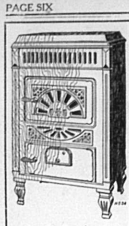

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S. T. BARLOW

Headquarters, Ky.

SAYS GOOD SHEEP WILL CONTINUE TO PAY IN STATE

Kentucky farmers who produce standardized lambs of high quality can reasonably expect to continue to secure good returns from their flocks, thinks C. D. Phillips of the department of markets and rural finance of the Experiment Station and College of Agriculture of the University of Kentucky.

He believes, however, that it will be necessary to give attention to quality in order to meet competition from other lamb producing regions. The market wants a fat, well-breed, blocky ewe or wether lamb weighing about 80 pounds. Highest prices are paid for lambs of this type, and farmers to secure the most for their lambs should endeavor to meet the market requirements.

The marketing of spring lambs so far this year has been heavier than during the corresponding period of 1928, and the remaining supply to be sold is greater, while fewer lambs are available for market in western states. The demand for feeder lambs this year probably will exceed that of a year earlier, and as a result prices may be forced to a place where feeding operations will not be as profitable as during the 1928-1929 season.

With prospect of smaller receipts from the west and the continuation of the demand for lamb for the next few months, prices may advance somewhat from the present level. The producer who has raised choice ewe or wether lambs should be able to secure a good price for them even under somewhat adverse conditions. On the other hand, if the lambs which are sold to be marketed are poorly fed and are rough, and consist of a large percentage of buck lambs, prices are liable to be unsatisfactory.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK PROCLAIMED

Kentucky's fire loss during the past year was placed at $5,697,246 by the Department of Fire Prevention and Ration, in a tabulation submitted to Gov. Flem D. Sampson.

The report was requested by the Governor for use in a proclamation he issued today designating the week of October 6 as Fire Prevention Week.

All citizens, civic and business associations, school authorities, women's clubs and other organizations were asked in the proclamation to observe precautions for fire prevention and "thus save millions in property, and many lives of Kentuckians."

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

The last cutting of alfalfa in sections of the country where winter killing occurs should be made early enough to allow a growth of 4 to 6 inches for protection in the winter.

In 1840 the average weight of fleece sheared from American sheep was less than 2 pounds. By 1900 it had increased to nearly 4½ pounds. Today it is approaching 8 pounds. There is still room for improvement. Much of this difference has come from progressive weeding out of low producers and by breeding from the heavy fleeced sheep.

Ranking rows of late celery with earth not only blanches the crop, but produces celery of superior quality and protects it from early frosts. Celery can often be left in the field two or three weeks after the first frosts if the earth is drawn well up to the tops of the plants. Paper or boards should be used for blanching the early or summer crop because banking with soil causes decay of the plants in warm weather.

Silage made from corn containing moisture enough for proper preservation is more palatable to stock than that made from corn so mature as to need the addition of water. Usually corn should be harvested for the silo about a week or ten days before it would be cut for shocking. At this time the lower leaves on the stalk are turning brown, and the green corn fodder contains about 70 per cent of moisture, which is enough for silage.

Wounds in potatoes are the most frequent source of storage rot, and careful handling during harvest and storage will decrease loss from this source. Cooling freshly harvested potatoes too rapidly may cause wound rot, because of the slowing down of wound repair. If wounds are properly healed before potatoes are placed in storage, and if sufficient ventilation is provided to keep them dry during storage, very low temperature is unnecessary to prevent loss by storage rot.

The whole tomato plant, and not individual fruits, should be the basis for selecting seed for next season. The prevalent belief that an early variety of tomato may be secured by selecting seed from the first fruits is regarded erroneous, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture, as on any one plant all fruits are equally able to transmit the tendency to earliness. The way to get earliest sis to choose plants that produce ripe fruits first. Likewise in selecting smooth-fruited strains of tomatoes, it is important to choose plants bearing a uniform crop of smooth fruits rather than to select smooth fruits at random after picking from the vines.

CLOVER, NATURE'S NITROGEN PLANT

By Edgar W. Cosby, Agricultural Extension Department International Harvester Company

For thousands of years sweet clover, alfalfa and other members of the clover family have been gathering nitrogen out of the air and converting it into fertilizer to enrich the soil and increase the production of farm crops. So quietly, so mysteriously have the clovers performed this beneficial task that it was not until a few years ago that we even knew they were doing it at all.

