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QUESTION BOX:

Small glasses for canning? :

How extend garments wear? :

Can you test poultry?

Thursday, April 23, 1942.

: ANSWERS FROM:

: Home economists and poultry

: specialists of the U. S. De-

: partment of Agriculture

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Today's questions include one on saving food containers, one on making ready-made clothes last longer, and an inquiry about wartime work farm women can do. Scientists in the U.S. Department of Agriculture answer these questions for us.

The first question is about saving odd jars with screw tops and other metal lids, such as mayonnaise, peanut butter and mustard jars, also the little glasses in which cheese comes, and various other kinds. This writer asks if she can use any of these for canning.

MO, definitely MO, not for canning, the home economists say. Fost of the containers do not have standard tops and cannot be refitted satisfactorily for home canned food. But don't throw them away. Unless the shape is poor, practically all of them will do for jams and preserves that will be covered on top with paraffin. Or for pickles and relishes containing vinegar, that don't need a tight seal. Little glasses with straight sides are just right for jellies. They make nice kitchen gifts when they are filled. And you might also save any bottles that will do for fruit juices. Save corks, too, if you have any around the house.

From jars and bottles let's turn to a clothes question. "What can I do to get the most possible ware out of store dresses? Of course I try to take good care of them. But there must be some other little things I could do."

To begin with, the clothing specialists of the Department suggest reinforcing ready-made dresses in certain ways before you start wearing them. For example, look over the buttons, snaps, buckles and other fastenings and sew them •

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Sometimes a seam is stitched too close to the edge of the fabric in one or two places. It will soom pull out at those points. The straighter seams of even width all the way down. Again, you may find breaks in the machine stitching that will soon become yawning gaps. Go over these, too. See if the seam-ends and pocket corners are back-stitched to make them strong. If not, spend a few minutes hand-sewing them securely and save rips later on.

It may be worth while to improve the finish of rayon seam edges by hand overcasting them to prevent fray, such extra work may prolong the life of the garment. See that the hem is properly caught everywhere with stitches invisible on the outside.

It often pays to remove white or very light perishable trimming and substitute something more practical, such as detachable collars and cuffs. On a dress bought for service, avoid trim that will tarnish, rust, cut the fabric, be easity marred, or pull out in ordinary usage. On some dresses you can remove the trimming entirely before you wear the dress, if it is lightly attached, and use separate accessories.

Of course you keep dresses on hangers in the closet, brush and press them when they need it, and don't let them get too soiled before you have them dry-cleaned or laundered. Save good clothes by changing into a work-dress when you have kitchen jobs to do. If it isn't convenient to change, you can at least wear a big coverall apron to protect your dress.

and now we come to a question about poultry work -- something most farm women know all about. This writer says: "I have been pretty successful with poultry. What could I do in that line to help with the war effort?"

Poultry husbandmen of the U.S. Department of Agriculture say that there is a real need for persons with extensive poultry experience to become trained



flock-selecting and pullorum-testing agents to select and test birds in hatching egg supply flocks. As you know, of course, pullorum disease is one of the worst troubles in raising baby chicks.

Pany of the official State agencies cooperating in the administration of the National Poultry Improvement Plan are turning to farm women to help, because so many farm men and boys who have left homes to serve in the army and navy and in industrial plants. Those like yourself who have had sucfess in managing chickens are just the ones who are being urged to learn the correct technique for flock-selecting and pullorum-testing by taking a special course of training. Schools for the training of flock-selecting and pullorum-testing agents are held every year in 31 of our 48 States.

As a rule these schools last from 3 days to a week and those who successfully pass the examination at the end of the course and who wish to select and test flocks for hatcheries participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan may be authorized by the official State agency to do so.

Approximately 2,000 persons were authorized to do flock-selecting work, pullorum-testing work, or both during the past year. If you are in one of the States having flock-selecting or pullorum-testing agents, get in touch with your poultry specialist to find out where and when your State training school will be held.

With that suggestion we reach the end of today's program. More questions and answers next week.

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