FARM STOCK

KEEP PRODUCERS INFORMED

Farmers Advised to Study Market Reports In and Out of Season to Keep Posted.

(Prepared by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

How can the farmer and stock raiser turn the live stock reports of the bureau of markets, United States Department of Agriculture, into dollars is frequently asked.

The answer is for the farmer to get so much information out of the reports that he can conduct his breeding, feeding and marketing operations a little more intelligently in the future, and therefore more profitably than in the past.

Market reports are history, and the chief value of history is the basis which it provides on which to forecast the future. In other words, what has happened in the past will probably occur again under the same or similar circumstances.

Small benefit is generally derived from reading a single market report or one covering a short period of time. Markets move in cycles, and the man who would keep informed must follow them diligently in season and out. This is a matter of particular importance to the stockman, because his business is, to an unusual degree, a long-time speculation. He must prepare now and lay his plans today in light of what he thinks the market will be anywhere from six months to two years hence. But how will the department's reports assist him in doing this?

First of all, he should take into account potential supplies of the particular class of live stock in which he is interested. Assume that cattle is his line. The monthly report, Stock at Stockyards, gives the number of cattle and calves marketed from month to month through 65 central markets. If such movements are unusually heavy for any considerable time, it may indicate a cattle shortage during the next year or two, and a shortage of any commodity usually means higher prices.

This same report also shows the number of cattle and calves that went back to the country as stockers and feeders. If such movements were exceptionally light, it would help to confirm the belief that a comparative shortage in cattle was impending. On the other hand, heavy stocker and feeder shipments would go a long way toward neutralizing the importance of

Market Reports Are Read With Much Interest by Progressive Farmers.

the heavy receipts, for the stockmen would know that most of these cattle going back to the country must be returned to market during the next few weeks or months and enter consumption channels.

Having established in this fashion a broad basis for his operations, let us assume the stockman is feeding a lot of steers for the market. He must now give market reports more careful and persistent attention than before. It is quite important that he know what kind of cattle are in best demand on the principal markets. If there is a steady inquiry for heavy finished cattle, and that kind are selling at a premium over lighter weights, it will probably pay him to "feed his cattle out," unless the cost of feed is exceptionally high.

If, however, conservative demand seems to be drifting steadily toward lighter retail cuts of meat, or because of general business depression or some other cause, is centering chiefly on the lower and cheaper grades, he may find it more profitable to market his cattle at an earlier age and before they have attained great weight.

Abundant information along this line will be found both in the live stock market reports and the reports dealing with meat-trade conditions in the large consuming centers.

In this connection the stockman will also be interested in keeping advised as to whether the slaughter of meat is increasing or decreasing and whether the movement applies equally to all classes of meat, or whether slaughter of beef is decreasing while that of some other class is increasing. This information is obtainable from the statistical report covering the live stock and meat situation, which is based on the federal meat-inspection reports of the bureau of animal industry and is also published monthly by the bureau of markets.

Keep Hogs on Forage.

Keep hogs on forage the year round. Feed a balanced ration. Look after lice, worms and diseases. The hogs will do the rest.

Oats Good for Sows.

A good feed for a brood sow as well as for growing pigs is ground oats. Breeders are making wide use of oats for breeding stock.

Immunize Spring Pigs.

Be sure to immunize spring pigs to protect them from cholera.

FAMILY AUTOMOBILE FURNISHES CHANCE FOR WEARY FARM WOMEN

Why Not Take the Ice Cream Freezer Along?

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Among 8,700 farm women, seven-eighths reported "no vacation" in a survey of the northern and western states recently made by the states relations service, United States Department of Agriculture. A good number mentioned scattered "days off" in the family automobile, which apparently offered the chief means of diversion from the routine work of the home.

Lunch Easy as Possible.

