

USE OF FERTILIZERS

SANDY SOILS REQUIRE SUPPLY OF MINERAL ELEMENTS.

In Growth of Clover for Increasing Organic Matter on Exhausted Land Potassium Will Often Be Found of Benefit.

The maintenance of fertility on sandy soils requires a supply of the mineral elements, phosphorus and potassium and of organic matter including nitrogen.

Where live stock farming is followed and all feed produced on the farm is consumed there, the potassium is conserved and under these conditions it is not ordinarily necessary to add this element, especially where the supply of organic matter in the soil is fairly good. In the growth of clover for increasing the organic matter on exhausted sandy soils, potassium fertilizer will probably often be very beneficial.

Truck crops, such as potatoes, beets, etc., use large amounts of potassium and where they are grown on land not having a good supply of organic matter or where manure from nearby towns is not available, the use of potash fertilizers is important. In growing such crops as potatoes, beets or other truck crops extensively, the turning under of some kind of legume is essential and the best method of adding potash to the soil under such cases is to apply it to the land at the time of seeding of the legume since by so doing it aids greatly in the growth of the clover or other legume and becomes available along with the nitrogen from this crop the following year.

Where an abundance of organic matter, either in the form of barnyard manure or green manure, is contained in the soil, use may be made of the cheapest sources of this element,

SIMPLE WAY TO TEST SEED

Complicated System of Numbered Boxes and Squares Not Necessary—Record Easily Found.

(By WALTER B. LEUTZ.) It is not necessary to have a complicated system of numbered boxes and squares in order to test seed and keep a record of it. The best seed tester I have seen consisted of a strip of heavy cloth, such as an old blanket, and a tin fruit can.

Lay the strip out on the table or board the required length, which may be from two feet to a rod, and beginning a foot from one end, place the seed in groups four inches apart along the strip till the other end is reached.

It is not necessary to number the groups of seed on the strip, as they will come in rotation when they are to be unrolled and examined after germination, but the bulk of the seed or ear from which they were taken may be numbered if necessary.

If more than one of these cloth strips are needed, each one may be numbered. When the seed are in place roll the cloth around the can, beginning with the end left blank and continuing to the end which is tied or pinned tightly.

Throw this roll and such others as they are prepared into a pail of warm water, where they should remain for several hours, then pour the water off and cover the pail to retain the moisture, placing it in a warm place.

Sprinkle to keep moist, if necessary, and in a few days the seed will have germinated. Unroll the cloth on the same table or board as before and, beginning with the first seeds placed, compare the percentage of germination and consequent vitality.

In this way the record of every lot of seed or ear of corn is before you.

BEEES ARE LITTLE TROUBLE

Honey Gatherers Are Only Producers to Industry Yielding Profit Without Cost of Feed.

(By WESLEY FORSTER, Colorado State Bee Inspector.)

If people knew what a great source of profit is found in the keeping of bees and how interesting the work there wouldn't be an unused square foot of ground on any farm in the United States.

Bees are the only producers known to husbandry that yield a profit without cost of feed. They find their own pasture. They multiply so rapidly that they more than pay for the small initial expense of housing them, and the first cost of equipment is almost trifling.

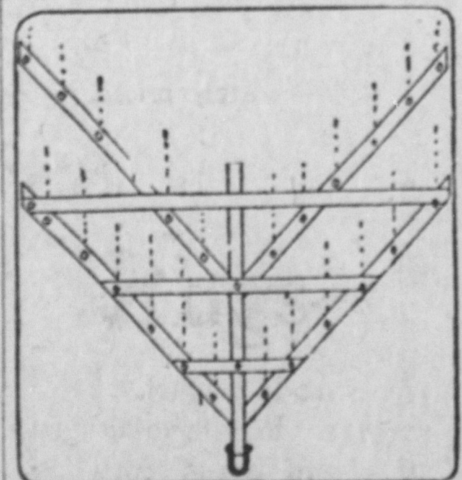
Bee culture may be made profitable by the children of the farm, or by the women members of the family. It may be carried on successfully in conjunction with the keeping of poultry or growing of fruit. In the latter case, apiculture is found to be a great help toward more fruit and better fruit.

