RADIO SERVICE
Farm News Digest
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
United States Department of Agriculture

For Release March 1, 2 or 3

ANNOUNCEMENT

The purpose of the Farm News Digest, a radio service prepared and syndicated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is to present all shades of opinion on matters affecting agriculture. Its sources of information include the most important daily newspapers throughout the country, the economic weeklies and monthlies and practically all the agricultural journals, domestic and foreign. Responsibilities, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

World Wheat Pool

An Associated Press dispatch from St. Paul says: "The plan of cooperative marketing leaders for a world-wide organization of wheat pool units, designed eventually to market the bulk of the world's wheat, became a reality here at an international conference of wheat pools. Unification and standardization of pooling operations and establishment of an effective clearing house for exchange of accurate information as to crops and supplies of grain was decided upon. The conference was organized on a permanent basis by unanimous vote of 75 spokesmen for cooperative grain pools of the United States, Canada and Australia."

New York Fur Auction

The New York Times states that raccoon was the only fur to advance on the final day of the Huth auction at New York yesterday. The sale ran eight days and closed with total receipts of $3,450,000.

Cancer Bacillus Discovery Claimed

A Berlin dispatch to the press states that discovery and isolation of the cancer bacillus is claimed by Dr. Josef Schumacher.

Canadian Crops

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics estimates the aggregate value of all the field crops of Canada in 1925 at $1,159,361,900, as compared with $995,235,900 in 1924. The value of the crop last year was the greatest of any year since 1920, when the total was $1,455,244,000.

Tea Consumption

An Associated Press dispatch, February 20 says: "Americans drank more tea in 1925 and paid more for it than ever before, the Commerce Department announced yesterday giving imports as 100,962,226 pounds, valued at $31,454,181."

Women in British Dairies

An Associated Press dispatch from London states that British dairy farmers especially welcome women as helpers because, they say, it has been proved that women are better adapted to dairying than men. In the country devoted to the milk industry a great many more women are now employed than men. Demand for the new land girl has doubled in less than a year, the report says, and the Women's Farm and Garden Association is having difficulty keeping up with requests of farmers for this class of workers.

Wool Marketing in Texas

A Fort Worth dispatch to the press states that Texas wool growers, who have been refusing to sell their clip in advance, and buyers, whose offers have been less than a year ago, may get together in the near future, according to present indications. The chances seem to favor contracting at a little less than last year. The trend of the market in the Southwest is toward a more favorable basis for both wool and mohair, with the outlook more favorable for mohair than wool.

Government Chemists

The United States Government has become the largest single employer of chemists in the world, a recent investigation by the United States Civil Service Commission has revealed. There are more than 1,000 such scientists on Government pay rolls at present. This large number of chemists has gradually been enlisted by the Government as the needs of the several departments and bureaus called for such technical men. The work of recruiting them is still being carried on through colleges and chamical societies the country over. (Wash. Post, Feb. 16.)

Registered Seed in Canada

"Improvement and expansion of the facilities for handling registered seed are included in the program now being carried out by the Saskatchewan Registered Seed Growers' Association," states M. T. Tullis, manager of the organization. Last year the association marketed five times as much registered seed as has been done in any given year prior to the time and for the 1925-26 season to date inquiries from farmers in the province and seed houses in the East and South indicate a 50% increase over the 1924-1925 seed season. (Agric. and Indus. Progress in Canada, February.)

Turkey Lowers Duty on American Imports

An Associated Press dispatch from Constantinople, February 20 says: "The American High Commissioner, Rear Admiral Mark L. Bristol, and the Turkish Foreign Minister, Tewfik Rushdi Bey, have signed a modus vivendi assuring the United States most-favored-nation commercial treatment for six months, and consequently exempting America from the increased Turkish customs duties. ..... American goods imported by Turkey are valued at about $7,000,000 annually, consisting chiefly of automobiles, agricultural implements and flour."

East Buys Cuban Sugar

Theo. H. Price, in Commerce and Finance for February 17, says: "Last week 6,138 tons of sugar were shipped from Cuba to New Zealand. Earlier in the year 11,159 tons were exported from Cuba to China, and considerable quantities of refined sugar have recently been bought in the United States for shipment to East India. These facts have made us curious, for it has seemed somewhat surprising that the Far East and the Antipodes should be buying sugar in the Western Hemisphere when they were so much nearer Java, where we have always been told that sugar could be produced in abundance at a low cost because labor was so cheap.... Among the Oriental people sugar was not much used as food until recently. Sweetmeats and candies were known to them as luxuries that were sparingly consumed, but even to-day the Chinaman takes no sugar in his tea and to him as well as to the Japanese and the inhabitants of East India and Java the consumption of sugar on the scale that obtains in the United States would have been an unwarrantable extravagance. But times have changed. The ladies of Borneo are clad in bank notes. because the wealth of America is being lavishly spent for the rubber that the Far East produces and in their prosperity the peoples of that remote region are learning the food value of sugar. Their consumption of it is increasing rapidly. They can not produce more without intrenching upon the land that is needed for other essential food crops, and so they have been compelled to go to Cuba--half way around the world--in order to obtain the additional sugar that they want and are now able to pay for. It is one of the most remarkable developments in the history of Modern commerce and provides the surest guaranty we can have that a commodity for which there is such an insistent demand can not long remain below the cost of production plus a fair profit to the producer. In Cuba where sugar can be more cheaply produced than anywhere else in the world the cost of production plus even a small profit is at least 3 cents a pound, and the indications are that unless America bestirs herself all the Cuban sugar that is to be had below that figure will be bought by Europe, Asia and Oceania."

Wholesale Prices

Practically no change in the general level of wholesale prices in January as compared with the preceding month is shown by information collected in leading markets by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau's weighted index number, which includes 404 commodities or price series, registered 156.0 for January compared with 156.2 for December, 1925. Compared with January, 1925, with an index number of 160.0 there was a decrease of 2½ per cent. Farm products and foods declined slightly below the level of December. Lower prices were reported also for clothing materials, metals, chemicals, and drugs, and house-furnishing goods. In the group of miscellaneous commodities, due largely to falling prices of crude rubber, there was a decrease of 2 per cent. Fuels and building materials, on the other hand, averaged somewhat higher than in December.

Agricultural Machinery Outlook

International Harvester Company dealers in the wheat, corn and dairy belts report the outlook for sale of tractors and other power farming machinery is good, subject to crop conditions and prices. Their reports.....indicate the demand for farm machinery this year will be based on the improved purchasing power of the farmer, with his desire to replace wornout equipment and reduce farm labor costs. (Wall St. Jour., Feb. 19.)

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Cotton Seed As Food.

