

**DECREASE IN SPRING PIG CROP.**

The June, 1924, pig survey of the U. S. agricultural department shows that the flood of hog production in the corn belt that reached its high point in the spring pig crop of 1923 and began to go down in the fall of 1923 is now rapidly receding and has about reached normal level. A decrease of about eight million hogs in the spring crop in the corn belt is indicated.

The department's survey was made in co-operation with the United States Postoffice Department, being based on reports collected by rural mail carriers from 123,000 individual farms in all parts of the United States, of which 70,000 were in the corn belt.

**DECREASE IN SOWS FARROWED.**

A decrease of about 21% in the number of sows farrowed for the country as a whole in the spring of 1924 from the spring of 1923 was shown by the survey. Because of a slight increase in the average number of pigs saved per litter this spring the reduction in the number of pigs is 20%.

The number of sows bred or to be bred for fall farrow this year shows a decrease of 6% from the number farrowed last fall. This indicates a probable reduction of 10 to 15% in fall pigs, provided intentions as of June 1 are not modified materially by subsequent conditions, since a considerable percentage of sows bred do not produce pigs.

The decrease in the number of sows farrowed this spring in the corn belt, States is 20% and pigs saved 17%, while the number of sows bred for fall shows a decrease of 11%. All other regions show sharp decreases in the 1924 spring crop, although individual States in the far west show increases. In the South Central region, extending from Kentucky to Texas, the decrease is 36%. All regions except the corn belt show more sows bred for farrowing this fall than farrowed last fall.

Of the eastern corn belt States, Illinois and Wisconsin show the largest decrease in sows farrowed this spring, this being about 24% in each State. Of the western corn belt States, Kansas shows the largest reduction, amounting to 30%, while Missouri shows 24%, Iowa 18%, and Nebraska 19%. In the south, the most important surplus-producing States show the largest decreases in sows farrowed this spring. The decrease in Kentucky amounts to 35%, Tennessee 36%, Oklahoma 50%, and in Texas 33%.

**COMPARISON OF PIG CROPS.**

This survey shows a production of about 32,000,000 hogs in the corn belt from the 1924 spring pig crop. This is a slight increase compared with the 31,000,000 hogs produced from the spring crop of 1921, but a very decided decrease from the 38,000,000 hogs of 1922 and the 40,000,000 hogs of 1923.

The breeding intentions for this coming fall in the corn belt indicate a probable production of about 15,000,000 hogs. This is about the same as the production from the 1921 fall crop and a substantial decrease from the fall crop of 19,000,000 hogs in 1922 and 18,000,000 hogs in 1923.

During the past two years the number of hogs marketed has agreed very well with the size of the pig crop previously indicated by the number of sows reported farrowed in the pig surveys. Thus the surveys in 1922 showed that the corn belt raised about 24% more hogs that year than in 1921, while the later marketings from these States indicated that the increase was actually about 26%. The spring crop of 1923 as shown by the increase in sows farrowed was about 8% larger than that of 1922 and marketings to date, allowing for the large decrease in brood sows shown by the present survey, agree very well with this figure.

**Officials Will Enforce State Headlight Law.**

Determined that the glaring headlights of automobiles must soon be a thing of the past on the State highways, Benjamin J. Eynon, in charge of the motor vehicle bureau of the State Highway Department, recently let it be known that the revised motor vehicle act, effective September 1st, will be "carried out to the letter." The act provides for regulation of headlights and a standardized focus.

"The State Highway Department means business with the motorists," Mr. Eynon told members of the Automobile Club, assembled at a dinner last week in the Bellevue-Stratford. "We are going to give every motorist a fair chance to learn the law and also to have his headlights properly focused if such is needed. There will be seven headlight clinics established in different parts of the State, and the nearest one to Philadelphia will be at Malvern. Here the State police will stop all cars and, if necessary, instruct drivers to have the headlights adjusted at the earliest possible moment. If they fail to obey the warning, they will be taken care of the same as any other violator of the law," Mr. Eynon declared.

