

Our Part in Feeding the Nation

(Special Information Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

STRAWBERRIES FROM SUMMER TO FROST



Planted in April This Field of an Everbearing Type Gave a Crop the Following Autumn

DELICIOUS BERRY THROUGH SUMMER

Long-Season Strawberries Have Passed Trial Period.

OF REAL VALUE FOR MARKET

Heretofore "Everbearing" Varieties Have Been Grown Chiefly by Amateurs and Commercial Growers—Crop First Season

Strawberries from your garden throughout summer and autumn are now a possibility as the result of the perfection of "everbearing" varieties of this delicate berry. Everbearing strawberries are not a brand new discovery, but heretofore they have been grown chiefly by amateurs and commercial growers who have tested them in comparison with ordinary sorts. In a recent publication of the United States department of agriculture announcement is made that a sufficient number of trials of these varieties now have been completed to indicate their real value for home use and for market in certain sections of the country.

Primarily a Northern Type

The regions where it is known that everbearing varieties can be grown extend as far south as the northern parts of Virginia, Kentucky, Arkansas and Kansas. South of these limits there are probably points where they may be grown with some degree of success, but they are not definitely known to succeed there.

The two leading varieties of this type of strawberry, the Progressive and the Superb, are notable not only because they produce fruit from the time of the usual crop until late summer or autumn, but also because they are exceptionally resistant to leaf-spot diseases. They are also very hardy. The Progressive has been found to withstand the winters of the middle West better than any other variety except the Dunlap, one of its parents. The Superb also is harder than most varieties of strawberries. Another remarkable characteristic of these varieties is that if their blossoms are killed by frost they soon flower again. Therefore in many sections subject to late spring frosts, which often destroy the crop, these varieties are particularly valuable.

Small Crop First Season.

If plants of the everbearing type are set early in the spring, a small crop may be obtained the first year.

SET STRAWBERRIES EARLY TO GET FRUIT FIRST YEAR

Early spring—so soon as you can get into the garden—is the time to set "everbearing" strawberries, or, in fact, any strawberries. With such an early start a larger crop of fruit can be obtained the first year. The plants also have opportunity to become established and to develop better root systems before beginning to fruit. The markedly different behavior of the long-season varieties has led to the development of cultural practices differing in special details from those followed in the production of standard sorts. Directions for the culture of the everbearing types, in so far as the methods differ from ordinary practices with strawberries, are given in Farmers' Bulletin 901 of the U. S. department of agriculture.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTHS HELP KENT FARMERS

County Develops Method Demonstrating Use of Boys Is Practicable.

WIDER ADOPTION IS URGED

Mobilization of Boys in Working Service on Grand Rapids Plan Would Lessen Labor Shortage.

By EARL R. TRANMANG, Michigan Agricultural College, East Lansing, Mich.—Thirty-five thousand young men of Michigan have within the last 12 months signed themselves up for service with Uncle Sam. Of these, 20,000 were farm boys and dwellers in the country villages and small towns of the state.

In the same period almost as many more young men, succumbing to the lure of high wages in motorcar factories and kindred industries have fled the farm and their rural employments to make manning and the gaps in the mills and shops caused by the calling of city men to arms.

These statistics mean what? Just this—that there now are 40,000 Michigan farmers estimating roughly, who lack one or more hired men; 40,000 farms where production will fall off in 1918 unless hands to help are provided.

The question presents itself—what are we going to do about it? If you were asking this question in Kent county, wherein Grand Rapids is situated, the answer would be: "Use all the boys you can," because farm-



A Typical Group of Boy Volunteers on the Farm.

ers in Kent have learned that boys can make themselves duly helpful in an emergency, provided—and this is important—they are motivated properly, selected according to their ability, and properly supervised at least during the first few weeks of their period on the farm. Any boy who is not properly selected and supervised is bound to fail, and any who are not properly selected and supervised are bound to fail.

Unquestionably, it is the duty of the county to take steps to help the farm boys in Kent county. The county has a large number of farm boys, and it is the duty of the county to help them. The county has a large number of farm boys, and it is the duty of the county to help them.