Cotton seed as a staple food will be discussed at a symposium to be held in connection with the spring meeting of the American Chemical Society April 5 to 9 at Tulsa, Okla. Reports will be presented on the results of surveys of the possibilities for such use of cotton seed products. Because of the high protein content of the seed it is predicted that synthetic beefsteak with practically the same protein value as real meat may be an outcome of the investigation. (Press, Feb. 23.)

Wilson Packing Company Sold.

An Associated Press dispatch from Chicago says: "The properties and business of Wilson & Co., bankrupt meat packers, were sold at public auction to a purchasing committee representing a reorganization committee formed by stockholders and creditors. The price was $23,150,000. Under the reorganization plan, Thomas E. Wilson will remain president of the company and the executive personnel will be unchanged. According to the promoters, the reorganized company is a $119,000,000 corporation. Yesterday's purchase price will cover all pressing claims against the company, and start it in business again in good shape financially."

Artificial Silk Production.

A London dispatch to the press says: "The world's production of artificial silk was stated at a meeting of the Snia Viscosa Company to be 83,000,000 kilograms, of which the United States produces 30.13 per cent, Italy 16.26, Germany 14.45, England 13.25 and France 7.83 per cent."

New Hours For Weather Observations.

An Associated Press dispatch states: "Recommendation for a change in the hours of the observations upon which the Weather Bureau bases its forecasts has been made in a preliminary report to H. C. Smither, chief coordinator of the budget, by a committee comprising representatives of the Army, Navy and Weather Bureau. The committee recommended that the observations should be taken throughout the country at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., Eastern standard time, instead of two hours later, as at present. The change, it said, would benefit aviators and business interests generally."

Cotton Acreage.

P.O. Davis, writing from Auburn to Manufacturers Record for February 18, says: "Alabama, together with all other States of the South, realizes the dangers of too much cotton. If the 1926 crop should be as large as that of 1925, there is every reason to believe that prices will be much lower, and that disappointment and unpaid debts will be the principal returns for cotton growers this year. But Alabama is tackling the problem from a different angle, bringing into play a bit of psychology which is calculated to be effective. Instead of making a flat cotton acreage reduction recommendation, the agricultural leaders of this State are stressing a safe farming plan which includes feed crops, livestock and cotton in proper proportions, and in proper relations to each other. The opinion of the Alabama leaders is that the most effective way to reduce the cotton acreage is not by making a flat reduction recommendation, but to stress other crops in a safe farming system, and thereby take cotton out of the spotlight by focusing attention on feed crops and livestock."

Tobacco In Canada.

The rapid rate at which Canada is taking a place among the tobacco-producing countries of the world is indicated in a bulletin of the Canadian Pacific Railway showing that although the crops are mainly in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, that the estimated production in 1925 was 29,255,000 pounds grown on 27,815 acres, as compared with a yield of 18,710,740 pounds on 21,317 acres in 1924...."These swelling figures of acreage and production give a clear indication of the increasing importance of the Canadian tobacco crop and the rising prestige of the industry in all its ramifications. A few years ago Canadian tobacco was scarcely known beyond the confines of the Dominion, and not too highly regarded there. To-day the raw and manufactured product is going to many countries in increasing volume annually, and is steadily finding increasing favor, especially in the British Isles. The present status of the industry only faintly suggests what might be made of tobacco growing and manufacture in Canada." (Press, Feb. 23.)

British Agricultural Policy.

Country Life (London) for February 6 says: "The Government's future agricultural policy has now been indicated, and it is clear that, as most of us have long surmised, agriculture will have to stand on its own legs,and, for the most part, must get through its difficulties without legislative aid or official interference. The Government has decided that the financial resources of the country are at present insufficient to justify them in attempting to stem the tide of those economic forces that have reduced our arable acreage. In view of the burdens already laid upon us, and of many signs that the tide is on the turn, we are of opinion that, in the main, the country will say that the Government is right. We do not gather from the decision that the Government is necessarily indifferent to the evils of cultivated land reverting to grass any more than they are indifferent to slums, unemployment or other troubles that beset us. All are matters which statesmen of every party must deplore, but can only remedy as fast as, and so far as, the resources of the community will allow. Criticism will, of course, be concentrated less on what is proposed to be done than on what has been left undone. Few will quarrel with the wider provision of credit facilities, with the aid promised for drainage and for the improvement of marketing organization, or with the extension under careful safeguards of small holdings and occupying ownership. But there will be many to complain of desertion of the arable farmer and of an unfulfilled pledge to the barley grower. We do not, ourselves, propose to join in these plaints....But there is one matter on which we wish once more to take up the cudgels with all the energy at our command. We again urge the Government to introduce a preferential postage rate on parcels of farm produce...."

Southern Progress.

The American Exchange-Pacific National Bank of New York in its weekly financial statement gives due credit to the South for the remarkable progress that is now under way in the development of its industrial interests. It is as follows: "The magic wand of hard work is rapidly building an empire within an empire in the South. Industry is taking its place alongside agriculture, thus rounding out an economic structure that has few equals in the world. To the visitor able to look at the new South against the background of the old, the changes that have taken place seem actually to have been wrought by magic. But the magic has been the magic of hard work applied to natural resources such as are vouchsafed to few peoples. There is hardly any enterprise known to modern industry that is not represented in the great workshop of the new South....But with all this industrial development, the South is still predominantly agricultural. Its cotton fields, its peanuts, its potatoes, its fruits, its wheat and corn, its cattle and its forage make the South the land of the truly blessed. In the Southeast, water-power development has reached an advanced stage, many of the huge industries in Tennessee, the Carolinas, Georgia, and Alabama being driven by power developed in the mountain streams of the South....The great Southwest, with its ports, its vast resources of oil, timber, cattle and cotton, is one of the richest sections of the earth. Real wealth consists of natural resources and the tools for utilizing them. The South has this kind of wealth, and it is evident to the observer that its development has just begun."

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For Release March 6, 7 or 8

Examine Game Birds for Bands.

Sportsmen shooting game birds during the hunting season are requested by the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture to examine all birds carefully for leg bands at the time shot. It will greatly aid the investigations being made by means of banded birds if bands are returned to the department with accurate particulars regarding the exact spot where found, and any other pertinent information.

Apple's Enemies Are Numerous.

"Uneasy rests the head that wears a crown," and His Majesty the Apple, is no exception to the rule, according to the United States Department of Agriculture educational film, "King Apple's Enemies." Such insects and fungi as aphids, cankerworms, red bugs, codling moths, tree tent caterpillars, plum curculio, San Jose scale, apple scab, leaf spot, apple blotch, bitter rot, sooty blotch, and many other orchard insurrectos constantly conspire to dethrone King Apple, and his defenders are frequently called upon to mobilize their forces and declare war upon the enemies. Materials for controlling such insects and plant diseases and methods of applying them through the spray nozzle and dusting machine are recommended in the film.