There should be a deliberate effort during the out-of-doors months to seize every opportunity for providing the mother of the family with this or other means of relaxation. A whole day without cooking, dishwashing, sewing, or any of the heavier home tasks goes a long way toward resting weary muscles. But "Mother" is very apt to reform that even a picnic meal is a good deal of bother to prepare beforehand, that sandwiches take time to make, and that a meal out-of-doors never seems as hearty as one at the table. "Mother" must be persuaded that when everyone lends a hand, and the right materials are chosen for the picnic lunch, it may be both easy and hearty and the change will do her a world of good.

If sandwiches are a bother, why take them? Any summer afternoon on the lazy, lovely Thames in England may be seen boating parties drawn up to the bank for the inevitable "tea," usually equivalent to a hearty supper. A sandwich is rarely seen. Bread and butter are passed, or the loaf of bread, with a knife, for individual helping.

Freezer Keeps Foods Cool.

A characteristic American addition to this simple luncheon, which can be gathered up with very little extra work, is suggested by the dairy division of the United States Department of Agriculture. Why not take a freezer full of ice cream along, or a frozen fruit pudding, since the work of freezing it is usually done by the children and not by "Mother"?

Elaborate baking should not be attempted in advance. When the ordinary supply of bread is being made a few raisins can be added to one loaf for a change at the picnic. Good "buns" can be quickly made of ordinary biscuit dough rolled out in a sheet, sprinkled with raisins or dates, cinnamon, and sugar, then rolled up like a jelly roll and cut into pieces a quarter of an inch thick. Dusting them with sugar and brushing with milk helps to brown them nicely while baking.

Frozen Fruit Pudding.

Any preferred fruit pulp and juice may be used in the following easy recipe, which makes a quantity sufficient to serve about five persons:

1 cup fruit pulp and 1 cup milk
1 cup fruit juice (strawberry, raspberry, peach, etc.) 1 cup sugar
black- A little salt
A few drops of lemon juice
1 cup cream

Heat the milk, add the sugar, and when the sugar is dissolved and the mixture cooled add the other ingredients.

Picnic dishes, cups, and tableware can hardly be dispensed with, though the mother of the family should not be permitted to "wash up" a single utensil. Paper will do wonders at a picnic. If everybody bears in mind that outings like this constitute "Mother's vacation," there will be an affectionate competition as to who shall attend to the few details of preparation and clearing up connected with the trip.

GOOD RINGS NEEDED TO AVOID SPOILAGE

Best Quality of Rubber Is of Great Importance.

Canning Demonstrators Have Proven That Color, Despite Popular Opinion, Has Nothing to Do With Strength of Band.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Spoilage of canned goods frequently has been traced to the use of poor rubber rings. The fruit or vegetable canned may be fresh from the garden, the jars and tops may be perfect and absolutely clean, the processing may be done in the right way for the right

Be Sure Your Rubber Bands Are Good.

length of time, but if the rubber rings are not reliable, much of the good work done goes for naught.

The best quality of rubber ring is needed by the housekeeper who uses any method of canning in which the ring is heated with the jar and its contents. If the rubber ring develops imperfections after it has been heated the required time, it is necessary to replace it and again process the jar. Canning demonstrators of the United States Department of Agriculture have been studying the requirements of a good rubber ring in order to eliminate this cause of canning trouble.

Tests of thousands of rings disclosed the fact that color, despite popular opinion, has nothing to do with the quality or strength of the rubber. A ring should be able to support a weight of 13 pounds without breaking.

To make a perfect seal, rubber rings should possess elasticity enough to take up the unevenness of the jar and the cover, and be strong enough to resist cutting when the seal is made. A ring that cannot be folded or pinched without breaking is useless for canning by methods in which the ring is heated (processed) with the jar and contents.

Baskets Useful for Bread.

Indian baskets or lacquer boats are being used for bread with or without doylies. They do not require special cleaning, and do not break easily.

Peanut Roast Recipe.

For a peanut roast, grind the nuts very fine, mix with breadcrumbs and hold together with beaten eggs. Season to taste and bake until brown.

Beads on Violin String.

