are sent out, Mr. Merritt's farm hands give them the care that is now known to be necessary to produce a crop that will keep in the best of health. Spraying and pruning and other forms of nurturing are carried on in the most approved manner. Mr. Merritt personally supervising the work to know that his orchard property is getting proper care. Some of the trees in the big orchard are now three years old. Any inclination to bare, and many of the trees this year would have borne small apples were they given any chance. In Michigan, the strength of the trees being forced into the body and further growth.

Mr. Merritt is one of the most enthusiastic apple men in Michigan, one of those who believe the only way Oregon or Washington has it over Michigan is the question of apples is in their care in harvesting and shipping. The campaign of education now going on in this state, he believes, will in another year or two show Michigan growers that it will pay to take great pains not only in growing the fruit, but in picking, packing and shipping it.

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## BUY WEXFORD LAND.

More Wexford county and Illinois has been sold in Wisconsin and Indiana in the past five weeks than in several years past. The land has been sold by the Williams Brothers company of Cadillac on what is known as potato contracts. The purchaser is not required to pay a cent down on the land, but is obliged to sign a contract which stipulates that he shall plant a certain number of acres each year to potatoes and shall pay a certain percentage of his crop to the Williams Brothers company.

The buyer must clear a certain number of acres each year. By this contract the company either gets its pay for the land or gets the land back in a perfectly cleared state. Recent buyers of the land are G. C. Kunkler of Wheaton, Ill., who purchased 40 acres; William Hoff and William Hoff of Hume, Mo., who bought 100 acres; Edgar McCoy of Plymouth, Ill., 40 acres; W. Griffin, a Wisconsin man, 40 acres; Terry Nash of Decatur, Mich., who bought 80 acres.

## LEADS ALL CORN GROWERS.

Homer Fletcher, son of F. A. Fletcher, living on a farm near Lyons, has been awarded the great honor of leading all the corn growers of the state in the extent of yield, having to his credit a yield of 175 bushels of corn per acre. The young man, fifteen years old, has received a letter from Governor Ferris that would make any boy proud. It reads: "We have learned through your French of the Michigan Agricultural college, that there are some real corn growers in Michigan. He told me that you had raised 175 bushels of

## IMPROVEMENT OF THE FARM

Winter is Good Time to Look for Leaks and for Space to be Utilized to Better Advantage.

The business man is constantly going through his factory or stock looking for places where there is a leak or where he can utilize space or material to better advantage than before. It seems almost impossible to induce farmers to work along similar lines, yet there are hundreds of farms

## BUILD COLD STORAGE HOUSE

Simple Structure May Be Erected at Small Cost—Place for Keeping Milk, Butter and Fruit.

While many farmers consider an ice-house a luxury which is not for them, a building may be erected at small cost, and if the ice can be had for the cutting and drawing, it will be found profitable. Even in sections where ice is scarce such a structure would be worth all it cost to a fruit grower who

Negatives where he was engaged in the jewelry business. During the last few years he became interested in chicken raising and after much experimenting and study he purchased the place he now owns on Platte street, Niles, and has commenced operations in earnest. He has been highly successful and hopes to put Niles on the chicken map.

Lephors are the variety Mr. Orr is chiefly interested in, although his flocks include several hundred Rhode Island Reds.

## GRAPE BY PARCEL POST.

At Lawton they have discovered that grapes can be shipped anywhere in the first and second zones by parcel post, at a rate of from 50 to 150 miles, for 12 cents for an eight pound basket. Just now 65 men are at work in the grape juice factory at Lawton, with 70 in the Armour plant at Mattawan. Each factory will use from 150 to 200 tons of grapes. Prices have come up to ten cents for the eight pound basket, the juice factories curtailing the shipments and causing a scarcity.

## TURN THE MINT UNDER.

Seventy teams will be used on the Beebe mint farms in Cass and Berrien counties to plow under 1,500 acres of mint. All are either old or young, but turned under every year by the successful growers. Muck lands are porous and an ideal place for insects, but by plowing them they are turned to the surface and exposed to the frosts which kill them. In time the mint lands lose some of their fertility, and the properties which go to make peppermint gradually wear out. To remedy this the Beebe use potash at a rate of about one hundred pounds to the acre.

The Beebe mint muck land owners the value of their holdings when properly treated. A sample of what is done in the way of increasing the value shown by an existing mint in the neighborhood of Baroda where



Three-Year-Old Apple Tree on the Merritt Orchard in Maaniste County.

he purchased a tract of unplowed muck land at \$30 an acre. Three years afterwards the tax commission raised the value of the property to almost one hundred dollars an acre, and land which was bought for \$2400 has grown to be worth \$71,000 in three years. Today the farmers in the two counties where the mint grows have shown the possibilities in the industry are picking up the muck lands as fast as they can be made tillable by drainage, and they have higher prices for their crops.

At Decatur the mint is turning out so well that Dowagiac tinsmiths cannot keep up with the orders for cans for storing the mint. Many have placed orders with Lawton tinsmiths in order to get a supply. All this comes from lands which a few years ago were considered absolutely valueless.

## POTATO SEED FROM WEXFORD.

In a short time three potato experts from the Michigan Agricultural college will go to Wexford county and secure a quantity of fine potatoes grown in that region. The potatoes will be sent to the counties of Southern Michigan to be used as seed. Southern Michigan farmers are having trouble this year with diseased potatoes and it is because the tubers in the Michigan of Canada are so free from disease that the agricultural college authorities are to select the seed from Wexford county.