Don't Guess About Seed Corn.

Seed corn for 1926 planting offers an interesting contrast to that for last year. From the standpoint of maturing corn, the summer of 1924 was one of the poorest in many years. In contrast, the summer of 1925 was unusually favorable for the rapid development of corn. The crop went into September in excellent condition and the prospects for seed corn were the best. Field selection of seed corn was put off in many cases because of these facts and early freezes occurred before many farmers had selected their seed. These conditions have contributed to a prospective seed corn situation next spring which, while not serious, may be unfavorable. Farmers who did not have their seed corn out of the field before the first freeze should test it for germination as soon as possible. Directions for conducting such tests may be had from their State agricultural experiment station or the United States Department of Agriculture.

Raising Turkeys Helps to Destroy Grasshoppers.

Development of Wyoming as a turkey-producing section has been urged by extension workers of the State and the United States Department of Agriculture for three reasons: The climate induces fattening in time to place the stock early on the holiday markets; livestock growers need a supplemental cash crop; and where there are sufficient turkeys, grasshoppers cease to be a liability and become an asset, for these birds have a high regard for the grasshopper, and large appetites.

Prairie Dog Clean-Up.

The destruction of about 3,000,000 prairie dogs and other rodents in northern Arizona in the course of a recent poisoning campaign has, it is estimated, increased the forage production of the area by more than 76,000 tons. If this forage were valued at only 50 cents a ton its worth would be about $38,000. Clearing the area cost less than 4 cents an acre. As a result of the campaign one wool grower was able to place 6,000 more sheep on the range.

Does Electricity Speed Up Plant Growth?

Many experiments conducted during the past 75 years to determine the influence of electrical treatment of the soil or the atmosphere on the growth and yield of plant life have given rise to various conclusions. In England, where the electrical treatment has been applied by charging a network placed high enough above the growing crops to permit of cultivation with horses, increased yields are reported. Similar experimental work by the United States Department of Agriculture has failed to produce any well-defined increase in yield. Eight years of experimental tests by the department have not shown any positive response by plants to electrical treatment of either the soil or the atmosphere in which the plants were grown. At the present time there is still a diversity of opinion concerning the influence of electricity in plant development.

Milk Bread Rich in Taste and Food Value.

There is a world of difference in the sound and in the taste of bread and milk and bread and water. Judged in several ways, there is a similar difference between bread made with milk and bread made with water. The milk supplies food materials that the wheat lacks, and vice versa. Milk, for instance, happens to be particularly rich in calcium, while wheat contains very little. Calcium is a mineral that the body needs constantly for building and repairing bones, teeth, and other tissues. Unfortunately the average American diet is often rather low in calcium. Milk bread is therefore one way of giving the body a more generous supply of this valuable mineral. Bread made with milk also tastes richer and does not grow stale so rapidly as when water is used in mixing the dough.

River Reports To Be Sent Out by Radio.

Sending out daily river stage data by radio, with river forecasts and flood warnings, is the latest step in the application of radio to the prompt dissemination of needed local information by the Weather Bureau of the United States Department of Agriculture. Pittsburgh, Pa., St. Louis, Mo., and Davenport, Iowa, have been furnished for some time past with similar service of a more limited character, and plans are under way for extending the service to other important river centers.

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No Rest for the Dairy Maid.

Recent studies completed by the United States Department of Agriculture on the comparative yield of cows milked twice a day and those milked three times a day will no doubt be viewed by the farm boy and the hired man with the feeling that some one is always taking the joy out of life. The department's milkers have found that milking three times a day produces more milk than twice-a-day milking. In fact, over a short period the increase in production is 12.5 per cent, while over a long period it appears that this increase is even greater. It was noted that cows milked three times a day hold up better near the end of the lactation period than cows milked twice a day. The economy of three-times-a-day milking has not yet been accurately estimated, but it will depend upon several factors, chief of which are quantity of production, cost of labor, and value of product.

Corn Borer Parasites Introduced.

The work of introducing insect parasites of the corn borer from Europe has progressed satisfactorily during the past year, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. New species of promising character have been secured and liberated in this country. Two of the species already liberated have been recovered from field collections this year, indicating that they have become established. One of these was found in the important Lake area bordering the Corn Belt, where the corn borer eventually must be most vigorously combated. Several additional promising species of parasitic enemies have been discovered in Europe by bureau investigators.

Sheep May Be Carried All Summer On Forage Crop.

Use of forage crops for pasturing sheep in summer is a practical means of feeding them, according to the results of experiments conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture on its experiment farm at Beltsville, Md. Observations were made not only of the gains in weight but also of the general condition of the animals, including resistance to disease and parasites. The crops used in this system of pastures in the order of use were as follows: Fall-sown rye, wheat, winter barley, oats, and Canada field peas, soy beans, corn and velvet beans, fall-sown winter barley, and winter wheat.

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For Release March 11, 12 & 13.

1925 As a Whole Was Warm and Dry.

Everybody has a different opinion about weather. Some always think the year just passed the coldest on record, and some sigh for the "good old days" of their youth when blizzards were blizzards and Fourth of July heat was really insufferable. The Weather Bureau says that the temperatures for 1925 as a whole in nearly all parts of the country were well above normal--in other words, it was generally a warm, dry year. The only areas that had a rather cool year were the lake region and the more northeastern districts, such as northern New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

Dry Substitutes for Liquid Lime-Sulphur Unsatisfactory.

Horticulturists and orchardists who are obliged to fight the San Jose scale again the coming spring and summer will find it to their advantage to stick to the liquid lime-sulphur or mineraloil sprays which they have used in the past, rather than to depend upon the use of "dry" substitutes. That is the conclusion reached by the Department of Agriculture after three years of trials of a number of dry lime-sulphur substitutes now offered commercially. While the value of these dry substitutes which have been on the market for a number of years is a disputed point, the department's tests found them unsatisfactory when compared with the liquid lime-sulphur.

Airplanes Have Many Uses in Insect-Pest Control.

The experimental work done by the Bureau of Entomology of the Department of Agriculture in the use of airplanes for distributing insecticides has been carried to the point where commercial organizations have now undertaken this operation as a business. Airplane dusting is a proved success in the control of cotton insects. During the cotton-growing season of 1925 more than 50,000 acres of cotton was dusted commercially with airplanes. Great progress has been made in the development of special planes for cotton dusting, the best methods of flying, and the application of the principles of airplane dusting to the operation of ordinary ground machinery.

Crop Rotation as Valuable as Manure and Fertilizers.