Beads may be strung on a violin string.

HOME CONFECTIONS BIG AID

When Berries Are in Season, Firm Fruit Is Excellent When Dipped in Icing or Fondant.

Occasionally it happens that a jelly is too stiff or "tough" for the housekeeper to be proud of, for table use. As a confection, cut up in blocks and dipped in the sweet chocolate that comes for the purpose, the unsatisfactory jelly is more than redeemed, suggest home economics specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. Figs, dates, raisins, nuts, and marshmallows can also be dipped in chocolate to make wholesome confections for the children. Sweets of this kind are especially good as surprises in the monotonous school lunch box.

Another quickly made home sweet may be had when berries are in season. Firm berries, such as whole strawberries, black raspberries, blackberries, and also pieces of pineapple, or other fairly firm fruit are excellent when dipped in white icing or fondant, if they may be served within three or four hours. Here is a suggestion for "a little something" to serve with lemonade or grape juice at a club meeting.

DIFFICULTY IN DEEP FRYING

Secret of Success Is in Having Fat at Right Heat—Test by Using Piece of Bread.

Many people experience difficulty in deep frying. The secret of success lies in having the fat just the right heat. When ready for frying a thin blue smoke rises. A simple test is to drop in a small piece of bread. If it hardens immediately and does not change color quickly the fat is at the right temperature.

Household Questions

Creampuffs are delicious filled with whipped cream.

* * *

A rotary flour sieve will strain the cranberries finely.

* * *

Lettuce will keep fresh if wrapped in a wet cloth and put on ice.

* * *

An old mackintosh can be turned into a most useful apron for washing days.

* * *

To prevent cakes burning in gas ovens place water in a tin on the lower shelf.

* * *

Fish ohelet is an excellent dish for using a small amount of left-over fish. Serve with a border of hot diced buttered beets.

* * *

To remove iron rust, soak the stain in lemon juice, sprinkle heavily with salt and bleach four or five hours in the sun.

* * *

One of the greatest measures for disease prevention is the screening of houses in order to avoid the infection of food by flies.

* * *

When jelly refuses to thicken, put a grated carrot into a clean piece of cheesecloth and strain a few drops into the jelly pan. Then boil just a few seconds longer.

HOW TO FIGURE COST OF CROPS

Farmer Enabled to Compute for Himself Expense of Producing Various Crops.

REQUIREMENTS OF EACH CROP

If Precise Records Are Not Available on Labor and Material Expenditures Close Estimate Can Be Made of That Section.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Figures from which the farmer can compute for himself the cost of production of corn, corn for silage, wheat, oats, and hay, under given conditions, are presented in a preliminary report on labor and material requirements of those crops, recently issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. These figures cover the normal hours of man labor and horse labor and quantities of seed, fertilizers, etc., required per acre for each crop, as determined by surveys by the office of farm management and farm economics.

Apply Basic Factors.

The money cost is found by applying to these basic factors the current rates for labor, seed, etc. Inasmuch as it has been found that, in general, labor and material costs approximate 80 per cent of the total operating cost for these crops, it is easy to find this total when the labor and material costs are known.

The figures given represent average crop requirements for the regions where investigations have been made. If the farmer does not have precise records of labor and material expenditures for his own farm, he can estimate them pretty closely by taking the average for his own region as a basis and applying current rates for labor and materials, with due allowance for any unusual conditions that may exist in his own case. The method of computation is as follows:

1. Determine the total cost of labor and material per acre by applying current rates to the quantities of labor and materials obtained from the individual's own records, or, if such are not available, use those given in the table.

2. Determine the total operating expense per acre by dividing the cost of labor and material by the percentage figure given for each region.