Last spring, before the tide of farm hands flowed, many farmers in Kent county found themselves being left high and dry for labor. As may be guessed, these weren't long in making their plight public—news of which finally reached the city of Grand Rapids.

Here three large-visioned leaders—A. P. Johnson, a Grand Rapids publisher; H. G. Smith, the county agricultural agent; and W. A. Green, the superintendent of the Grand Rapids schools, made themselves into a board of strategy, out of which came the Grand Rapids plan.

It was this: To mobilize the high school boys of Grand Rapids into a farm-help corps, members of which, who if accepted, were to be allowed high school credit at the rate of 24 units for every month on the farm—only boys up in all their studies to be eligible.

Second—Selection by the county agent of only the ablest from among these boys—judging a modern efficiency expert might call the employees for a commercial enterprise, or Uncle Sam chooses men for the army.

Third—Supervision of these boys during the summer by a traveling service, whose office it would be to go from farm to farm to learn how the boys were progressing, to straighten out possible differences between the boys and their employers, to assure parents that their sons were not being exploited, and to learn whether or not the boys were really enjoying their high school credits.

at least one month, and a parallel pledge from the farmer employing the boy that he would exercise kindness and patience and accord him the consideration and comfort given the members of his own family.

The next step was to secure the cooperation of parents and the enlistment of boys. Both these were won over by the compelling appeals of the publisher. More than 600 boys forested themselves—many of them the sons of the biggest business and professional men in the city.

Converting the farmer to the project was still another matter, for the average countryman, whose opinions about city youths have been gained largely through the hole in the fence around the lucky flock, where the melon patch is located, can scarcely be expected to fall in love at first sight with any plan for using inexperienced boy labor. This, however, were finally reached through meetings in the country and appeals through the press, and induced to give the youngsters a trial.

"We are not endeavoring to fob these boys upon you as the ideal farm laborer," they were told, "for we understand with you that an untrained boy will never be as valuable as an experienced man. What we are doing is simply making it possible for you to make use of all that we have—it is a case of boy labor or no labor. Will you take them?"

Of 235 boys who were supplied to farmers of Kent county during the course of the summer, 85 per cent of them stayed with their employers for three months or more. Out of 3 per cent of them were downright failures, and in some of these cases the boys were not wholly at fault. Most of them began at \$15 a month and quit at \$25, \$30 and \$35.

"If a boy isn't worth \$15 a month he isn't worth having around," County Agent Smith declared when the boys were sent out, and the farmers agreed with him. The average wage of the boys was \$20 a month before the season was over, and many made themselves so useful that farmers voluntarily paid them \$30 and \$35—boys who three months before were hardly aware what farm was over.

As a whole the farmers of Kent county themselves encourage the wider adoption of the high school boy program. "For the first four or five weeks," said one of these "the boys are a liability. That is, it takes the time of the farmer himself to instruct them and tell them the best way when and what of farm operations but thereafter they can make themselves entirely worth while."

"They are a clean, manly, intelligent, and willing lot," he said, "and they are not to be had and always back on Monday morning. Of course I would trade two or three of them for a seasoned hired man—but when you can't get that hired man, the city boy is immensely better than nothing."

And with this opinion, most of the other 235 Kent county men agree cordially. Wherefore, it is proposed in Grand Rapids this spring to supply at least 600 boys of this type for the coming summer's work.

Three things may be said to have contributed most to the good results obtained in Kent—first, the enthusiasm of the county agent, who gave up pleasant vacations to sweat in cornfields; second, the careful selection of boys by the county agent, guarding against the sending out of misfits and incompetents; and third, the work of the supervisor, Ray A. Palmer, who did much to build up an esprit de corps among the boys to keep them at their tasks, and to patch up misunderstandings.

Without all these, communities venturing boy-labor enterprises are more than likely to meet with disappointment.