**School Calendar.**

School opens	Tuesday, September 2nd.
Calendar Month	School Days
September	21
October	23
November	18
December	13
January	22
February	20
March	22
April	18
May	21
June	27
Total	185

**VACATION SCHEDULE.**

Thanksgiving—November 27 and 28.  
Christmas—December 15-26 inclusive.  
Easter—April 10-15 inclusive four days.

**Silly View of Life; How We Get That Way**

The whole town was invited. Somehow a few days before the party the rumor got about that this was to be no ordinary affair; the Diddles, it seemed, were determined to hit it up.

The first guest to arrive was greeted at the front door by a well-stuffed lay figure with a stiffly outstretched arm pointing to a sign that read, "This way." Following a rope that now appeared, they soon reached a side door and a second figure and directions to ascend by the back way to the dressing rooms.

Up to this time not a word had been spoken, and no one resembling a host or hostess had appeared. When they reached the top of the stairs to go down to the parlor—there was no stairs. Instead, a slippery expanse of board covered with velvet reached from top to bottom.

One lady took it standing. Of course she slipped, fell, and reached bottom with a twisted back that she spent the remainder of the evening trying to hide.

A certain dowager in a new gown sat down and slid—ripping a tear from waist to hem en route.

No one wished to be a short sport—some got compensation upon their own arrival in seeing the antics of those that came after—all felt and looked more sheepish than sheep.

So the evening progressed, each event waxing wilder than the one before.

As the hosts talked things over afterward they felt that they had successfully waked things up.

How do we get that way? By a feeling that without hilarity there is no real enjoyment. Unless the Diddles of the world are making a noise they consider themselves dull. Their smiles are all horse-laughs. These are they who would eat and sleep to the strains of a brass band. Naturally their idea of entertainment is the bizarre, the hilarious. "Pop" is not only the spice but also the salt of life!

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**"Black Widow" Spider**

There is no doubt in my mind that the "Black Widow" is very venomous. In 1917, while camping upon the bank of Snake river, Idaho, I was bitten in the wrist by one of these insects. The entire arm swelled and fine red lines radiated in every direction from the two punctures. In less than a week after being bitten a large, open ulcer formed upon my wrist. This was treated by a Doctor Ross of Nampa, Idaho, and also by a Doctor Boeck of Boise, and by a third doctor, whose name I have forgotten. The wound finally healed, but to this day I carry the marks of the "Black Widow's" bite.

For those who are unfamiliar with the appearance of the Black Widow, I will say this: She (?) may be identified by her long legs and glossy black body, the under side of which is marked with two bright scarlet spots.—From Adventure Magazine.

**Cavern National Monument**

The Lewis and Clark cavern of Montana was discovered in 1895 by D. A. Morrison of Whitehall and was established as a national monument in 1908 by President Roosevelt. It takes its name from the fact that it overlooks, for a distance of 50 miles, the trail of Lewis and Clark along the Jefferson river, Vandallism and lack of funds to put in a proper lighting system keep the cave closed to the public at present. The entrance to the cavern is about 1,800 feet above the river and about 500 feet below the rim of Cave mountain. The general shape of the cave is that of a fissure in a steeply inclined bed of limestone. Its maximum measurements are, length, 600 feet; depth, 400 feet. Its numerous passages and rooms make it appear miles in extent.

**Bird Census Interesting**

A little more than one pair of birds to the acre of farm land is the average shown by bird census over a period of seven years for the country east of the great plains and north of Maryland, the Department of Agriculture reports. The robin is the most abundant species, the English sparrow second. In the immediate vicinity of buildings, including lawns and orchards, about 180 pairs of birds are found to nest on 100 acres. For the entire farm the average is about 112 pairs to the 100 acres.

**A Speeder**

The three small sons of a business man were discussing what they would do if they had a million dollars. The eldest, aged fourteen, said: "I would buy a steam yacht and sail for Palm Beach." The second, aged twelve, would spend it, he said, in travel abroad, seeing the world. Ten-year-old Ralph, who had not yet spoken, sniffed contemptuously. "Humph!" he said, "I would buy an automobile and spend the rest in fines."—Boston Transcript.

