

Farm Question Box

By Ed. W. Mitchell, Farm Advisor
General Electric Station WGY

Q Is there any way to make a wood fire behave? Being a novice, I usually have to open the window, or open all draughts—rarely do I hit a happy medium.

A First, clean and check the flues for safety's sake and to make sure there is adequate draft. Then lay a small fire; warm the flue by burning a couple of sheets of newspaper; light the fire and let ashes accumulate so wood is lying against the hot ashes, with only a few little holes poked under it to provide a draft. Study and practice will soon win.

Q I would like some advice on waterproofing a cellar. In dry weather I have a dry cellar and in wet weather a half a foot of water. I have gutters on the house and it is well graded. It seems to come in from the bottom. The soil is clay and hard pan.

A You will have to lay tile drains around the outside of the cellar walls and under the floor, and then probably waterproof the outside of the walls and put in a floor of waterproof concrete. All that is bad enough if done before the house is built, but prohibitive afterwards. I would slope the floor to a drain in one corner and put in an automatic, electric sump pump.

Q I expect to build a hen house in the spring for about 500 hens. Can you give me the best width to build?

A You should have about 4-square feet per hen, say 2000 square feet—a building 100x20 feet deep. However, a lot depends on land, location, and what you want, because ideas differ.

Q I have 25 pullets. They are crossbreeds and look very nice. Can you please tell me why they keep dropping down on their eggs. They now have dropped down as low as 12 eggs a day. They have oyster shells and scratch feed and mash, and straw to scratch in.

A Egg production depends on a great many things. In addition to good breeding and rearing, try and keep conditions uniform as well as good. Never let the water pan or mash hopper get empty; avoid scaring the birds and getting them chilled; use lights all night or to lengthen the day to 14 hours of light. Watch the weight and keep them fat but not too fat, and keep culling out the poor ones.

Q What is the powder that sometimes is sprinkled on logs in a fireplace to make different colors?

A The salts of copper, Barium, etc., give a variety of colors if dusted or sprinkled on a fire. Your druggist can supply them and some 5 and 10 cent stores carry them already packaged for this particular purpose.

Q We recently purchased a house and in cleaning the cellar we are faced with a terrific number of spiders. They spin their webs all over the walls and seem to make holes in the concrete walls. Can you suggest any spray or any method to combat these pests?

A Get some Lindane, or Benzene Hexachloride, or DDT at the feed and seed store and spray the walls.

WHAT MAKES HAPPINESS IN MARRIAGE?

Results of a college professor's interviews with married couples were somewhat startling; although one person believed his marriage a success, his mate often thought opposite. Read how these findings revealed key to marital bliss in "Secret of a Happy Marriage," in April 15th issue of The American Weekly, nation's popular magazine with the Baltimore Sunday American. Order from your local newsdealer.

Only Difference?

President Truman's budget is \$71,600,000,000—the only difference between that and the average family's is that in the latter case the decimal point is used sooner—Christina Science Monitor.

celling and floors once a week. You will soon be rid of them.

Q What is the best material to use in building a grape trellis?

A I would use steel fence posts and heavy "grape" wire—but if you think wooden posts will look better, be sure and treat them with creosote before setting them.

Q Exactly what is mistletoe?

A Mistletoe is an evergreen that grows as a parasite on Oak trees down south; it has large, flat leaves and white berries.

Q Is sawdust good for a garden?

A Yes—good as a mulch and good to mix with the soil. The older and coarser the material, the better it is.

Good Equipment Helps Make Pressing Easier

When you have the right equipment in good condition, pressing the family's clothes is a job you can do easily and enjoy doing it.

A well-padded ironing board is an asset to good pressing, says Miss Helen S. Butler, home economics extension representative of Centre county. You may use old blankets that are not too thick for padding. Some homemakers have found that several layers of old Turkish towels make a good padding. Always there are the ready-made paddings, but those you can make yourself are just as satisfactory. Old sheeting or similar smooth cotton cloth may be used to cover the padding.

Pressing cloths, suitable to the material to be pressed, are necessary. Thin cotton like cheesecloth, medium weight cloths of such materials as heavy sheeting or muslin, or duck pressing cloths belong with your equipment. You may want to use one of the chemically treated pressing cloths now on the market.

A pressing cushion or tailor's ham and a sleeve roll will help you to do a better job of pressing the curves, surfaces, such as the lapels and sleeves of a jacket. To give a sharp crease to folds, a wooden spanker or clapper is helpful.

Whether you use a steam iron or damp and dry pressing cloths with your regular iron, there is no difference in the final results. Always use an iron hot enough so that it hisses when you put it on the damp press cloth.

Keep enough hangers on hand so you can hang clothes properly after they are pressed.

Check Farm Machines For Safe Operation

The most important step in the safe operation of farm machinery is to put it in good condition before field work starts, declares County Agent L. H. Bull.

Spring planting season is here. More tractors than ever before soon will be working in fields with plows, cultivators, disks, and planters. Hitches, seats, clutches, wheels, brakes, steering mechanism and unguarded revolving parts need occasional checking for defects. Many fatal accidents have been caused by failure of makeshift seats and unguarded power take-off shafts.