Bees are little trouble and require only occasional attention. They are easily handled and readily controlled. Best of all, they give a real service in hard cash, and that counts most.

FARM IMPLEMENT IS HANDY

One of Most Useful Devices for Cultivating Corn Crop is Double Smoothing Harrow.

The double smoothing harrow is one of the most useful implements that we have on our farm for cultivating corn, beans and potatoes just before they come up, and when they are from two to six inches tall, says the Western Farmer. The material for the con-



Double Smoothing Harrow.

struction of the frame of the harrow is 2 by 3 inches, and should be made of oak or other hard wood. Bore the tooth-holes after the frame is put together. Let the teeth all slant backward about forty-five degrees. Set them diamond fashioned, so the edge will strike the soil. Paint the harrow, and by keeping it dry it will last for many years.

Educated Man Best Farmer.

Farmers with a high school education make nearly double the average income of those with only a common school education, according to the department of agriculture. The educated man makes the most successful farmer and, states the same authority, those who start farming the earliest in life reap the largest profits.

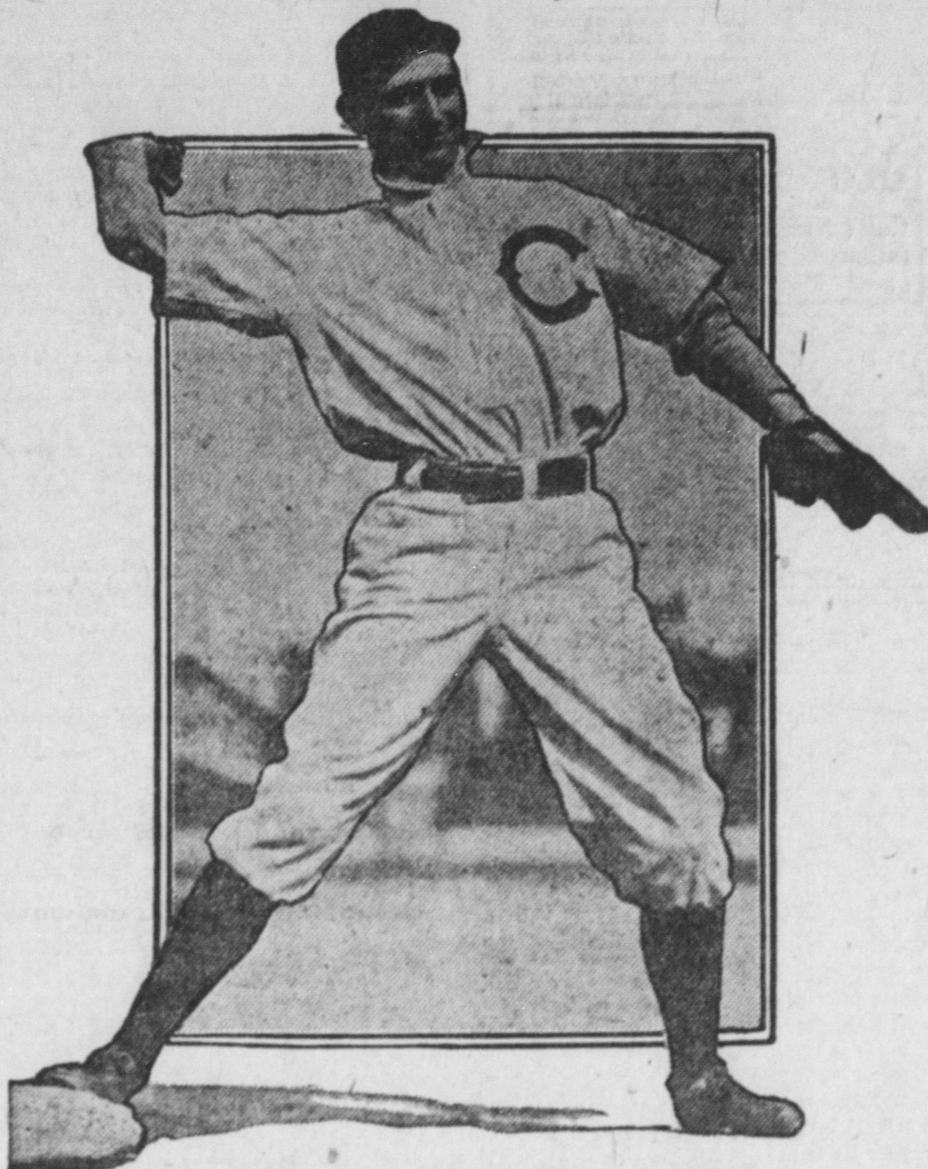
Make Sheep Grow Rapidly.

