



BRISTOL COUNTY FARMERS' BULLETIN

"In the Service of Bristol County."

Vol. 4

SEGREGANSET, MASS., JANUARY, 1921

No. 1

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Come to the Annual Farm Bureau Meeting to be held at THE BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL Thursday, January 13, at 10.30 A. M.

BRISTOL COUNTY ANNUAL FARM BUREAU MEETING

Thursday, January 13, will be a big day for all those in Bristol County who are interested in Agriculture, Home-making or Boys' and Girls' Club Work.

An excellent program has been prepared which will be of a special interest to all.

At this meeting it is expected that steps will be taken to organize a Farm Bureau membership organization. A large number of counties throughout the United States have already established this membership organization and the time seems to be ripe for Bristol County to at least consider such an organization.

Below is a program of the meeting.

All those who desire dinner tickets are requested to order them in advance so that proper reservations can be made. Tickets may be obtained by addressing the Bristol County Agricultural School, Segreganset, Mass., or from any of the Agents.

It will be worth your while to come and bring your neighbor with you.

Program

Morning Session

10.45 a. m. Opening Remarks. Mr. Elmer M. Poole, Chairman.
Minutes of last meeting.

11.00 a. m. Report of Home Demonstration Agent.

Project Reports:

Clothing—Mrs. W. H. Allen, Mansfield.

Nutrition—Miss M. J. Roberts, Attleboro.

School Lunch—Mrs. James Donnelly, Swansea.

Report of Junior Club Agent.

Project Reports:

Value of Club Work, Rev. H. H. Crawford, Westport.

Canning, Carrie Clapp, Norton.

General Report, Jonathan Chace, South Westport.

Report of Agricultural Agent.

Project Reports:

Farmer's Show, Mr. Joseph Howland, Berkley.

Potatoes, Mr. Alden Walker, Norton.

B. C. Farmer's Association, Mr. Ralph Strange, Taunton.

12.00 m. Remarks by State Leaders.

Mr. S. R. Parker, County Agent Leader.

Miss Marie Sayles, Home Demonstration Agent Leader.

Mr. George L. Farley, Junior Club Agent Leader.

Election of officer.

12.30 p. m. Dinner (\$1.00 per plate.)

Afternoon Session

1.30 p. m. "Feeding the Family," by Miss Bertha M. Wood, Boston Dispansary, Boston.

2.00 p. m. Address by Prof. S. B. Haskell, Director of Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station, Amherst.

2.30 p. m. Address by Mr. John D. Willard, Director of Extension Service, Amherst.

3.00 p. m. "The American Farm Bureau Federation." Address by Mr. Albert R. Jenks.

Discussion on Farm Bureau Membership

(Dinner will be served by the ladies of the Berkley Congregational Church)

FOR STANDARD BUSHEL BOX

An appeal for the adoption of the standard bushel box has been sent to all market gardeners within the membership of the several market gardeners' associations in the State by Prof. H. F. Tompson of the Market Garden Field Station at Lexington.

There is no earthly reason to continue selling five pecks for a bushel, he argues. The new standard box, already in use on many markets, and by some growers who ship to Boston, must be generally adopted to gain recognition from all commission men and wholesalers. It is the solution for fair measure, uniformity and packing progress.

PRICES AND METHODS

The fact that farmers do not always get a fair price for their products has been so constantly stressed that it hardly needs to be restated. That 90 per cent. of all who start business in the industries of village and city fail is not quite so generally known but is also a fact.

One important difference between an independent enterprise in the city and a venture at farming is that those who undertake the former are soon eliminated if they do not succeed, whereas a similar failure at farming will hang on for a long time and the parties concerned somehow eke out a living. So there are many rated as farmers who are really failures at farming. It is by no means clear that these failures at farming would be a very great success in any other line of work.

When all these things are said, however, those who are informed will readily admit that the real farmers, as a

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BRISTOL COUNTY FARMERS' BULLETIN

Published monthly by
Bristol County Agricultural School

STAFF

George H. Gilbert, Director
Curtis Peckham, Principal and Poultry Instructor
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David A. Millard, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Instructor
Walter E. Curtis, Instructor in Farm Crops and Soil Fertility
H. Judson Robinson, Market Gardening and Home Gardening Instructor
FIELD AGENTS

Warren L. Ide, County Agricultural Agent
Edith M. Gordon, Home Demonstration Agent
Edwin R. Wyeth, Junior Agent
Florence M. Corder, Clerk
(The Bulletin will be sent free to any citizen of Bristol County who asks for it.)

