

Farm Women's Clubs

NOTE.—Any woman in Saskatchewan who feels that she would like to have a Woman's Section of the Grain Growers' Association in her district, should communicate with the provincial secretary, Miss Emma Stokeling, Regina, Sask.
Any Alberta woman who would like a Woman's Section of the United Farmers in her district should write to Mrs. B. M. Barrett, Mirror, Alta., who is the women's provincial secretary for Alberta.

GARDENING

Given by Mrs. George Noble, Gainsboro.

A home where love and order reign is a happy one, no matter how bare its walls or how barren its surroundings. Yet even a happy home can be made more attractive and dearer to the hearts of its members if the grounds about it are tastefully adorned with trees, flowers and best and most useful of all a vegetable garden.

In order to have a successful garden we should, as soon as the soil is dry enough, have it thoroughly cultivated with plough and harrow or else with spade and rake. A sufficient quantity of old manure should be worked in at the same time and the rootstocks of all weeds carefully removed.

If the garden area is large enough the ground should be laid out in plots upon some definite plan. Four feet by eight feet is a good size. Walks at least two feet wide should be left between the plots. Flower seed may be sown at the ends of the plots with vegetables between, or each may be grown in separate plots. However, the arrangements of the plots and plants should be determined to suit the taste of the gardener.

As a rule the plots should not be raised above the level of the walks. The soil, particularly near the borders of the plots, does not become so parched during drought under level culture.

Soon after garden seeds are sown, wild plants, weeds, will begin to make their appearance, some of them perhaps before the seeds have germinated. If these weeds are allowed to grow they will, as we all know, rob the garden plants of food and water and also cut off much of the sunlight.

If weeds are never allowed to make much headway they are easily kept down. Go over the soil between the rows frequently with a rake or hoe. By doing this you will root up the weeds that have come up and bring many that are just germinating to the surface where they will dry out and die.

As soon as the garden plants are large enough it is necessary to thin them out to the proper distance apart. Some vegetables may be only partially thinned at first and when large enough for table use some of them may be taken for food, leaving the remaining ones to grow.

Frequent stirring of the soil with hoe or rake answers the same purpose as watering. If we stir the surface once or twice a week there will be no need for watering, unless the weather is exceedingly dry.

If any of the seeds fail to grow, sow others in their places. If early vegetables are used before midsummer a second crop may be grown on the same ground.

If any of your plants are attacked by insects or diseases try to find by inquiry the proper remedies.

If you tend your garden carefully during the spring and cultivate it well through the summer your reward will be, the gathering of fresh vegetables for the home table or that of a neighbor who has no garden; or flowers for a friend or invalid who would be greatly helped by your sympathy expressed in this way. In the autumn, after the crop has been removed, the garden should be manured and ploughed.

CURING PORK

Given by Mrs. H. Gies to Short-cakes G.G.A.

After the pigs have been killed and the meat is cold, it is then ready to be cut up into hams, shoulders and sides. The head, backbone, ribs, sausage meat and lard, are taken out. These pieces are laid to one side to be taken care of later. Hams and shoulders and sides should be rubbed with a little salt and put in a barrel to stand over night, in which two or three little pieces of board have been laid so as the blood may drain off into the bottom of the barrel. This will help keep the meat better after it is in brine. Next day the meat is taken out and laid on a table while the barrel is rinsed out. Then the meat is all put in again, hams and shoulders in the bottom and side pieces on top.

Then all is ready for the brine. In

making the brine we add about two pounds brown sugar and one tablespoon saltpetre in a tub or boiler of water and enough salt to bear an egg. Care must be taken not to put in too much saltpetre as it will dry the meat too much, but a little gives the lean part a nice red color as well as helping to cure it.

Now in winter we don't boil this brine, only using hot water to dissolve the salt, but in summer time I think it is better to boil it. Brine must always be real cold before it is put on the meat.

Meat should be left in brine at least six weeks, unless the hams and shoulders are cut in two, when three or four weeks may do.

If the meat is to be smoked it is taken out and hung in the smoke-house to drain a day or two before smoking, unless there are flies when a little smoke may be made each day.

Care must be taken not to smoke too much at first, as this would tan the outside and not go thru the meat. About a week or ten days are required to smoke it. It is not necessary to have a smoke-house, as a small amount may be smoked in a large packing box.

If the meat is to stay in brine all summer, great care must be taken to change the brine as soon as it is seen to be the least bit bloody. This is done by taking the brine off the meat and letting it come to a boil, when the scum will come to the top and is easily removed with a skimmer. A little more salt should be added and again tested with an egg, but no more saltpetre should be used. If pigs are killed in the summer it is well to remove the bone from the hams and shoulders before putting in brine.

GIRL PIG RAISERS

There is no reason why girls should not raise pigs as well as chickens. It is all a matter of fences and feeding and care. The prize piglet can fly over a low fence, the prize pig can escape thru a poor pen and either one can be killed off by carelessness.

At any rate, three North Dakota girls have won prizes and done some fine demonstrating along the line of prize-winning pigs.

The 1915 North Dakota Pork Contest was open to members of the Agricultural Clubs from ten to eighteen years of age. It was carefully explained to boys and girls who asked to be enrolled that they would play the game of "follow your leader," that is to say, they would have to follow very carefully the written advice sent to them, keep daily records of what they did for their pigs, what the feed cost, just what and how much they were fed, write weekly reports and write, in full, the whole story of their work.

To "follow your leader," in the case of the Agricultural Clubs, means to closely follow the teaching and directions of men appointed by the United States Department of Agriculture and by the State Agricultural College. Certainly, it is an unequalled opportunity for any boy or any girl to follow such leadership as this, learning the best methods of farming and at the same time earning money right at home.

Of those who enrolled in the pig club, twenty-four won honors, four won very high honors and three of these four were girls.

The point with a pig or rather, a litter of pigs, is to keep them growing rapidly and healthfully that "side meat" may have its proper "streaks" of fat and lean.

Edith Penner entered the contest with a litter of twelve Yorkshires. They were weighed carefully on the day her care of them began. When they were one hundred and ninety-three days old they weighed two thousand five hundred and ninety-three pounds. Every ounce of their food was carefully recorded as to kind and cost and it was found that Edith's hogs returned one hundred and four dollars and sixty-eight cents above their food cost or fifty-four and one-fourth cents a day.

The prize this industrious girl won were one hundred dollars cash and a fine Yorkshire sow. In the contest the preceding year she won a Yorkshire boar. From The Farmer's Wife.

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