One of the important items in sheep raising is to make them grow rapidly during the summer on grass and to have them in fine condition in the fall to start the winter.

Breed Up Dairy Cows.

Breed up the dairy cows. It takes no longer, costs no more and gets you somewhere in the dairy business.

HOFMAN RESPONSIBLE FOR MERKLE PLAY



Artie Hofman, Now With the Brooklyn Federals.

Art Hofman, and not Johnny Evers, was responsible for the famous play in the final New York-Chicago game in 1908 which robbed John J. McGraw's Giants of a National league pennant and possible world's championship, to say nothing of depriving each and every member of the New York team of at least \$2,500.

For years, or ever since 1908, Evers has been famous for "Touching Second." It is true that Evers touched second and completed the play, but Evers should get the least credit for it, as two men thought of the play before he did. These two were Hofman and Steinfeldt. Hofman it was engineered it. He first realized the opportunity ahead, and Evers came in away at the finish, behind Hofman and Steinfeldt.

After more than five years Hofman comes in for a share of credit, but it is doubtful if he will ever get the full amount due him. Mordecai Brown, the former great curve pitcher of the Chicago Nationals, and now manager



Johnny Evers, Boston's Second Baseman.

of the St. Louis Federals, tells the inside story of the play, which for year after year has been kept secret. This is Brown's version:

"Evers knows as much baseball as any man in the game," stated Brown. "He's a quick thinker, always thinking of some play to stop the opposition, but he won credit where it wasn't deserved on that Merkle stuff."

"It wasn't Evers who saw it, but Artie Hofman, and as long as I live I'll never forget the scramble on the Polo ground field. Evers made the putout; and he got it because he was the only one near second. Still, Hofman was the one who started it."

"With McCormick on third and Merkle on first, Al Bridwell shot a single to center, McCormick raced home with the run in the ninth inning that would have beaten us and won the pennant for the Giants. But Merkle, getting near second, didn't touch the bag, and raced for the clubhouse."

Criticize McGraw.

Muggsy McGraw was the target for criticism by an English newspaper before he ventured forth with the statement that he likes baseball better than cricket. The article said McGraw should have waited until he got to America for such a declaration.

Attell Seeks Return Match.

Able Attell is confident that if Johnny Kilbane gives him one more fight, he'll regain the featherweight title. But Johnny isn't in any too big a hurry to dispose of his title.

BALL PLAYERS STICK

MIGHTY FEW OF THEM QUIT UNTIL THEY ARE FORCED TO.

Holdouts Tell Many Stories of Reasons for Leaving, But They Come Back—Owners and Fans Often Fall for the Trick.

Adolna Patti has often made her "farewells," Barnum also, but neither of them equals the ballplayer who proclaims to the world that he is tired of drawing \$5,000 or \$7,000 a year, says Ted Sullivan.

Let us see how he first sounds the alarm. It may be he is to marry an heiress, or it may be a rich widow who wants him to quit the horrid game and look out for her interests. Still it might be that some relative left him a mine in the far west. One or the other will be an excuse anyway.

His pet reporter will first hear of this and will say: "Oh, no; that can't be!"

The speaker will say: "Yes, it is so. He confidentially told me in the dressing room yesterday that this is his last year in the game."

"Has he told the president of the club?" the reporter will ask.

"No; he hates to. He has been treated so nicely the present year."

Next morning, in large type, the newspaper will lead off: "Mr. So-and-So is to retire from baseball."

Holy Moses! The followers of this player are up in arms. One excitable fan will say: "I knew it! I knew it! I don't blame him. He never could get along with that secretary and directors."

Another fan is on his feet: "I bet some of those other clubs are after him."

The first fan remarks: "Don't you see he is to retire altogether? Going into business with his uncle in their mines."

A third fan speaks up: "Well, that will settle the club. I gave it my last half dollar."