PURCHASING GOOD SEED

Prof. H. F. Tompson will address the Bristol County Farmer's Association at the Bristol County Agricultural School, Thursday evening, February 10 at 7.30. He will talk on "Seed Selection."

The matter of purchasing good seed is far more important than most farmers realize. In purchasing seed there are three important factors to consider. First, the viability or germinating power of the seed, second, the quality of products which the seed will produce, and third, the quantity of product or yield per acre which that particular strain is likely to produce.

It is good farm practice to test samples of all seeds to be planted especially those seeds which are apt to have a doubtful germination.

The strain of seed is perhaps the most important item to consider. Many of our best seedsmen have greatly improved their seed through very careful selection carried on over a period of years. A few seed houses are still careless about the kind of seed they put out. A good example of the latter class is the A. A. Berry Seed Company, which company was recently called to account by the Federal Trade Commission.

Prof. H. F. Tompson of the State Field Experiment Station at Lexington has carried on some very interesting work in seed improvement. Known sources of seed of standard varieties of vegetables have been tried out at the Station with rather remarkable results.

Of especial interest were the tests

with different strains of tomatoes. Not only was there a wide difference in yield from the different strains, but also in the relative earliness in ripening and harvesting the different strains.

The complete data of this experiment may be obtained by writing to Prof. H. F. Tompson.

A partial summary is given below:

The summary gives name of variety, strain, harvest through Aug. 20, and total for the season, consecutively.

Bonny Best:

1 J. W. Stone,	33 ½	319 ½
2 Alexander Forbes Co.,	42 ¾	507 ½
3 Stokes Seed Farms Co.	31 ½	423
4 Stokes Seed Farms Co.	27 ¼	426 ½
(Special)		
5 H. P. Langdon & Son,	57	581 ½
6 Fcttler, Fiske, Rawson,	29	493
7 R. & J. Farquhar Co.	30 ¾	469 ¾
8 T. J. Grey Co.,	29 ½	584 ½

Stokes:

9 Joseph Breck,	17 ½	511 ¾
John Baer:		
10 Joseph Breck,	30	501
11 Alexander Forbes Co.	31 ½	552 ½
12 H. P. Langdon & Son,	49 ¼	543 ¾
13 R. & J. Farquhar & Co.	17 ½	485 ½
14 T. J. Grey Co.,	35	457
15 Bolgiano, J. & Son,	25 ¼	378 ¼
		487 ¼ 7234 ¾

Two rows of each variety, 50 feet long.

Don't miss the meeting February 10.

A Few Good Rules in Purchasing Seed

1. Order seed early.
2. Test the seed for germination.
3. Purchase improved strains of standard varieties from responsible seed houses.
4. Make a practice of carefully selecting some of your own seed.

CORN BORER QUARANTINE

The quarantine on farm products by reason of the European corn borer is steadily extended, and has reached the border towns of Bristol County.—New Bedford, Fairhaven, Brockton and Middleboro being already under the ban.

The order as issued by the Commissioner of Agriculture, reads in part as follows:

"And, whereas, this insect has been found to infest certain plants and plant products hereinafter named, so that it is likely to spread to other portions of this state and other states through the movement of such plants and plant products, now, therefore, I, R. Harold Allen, Director, Division of Plant Pest Control, with the approval of the Commissioner of Agriculture by authority of and under the provisions of Chapter 95 of the General Acts of 1919, and after a duly

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whole, have not had the advantage of as satisfactory selling methods as most of the industrial organizations of the city. They do not advertise. Little or no organized effort has been made looking toward a right flow of goods to market. Farm products are neither well distributed to supply the demands of different markets nor is the surplus well cared for so as to insure a steady and even flow of goods to the market. Farm produce is still placed on the market ungraded. At least these statements hold until the goods pass out of the farmer's control. The farmer has for the most part left it to the middleman to grade, pack, advertise, distribute and sell his products, with the result that the middleman has, and still does, take heavy toll for his services.

There is no immediate remedy for all this; and yet a right control of the grading, packing, advertising, distributing and selling of his products is the only way for the farmer to obtain uniformly better prices for farm products. Ways must be found of doing this. In just how far a reorganization of the Farm Bureau as distinctively a farmers' organization to serve the farmers' interests will bring about better prices and methods it is hardly safe to predict.

I do not understand that it is proposed to make the Farm Bureau itself a selling organization, but that the Bureau is cutting clear of Government control and at the same time eliminating from its membership all who do not get the major part of their income from farming, with the purpose of serving the farmers much as the Manufacturers' Association serves the interests of the manufacturers, and this is a big move ahead in the right direction.