In the practice of crop rotation a farmer has at his command a means whereby he can materially reduce acre costs or increase the output of his land, says W. W. Weir, associate soil technologist of the United States Department of Agriculture. Perhaps that fact is not news to many farmers who have been using rotation in their crop system; they know it is a beneficial practice. They may be surprised, however, says Mr. Weir, to learn that crop rotation is nearly as effective in increasing soil productivity as the use of manure and commercial fertilizers. Furthermore, crop rotation can be practiced usually with no outlay of money, whereas the use of commercial fertilizers require an expenditure of money.

"Billy" the Bull Baffles the Butcher.

In a certain cow-testing association in a dairy district of the Central West, there was a purebred bull called "Billy." After he had been in use in the herd two years it was decided to send him to the butcher. "For a time," as the tester reported, "things looked bad for Billy; he was headed straight for the block." Just in the nick of time, six of his daughters in another herd completed yearly records which proved him more valuable as a sire than for bologna. He had proved himself and his life was saved. Figured to maturity, the average production of his six daughters was 7,886 pounds of milk containing 397 pounds of butterfat. This was 1,918 pounds more milk and 105 pounds more butterfat than the average produced by their dams. Such records as these, when they come before the bull is dead, are going to help immensely in selecting the right sires to head future dairy herds.

Nations May Adopt Thirteen-Month Calendar.

Fresh stimulus has recently been given to the reform of the calendar by the action of the committee of inquiry of the League of Nations in calling representatives of the Roman, Greek, and other orthodox churches of the East, the Anglican Church of Great Britain, and about 100 Protestant churches to discuss the advisability of making Easter a fixed instead of a movable date, dependent on the full moon. The first or second Sunday in April has been suggested. Prof. C. F. Marvin, Chief of the Weather Bureau indorses the 13-month year because it would greatly simplify meteorological and other scientific records. He points out also that there are innumerable advantages to economic, agricultural, civic, educational, and business interests in having all months and quarters exactly alike and the numbered days of each month always falling on the same day of the week. Many difficulties now existing in compiling accurate comparative statistics, in accounting, banking, or computing interest would be done away with.

Extra Feed to Ewes Brings More Lambs.

The effects of "flushing" ewes (meaning extra feed at breeding time) upon lamb yields have been studied for several years by sheep specialists. The method, which is of English origin, appears to have a wide practical significance, since experiments conducted thus far by the department have resulted in much larger lamb yields. A report of the results of flushing in two government experimental flocks show an increase of 20 more lambs per 100 ewes as the result of the practice. The percentages represent the increase above the normal lamb crop from similar ewes which did not receive the extra feed at breeding time. The results agree substantially with those obtained in former experiments.

High Egg Production and Standard Quality Combined.

For many years the efforts of poultry breeders to improve their flocks were confined largely to breeding for the type and color demanded by the "Standard of Perfection," and little attention was paid to developing high egg production. In the last few years, however, more interest has developed in the production of high egg-laying strains. A number of hens entered in official contests have laid more than 300 eggs in one year. The highest producing hens are now coming from flocks which have been pedigree bred for egg production for a period of years. A large per cent of the hens entered in these contests are White Leghorns, but just as large egg records have been made by other popular breeds, such as Plymouth Rock, Rhode Island Red, and Wyandotte.

Spraying Trees in Bloom Injurious to Honeybees.

When spraying fruit trees, care should be taken to do the work at a time when there is the least danger of poisoning the honeybees which visit the blossoms and which are very necessary for the pollination of the flowers. Spraying fruit trees while in full bloom with arsenicals is particularly injurious to bees, according to tests which have been completed recently by the Bureau of Entomology.

Protect Low-Growing Fruit Crops with Heaters.

Burning fuel oil in lard pail heaters has proved a successful method of obtaining a rise in temperature on the cranberry bogs near the mouth of the Columbia River in Washington. Local Weather Bureau officials assisted in making a test of the efficiency of these heaters for the purpose. The flooding of the bogs for frost protection as is done in Wisconsin and the Atlantic coast cranberry sections is not practicable in Washington. The heaters are set on metal tripods forced several inches into the ground so that the strong winds which sometimes blow in this district can not overturn them. Forty 10-quart lard pail heaters were used on a half-acre plot.

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Hog Production at Low Ebb.

Marked decreases in hog production during the past six years in practically all sections of the country with the exception of the Corn Belt, are shown in figures compiled by the Department of Agriculture. The number of hogs in most of the Southern States is the smallest in 40 years. Decreases are shown in both the South Atlantic and South Central groups of States, and in the North Atlantic States. The number of hogs for the country as a whole is placed at 51,223,000 head on January 1 this year, compared with 59,813,000 head on January 1, 1920. The peak during the six-year period was 68,447,000 head on January 1, 1923.

Alternative Crop Production Urged.

Farmers are urged by the Department of Agriculture that in planning crop production this year they consider the alternative crops that may be grown profitably. This advice applies to each of the principal money crops, and particularly to cotton, where "talk of reduced acreage," the department says in its March report on the agricultural situation, "should comprehend alternative crops that can be planted at greater profit." "Presumably," the department adds, "the present price of potatoes will stimulate an increase in acreage. If such increase goes much beyond 10 per cent, growers may regret it. The tendency after a season of very high potato prices is to seriously overdo the acreage. In the case of spring wheat, the tendency will probably be to increase or at least maintain the last acreage--the same being likely, incidentally, in Canada. We have about 4 per cent more hard winter wheat in the ground than last year and it seems to have wintered well." Discussing the major feed crops, the situation with regard to such crops is "fundamentally different," the department says. "Corn, oats, and hay are all low in price. But from the standpoint of agriculture as a whole, an abundance of feed crops is perhaps more to be desired this year than at any time in the last six years.

Purebred Livestock Prices Trend Upward.

A definitely upward trend in prices of purebred livestock during the past year compared with the three preceding years is reported by the Department of Agriculture, as shown in preliminary tabulations of a nation-wide survey. Reports on sale prices of purebred livestock have been obtained from approximately 15,000 breeders in all parts of the country.

Number of Co-ops has Doubled in Ten Years.

More than 12,000 farmers' business organizations are now active in the United States, the department estimates on the basis of a recent survey. This number is more than twice that in 1915, when the first nation-wide survey of cooperative associations was made by the department.

Animal Parasites of South to be Studied.

An important research problem about to be undertaken by the department deals with parasites of livestock in southern States and their relation to the animal industry of that region. In response to numerous requests, investigators of the Bureau of Animal Industry will devote their chief attention to parasites of sheep, swine, and cattle.

Odds Favor Cattle Raiser.

W. M. Jardine, Secretary of Agriculture, in an address before Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Fort Worth, Texas, March 10, said in part: "The cattle industry has indeed been through the fire since 1920. Of all the major lines of production that were plunged into the post-war depression, the range cattle industry suffered perhaps most severely. Its difficulties continued long after producers in many other lines had begun to recover. But the range country has met its trials with the old unbreakable spirit of courageous self-reliance. It has not gone out looking for some economic panacea. The whole country pays its tribute of respect not only to the men of the West who have successfully fought through these dark years but to those men who gamely went down in the struggle.