At the end of the season the boys all went into the Boys' Working Reserve—which, by the way, is an organization with which every community should get in touch. Through the cooperation of Charles A. Parcells, superintendent of the Grand Rapids schools, the boys are being sent to the state—though in taking the matter up with Mr. Parcells it should be done through your county agricultural agent.

The point is emphasized also by the Grand Rapids plan that to be of most value, organizations should be completed early, so that boys may be delivered to the farms in May, to help with the heavy work of the spring.

Labor All the Same.

It requires no more labor to put in the high-yielding varieties of seed grains than it requires to secure the same amount of labor to take care of the grain.

The Farmer's Problem.

The problem of feeding the people of the United States and the majority of the people of Europe is the biggest problem ever placed before the farmers of this country.

DAIRY THE DAIRY

SKIMMED MILK FOR CALVES

Since Most of Fat Has Been Removed in Cream Carbohydrates Needed to Make It Balanced.

Skimmed milk is a little richer in protein than whole milk, but lower in carbohydrates. Since most of the fat has been removed in the cream the skimmed milk will need carbohydrates to make it a balanced ration for calves.

A good plan is to replace a portion of the whole milk with skimmed milk, gradually increase the skimmed milk with some form of carbohydrates till all of the whole milk is replaced by skimmed milk. Fine ground meal is one of the best carbohydrate supplements to be fed with skimmed milk. Some farmers cook the meal, stir it in the skimmed milk and feed it to the calf. After the calf is two weeks old it will eat fine ground meal and it fed small quantities will assimilate it. Unseeded meal is also used.

Care should be taken in feeding calves. They should be taught to drink from the pail as soon as possible. Nourish but clean vessels should be used and the milk should be clean and warm.

CLEAN UTENSILS ARE URGED

High Grade of Milk Cannot Be Obtained if Pails and Cans Are Not Thoroughly Washed.

By E. E. FARMINGTON, Wisconsin Agricultural College.

All efforts to supply the consumers with sweet, clean milk are useless if the milk pails, the cans, and other utensils are not thoroughly washed and scalded before milk is poured into them. Milk sours so quickly and it is so difficult to remove the sour odor from the utensils that these should be washed immediately after they are used.

(1) Milk pails and cans should be smooth, with all cracks and seams

flushed with solder. Seamless pails and cans have been placed on the market.

(2) When washing tinware, first rinse off the film of milk on the surface with cold water, then wash thoroughly with warm water and cleaning soda, using a brush, and finally rinse with scalding hot water and place in the sun or some place free from dust to dry.

(3) After scalding, do not wipe milk tinware with a cloth, but let the running water be so hot that there is no further need of drying.

During spring chapped teats are common. The cows were around in muddy yards and even in ponds in the pasture, the teats get wet and cold, and if no special attention is given in the cows, the teats frequently become very sore.

CHAPPED TEATS ARE VEXING

Where Cows Wade Around in Muddy Yards and Pastures, Teats Often Get Wet and Cold.

Sore teats of any kind are very unpleasant, both to the cow and the milker. A cow having sore teats of any kind does not stand still during milking. She keeps moving about and even kicking.

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HIGH-PRICED FEED ANNOYING

Dairymen Depending on Profit From Cows for Living Must Know Just What He Is Doing.

Now that the cost of cow feed is soaring skyhigh and the dairymen are depending on the profit from the cow for his living it is a self-evident fact that he must know what he is thinking about. One thing is certain, the poor feeder to the poor cow is not in the better, even if he must "live out" to work for the man who knows how to do his own thinking.

MEAT BULL UNTIL TESTED

Not Good Policy to Sell to Butcher After Two Years' Service—May Prove to Be Valuable.

After a young or untried bull has been used for two years he should not be sold to the butcher, because he may prove to be a bull of exceptional worth when his daughters are born. Such a bull often can be lost or leased to a man with a grade herd for a couple of years until some of his heifers freshen. In this way he always is subject to recall in case he proves especially valuable.

A KLONDIKE TO THE REAL FARMER

A Western Canada Crop Estimated at \$12,000,000, Makes \$19,000.