As better control of grading and packing, of storing and distributing, of advertising and selling is the key to satisfactory profits to the farmer, I look for the Farm Bureau to find ways in which that control may be secured.

Bristol County farmers will surely want to get in line with this new Farm Bureau organization that promises for the first time to bring together the farmers of the United States in one big, effective business organization.

Go to the
ANNUAL FARM BUREAU MEETING
at the
BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL
SCHOOL

Thursday, January 13, 1921

HOMEMAKING DEPT NOTES

County Activities

The clothing groups started last year have been calling upon the Home Demonstration Agent for more work. She hopes to straighten out these demands after the annual meeting.

The group started in Mansfield last year has been meeting regularly and working out their own salvation valiantly under the guidance of their leaders, Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Tucker.

The Home Demonstration Agent has been most ably assisted all during the summer by Mrs. Flint in the East Mansfield Clothing Group.

Two new groups have been started in Clothing; one in North Rehoboth and the other in North Easton.

Miss Lucy M. Queal of Amherst is conducting two very interesting nutrition classes in the Hebronville and Dodgeville Schools of Attleboro.

The Household Management group in Mansfield has decided to continue its meetings during the coming year and has already held one meeting.

A group at Westport Point is starting a Household Management class this month.

Prune Pie—2 cups cooked prunes; 1-3 cup sugar, 2 teaspoons butter, 2 tablespoons flour, 1 teaspoon lemon juice.

Wash prunes and soak in cold water to cover two hours. Simmer in the same water until soft. When done remove stones, cut in quarters and mix with sugar and lemon juice. Put the prunes into a lined pie plate, dot with butter and dredge with flour, put on upper crust and bake in a moderate oven.

Chocolate Prune Pudding—1½ cups cracker crumbs rolled fine, 2 cups milk, 1-3 cup brown sugar, ½ teaspoon salt, 1 egg, 1 cup cooked and chopped prunes, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 2 squares chocolate.

Melt the chocolate, add gradually the sugar and milk which has been scalded. Soak the crumbs in the above mixture fifteen minutes. Add the remaining ingredients. Pour into a buttered pudding dish and bake until firm. Serve with soft custard or cream.

Annual Farm Bureau Meeting

Your Annual Farm Bureau Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 13. The most important part of the meeting is the part which you are planning to take in it. This will be important even if you only find something in the meeting which you can take back and work out in your own community. We want you to tell other Bristol County representatives what your community has done or hopes to do.

Miss Bertha Wood of the Boston Dispensary is to talk on "Feeding the Family," directly after lunch. This is an old and a much talked upon topic, but

Miss Wood can tell and show you some practical things of which you have not thought.

JUNIOR CLUB NOTES

About 75 per cent. of the Club members who enrolled in Club Work during the past season in this county are coming through in their Club work, stories and records. This is a very fair showing considering the fact that in the early part of the season the weather conditions were against us.

Carrie Clapp of Norton was selected as County Champion in canning for the past season, Doris Howard of Rehoboth was second and Gladys Johnson of the same town was third.

Fifty Club members canned approximately 3,000 jars of fruits and vegetables in this county during the season just finished.

All Canning Club members will be sorry to lose Miss Helen M. Norris, the Assistant State Leader of this State. We all wish her happiness in her married life.

Regularity in feeding and watering and keeping the hen houses clean, dry and comfortable are the prime requisites in making hens lay.

At the Boston Poultry Show, which has just passed, nine Bristol County boys had a total of 29 birds on exhibition and won 11 first prizes, 1 second prize and 1 fourth prize. Lee Johnson of Assonet was the largest single winner. He had five first prizes and the fourth to his credit. Other members to exhibit were Donald Jordan, Attleboro; Wilfred Talbot, Somerset; Raymond Destremps, Pottersville; Clayton Bolderson, Pottersville; Samuel Harrison, Pottersville; Kenneth Stuart, South Easton. Our county was also represented by a Poultry judging team who judged at the Boston Show. The results of this contest will be published in the next issue of the bulletin.

Other County Champions who will win the free trip to Amherst next summer are as follows: Corn Club—Fred Quint, Rehoboth; Potato Club—Anthony Thatcher, Rehoboth; Garden Club—George Thyng, North Westport; Pig Club—M. J. Connors, Raynham; Calf Club—James Dean, Adamsdale.

The second and third prize winners in each club are as follows: Corn Club—2nd, Thore Kindberg, Rehoboth; 3rd, Richard Baker, Seekonk. Potato Club—2nd, Matthew Hanson, South Swansea; 3rd, Thore Pearsons, North Easton. Garden Club—2nd, Francis Wilde, North Easton; 3rd, Ethel Cruickshank, North Easton. Pig Club—2nd, George Canham, North Raynham; 3rd, Fred Walkden, Swansea. Calf Club—2nd, Jonathan Chace, South Westport; 3rd, George Braselle, South Dartmouth.

