

Orchard and Garden

Dairy Farming and Fruit Growing
F. W. Foster, Kings Co., N.S.

THERE are many dairy farms well suited to the raising of apples, pears, plums and the smaller fruits such as strawberries, raspberries and blackberries, that could greatly increase their revenue by going extensively into the raising of fruit, much as has already been mentioned.

I have found by experience during the last 20 years, that dairying and fruit growing should be carried on jointly. Add to these the raising and feeding of hogs and you have the best combination that a man with 25 to 500 acres of land can possess.

Hogs can be kept cheaply on the dairy and orchard farm. It is desirable to have skim milk to feed the young pigs. Later on when there are a lot of windfall apples and culls they can be fed either whole, or better still, by pulping them and mixing middlings or corn meal with them. In this way a lot of worthless apples can be converted into valuable pork.

More and better help is employed the year round. There is sufficient help to fill silos, harvest hay and grain crops, and pick many hundreds of barrels of apples. The work goes on smoothly and everything is done at the proper time.

Dairying can be successfully carried on alone, but where orcharding and the raising of small fruits can be successfully carried on, my advice is to combine them. Keep all the hogs possible, and if business principles are adhered to, the results are bound to be satisfactory.

Cooperative Fruit Selling

ONE of the largest cooperative organizations of farmers in America is the California Fruit Growers' Exchange. In the year ending Aug. 31, 1917, it returned to the citrus growers who make up its members, the enormous sum of \$13,611,000. The exchange is strictly a growers' cooperative non-profit organization. It is composed of 8,000 growers and acts as a clearing house for the bulk of their fruit, which is then graded in the 150 packing houses. Under the direction of the central office, this is then distributed through the organization's sales offices to all parts of the country. The service is performed at absolute cost.

According to the report for the year just closed, the exchange now markets 69 per cent. of all oranges, lemons and grape fruit grown in California, totalling 15,492,990 boxes of citrus fruits. This fruit was marketed at a cost of four and three-quarter cents a box and the management point cents with pride to the fact that not a penny was lost through bad debts. The growers operate their own company, which last year purchased worth for its members supplies worth for \$1,493,574. They own their own lumber tracts and sawmills, and make their own boxes. To dispose of the unmerchantable lemons, a by-product plant was built last year for the production of citrus acid.

Great success has been achieved by the exchange in their advertising. For this purpose each box of oranges is assessed two and one-quarter cents, and every box of lemons, four cents. Last year this meant a fund of nearly half a million dollars for publicity work. During the 10 years in which advertising has been done, consumption of citrus fruits has increased 80 per cent. or four times as rapidly as the population.



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