**Didn't Want the Job**

A teacher who was giving the children written exercises wrote out this "Wanted" advertisement: "Wanted.—A Milliner. Apply by letter to Miss Smith, 10 Blank Street." The children had to make applications for the position in writing. One youngster wrote: "Dear Miss Smith—I saw you want a milliner. I hate to trim hats. Can't you get somebody else? Please let me know at once. Edith Brown."—London Tit-Bits.

**REALLY NOT HARD POINT OF "ETIKAY"**

**Matter of Behavior Settled to Sailors' Satisfaction.**

The old sea captain and his mates were sticklers for form, a writer in the Youth's Companion remarks. In fact "etikay," as they called it, had become a mania with them. After dinner when the cloth was cleared, writes Sir Henry Robinson in "Memories, Wise and Otherwise," the captain often would send for the mates and the engineer and as we sat round the table propound hard cases on points of etiquette.

He used for his guide and mentor an amazing old tattered book that I sometimes think must have been intended to be comic, because it presupposed such utterly absurd situations. For example, if you were on top of an omnibus and saw a duchess in the street you could not with propriety wave your umbrella at her, no matter how well you knew her. Another thing: when dining with strangers you must not ask the butler for a toothpick at soup. There were many such "hard cases."

The captain used to rule a sheet of paper and put all our names down and award marks in accordance with our replies to the queries put. There was one that made such an impression on me that I made a pencil note of it, and I remember it to this day. We were all sitting round the table; the paper was ruled, and the captain began:

"Now, Mackay, we'll take you first. If you was walking in a field with a young lady with 'oom you was but slightly acquainted, and she was to set down on the grass, what should you do?"

Mackay paused to try and imagine what his feelings and intentions would be in such a case and then replied, "I'd offer to git her a chair."

"Um, ah!" said the skipper. "Not bad, but you might 'ave to walk a couple of miles to get one, and it wouldn't look shipshape for an officer of one of Her Majesty's finest cruisers to be walking about the countryside luggin' a chair after him. However, it's a thoughtful-like thing, and I'll give you five marks. Now, Mr. Trelawney, what do you say?"

"Well," said Trelawney, "I'd argify with her agin it, and if words wouldn't move her I'd take off my coat and give it to her to sit on."

The captain thought deeply. "Well, I don't think that's the answer, but it would be a delicate kind of thing to do, and I'll give you seven. Now, Mr. Lyons, you're next."

"I'd ax the young lady for to get up and run me a race," said the plump little second mate.

"Go on!" said the skipper. "How would you expect a lady with 'oom you were but slightly acquainted to start runnin' races with a potbellied little bloke like you?"

Then after we had all offered our solutions to the hard case the skipper consulted the key at the end of the book and announced what the canons of refined society ordained as the duty of the male escort if a lady of high degree decided suddenly to sit down on the grass.

"The gentleman," read the skipper, "must remain standing till the lady axes him for to sit down."

"Of course, of course," said the mate; "fools we were not to have seen it."

**Mixing the Breeds**

An Indianapolis woman was the owner of a Jersey dress of which she was fond. It was beginning to show signs of wear as a result and she went shopping one day for another new dress. When her husband returned at night he asked about the dress and what kind she had bought. "Oh, after I had looked at a lot of 'em, I finally bought another Jersey one," replied the wife.

The husband apparently was disappointed. His next question was: "I'm getting tired of Jersey dresses. Why in the world didn't you get a Holstein this time?"—Indianapolis News.

**"Ugly Duckling" Valued**

There are 6,000 varieties of the orchid family, and they are all cherished for their exquisite beauty, but like most large families it has an ugly duckling, and the latter is most cherished of all the others, but for her homely and practical qualities rather than her beauty. The vanilla plant is an orchid and its flower is positively repulsive, but its fruit is in demand all the world over. This plant is really a native of Mexico, but it has traveled to East Africa, Tahiti and other distant places, where it is cultivated for the fruit alone.

**A Tip for Spinsters**

Young and Flustered Motorist (ruefully regarding remains of a flattened terrier)—Ah—er—so sorry. Perhaps you will allow me to replace him, Miss—?

The Damsel All Forlorn (brightening visibly)—Why, if you think you can—I believe so—it's a bit sudden, but—there's father right on the porch now, dear!—Savannah News.

