

tion of the ground. Another injury to the corn crop from deep cultivation is the tearing out of the corn roots by cultivator wheels. By pruning these roots the ability of the plant to secure nourishment is greatly hindered and the crop injured thereby. It is very important that the cultivations should be sufficiently frequent to prevent a hard crust from remaining on the ground for any length of time.

**FARM NOTES.**

Cleanings from the hen house is one of the best manures for pumpkins and similar vines; it also benefits the hen house to be cleaned once or twice a month but daily cleaning is best.

Early planted corn is best. Corn needs much moisture to mature good ears. Most farmers quit cultivating corn when it should be harrowed, levelled between the rows to retain moisture. It's hard on one horse, as the corn is as high or higher than the horse, but as only one horse can be used at a time he should be rested at each turn.

Plant cowpeas between the corn rows with a one-horse planter. In absence of a planter mark with a single shovel plow and drop by hand. Cover with one-horse harrow.

One of the best and cheapest rough hays for stock is sorghum cane. Sow after corn is planted in June, 1 to 2 bu seed p a. On rich soil 2 bu will yield 3 to 4 tons p a of fine hay. If too thin on rich land, stalks will grow too large, will be hard to handle with a pitch fork and not so good for feed. Both sorghum and Kaffir corn planted thin for seed grows stalks too large to be good feed excepting the blades.

Millet makes a good hay if cut before quite ripe. Sow in June or July. Early sown is more liable to be killed by rain, also liable to grow more weeds. Ripe millet seed is injurious to brood mares and cows and no better egg producer exists.—[Jacob Falth, Vernon Co, Mo.

**Broom Corn**—Living in the midst of the broom corn district, I have never seen so much excitement about planting broom corn as there is this season. During the past 20 yrs every time broom corn became high in price every farmer in the section went to raising it and by the time the crop was made the corn was down below the cost of production. Many men have lost a considerable amount of money in raising broom corn, and several have been "broke" financially. When only a small section of country raised broom corn, it generally brought a good price, but the broom corn area has been so extended in recent years that with anything like a full crop there will be enough produced to supply the demand for 2 or 3 yrs. With a good crop, 12,000 acres will produce all the broom corn we have a demand for. It looks now as though there would be four times as much planted. In Kan, 27,000 a were planted in broom corn in 1899, while in '95 there were 134,500 a. The '95 crop sold as low as \$20 p ton. Considering the rent of land, cost of handling, marketing, etc, the crop will cost \$50 p ton to raise. It is thus possible for farmers to lose a considerable amount if the crop is a big one. Our demand for broom corn is about 30,000 tons per year, and from present indications it looks as though ill would plant enough to produce that much alone, to say nothing of Tex, Okla, Kan and Neb. It will pay farmers to post themselves thoroughly before planting extensively of this crop.—[P. C. Phelps, Mart all Co, Kan.

All Colonies of Bees should now be good and strong, especially if stimulating feeding has been done during the past month. The fruit trees are now showing fast signs of coming to blossom. Have your supers for comb honey ready to put on if you wish to obtain the finest grade of honey. We have clovers and other varieties, but have made a practice for some years to get a first crop from fruit blossoms. I can positively say that the finest grade is obtained from fruit blossoms. It is more than worth trying. The crop may be small, but rich in value.—[J. H. Denyer, Northampton Co, Pa.

To prevent the leaf spot of beets, use the bordeaux mixture, applied half strength. It can be applied with a horse sprayer, wetting six rows at a time.

**THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PRODUCE MARKETS AT A GLANCE**

The highest quotations of wholesale prices for standard grades of farm produce in the leading markets of the world on the dates named; poorer stuff lower.

	Boston	New York	Chicago	Cincinnati	N Orleans	Memphis	S Francisco	Montreal	London
May	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	14
Wheat, p bu,	—	.73 1/2	.65 1/2	.73	—	—	11.00	.68	.81
Corn, p bu,	.48	.45 1/2	.39 1/2	.42	.48	.48	11.05	.47 1/2	.57
Oats, p bu,	.31 1/2	.28	.23	.26	.32	.34	11.15	.32 1/2	.47
Rye, p bu,	.66	.56	.53	.63 1/2	—	—	11.00	.62 1/2	—
Barley, p bu,	.51	.53	.45	.50	—	—	1.85	.50	—
Flour, p bbl,	3.90	4.30	3.90	3.90	4.00	4.50	3.75	4.00	4.00
Cotton, mid upland, p lb,	.09 1/2	.09 1/2	—	.09 1/2	.09 1/2	.09 1/2	—	—	.11
Cattle, p 100 lbs l w,	6.50	5.85	5.75	6.35	4.50	4.00	4.20	—	6.12
Sheep, p 100 lbs l w,	6.00	5.85	5.60	5.40	5.00	4.50	4.40	—	6.14
Hogs, p 100 lbs l w,	6.75	5.00	5.35	5.45	5.75	4.50	5.90	6.00	—
Veal calves, p 100 lbs l w,	6.50	6.00	7.25	6.25	5.50	5.00	5.40	—	—
Fowls, p lb d w,	.12	.09 1/2	.09	.08 1/2	14.50	13.25	15.00	—	—
Butter, creamery, p lb,	.20 1/2	.20	.19 1/2	.20	.21	.25	.17	.16 1/2	.19
Cheese, factory, p lb,	.12	.12 1/2	.10 1/2	.12 1/2	.13 1/2	.13 1/2	.15	.11 1/2	.13 1/2
Eggs, p dz,	.15	.14	.11 1/2	.11	.09 1/2	.10 1/2	.15 1/2	.11 1/2	.15 1/2
Apples, p bbl,	5.60	5.00	4.75	4.75	5.50	5.75	5.00	5.00	—
Hay, p ton,	17.50	18.00	13.00	15.00	18.00	16.00	9.50	10.00	—
Straw, rye, p ton,	15.00	15.00	8.50	7.00	—	—	—	5.00	—
Hops, p lb,	.14	.14	—	—	—	—	.10	.13	.16 1/2
Onions, p bu,	1.00	.50	1.00	.95	1.25	1.50	16.00	—	—
Potatoes, p bu,	.50	.65	.35	.47	.60	.60	1.75	.35	—
Beef, p lb d w,	.08 1/2	—	—	—	—	—	.07	—	—
Pork, p lb d w,	.08 1/2	.07 1/2	.06	—	—	—	.08 1/2	—	—
Lard, p lb,	.08 1/2	.07 1/2	.07	.07 1/2	.08 1/2	.08 1/2	.09 1/2	.10	.08
Hides, p lb,	.07	.09 1/2	.09 1/2	.08 1/2	.07 1/2	.07 1/2	.10	.09	—