## WHOLESALE CHICKEN RAISING.

A. R. Orr who went to Niles a short time ago from Negaunee, has purchased an outfit with capacity for 10,000 eggs, and expects to go into the chicken business on a larger scale than he has ever before been carried on. He has received orders from Michigan farmers are having trouble this year with diseased potatoes and it is because the tubers in the Michigan of Canada are so free from disease that the agricultural college authorities are to select the seed from Wexford county.

## SHIPPING THE GRAPES.

The grape growers in the vicinity of Glenwood send their crops to a broker in Chicago, who evidently is acting for some juice factory, as the crop all goes from Glenwood in jumbo baskets by freight. There are 200 cars attached. There will be at least 150 tons shipped from Glenwood in this manner, each car containing about twenty tons.

The Hampton Stock Farm company and Herbert Hampton will have about half of the shipment, or about 75 tons, which the purchase includes A. R. Picher's vineyard, and H. V. McCumber's, which will make about a million more. Others may conclude to ship in the same manner. A good vineyard will produce from two to four tons, and some this year will give an even better crop. The price of \$22 a ton is being paid around Glenwood, on board the cars, and the grapes are well satisfied with the figure they get out of the grape crop and will continue it as long as that price is maintained.

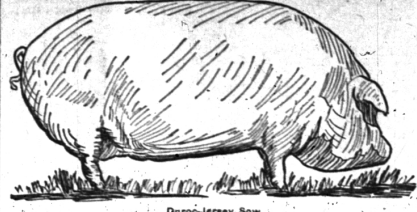
## KEEPING COLTS IN THE BARN.

Keeping colts in the barn during the winter is a natural process, but it is hard on them that are not well cared for. Plenty of good feed and keeping down the lice and mites helps to get the best out of the winter. If they don't begin to lay before real cold weather the chances are they'll lose a lot of their energy, and that's more expensive than a little "fuzzing" now.

Feed Pig Liberally.

The pig should be liberally fed, but not so that it will not be ready for its feed at the appointed time. Remember that the pig is developing bone and muscle. Give him plenty of exercise

# CHIEF FACTORS IN PRODUCTION OF EGGS



The chief factors in the production of eggs are breeding, feed, water, exercise, shelter, mineral matter, disease, parasites and environment, according to live stock specialists of the United States department of agriculture. Intelligent feeding and sanitation include most of the essentials of success in making the production of pork profitable. In the first place, however, pork cannot be profitably produced by the use of scrub breeding stock. But, given good pigs and careful feeding, pork production is a safe and profitable business proposition.

There are three general classes of feeding, as follows: Dry-lot feeding, feeding on dairy by-products and feeding on forage crops. Dry lot feeding means feeding in confined pasture means native pasture, as blue grass, etc. Forage crops include alfalfa and the crops which require to be planted each year, and dairy by-products are skim milk, whey and butter-milk.

The value of a ration depends on its meeting the needs of the animal to which it is fed. A balanced ration is one in which is supplied enough but not too much food nutrients to supply the needs of an animal for 24 hours.

A ration for a young, growing animal requires a larger percentage of protein than one for fattening or for mature animals. The amount of protein in age and size of the animal to be fed will depend on the rate of gain desired. If rapid gains are sought, a full ration of grain should be used, but in raising stock for desirable ends, with the legumes, and with the non-legume plants the use of a small percentage of tankage and oil meal will be sufficient. The amount of feed will depend on the rate of gain desired. If rapid gains are sought, a full ration of grain should be used, but in raising stock for desirable ends, with the legumes, and with the non-legume plants the use of a small percentage of tankage and oil meal will be sufficient.

## MAKING MONEY BY RAISING FEW SHEEP

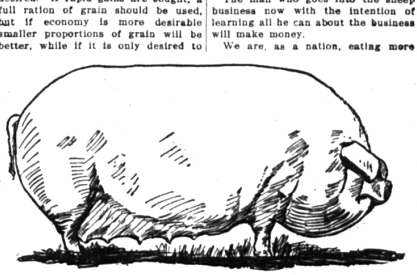
Experienced Breeder Can Tell Good Mother at Glance—Dorset Lambs Mature Quickly.

Rushing sheep to market before they are fat is one way of throwing away their feed.

What a pity that the age of a sheep by its teeth, never buy ewes without taking along some man who does know.

There is an individuality in ewes as in other farm animals, and the experienced breeder can tell a good mother at a glance.

There is a lot of sheep business gone out of the sheep business now with the intention of getting it back, and we will in this event, pay the freight both ways. This Starck Piano must make good with you, or there is no sale.



Chester White Sow.

White every year, but there are fewer sheep raised every year.

No animal on the farm succumbs to disease as quickly as sheep, but they are not difficult to keep healthy.

Corn silage is pretty strong feed for sheep, particularly breeding ewes.

The Dorsets make good mothers and the lambs are good eaters.

Every farm of ten acres or more ought to have a flock of sheep. They are worth their weight in wool.

Do not make the sheep-pen too close. It should be well ventilated and perfectly dry on the floor.

A good floor is made by a foot or more of cobblestones, finished with coarse gravel, the whole thing to be elevated slightly above the surrounding ground. No dampness will arise from such a floor or be on it.

A sheep does not mind cold weather as long as it is not wet weather.

Nothing better than turnips for sheep, and nothing is more easily raised.

## Just Horses.

The farmer who buys horses for his own use has a great deal to learn about farming.

No animal on the farm grows into money more quickly than a well-bred colt.

A colt at \$7 is dearer than one at \$50, provided the mare is well bred.

A horse weighing 1,600 pounds is about the size of a farm horse. He should be no heavier.

## Ration for Fattening Lambs.

Lined meal is a good ration for fattening lambs, but cottonseed meal is better.

## Help the Molting Hen.

Molting is a natural process, but it is hard on hens that are not well



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