3. Determine the total acre cost of production by adding the interest charge or the cash rent paid for the use of land.

4. To determine the cost per bushel or ton divide the total acre cost by the yield per acre.

The following example shows how this method worked out in figuring the cost of corn for silage on an Iowa farm:

	Amount	Estimated rate	Cost.
Man-hours	27.9	$0.35	$9.76
Horse-hours	65.8	.25	12.96
Seed, pounds	9.9	.08	.79
Manure, tons	2.2	2.00	4.40
Gasoline, gallons	2.8	.25	.70
Coal, pounds	14.1	.005	.07
Twine, pounds	3.6	.25	.90
Total labor and material (80 per cent of operating expense)			29.57
Total operating expense (100 per cent)			36.96
Interest on 1 acre of land ($200 at 5 per cent)			10.00
Total cost			$46.96

Average yield per acre, 9.8 tons.
Average cost per ton, $4.80.

VARIOUS CLUBS GOING GOOD

Reports of Returns of Work Done by Boys and Girls With Poultry and Other Lines.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Supervision of boys' and girls' poultry clubs by the United States Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with state agricultural colleges, was continued during the last fiscal year in seven states where there were 11,

Canning Club Girls Inspecting a Club Garden.

186 clubs with 29,480 members, of which 12,786 made reports from which the following totals have been compiled: Eggs set, 731,709; chicks hatched, 510,478; value of products sold, $94,701.32; value of stock on hand, $382,277.39; exhibits held, 712; members exhibiting, 5,615; prizes received, $9,681.11. A feature of progress was the improvement in quality of fowls bred by club members.

Mash for Young Fowls.

Young geese and ducklings should have a moist mash; that is, ground grains and their by-products mixed together with water.

Fed Sow After Farrowing.

Within a week or ten days after farrowing, the sow can profitably be fed all that she will eat up clean.

Save Garden From Weeds.

Don't let the weeds take your summer garden

SPRAYING CELERY TO PREVENT LEAF SPOTS

Application of Bordeaux Mixture Is Recommended.

Treatment Should Continue Throughout Growing Season and More Especially in Moist, Cool Weather—Apply With Pump.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Celery plants should be sprayed with bordeaux mixture every ten days to two weeks to prevent leaf diseases, which often seriously injure the crop for market purposes. These leaf spots occur generally in celery-growing districts in the United States during cool, rainy weather. Home-made bordeaux, composed of 4 pounds bluestone (copper sulphate) and 4 pounds stone lime to 50 gallons of water, is the cheapest and best fungicide for the purpose. The spraying should be begun while the plants are still in the seed bed and continued throughout the season. The spraying should be more frequent during moist, cool weather favorable to the development of the leaf spots

Healthy Stalk of Celery.

and farther apart in dry, hot periods. Apply the mixture thoroughly with a pump which will give a very fine misty spray that will cover the plants but not run down the stalks and thus disfigure the stems.

Since the disease is carried over winter on the seed and in the soil where diseased celery was grown the previous year, it is important that new soil be used in the seed bed or the old soil sterilized by steam, hot water or formalin solution and that disease-free seed be planted.

DON'T CROWD GROWING CHICK

Where Space Is Limited Youngsters Become Overheated, Causing Outbreak of Colds.

Growing chicks must not be confined to crowded quarters at night. If they are, they will become overheated and this, in turn, will lead to the development of colds of which it is very difficult to rid the flock and which may be carried along through the summer and fall, causing a serious outbreak of colds in the laying flocks the following winter.

How can one tell whether or not the chickens have enough room? One of the best indications is the condition of the plumage. If the plumage is bright and clean it is a good sign that the birds are doing well and have room enough. If the plumage is soiled by droppings, it is an indication that there is not room enough for all of them on the roosts, with the result that some are compelled to rest on the floor beneath the roosts and thus become soiled.

A trip to the growing houses after dark will also determine whether enough room is being provided. If there is hot space enough so that all the chickens can find room on the roosts, the quarters are too crowded and some of the chickens must be taken out. All can find room on the roosts comfortably and if the house is well ventilated, the quarters are not crowded and the youngsters should do well.

PROPER DRAINAGE ESSENTIAL

Heavy Application of Manure Will Go Long Way Toward Correcting Alkali Condition.