Club pins will be sent out soon to all club members who successfully completed the past season's work. That is, all who did their work well, kept their records and wrote their story.

The Home Economics Club work which commences this month and includes the sewing and bread making projects promises to be very popular. Nearly 75 members have enrolled to date. If any club member is interested whom the club leader has not seen kindly write to this office for an enrollment card and free literature.

AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT

The essential facts of plant growth have long been known. The bulk of the food that all plants need comes from the atmosphere, taken in by the leaves as carbonic acid gas. Other foods are taken in through the roots as dissolved in water. Of these latter, nitrogen, potash and phosphorus are not found in our soils in sufficient quantity to insure the greatest plant growth, so they are commonly supplied to the plants in the form of fertilizers or manures.

It has been supposed that the carbon required by the plant was present in the atmosphere in quantities sufficient to insure the plant's greatest development, or, if not, certainly no means of supplying additional carbon to the plant at a profit has been known.

Experiments are now being carried on in Germany which indicate that it may be possible, by fertilizing the atmosphere with carbonic acid gas, to increase the yields of our common garden vegetables by 100 per cent. to 300 per cent. and do it profitably, that this may be practicable not only in the greenhouses but in the out-doors as well.

To quote from the Scientific American:

"Whereas atmospheric air at present is relatively poor in carbonic acid, of which it contains only about .03 per cent., at an early period in the development of our planet, when this was covered with the luxuriant forest our coal deposits are derived from, it comprised incomparably greater quantities of this gas. This fact suggested the idea of heightening the fertility of the soil by increasing its carbonic-acid content and thus producing conditions resembling those of antediluvian ages. In order to enable such a process to be carried out on anything like a commercial line, a cheap source of carbonic acid had, of course, to be provided.

"This was found by Dr. Fr. Riedel, of Essen-on-Ruhr, in the combustion gases escaping from all factories, but most abundantly from blast furnaces, and which so far had been allowed to flow out into the atmosphere without serving any useful purpose. He accordingly set to work designing a process for which patents were obtained and which was put to practical tests on a large scale. Three greenhouses were at first erected, one of which served as testing-room, while the two others were used for checking purposes. The testing-room was supplied with purified and burnt blast-furnace exhaust gases through a line of punctured piping traversing the whole greenhouse in a forward and backward direction. The gas supply was started on June 12, that is to say, at a time when plant growth was at its height.

"On account of the careful cleansing and complete elimination of constituents such as sulfur, the gas was found to exert no harmful effects. On the contrary even a few days after starting the test, there could be observed in the testing-room a more luxuriant vegetation than in the checking-houses. The leaves of the castor oil plant in the greenhouse supplied with gas were found to reach more than a yard in span, whereas the largest leaf in the checking-houses was only about a foot and a half in width. Plants submitted to the influence of carbonic-acid gas also showed a marked advance with regard to their height. With the tomatoes planted in part of the greenhouse the weight of the same number of fruits in the testing-room was 175 per cent. more. With the cucumbers planted at the same time a somewhat slighter difference was noted, an increase of 70 per cent. An interesting phenomenon noted in this connection was that, while the cucumbers in the checking-houses would exhibit bright spots, those in the testing-house, on account of the more plentiful formation of chlorophyll, were of a dark green color throughout.

"Experiments in the open air were made simultaneously with these greenhouse tests, a square plot of ground being encircled by punctured cement pipes from which a continuous supply of exhaust gases was escaping. The wind, mostly striking the ground at an angle, would drive the carbonic acid in a variable direction toward the plants, thus allowing extensive areas to be supplied with the fertilizing gas. On the opposite side of the greenhouse plant there was provided for checking purposes a plot of the same size submitted to no carbonic-acid gas, the soil in the two plots being of the same quality. Samples were derived from the best portions of the checking-field, but from the center of the field submitted to the action of carbonic-acid gas, the increase in yield in the case of spinach was found to be 150 per cent., with potatoes 180 per cent., with lupines (a legume) 174 per cent., and with barley 100 per cent. The potatoes in the field submitted to the action of carbonic-acid gas were found to ripen much more quickly than in the checkingplot. Later and more extensive experiments developed an increase of yield of potatoes of 300 per cent."

It certainly is an interesting experiment.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Union Agricultural Meeting, Horticultural Hall, Boston, February 8, 9, 10 and 11, 1921
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8
Forenoon
Opening Exercises, under direction of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. Main lecture hall.

