

Bldgs. Can Hold Farm Costs Down

You've probably heard that 1958 produced record crops all over the United States despite the fact that plantings were the smallest in 40 years.

Higher productivity — due to more and bigger machines, improved seed and wider use of insecticides and fertilizer — have made it all possible.

Today's farm worker can produce in one hour what took two hours in 1950 and three hours in 1910.

1958 WAS a good income year too, with total cash receipts for farmers at a record high of \$34 billion. But things are likely to get worse before they improve again, because continued record harvests are expected to push prices down.

That's one reason for the suggestion by Agricultural Economist Royal S. Roberts that the average farmer take a hard look at his farm building program—in many cases the most neglected part of the farm operation.

"Farm buildings are a small but important factor. We are approaching an era when, even the 5 to 10 per cent factors must be considered if the family farm is to continue as a force on the rural scene," Roberts said.

"WHEN A farmer invests as much as \$25,000 in machinery, he should have buildings to store it in. The mere fact he keeps it out of the weather may add 20 per cent to its useful life, and that's \$5,000. Besides it will give him better service and be ready to go when he needs it," he said.

Wood Furniture Takes to Color For Latest Look

Wood furniture is taking a fling with color this season.

Jessie Marion, home furnishings specialist at Michigan State University reports that some manufacturers are offering Early American styles painted in gay colors as well as in the regular maple finish. There are chairs, chests and bedroom pieces painted in vivid shades of red, yellow, blue and brown.

Homemakers are expected to choose most of their furniture in the regular wood finish, then spike it with one or two colored pieces.

MISS MARION notes that gay colored pieces will naturally become prominent bits of interest in a room and should be chosen with this in mind. She cautions against buying too much of any high-fashion furniture that may lose its appeal in a short time.

The trend to colored furniture suggests a do-it-yourself decorating idea. Homemakers may buy the least expensive unfinished furniture and brush on a bright color.

Or they may add the style note by painting an older chair or chest they already have.

Divider Creates Double Bedroom

Here's how you can turn an oversize bedroom into a double bedroom for two children without cutting the larger room up into tiny cubicles.

Use a room divider which is fairly open, but still defines the two separate areas.

A GOOD WAY to achieve this result is to build identical desks, one on each side of the divider and at opposite ends, but leave the area above the desks open.

In this way, one child can look directly into the other part of the room, but, since the desks are at opposite ends, there is no conflict or diversion when the boys or girls are studying.

THE ROOM divider can have a center panel between the desks with shelves on each side for books and children's toys.

If you build this unit of either Douglas fir or west coast hemlock, you can finish the wood in clear lacquer to make an attractive installation. These woods will wear well and withstand considerable abuse.

Want a Clean Fireplace? Tips Are Listed Here

One of the prettiest summer sights is a sparkling clean fireplace, filled with white birch logs and green leaves. But, before a fireplace can put on its summer costume, all traces of its hard-working winter must be removed.

Your vacuum cleaner with its handy attachments makes quick work of fireplace cleaning.

HERE ARE a few tips:

1. Use a dustpan like a shovel to remove an accumulation of ashes and bits of wood.
2. Attach hose to vacuum, and use hose without attachments to suck up remaining ashes. Attach narrow crevice tool; use this to remove ashes from corners. Finally, attach the dusting brush to do the sides, back and floor, removing every last trace of dust.
3. After dusting, wash down fireplace with sponge and detergent to remove smoke stains.
4. Polish andirons, and fill fireplace with summer foliage.

YOU NEED not be afraid to use your vacuum cleaner attachments for dirty work, since they are easily washed. All brushes have quick-drying nylon bristles.

Remember to include fire screen and hearth in your weekly cleaning, and do a thorough fireplace cleaning at least twice a year.

Use of Walls Provides More Bedroom Space

Some tiny bedrooms being shown today aren't much larger than grandmother's old style bathroom. But ingenious designers make them do by using the walls for hanging storage and furniture units.

A SMALL BEDROOM can actually be made into a most attractive room. One of the most clever ideas is to panel one wall, floor to ceiling, in a beautiful wood like western red cedar.

Use this wall as the headboard for the bed. Then, design into this wall a built-in unit which can contain shelving for books, radio, clock, light and telephone.

The built-in unit can be made wide enough for a double bed or a single bed, depending on the requirement for the room.

THIS WALL unit can be as lovely as any piece of furniture and it leaves the floor space free. It can be designed with open shelving or with some units enclosed behind small sliding doors.

OFTENTIMES the same wood

By threatening to assassinate anyone who revealed their secret, the Venetian artisans of the 17th century were able to hold a worldwide monopoly on the manufacture of mirrors.

ished in clear lacquer to bring out the lovely grain of woods like cedar or west coast hemlock. Others prefer to stain them to fit their color scheme.

WHATEVER finish is used, these wood walls and hanging storage units are space savers and floor savers. Even the smallest bedroom can be made to appear larger than it really is.

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