Messrs. Harris, formerly of Audubon, Iowa, wrote the "Audubon Advocate," expressing their satisfaction of things in Western Canada. They located at Malmesbury, Alberta. They say there are those who make good, and those who fail. The former are those that land agents refer to when advertising their land. "But," continues the letter, "A great many of the farmers in this vicinity pay for their land with their first crop. A man near here bought a section of land in the year 1915 for \$23 per acre. He broke 300 acres of the land during the summer of 1916. In the fall of 1916 he threshed 10,000 bushels of wheat, which paid for his land, all expenses and had a balance of \$4,000. In the fall of 1917 he threshed nearly as much of the other half of the section. At the present time he would not take \$50 per acre for his land.

"We have had five crops in Alberta. The two dry years (1914-1917) our wheat made 20 and 30 bushels per acre respectively. In 1918 we raised 50 bushels of wheat to the acre on summer fallow. The best results are obtained by plowing or bringing in the summer, and then sowing in the fall so that it will retain the moisture. This farming one-half your ground each year.

"Persons owning land here and still living in the States should, if they don't feel themselves able to come up here and finance themselves until they could get their first crop, get some of their land broken and worked down in the fall before they come. The next spring they could come and put in the crop, fence and put up their buildings. This way they have to wait only one summer for their first crop.

"It is not advisable for a person to come here in the spring, break out land and put it in crop the first year, because the moisture is not in the ground and a failure is almost certain unless it is an exceptionally wet year.

"One of the boys from that locality, Mr. Peter M. Jensen came to Alberta last spring. He bought a 30-acre Ramsey Oil-Pull engine on the 8th day of June, 1917. After that date he broke 1,100 acres of prairie soil for which he received an average of \$5.00 per acre.

"Mr. Hansen from your community, was up here last fall with several prospective land buyers from that neighborhood. At that time he inquired the value of the crop on the section we were farming. We told him that it would probably make in the neighborhood of \$12,000. This same crop when sold brought nearly \$19,000. The most of it being sold when prices were low for the year."

PORTER HAD HIS SUSPICIONS

And Really There Seemed Some Reason to Believe That Traveler Had Inside Information.

Joseph H. Igleheart, an attorney of Evansville, was in Indianapolis a few days ago and when he reached Terre Haute en route home and got on a passenger train on the Chicago & Eastern Indiana railroad, he decided he would take a sleeper. He looked up the porter and told him he wished a berth. He was due in Evansville at 11 o'clock that night and the porter recommended sleeping in a three-hour's ride and that no one needed a sleeper for that short distance.

"I don't care," shouted Igleheart. "I want a berth if it's only a three-hour's ride." The porter said he would have to see the conductor and later returned and told Mr. Igleheart that he could have a berth.

Owing to a heavy snowstorm and bad weather conditions the train arrived at six o'clock the next morning at Evansville, being seven hours late. When Igleheart got up he greeted the porter, who was standing in the aisle. The porter was angry and after Igleheart had spoken to him the second time he said: "Don't you speak to me, white man. How did you know that we were going to have this lay-out?"—Indianapolis News.

He Took His Tin Hat Off.

A man staggered down the trench with blood running over his face and over his uniform. There was so little room at this point that he had to flatten against the wall to permit him to pass. Close behind was another soldier with a small red cross on his sleeve; not a Red Cross nurse as they never are at the front. He started to tell us that the wounded man had taken his helmet off, but the wounded man preferred to tell the story himself. "I just took off my tin hat to scratch me blooming top-piece when whang! I slipped. And now it's my neck to blighly under my power." He wobbled on—London Chronicle.

Wright Hated to Say Them Twice. While wailing at his aunt's house my son Harold was put to bed temporarily, waiting for the storm to cease. Aunt Edith said to him: "Harold, why don't you say your prayers?" and he honestly answered: "I don't know if I should say my prayers because I don't know if I'm going to sleep her tonight."—Chicago Tribune.