Afternoon

Meeting of Massachusetts Poultrymen's Association. Main lecture hall. Speaker: Professor O. B. Kent, New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y. Subject to be announced.

Meeting of Federated Massachusetts Beekeepers' Association. Lower lecture hall. Speaker, Dr. George S. Demuth. Subject to be announced.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Forenoon

Meeting of Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association. Main lecture hall.
Meeting of Massachusetts Vegetable Growers. Lower lecture hall.

Afternoon

Joint meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association and the Vegetable Growers' Association. Main lecture hall.
Meeting of the Massachusetts Dairy-men's Association and the New England Milk Producers' Association. Lower lecture hall.

Evening

Union Banquet, 6.30 p. m. Ford Hall, Corner of Bowdoin street and Ashburton place, near the State House.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Forenoon

Meeting of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association, New England Branch. Main lecture hall.
Meeting of the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association. Lower lecture hall.

Afternoon

Meeting of the Federated Farm Bureaus. Main lecture hall.

Evening

Meeting of organizations and individuals interested in live stock, under the direction of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. Main lecture hall.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Trade Exhibitors' Day. The program for the several sessions will be announced later by the corporations and companies making exhibits.
Annual meeting of the Nurserymen's Association. Committee room. 2 p. m.

Evening

Joint meeting of the Massachusetts Nurserymen's Association and the Gardeners' and Florists' Club of Boston. Main lecture hall. Speaker, Mr. J. Horace McFarland, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Subject to be announced. Mr. G. Otto Thilow of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Subject, "The South Sea Islands," illustrated.

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advertised public hearing held at 136 State House, Boston, on November 29, prohibit the movement from any points within the above-mentioned cities and towns, constituting the area known to be infested, to any points outside of this area, of any of the following plants and plant products, namely, corn and broom

NITROGEN FROM SOY BEANS

"How much nitrogen do you figure is left in the ground in the roots and stubble as the result of growing an acre of soybeans? Will this nitrogen be worth as much to the land as the seed will cost? If the beans are inoculated will they secure as much nitrogen from the air as is found in the roots and stubble?"

"A ton of soybean hay contains about 51 pounds of nitrogen. Two tons of hay is a fair yield per acre. There would, therefore, be 102 pounds of nitrogen in the hay from an acre of soybeans. From experimental data gathered by Hopkins, of Illinois, and reported in his book on 'Soil Fertility and Permanent Agriculture', page 223, it is stated that about one-tenth of the nitrogen found in the entire soybean plant is in the roots and stubble. Accordingly, one can count on 11 pounds of nitrogen being left behind in the roots and stubble of an acre of soybeans. At 30 cents per pound this would be worth \$3.30. I suppose our correspondent would use at least three pecks of soybean seed per acre. At the price of seed last spring this amount of money would hardly pay for three pecks of seed.

"Now as to the amount of nitrogen secured from the air: The same authority I have quoted above finds that on normally productive soil at least one-third of the nitrogen contained in the legume plants is taken from the soil and not more than two-thirds from the air". This, of course, will vary with the amount of available nitrogen in the soil. In sterile sands the inoculated legume may derive all of its nitrogen from the air, while in soils very rich in nitrogen it is likely to derive less than two-thirds from the air. Of the 113 pounds of nitrogen gathered by the acre of soybeans, 38 pounds will, on the average, have been taken from the soil and 75 pounds from the air, if the beans were properly inoculated. The amount of nitrogen secured from the air is accordingly nearly seven times greater than the amount left in the soil in the roots and stubble.

"While soybeans do secure this large amount of nitrogen from the air, a large part of which will get back to this or other acres of one's farm if the soybeans are fed, the acre of land which grew them is poorer in nitrogen after the crop has been grown and removed than it was before it was grown, for as shown above the soil contributed 38 pounds of nitrogen per acre to the growing of the crop and only 11 pounds are left behind. The soil is, therefore, short 27 pounds of nitrogen for the time being.

"It is well to remember, however, that had a crop of oats been grown and removed, the acre would have been short some 80 pounds of nitrogen; or if an acre of corn had been grown, something like 100 pounds."—News Bulletin of the National Fertilizer Association.

corn, including all parts of the stalk; celery, green beans in the pod, beets with tops, spinach, rhubarb, oat and rye straw as such or when used for packing, cut flowers or entire plants of chrysanthemum, aster, cosmos, zinnia, hollyhock, and cut flowers or entire plants of gladiolus and dahlia, except the bulbs thereof, without stems, except under such conditions as are designated in the regulations supplemental to this order.