**Chileans Make Own Shoes**

Boot and shoe making is one of the most important manufacturing industries of Chile, which now imports less than 5 per cent of the machine-made shoes sold in that country. The average annual production of the 75 factories which are equipped with power machinery is estimated at 6,500,000 pairs.

**BREAKING SAD NEWS TO FRIEND HUSBAND**

**Wife Failing to Honor and Obey Confesses.**

With tears in her eyes and a sob at her heart, she stood gazing out of the window—waiting. Soon, all too soon, she told herself between her choking sobs, her husband would be coming home—to what?

He, whom she had promised to love for better, for worse, to honor and obey. She loved him, it was true; but—but—

And he must know. The thought throbbled through her aching head and seemed to set her brain on fire. He must know!

No less than three times that afternoon she had gone to the telephone to tell him, says London Answers. The first time she had given the number to the operator, but it was engaged. And after that, each time she had left the receiver fall—afraid.

Her heart beat cruelly as she waited. Her knees trembled as she waited for his approach. Every now and then she felt as if she must swoon. With a mighty effort she pulled herself together.

There was a way out. She could leave a note, telling him all, and fly. Yes, fly from the terrible reproach in his voice and the accusations in his eyes—those steely gray eyes that she now dreaded as much as she had once loved them. And she knew that those words of anger would be justified. The thought made her position a hundred times worse.

She crossed to the writing table and drew pen and ink toward her. Hastily she bent her head to her task. She had scribbled but a line or two, when suddenly she raised her head and paused—listening.

For a few moments her heart seemed to cease its fluttering; then it commenced to thump more wildly than before.

Steps could be heard on the graveled walk without. Too late! It was her husband. Oh, how she quailed at the thought of his stern gaze.

There was only one thing for it. She rushed, like one possessed, to the electric switch. Click! The room was in darkness. She would tell him in the dark. Then she would not see those terrible eyes; he would not see the same in her frightened face; she would not have to meet his accusing gaze.

There was a sound from the other side of the room and the door opened, admitting a long, lean shaft of light. "Miriam!" he said sternly. "Miriam!"

With one choking sob she stretched out her hands.

"Morton," she sobbed, "I have had my h-h-hair s-shingled!"

**Deep-Sea Sounding**

Deep-sea sounding is part of the work of the hydrographic service. It is accomplished with a mechanical reel instead of by hand and a thin piano wire takes the place of the lead line. Depth is measured by the number of revolutions of the reel, the diameter of which is known, as the lead moves through the water. At the depth is great steam is used to wind in the wire, as the pull would be too much for a hand reel.

The place of the sinker of the hand line is taken by a mechanical device holding a weight, usually a 100-pound ball, which is released at the bottom, thus facilitating the inhaul. Sometimes other devices are used, which bring up samples of the deep sea bottom.

**Impetuous Norseman**

The famous Eric the Red had a somewhat lurid history. He was born in Norway about 950 A. D. Charged with homicide, he fled from his own land and settled in Iceland. Here his impulsive temper and aggressiveness led to another murder being laid to his charge, which forced him to leave Iceland. He went to Greenland which had been discovered about a century earlier, but had never been settled. In 985 Eric returned to Norway to recruit colonists for a colony in Greenland. He named his chief town Gardar. After flourishing for about 400 years the colony completely vanished, and no trace of it has ever been found. Eric's son, Leif Ericsson, is supposed to have landed on the New England coast in about the year 1000.

**Meanings Long Forgotten**

Heels were put on shoes to prevent a horseman's foot slipping in the stirrup. Buttons on the coat cuff date back to Frederick the Great, who put sharp buttons there to stop soldiers using their cuffs as handkerchiefs. The wedding ring originally symbolized a chain. Thousands of the things we use and things we say and do are remnants of a long-forgotten past. Habit keeps them alive, even though their real meaning is as obscure as their origin.—Capper's Weekly.

**Bells With a History**

Rye church bells, which have a history dating back to 1860, are to be rebung. They had a great adventure in 1868, when the French landed at Rye and carried off the bells to Normandy. Ten years later the men of Rye and Winchelsea sailed across the channel to recapture the bells, which they brought back in triumph. The famous peal has called Rye people to church on Sundays ever since.—London Times.

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