Clean all dirt, trash and grease from platforms, pedals, foot rests, or steps to assure safe footing. Special care should be taken in checking homemade labor-saving equipment for accident hazards. The operator's safety often is overlooked in development of this type of equipment. Timely servicing reduces accidents and costly field breakdowns, and makes farm work more pleasant. Poorly conditioned farm machinery is irritating and fatiguing to the operator. It reduces his alertness and encourages carelessness. Field accidents often result when the operator attempts to get by with faulty operations, which should have been corrected before the machine was taken to the field.

Want Ads are selling, buying aids.

Duncan Hines Says: Make Most Out of Mealtime

Duncan Hines said that one of his favorite stories concerns an old lady who was celebrating her 100th birthday. A reporter who was interviewing her asked if there was any one thing to which she attributed her age. The old lady thought a moment and then answered, "Yes, vittles."

Hines, nationally-known food authority, said he agrees with her wholeheartedly for he thinks she has something there. Most persons know how important food is as the basis of a longer, healthier life. Yet, when they come right down to it, oftentimes they fail to get any real enjoyment out of eating. And that's important, too.

No nation makes such unstimulated use of fresh eggs, butter, milk, meats and vegetables as Americans do. Even families within the lower income groups have an abundance of food on the table. Still a large percentage fail to make the most out of mealtime to enjoy our food as should be done.

Possibly, part of the blame for this falls on the way Americans prepare their meals. Too many cooks fail to realize that the heart and soul of any dish is in its flavor, and that seasoning and flavoring must be used with discretion as an artist uses his pigments.

Again, you'll find cooks who are forever serving pretentious dishes. Hines has always believed that one reason genuine French cuisine often overshadows our average American cooking is because it is more liable to be edible. But when one finds real oyster stew, roast turkey, blueberry pie, clam chowder, and many others at their best, the "ala" folds up and native cooking comes to the fore.

Another reason Americans fail to make the most out of mealtime is because some of them are not really appreciative of good cooking. Many, men especially, crave only plain meat, bread, potatoes and gravy. They overlook the other factors that go into making a meal really good.

The time taken to consume a meal has a bearing on how well it will taste. And in this country we still have to get away from the "bolt it and beat it" idea of eating. Certainly, chances of avoiding stomach ailments will be greatly enhanced if one eats slowly, and eats less. Good digestion follows slow eating and this, combined with balanced meals, can help improve the health of our nation.

Hines said he believes it is high time the U. S. A. took pride in simple, appetizing dishes, and began taking the time to enjoy them fully. Only then can we honestly claim we are making the most out of mealtime.

Surprise Party Held For Mrs. Jesse Parsons

On Thursday, Mar. 29, a surprise party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Parsons at Julian RD in honor of Mrs. Parsons' birthday. Refreshments were served and gifts received. Those present were:

Mr. and Mrs. James Parsons, Jimmy, Joyce and Judy; Mr. and Mrs. William Parsons and Janet, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Parsons, all of Pine Grove Mills; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Parsons, Barry and Nancy; the Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Shope and Jackie; Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson, Mary, Gerald, Barbara and Jean, of Port Matilda; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilson and Diane, of Warriors Mark.

Martha Parsons, Stewart Williams, Mrs. K. A. Williams, Mrs. A. Y. Williams, and Mr. and Mrs. John Hoover and Harry, Dix Run; Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Irwin and granddaughter, Helen, of Jersey Shore; Mr. and Mrs. Everett Parsons and Phyllis, and Mr. Harry Harper, of Fleming; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hoover, and Mr. and Mrs. Loren Hoover and Allen, of Howard; Mr. and Mrs. Z. E. Hoover, of Sandy Ridge; Mr. and Mrs. Miles Altimus, of Julian.

Announce Cast For Spring Mills Play

The cast of the Gregg Township Vocational School's senior class play, "Funny Face," was announced this week by a class official who proclaimed the production to be the "brightest, funniest comedy we've ever presented."

Those appearing will be: Jacqueline Detweiler, James Grove, Sara Igen, Martin Rishel, Jane Rachau, John Heckman, Harold Wolfe, Shirley Long, Shirley Ripka, Leon Steiger, Lorraine Faust, Arlene Neese, David Immel, Robert Barner, Jack Snively, Norma Jane Confer, Janet Wasson, Lester Stover, Gerald Harter, and Henry Breon.

The play will be presented in the Spring Mills auditorium at 8 p.m. Friday, April 6.

Two Countians Serve On Aircraft Carrier

Jack Lucas, fireman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Lucas, of Orviston, and William Henry Dennis, fireman, aviator, USN, husband of Mrs. Alice L. Dennis, of 131 S. Pine Street, State College, are serving aboard the light aircraft carrier USS Bataan which has been operating in the Yellow and Japan Sea since December, 1950.

During World War II, the Bataan saw action in the Marianas, Carolines, New Guinea, and the battle of the Philippine Sea.

Originally commissioned in 1943, she was "mothballed" in February, 1947 and recommissioned in the Philadelphia Navy Yard, May 1950.

Maybe Inventor in Colorado having demonstrated that man can fly like a bird, the pre-winter trek south may fill the skies, next season—Toronto Telegram.

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