We have not learned even yet just how the clovers are able to do this work but they showed us that it could be done, and since then scientists have been at work endeavoring to find some method of converting the nitrogen in the air into a commercial product.

In this they have been successful. Our entry into the war resulted in the expenditure by this government of something like $20,000,000 for the erection of a nitrate plant at Muscle Shoals, Alabama. By a scientific process the nitrogen in the air was to be converted into ammonium nitrates for the manufacture of gunpowder and other high explosives.

But just as the plant was completed and the first samples of the output turned over to the government, the armistice was signed.

The practically unlimited amount of raw material available is shown by the fact that the air above one acre of ground at sea level contains 35,656 tons of nitrogen.

Nitrogen is worth around 20 cents a pound. If you own a 100 acre farm there is over $14,000,000 worth of nitrogen in the air above your land. At sea level, air weighs nearly 15 pounds to the square inch and a little over 77 per cent of it is nitrogen.

Every farmer can have his own nitrogen factory. Ten, 20 or 40 acres of sweet clover or alfalfa will gather the nitrogen out of the air and use it to fertilize his soil. The clover patch means fertile soil, hay, live stock, dairy products, meat products, prosperity.

THE REWARDS OF SAVING

A Chicago banker has found that if the "widow's mite," assuming it to be a cent, had been invested 1900 years ago at 3 per cent semi-annual interest compounded, it today would reach the brain-tiring sum of $562,190,000,000,000,000,000,000.

Now the banker or no other person would say that the widow ought to have invested her mite rather than give it to cause she did but every person will point to it as an illustration of the tremendous expansion a small sum of money will experience if placed at compound interest.

The banker gives a more practical example of his point when he says that $5 a month placed in a savings bank owing 3 per cent interest will get the saver in thirty years the surprising sum of $3,115 or if invested at 5 per cent, its bonds will become $41,659 in the same period of time.

An education can catch the lesson of thrift, which these examples teach. Thrift as an abstraction may not have much of an appeal for youth but in such terms as the Chicago banker uses the subject becomes practical and interesting and illustrates that habits of industry and thrift bring their reward.

Paris maintains a municipal pawn shop. It is patronized extensively.

STORAGE OF "COOL" VEGETABLES

By John S. Gardner, Kentucky College Of Agriculture

A celery trench is much like a cabbage trench, except that it must be much more carefully made. The sides should be vertical. The trench may be as few as four stalks wide, though six is better, and it should be as deep as the length of the stems of the outer leaves.

The whole celery stalks are carefully lifted, and set snugly, the roots in good contact with the loosened soil in the bottom of the trench. The tops are covered with a light mulch of leaves or straw, and this with boards or heavy paper to keep out the rains. The location of the trench should be such that surface drainage is away from it. Ditching to ensure that no water may collect in it should certainly be done. As the season grows colder an earth cover of a few inches should supplement the straw and when the cold becomes severe 3 or 4 inches of straw or stalks or strawy manure should be applied, the waterproof cover maintained all the while.

The trench may be opened and closed repeatedly, provided the emptied end is stuffed with straw and the waterlight covering over its whole length is carefully replaced.

An earth trench can be improved upon by lining the sides with boards to reach above the upmost leaves, and constructing a work-man-like A-roof of boards to span it.

The celery is set as before, and the space heavily filled with straw, the boards covered with earth and straw as before.

Such a trench may be 12 stalks wide. The height of the roof will permit an entrance and just as many or as few stalks as desired may be removed at any time. The roof need be but distributed, though it is of advantage to use short lengths of board so that it may be removed, section by section, as the trench is emptied. The end of such a trench must be sealed with straw each time it is opened. This is an excellent means for keeping celery, and the mid-this flavor of the slow-blanching varieties of Winter Queen and Giant Pascal, when thus stored, will well repay any gardener for all the trouble its construction involves.

KENTUCKIAN KNOWS BETTER

Warren Fisher
Editor in Chief of Carlisle Mercury
Carlisle, Kentucky

Mr. dear Warren:

We have just had a laugh about your account of my experience with "Pearson" county, but I am afraid you didn't know properly to appreciate it. Being interested in around anyone, me and I am not going to let you get by with it for two reasons.

One is that I started life with the best school children in the world. Your father and Aunt Lizzie drilled me in Kentucky history, and it would not disgrace them for me not to know better than that, unless our county has seventy-five times as much as Pearson