"Now we begin to see daylight ahead, not merely in cattle but in the whole agricultural situation. Agriculture as a whole is slowly but surely climbing back to its rightful place among the great productive industries of the Nation. The heavy net movement of population away from the farms has apparently subsided. Farm products have greatly improved in purchasing power, although they are not yet back to a parity of exchange for industrial goods and services. Land values show signs of improvement, at least in some sections, and farm property is once more beginning to find buyers in the open market. There are many signs that agricultural readjustment has proceeded to the point of real stabilization and that better times are definitely in sight.

"Liquidation of cattle has gone far enough to assure some degree of stability for the industry as a whole. The country is sold down very much shorter on steers than on cows; the trend in the market demand is toward the younger, lighter weight, but high quality animal. The odds are beginning to favor the cattle raiser so far as the supply end is concerned, but the situation has little in it yet to justify anything but careful, conservative procedure.

Farm Radio Making Rapid Growth.

There are nearly 1,000,000 radio sets on farms in the United States, the Department of Agriculture estimates in a report on the growth of farm radio during the past five years. In some States there are radio sets on 25 to 40 per cent of all farms. Estimates made by the department in 1923 showed 145,000 sets in use on farms at that time; 365,000 sets in 1924, and 553,000 sets early in 1925. Increased power and improved broadcasting, together with better receiving sets, the department believes, "will do much to aid in establishing the permanency of the use of radio for the benefit of agriculture.

Farm Wages Highest in Five Years.

Farm wages, one of the main factors in production costs in 1925, were the highest since 1920, and three times what they were at the close of the Civil War, according to department estimates. The weighted average farm wage per month, expressed as an index number, is placed at 168 for the year 1925, the average of 1910-14 being used as a base of 100.

Fewer Colts in Past Seven Years.

There has been a marked decrease in the number of horse and mule colts foaled in the last seven years, reports the department. While the number of horses and mules more than 2 years old decreased about 6 per cent from 1920 to 1925, the number of colts under 2 years of age decreased 51 per cent. The census of 1925 showed a reduction of 45 per cent in the ratio of colts under 2 years old to all horses and mules since 1920.

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President Coolidge Proclaims American Forest Week, April 18-24.

President Coolidge has designated April 18-24, inclusive, as the 1926 American Forest Week, according to an official proclamation made public by the United States Department of Agriculture which has supervision over the National Forests. The President in his annual forestry proclamation, while giving full weight to the evils resulting from impoverished forests and idle land, laid stress upon the increased attention being given to scientific forestry in industrial practice and land usage. "Too long have we as a Nation consumed our forest wealth, without adequate provision for its wise utilization and renewal," says President Coolidge "But a gratifying change is taking place in the attitude of our industries, our landowners, and the American people toward our forests."

Mexico Plans to Improve Livestock Through Better-Sires Campaign.

Largely through educational methods similar to those used in the United States, the Republic of Mexico is planning to improve its livestock. The Mexican activities will center on the use of purebred sires for all classes of domestic animals, the purchase of improved breeding stock, and the establishment of a roll of honor composed of persons participating in the work.

Foreign Visitors Seek Information on Insects.

From all over the world visitors come to the U. S. Department of Agriculture to study different phases of the department's work. During January the Bureau of Entomology received visitors from six foreign countries. Each of these visitors was interested in investigations of the bureau dealing with insect pests.

Climatological Records May be Depended Upon.

Typical of a large number of people who have read supposedly scientific articles on climatic "cycles," is a recent correspondent of the Weather Bureau of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This man had about made up his mind to invest his savings in a farm in one of two Middle West States, when some one filled him with panic by the statement that "next winter there would be a killing freeze, disastrous to crops." Ignoring the carefully compiled data already sent him by the Weather Bureau, giving him full information about the climate of these two States for a great many years past, this correspondent wanted the bureau to confirm the rumor that he had head.

Many Snakes Deserve Protection.

Contrary to popular belief, most common snakes are neither obnoxious nor poisonous, says the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The prevalent dread of snakes is due largely to the fear of such venomous species as the cotton-mouth moccasin, the copperhead, the rattlesnake, the massasauga, and the coral snake. Although these poisonous snakes have no place in a settled country, and efforts should be made to eradicate them, yet most common snakes are beneficial in their food habits and should be protected.

Lightning Rods a Real Protection.

Lightning rods, with their accompanying air terminals and ground connections, when properly installed as a system on a building or other structure, give nearly complete protection from lightning. Statistics show that from a State such as Iowa, where thunderstorms are frequent, that more than 95 our of each 100 buildings sustaining fire losses from lightning were not rodded. It is estimated that about 50 per cent of the farm buildings in Iowa are rodded.

'Coons and 'Possums--Fur, Food, and Sport.

"This item is for the ladies," said a radio announcer reporting a big football game. "As I look around the stadium, I see 1,000 red hats, 1,500 orgnge hats, and about 30,000 raccoon coats." Though his guess on the number of raccoon or other fur coats was doubtless wide of the mark, the number of fur coats worn by both men and women for sports and driving has increased enormously in the past few years, and this bit of comment at such an unusually large outdoor gathering is not surprising. The raccoon ranks third among the four most important fur bearers in this country from the standpoint of financial returns from the annual catch, the other three being the muskrat, the skunk, and the opossum.

"Sir Loin!"

What is the origin of the name "sirloin"? One romantic legend says that King Arthur, pleased with the flavor of his favorite cut of beef, arose from the dinner table, drew his sword, and in regal manner knighted the meat, dubbing it "Sir Loin!".

Effect of Roundworms on Growth of Hogs.

The influence of parasites in stunting the growth of hogs is commonly recognized, but there are few instances in which the effect has been actually measured. The U. S. Department of Agriculture describes such a test with large round worms. In one experiment pigs kept exclusively on clean clover pasture attained a weight of 218 pounds, while others of the same age on similar pasture with access to a wormy hog lot grew to only 162 pounds.

Fixes Federal Standards for Extra White Cotton.

Federal standards for extra white cotton, grown chiefly in the arid and semi-arid regions of the United States, have been established by Secretary of Agriculture Jardine, effective August 1, 1927, under the authority of the United States Cotton Standards Act. Establishment of the grades is in response to the needs of growers of extra white cotton which usually commands a premium over other cotton. The standards are in five grades ranging from No. 3 extra white to No. 7 extra white, inclusive.

Many Violators of Treaty Act Apprehended by Federal Wardens.

The past few months have seen a number of noteworthy instances of retribution to violators of the migratory bird treaty act, through the efforts of Federal game wardens employed by the Biological Survey. These men literally take their lives in their own hands in the performance of their duties and incur the enmity of many a person who has little respect for the law and for what its observance may mean for shooting in the future.