The next day the president meets the player: "What, John? Is this true?"

The player says: "Yes, Mr. President; I am afraid it is. You see, I cannot play ball forever, and this chance may not come again. My uncle has been at me the past two years to quit the game. Then, you see, I bought some property lately on which \$5,000 has to be paid, and uncle will do it if I quit."

Here the president speaks up: "Why, pshaw! Stay with me the coming year and I will advance that amount and increase your salary to \$8,000 for a year. You know, John, I cannot replace you this year at least, and you know I have always treated you well."

The player looks at the president in a sympathetic and innocent way: "Why, Mr. President, for that reason it breaks my heart to leave you, and I hate to have you believe I want any increase in salary; but I will write to uncle to allow me to stay in the business one more year at least just to please you."

Well, reader, this player remains in the game that year, and many other years afterward, and the only time he will leave the ball field is when the field is tired of him, says Scout Sullivan. The only ballplayer in the history of the game who retired when he said he would was Jim McCormick, the famous National league pitcher who played with Cleveland and Chicago.

This may be a little satire on the retiring ballplayer—but who can blame him? Don't all trades and arts have their tricks? Indeed they do—from the minister of the gospel down. A minister out west was to retire and go into business. The congregation raised his salary, he reconsidered, and he remained with his beloved parishioners simply because he loved them and his salary.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

The Romans are afraid base ball is brutal. Some of them must have heard Heinie Zim talking to an umpire.—New York American.

The action of the rules committee in emphasizing that all home runs must be run out isn't much consolation to Manhattan, for Frank Baker always did it anyway.—Cleveland Leader.

If by hook or crook, organized baseball knew how to get Charley Weeghman in possession of Charles Webb Murphy's Cub franchise, maybe it wouldn't break all Stockholm records doing it.—Philadelphia North American.

The tango and hesitation dances have figured more or less prominently in the base ball situation.—New York Journal.

Manager "Robbie" will teach his men how to slide, but will not try to do so himself.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Another Star From Brainerd.

The little town of Brainerd, Minn., will be more interested than ever in the success of the Athletics next season, provided young Joe Graves, an eighteen-year-old native, makes good as a member of Connie Mack's pitching staff. Chief Bender was born in Brainerd, and Leslie Bush makes his home there in the off season. If Graves is half as good as these other Brainerdites he is sure to win added distinction for the little town.

COMMERCIAL

Weekly Review of Trade and Market Reports.

Dun's Review says:

"This is the between seasons period in various branches of trade, and significant changes in the business situation are lacking. Broadly considered, conditions are quiet, although indications of progress are not wholly absent. There is no uniform trend toward improvement.

"Expectations that the approach of spring would be accompanied by a revival in iron and steel have not been realized, and enlarged buying will soon be necessary to prevent curtailment of operations. In view of the fact that the prosperity of the country depends largely upon crops, it is gratifying that the outlook for winter wheat leaves little to be desired. The recent downward tendency in commodity prices was again in evidence this week.

"Failures numbered 347 in the United States, against 294 last year."

Bradstreet's says:

"Betterment in current distributive trade at the West and excellent advances as to winter wheat sharply contrast with a less satisfactory situation in iron and steel, and uncertainty caused by State or national governmental activities, which tend to beloud the future and hamper enterprise, manufacturing as well as financial. On the one hand the economic situation is confronted by the beneficent influences of nature, while on the other hand it is hampered by the moods of legislative forces. The railways do not see their way clear to buy rails while advances in rates are withheld, and at the same time bituminous coal operators are facing uncertainty regarding wage scales which expire April 1."

Wholesale Markets

NEW YORK.—Wheat—Spot steady; No. 2 hard winter, 101½ c. f. f. to arrive; No. 2 red, 104½ c. elevator, domestic; No. 1 Northern Duluth, 103½ c. f. o. b. aboard, opening navigation; No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 103½ c. f. o. b. aboard. Corn—Spot firm; No. 2 yellow, 74½ c. c. i. f. to arrive.

Potatoes—Firm; Bermuda, bbl. \$5.50 @ 7; Maine, \$2.25 @ 2.50; State, \$2.12 @ 2.25.

Butter—Creamery extras, 25 @ 25½; firsts, 23 @ 24½.