† P cental. ‡ P dz. \* P bx. # Estimated d w.

**Business Side of Farming.**

**CROP ACREAGE AND OUTLOOK.**

Farmers have made generally excellent progress in seeding operations this spring. Corn planting is now underway, moving north rapidly, and unless unexpectedly delayed will soon be completed. All the big staple crops will start out with every reason for anticipating liberal harvest returns next fall, providing weather conditions are favorable. Autumn sown wheat came through the winter in good shape; some complaint from a few states. Farmers in the northwest have been favored with an early spring, enabling them to seed wheat rapidly, and Minn and the two Dakotas will show a heavy acreage. Fair winter prices and a healthy condition of the market insure a liberal area under corn, especially as the demand is so great for feeding to live stock. A liberal oats acreage is noted, the crop now making good growth where early sown. Cotton planters have suffered some delays, but the excellent prices mean a liberal total acreage.

So far as special crops are concerned, unusual interest is this spring manifested. Flaxseed has for months sold at the highest price in years, and the west will have a big acreage. A doubling in the price of broom corn will stimulate seeding in that specialty. Onions have been rather low, but last year's splendid crop made money for farmers. A sharp advance in beans the past winter means a large acreage in Cal, Mich, N Y, Me, etc. It is altogether too early to talk of overproduction, even should climatic conditions prove auspicious from first to last. Our export trade is splendid, and will continue to absorb an important part of our farm surplus.

**INDIFFERENT GRAIN SUPPORT.**

May sunshine and shower and advices of rapid seeding have not been conducive to strength. Wheat has sold close to the lowest prices on the crop, on the basis of 65c p bu at Chicago. But the bear element is not particularly aggressive, because the next crop is by no means made, and stocks of old wheat are being whittled down rapidly through home and foreign requirements. The recent strength in corn, when the market advanced well above 40c p bu, has given way to more easiness through increased offerings, yet the market is

healthy, distribution large. Oats and rye are inclined to follow corn and wheat respectively, and barley is dull but steady to firm. Flaxseed has sold at the highest price on the crop, \$1.76 p bu for No 1.

**GOOD PRICES FOR STOCK CATTLE**

Farmers are paying all the way up to \$5 and better for selected feeding steers at Buffalo, Chicago and the Mo river. This indicates the faith pinned to the cattle feeding industry, corn growers evidently making money in converting grain into beef. The market for fat cattle is fairly active and steady, although without particular firmness. The export trade in live steers and dressed beef is large, and so with the home consumption.

**American Corn at Paris**—A feature of the U S exhibit at Paris will be the practical demonstrations of the food value of corn by means of an exhibit. All the varied forms of corn foods will be prepared in full sight of visitors, and samples distributed free. The work is under the care of the dept of agri, and the demonstration is being prepared by the American Maize Propaganda. This practical education of the European races should result in an increased demand for our corn.

**Maple Sugar Is Higher** in the eastern markets than usual. The crop in N E proved unusually light and buyers in the country readily paid 9@10c p lb, or perhaps 2c better than usual; special trade 12c. Sugar orchards in northern N Y, O and Mich yielded fairly well.

**Turnips in Carloads**—H. E. S. Mich: Unless you can sell turnips and potatoes in your local market, consign to a reliable commission dealer in Chicago or other large city. It is difficult to dispose of a carload of turnips through other channels. The dealer receives and peddles these out to retailers in lots of one to three bbls; in the markets rutabagas are often classed with turnips.

**Unshorn Sheep** are no longer desirable in live stock markets, with the season so far advanced. They command only a small premium over shorn lots, not enough to pay for the wool. The markets are well supplied with western lambs, and while these command good prices, they affect the entire list.



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