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Bird Population Grows When Nests are Supplied.

For economic as well as for esthetic reasons an effort should be made to attract and protect birds and to increase their numbers. Birds feed upon practically all insect pests. They are voracious, able to move freely from place to place, and exert a steady influence in keeping down the swelling tide of insect life. It is not only possible to attract numerous species of birds by supplying boxes and other nesting facilities says the department, but it has been amply proved that the total bird population on a given area can be raised far above normal by these and other methods of attraction. The larger the number of birds, of course, the greater the drain upon their food supply. If this food supply consists chiefly of injurious insects, man profits; if of the products of his cultivation, he suffers. All things considered, however, it is better to have more birds, for the injurious individuals or kinds can be controlled or suppressed, while the useful species, if not present in time of need, can not be hastily summoned. Experience has shown that those who have increased the number of birds on their property have had cause for satisfaction rather than regret. The average number of birds over the eastern United States is a little more than one pair to the acre, but it seems fairly easy to increase this number in suburban, residential, and parked areas to about 10 pairs to the acre.

Poultry Ideas Tested.

To determine the soundness of various ideas held by commercial poultrymen, the United States Department of Agriculture has conducted experiments leading to rather conclusive results. From a practical standpoint it is highly desirable for poultrymen to improve, if possible the hatchability of eggs, to distinguish pullets from roosters at an early age, and to obtain other similar information commercially important but baffling. There has been considerable divergence of opinion on most of the questions. Hatchability, says the department, probably is best improved by testing breeding birds for bacillary, white diarrhea, and eliminating affected birds. The size of the eggs has no significant effect on their hatchability. There is no significant correlation between either shape or weight of egg and the sex of the chicken hatched from it. Therefore, from a practical standpoint, poultrymen can not expect to influence the sex of chicks hatched by selecting eggs according to either shape or size. While there is a fairly definite relation between the weight of eggs and that of the chicks hatched from them, there is no significant difference in the weight of either sex, and it is highly improbable that purebred chicks can be separated according to sex at hatching time. Male chicks grow faster than the females, and as early as two weeks of age there is a significant difference in the rate of growth between the sexes. The addition of skim milk to a ration induces much faster growth, the difference being observable as early as at the end of the second week. This points to the value of skim milk in growing chick rations.

Cost of Beef Calves Cut by Use of Right Bull.

Buying a good herd bull is the first step in growing better beef calves at much less cost per pound, says the United States Department of Agriculture. In common or native cow herds, calves sired by purebred bulls weight on an average about 125 pounds a head more when 1 year old than calves of the same age sired by the average run of scrub bulls, and they will sell for about 2 cents a pound more as stockers and feeders. Two-year-old steers sired by good purebred bulls weigh on an average about 200 pounds more a head than steers sired by scrub bulls, and sell for considerably more as stockers and feeders. There is practically no difference inthe cost of feed for the two classes of calves up to the yearling age, but from that time on grades develop more capacity and require more feed than scrubs. The difference in cost of feed, however, is a very small item when the values are taken into consideration. The big difference lies in the type of bull used.

Soy-Bean Seed Buyers Victims of "Cheap" Seed.

Because he thought that farmers "don't know beans," a certain exploiter of soy-bean seed is now revising his opinion while serving a term in the penitentiary for violation of the postal fraud law. Some farmers "do know beans," and when some of these better posted soy-bean growers recently received shipments of Tarheel Black instead of the Otootan which they had ordered, the matter was called to the attention of the Post Office Department and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Building Regulations Revised by Flying Ants.

In no instance perhaps is that old saying about "a stitch in time" better illustrated than in the construction of a dwelling in such a way that such pests as our native termites or white ants will be excluded for all time. These pests are not like some which can be killed by insecticides or fumigations. They must be prevented from getting into the building by so constructing it that no woodwork comes in contact with the ground. Each spring and fall these termites or small flying ants emerge in great numbers from the woodwork of buildings that have not been properly constructed and cause the householder considerable annoyance. They have entered the building because, somewhere, there is untreated wood in contact with the ground. Recently the Bureau of Entomology has been advocating slight modifications of the building regulations of various cities in efforts to prevent attacks by these insects. No untreated wood should be laid on or in the earth, and untreated beams should have at least an inch of concrete between them and the earth. Where it is desired to put woodwork in direct contact with the earth, it should first be impregnated with coal tar creosote. If this is not practicable there should be foundations of concrete or stone. No lime mortar should be used in brickwork in foundations of buildings, since termites are able to penetrate lime mortar that is a few years old. Such brickwork, either on or extending below the surface of the ground, should be faced and capped with concrete at least 1 inch thick. It is a great hardship for a householder to have to spend several hundred dollars one or two years after purchasing a building because of damage by termites. The fault is with the architect or contractor, says the department, and the householder should not have to pay. By insisting on complete insulation of all untreated woodwork from the ground, insurance against attacks by termites can be secured.

Hog-Sanitation System Grows in Popularity.

That the system of swine sanitation originated in the United States Department of Agriculture a few years ago is saving hog raisers large numbers of pigs and much money is shown by reports coming in continuously from various parts of the Middle West. Illinois, where the system was first tried out in McLean County, has been taking up this new method of handling sows and young pigs with a great deal of energy, and the results obtained no doubt will stimulate increasing numbers of farmers to raise pigs under sanitary precautions which will keep them free of worms. Last spring 500 farmers in 57 Illinois counties gave all the pigs farrowed a good start by having them come in clean farrowing houses after the sows had been thoroughly scrubbed. The livestock extension specialist of the University of Illinois considers that with this start half the battle in the economical production of pork has been won. He says the other half consists merely in keeping the pigs away from worm eggs until they are at least 4 months of age, and to do that does not require skill but merely determination and persistence. Reports indicate that farmers who have raised pigs the sanitation way will not go back to the old careless method. They saved more pigs, the pigs grew faster, the grain costs less, the pigs were ready for market sooner, and the profit was greater. At the experiment station farm at Urbana, Ill., a lot of sanitation pigs gained 35 each while others allowed to run in old hog lots where they picked up worm eggs gained only 18 pounds.

Losses from Feeding Carcasses to Livestock.

Failure to destroy or bury deeply the carcasses of animals that die from natural causes, so that other animals can not have access to them, is responsible for the spread of much infection on farms. This warning, frequently given by veterinary specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture, is shown to be very important in connection with the eradication of tuberculosis.

Orchards in Hollows Ready Victims of Spring Frosts.