Cheese—State, whole milk, held, white, specials, 19; colored, 19½; white, average fancy, 18½ @ 18¾; colored, 18½ @ 19; State, whole milk, fresh, average fancy, 17 @ 17½; Wisconsin, whole milk, daisies, fancy, 19; twins and flats, 18½ @ 19.

Eggs—Fresh gathered extras, 22½ @ 23; extra firsts, 22; firsts, 21 @ 21½; seconds, 20½; State, Pennsylvania and nearby, henmy whites, 23 @ 24; gathered white, 23; henmy browns, 22½ @ 23; mixed colors, 21½ @ 22.

PHILADELPHIA.—Wheat, higher; No. 1 North Duluth export, 106½ @ 106¾.

Corn—Higher; new No. 2 yellow natural local, 72 @ 72½; kiln dried local, 74 @ 75.

Eggs—Higher; nearby firsts, f. c. \$6.75; current receipts, f. c. \$6.45; Western extra firsts, f. c. \$6.75; firsts, f. c. \$6.45.

Live Poultry—Firm; fowls, 18 @ 18½; geese, 11 @ 14.

Hay—Weaker; timothy, No. 1, large bales, \$18 @ 18.50; medium bales, \$17.50 @ 18; No. 2, \$16 @ 16.50; No. 3, \$14 @ 15; clover mixed, light mixed, \$16.50 @ 17; No. 1, \$15.50 @ 16; No. 2, \$13.50 @ 14.50.

BALTIMORE.—Wheat—No. 2 red spot and March, 109½ nominal; April, 101½ nominal.

Corn—Contract, 68½ c; steamer mixed, 65c.

Oats—Standard white, 44½ @ 45c; No. 3 white, 44 @ 44½.

Rye—Western—No. 2, 68 @ 69c; No. 3, 65 @ 66; No. 4, 64 @ 65. Bag lots nearby, as to quality, 60 @ 68. Export Delivery: Western—No. 2, 66c; No. 3, 63 @ 63½; No. 4, 62 @ 62½.

Hay—Timothy—No. 1, \$18.50; standard, \$17.50 @ 18; No. 2, \$17 @ 17.50; No. 3, \$14 @ 15.50. Clover mixed—Light, \$17 @ 17.50; No. 1, \$16.50 @ 17; No. 2, \$14 @ 16; heavy, \$15.50 @ 16.

Straw—Straight Rye—No. 1, \$15 @ 15.50; No. 2, \$14 @ 14.50. Tangled Rye—No. 1, \$11.50 @ 12. Wheat—No. 2, \$8.50; No. 2, \$7 @ 7.50. Oat—No. 1, \$9.50 @ 10.50; No. 2, \$8 @ 9.

Butter—Fancy, 28½ @ 29; choice, 27 @ 28; good, 25 @ 26; prints, 29 @ 30; clockes, 28 @ 29; ladles, 19 @ 22; Maryland and Pennsylvania, rolls, 19 @ 20; Ohio, rolls, 17 @ 19; West Virginia, rolls, 17 @ 19; storepacked, 16 @ 17; Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania dairy prints, 18 @ 20.

Eggs—Maryland, Pennsylvania and nearby firsts, 20c; Western firsts, 20; West Virginia firsts, 20; Southern firsts, 19; duck eggs, 30. Recrated and rebanded eggs, ¼ @ 1c higher.

Live Poultry—Chickens—Old hens, per lb, 18c; old roosters, 10 @ 11; young, choice, 20 @ 22; rough and stager, 14 @ 15; winter, 2 lbs and under, 23 @ 25. Ducks, 20c; muscovy, 18.

Pigeons—Young, per pr. 30c; old, 30. Guinea fowl, each, 30c. Turkeys—Hens, 25 @ 26c; young gobblers, 22 @ 23; old toms, 20; rough and poor, 12.

Dressed Poultry—Turkeys, choice hens, 25 @ 26c; do. mixed hens and young gobblers, 23 @ 24; do. old toms, 20; chickens, choice young, 20 @ 22; do. old and mixed, 16 @ 18; do. old roosters, 11 @ 12; ducks, 18 @ 20; capons, 7 lbs and over, 26 @ 27; do. medium, 24 @ 25; do. small and slips, 20.