Drainage is the most important factor in alkaline soils in nearly all cases. Good drainage is an absolute necessity in alkali correction. When drainage is assured, a heavy application of horse manure will go a long way toward correcting the alkali condition. It may be necessary to apply some fertilizer carrying large amounts of potash. Corn is not the best crop to consider in handling alkaline soils, and oats or rye bring better results until the soils are completely brought back to normal conditions.

SWEET CLOVER IS SENSITIVE

Crop Seldom Makes Profitable Growth on Acid Soil—Proper Inoculation Important.

While it is claimed by some that sweet clover will grow on almost any kind of soil, it seldom makes a profitable growth on an acid soil. It is one of the most sensitive crops to this condition. An application of two tons of ground limestone or from two to three cubic yards of marl is usually necessary to secure a good crop on an acid soil. Proper inoculation is important.

ASPIRIN

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A Bad Outlook.

Wife (with newspaper)—It says here that a New York bridegroom fainted at his wedding.

Hub—The poor fish! What will happen to him when the first month's bills come in?—Boston Transcript.

Cuticura for Sore Hands.

Soak hands on retiring in the hot suds of Cuticura Soap, dry and rub in Cuticura Ointment. Remove surplus Ointment with tissue paper. This is only one of the things Cuticura will do if Soap, Ointment and Talcum are used for all toilet purposes. Advertisement.

Too Early.

"I have but one regret," exclaimed Caesar as he crossed the Rubicon; "I didn't have a chance to spin a toddle top."

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all feel the same if you shake into them some

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The Antiseptic, Healing Powder for the feet

So Easy to Use

Takes the friction from the shoe, freshens the feet and gives new vigor. At night when your feet are tired, sore and swollen from walking or dancing, sprinkle ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE in the foot-bath, and enjoy the bliss of feet without an ache.

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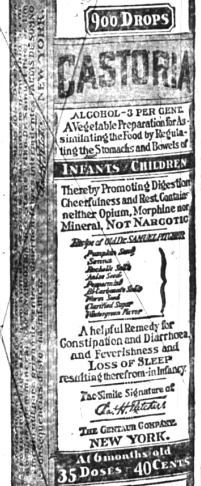

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SOMEWHAT HARD TO BELIEVE

Pointed Comment From the Audience Would Seem to Be Justified Under the Circumstances.

An earnest young man from a college settlement was addressing a company of fathers and mothers in the slums of Chicago on the subject of "Christmas in the Home," telling them of the ways in which the day might be made brighter although money was not plentiful. He had visited many homes in many cities and was well informed.

"I'm not talking about what other people have told me," he said genially; "it's what I know from my personal experience. I have seen over a hundred Christmas celebrations, and—"

"Me dear young man," came in a rich Irish-American voice from the rear of the room, "it's wonderfully preserved ye are for a man that old!"—Philadelphia Ledger.

Silence is sometimes golden and sometimes it indicates guilt.

PALMER'S LOTION

A HOUSEHOLD NECESSITY FOR BURNS, BITES, CUTS, ECZEMA AND ITCHING SKIN AND SCALP TROUBLES

ALL DRUGGISTS. GUARANTEED BY SOLON PALMER NEW YORK

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Just think, a 25c box of P. D. Q. (Pesky Devils Quietus) makes a quart, enough to kill a million Bed Bugs, Roaches, Fleas or Cooties, and stops future generations by killing their eggs, and does not injure the clothing. Liquid form. Bed Bugs is what P. D. Q. is like; Bed Bugs stand as good a chance as a snowball in a justly famed heat resort. Patent spout free in every package of P. D. Q., to enable you to kill them and their nest eggs in the cracks.

Look for the devil's head on every box. Special Hospital size, $2.50, makes five gallons; contains three spouts. Either size at your druggist, or send prepaid on receipt of price by Owl Chemical Works, Terre Haute, Ind.

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