While winter injury is important in deciduous fruit, the greatest harm usually occurs in the early stages of growth, to the blossoms or young fruit just set. At the same time it may happen that there is a range of several degrees between the temperature at which all the buds or blossoms on a tree will be killed and that at which, because of favorable location or different stages of development, a good many will escape. Because of this orchardists often overestimate the amount of damage after a spring frost at blooming time. The low-temperature danger point for fruit blossoms or for fruit just set ranges from 27 to 29 degrees, with very slight variations. It is somewhat higher for apricots, plums, and prunes. Well-developed buds will withstand a lower temperature than after they have opened, due to the subcooling of their capillary liquids. This type of cooling without forming ice is due largely to the presence of chemical substances held in solution.

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Value of Ultra Violet Rays for Chickens.

The Indiana Experiment Station has contributed the following interesting information in connection with the raising of chickens and the importance of direct exposure to sunlight. Within recent years science has demonstrated that the ultra violet or short rays of sunlight have a very powerful influence in aiding people, animals, and birds in the proper assimilation of minerals, particularly calcium and phosphorus, in bone construction. Birds kept away from direct sunlight do not grow normally and break down in the legs, producing what is properly known as rickets and commonly called "leg weakness" or "rheumatism". There are two ways of providing sunshine. If the brooder house is so constructed as to allow the windows to be opened sideways or slide up and down, the direct sun may enter the building and shine upon the chicks. Ordinary window glass will filter out or prevent the entrance of the ultra violet rays, even though ordinary red or yellow rays may enter. If the chicks are driven out of doors for a short time each day, in direct contact with sunshine, whether on grass, boards or concrete, they will not have rickets. Some poultrymen sweep snow from the ground and drive the chicks out of doors in really cold weather for a few moments at a time with beneficial results. If weather conditions are good, the grass outside will supply food, minerals and vitamins, all necessary to good growth. Do not keep chicks confined any more than is necessary. Outside sunshine and food are helpful. If the sun does not shine, chicks should be kept out of doors just the same and the lack of ultra violet rays may be overcome by the use of codliver oil. A broad runway covered with old sacking and protected from the wind will provide a workable means of getting chicks in and out of doors. A piece of two-foot one-inch mesh wire may be set up around the runway to keep the chicks close to the house. As they become older this yard may be enlarged to meet the limits of available range. As soon as possible the water and feeding vessels should be placed out of doors, and the chicks encouraged to stay out on range as long as they desire.

Timely Safeguards to Prevent Hog Cholera.

A recent investigation of the hog-cholera situation by the United States Department of Agriculture reveals surprising carelessness among farmers in dealing with the disease. The effectiveness of the preventive-serum treatment has given many swine owners a feeling of security which is not real. "Yet without proper safeguards" declares Dr. U. G. Houck, in charge of hog-cholera control, "the disease is just as dangerous to-day as it ever was." For safety against this disease it is necessary to observe certain precautions. Isolate all new stock, keeping it apart from other hogs for a period of at least two weeks. This precaution applies especially to hogs purchased at public sales or other sources likely to spread infection. Permit no sick hogs to roam at large. Keep hog lots properly fenced and maintain the fences in good repair. Burn or bury deeply the carcasses of animals that die on the farm. Dead animals lying above ground attract dogs. Many outbreaks have been traced to portions of diseased carcasses carried from place to place by dogs. Do not attempt to hide the existence of the disease, since every hidden center of infection is a menace to surrounding farms. The preventive-serum treatment is a dependable insurance against hog cholera, but this treatment, it should be remembered, is a preventive and not a cure. By adopting the foregoing safeguards swine owners may largely reduce the loss from hog cholera which last year exceeded $20,000,000.

388 Surplus Elk Sold From National Bison Range, Mont.

A remarkable feat in the transportation of wild animals was recently accomplished in the shipment of 388 elk from the National Bison Range, Mont., to a large game preserve at Middleboro, Mass. The work of capturing the elk proved to be arduous, even for the experienced cow-punchers engaged for the purpose. The bulls are vicious and fleet, and it was necessary to drive them into small corrals, where they could be roped and tied to posts so that their antlers could be sawed off to prevent injuries in transit. They are also slow and stubborn when being loaded into cars. Game experts believe that the herd will thrive in the New England climate and multiply in sufficient numbers to supply zoos and parks. Future surplus males can be used as venison for market. About 200 more elk are to be shipped later to the same place.

Rabbit Breeders Organize New Marketing Exchange.

As a result of action taken at the annual convention of the American Rabbit Breeders' Association, held in December, 1925, at Colorado Springs, Colo., a Rabbit Breeders' Exchange has been organized with receiving headquarters in New York City and offices in Rochester, N. Y. This organization, fostered also by the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, provides a marketing center to which rabbit breeders from all sections of the country may ship skins in any quantity and have them sorted, graded, and sold to dealers in raw furs.

Farm Earnings and Living Standards.

Standards of living among farmers are determined in part by earnings, and in part by farmers' ideas as to what they should buy with their earnings. In an effort to show which of these factors is the more important, the Department of Agriculture made an investigation into the living standards of 861 farm families of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas. One interesting fact demonstrated by the study was that as farm incomes increase a larger part of them is expended for other purposes than food, rent, fuel and the so-called necessities. More is spent for nonmaterial values, such as education, recreation, reading matter, travel, social objectives, charity and religion. In this respect the finding confirms previous studies made among wage earners. There appears to be a uniform tendency, as incomes increase, to devote more and more expenditure to the satisfaction of cultural wants. It is believed that the best measure of living standards among families in different localities and in different occupations will be found in comparisons of their expenditures for what are termed "advancement goods."

Purebred Livestock Prices Higher.

A definitely upward trend in prices of purebred livestock during the past year compared with the three preceding years is reported by the department, as shown in preliminary tabulations of a nation-wide survey. Reports on sale prices of purebred livestock have been obtained from approximately 15,000 breeders in all parts of the country. Detailed results of the survey will be released by the department as rapidly as completed.

Less Poultry, Meat and Butter in Storage--More Apples and Eggs.

Smaller cold storage holdings of frozen poultry, meats, and creamery butter, and larger stocks of apples and eggs on March 1 compared with March 1 a year ago, are reported by the Department of Agriculture. Total stocks of frozen poultry are estimated at 95,587,000 pounds compared with 130,513,000 pounds on March 1, 1925, and a five-year average of 101,045,000 pounds. Total stocks of meats are placed at 747,822,000 pounds compared with 1,099,621,000 pounds a year ago, and a five-year average of 987,786,000 pounds. Stocks of creamery butter were slightly less than on the same date last year, but above the five-year average. There were 75,000 cases of eggs in cold storage March 1 compared with 21,000 cases a year ago, and a five-year average of 27,000 cases. Stocks of apples are in excess of last year's holdings. There were 2,292,000 barrels and 7,844,000 boxes in storage March 1, compared with 1,803,000 barrels and 5,266,000 boxes a year ago.

Game Birds Propagated for Market.

In the United States the game-bird market has undergone a complete change within a generation. Formerly this market was as well supplied both in quantity and variety as any in the world, the game consisting entirely of wild birds. Now, after almost complete elimination for a period of years through legal restrictions, the game-bird market, although enormously decreased, is gradually growing, according to the Biological Survey. The birds marketed, however, except for certain imported species, are for the most part propagated in captivity.

Device for Determining Moisture in Grains.

Methods for determining quickly the moisture content of rice and other grains have been perfected by the United States Department of Agriculture. A single moisture determination on grain can be made in 25 or 30 minutes with the improved methods, and with a six-compartment tester, six tests can be made in approximately the same time as for a single test.

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Good Seed Important Item in Increasing Potato Yield.

A progressive corn farmer does not plant the nubbins left in his crib after he has fed or sold the bulk of his crop during the winter. He has long since learned the value of good seed corn. The same farmer, on the other hand, does not always use equally good judgment in selecting seed for his potato patch. Too often he plants the culls and inferior potatoes which are left in the bin after the good ones have been sold or eaten. He has not learned the value of good seed potatoes.

"The first requirement in good seed potatoes," says William Stuart, potato specialist of the United States Department of Agriculture, "is that they be as free as possible from disease, at least of those diseases which can not be destroyed through treatment in either the hot or cold corrosive sublimate or formalin solutions." Good seed, he says, must also possess good vigor, high productive capacity, and be true to name and to type of variety. While such factors as the preparation of the land, its fertilization, the proper spacing of the seed pieces, and the cultural care given the growing crop have an important bearing on the yield, none, he says, is of such prime importance as the character of the seed.

Perhaps the best way for the average farmer potato grower to be assured of good seed is to purchase "certified seed." There is abundant evidence that certified seed is improved seed, and that it will yield much more than common or uncertified seed. Reports to the department from a number of experiment stations in the United States and Canada, based on 11,627 tests show an actual increase of 46.4 bushels per acre for certified seed over uncertified seed. Individual tests showed an increase of as much as 219 bushels per acre by the use of certified seed.

Increased yield is not the only favorable result from the use of such seed, says Mr. Stuart. The crop from good seed will invariable grade a higher percent of No. 1 stock than will that from poor seed. The difference may often be so great as 20 per cent, but even if it should be only 10 per cent it materially enhances the value of good seed.

"Cook Pork Well," U. S. Experts Advise.

Raw or improperly cooked pork and pork products may cause the serious and often fatal disease, trichinosis. This warning is issued by specialists of the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, expecially to persons who are in the habit of eating raw or insufficiently cooked pork products, including sausage containing raw or dried pork meat and intended to be eaten uncooked.

Alaska Can Produce Own Food Supplies.

Alaska, regarded by many as a region of snow and ice, has great agricultural possibilities. Its productive power is merely a matter of development, says the United States Department of Agriculture, under whose supervision the experiment stations of the Territory are working to improve and expand the agriculture of our northernmost possession. The stations have developed varieties of barley and oats superior to those formerly grown. Hybrid wheats obtained by crossing Siberian No. 1, the earliest wheat so far discovered, with vigorous varieties are expected to be better yielders than the Siberian parent and almost as early. Alaska annually imports from the States more than $5,000,000 worth of agricultural commodities which could be produced locally. Because of the high prices of imported farm products, due in large measure to heavy ocean and inland freight charges, the Alaska farmer should make a good profit on his surplus.

World Poultry Congress Planned.

Poultry scientists and leaders of the poultry industry in every land are looking forward with interest to the Third World's Poultry Congress, which is to be held at Ottawa, Canada, from July 27 to August 4, 1927. This will be the first international poultry meeting to be held in America and will represent the most thorough-going attempt ever made in any country to get together at one series of sessions the best thought on every phase of poultry husbandry.

True Value of Dairy Sire Shown by Production of His Daughters.

For the first time in the history of this country figures are now becoming available, through the cow-testing associations, by which the true value of thousands of dairy bulls of each dairy breed may be determined through the production records of their unselected daughters. Department Circular 368, just issued by the Bureau of Dairying, United States Department of Agriculture, shows how the true value of a dairy bull may be measured by comparing the yearly production records of his daughters with the records of their dams.

In a study that compared the yearly production records of 2,182 daughters with the records of their dams, it was found that the daughters excelled the dams by 377 pounds of milk and 19 pounds of butterfat. These gains are not considered phenomenal, but with the high average production of the dams they are very satisfactory. The gains would have been excellent had it not been for a few inferior sires whose daughters kept the average production of all the daughters down. This is the kind of sire that should be eliminated from the dairy herds of the country.

Now One Motor Car for Every 5.8 Persons in U. S.

More than twenty million motor vehicles were in use on the highways of the United States in 1925. The increase in registrations during the year reached 13.4 per cent. Florida reports an increase of 46.8 per cent. Truck registration increased 14.5 per cent for the entire country. There is now one motor vehicle for each 5.8 persons in the United States. California has only 2.9 persons for each motor vehicle, while Iowa has 3.6, Nevada 3.7, Kansas 4.0 and Oregon 4.0. At the other end of the list is Alabama with 12.0 persons per vehicle, but ranking among the highest in increase during the year.

Frozen Storage Eggs Do Not Lose Vitamin-A Value.

Eggs kept in cold storage in a forzen condition for nearly nine years have been found to retain practically their original vitamin-A potency. From the results of this expermental work it seems that freezing eggs and keeping them for long periods in cold storage causes but little, if any, deterioration with respect to this vitamin.

Home-Grown Seed Needed for Red Clover Success.

More general use of home-grown clover seed, in the opinion of the United States Department of Agriculture, would do more than any other one thing toward solving the problem of red clover failure in this country. If methods can be found by which small acreages of domestic red-clover seed can be conveniently harvested and hulled for home use, more dependence could be put upon the supply of home-grown seed and less would need to be imported.

Leaf Spot Causes Great Loss to Tomato Raisers.

Tomato leaf spot, or blight, a disease which annually causes to growers a loss of 250,000 tons of commercial tomatoes, can be largely controlled by suitable field practices. Bordeaux and other copper spray mixtures have given most effective results in the past, but the profits are not always sufficient to justify the expense. The leaf-spot fungus can be prevented from living over winter by plowing under the old tomato vines in the fall, but they must be thoroughly covered.

Pasture Rotation Keeps Lamb Parasites in Check.

The belief of progressive sheepmen that pasture rotation reduces the ravages of parasites among sheep and lambs received a scientific test last year at the Beltsville (Md.) farm. The Government investigators found that a systematic rotation of forage-crop pastures enables lambs to reach market weight without visible effects of parasitic infestation.