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GARLIC FLAVOR IN MILK

METHOD SUGGESTED FOR PREVENTION OF LOSS FROM TAINTED DAIRY PRODUCTS.

During the spring of the year there is usually much trouble, especially in the Middle Atlantic States, with garlic flavor in milk. Milk dealers refuse to accept such milk, and if the product is marketed direct to the consumer there is usually a considerable loss of trade, owing to the flavor which is found not only in the milk and cream, but also in the butter. Dairymen will do well to study this condition, which may result in serious financial loss.

Many pastures are so badly infested with wild onion or garlic that the milk is tainted if the cows are allowed to remain in the pastures until milking time. The dairyman should endeavor to eradicate the pest, if possible, but in the meantime some measures should be adopted to prevent losses from tainted milk.

The Dairy Division of the United States Department of Agriculture has conducted some experiments at the Beltsville (Md) farm in order to determine the length of time that must elapse between the feeding of wild onion and milking time. In some of the feeding tests one-half pound, in others one pound, of wild onion tops were fed at different lengths of time before milking. It was found that increasing the length of time between feeding and milking decreased the unpleasant odor and flavor. There was only a faint onion flavor in the milk drawn from cows four hours after feeding, and even this almost disappeared when the milk had stood for four hours. In all cases the cream was more noticeably affected than the skim milk; in some cases there was no taint whatever in the latter.

Remedy Is Suggested.

The results of these feeding trials show that the dairymen should keep his cows from pastures badly infested with wild onion for at least four hours before milking in order to avoid onion-flavored milk. This may not be a safe rule, however, if any of the cows should eat more than a pound of onion tops. The department suggests that every farmer with onion-infested pastures should test the question for himself and determine how long it is safe to allow the cows in the pasture before milking.

The wild onion, which when taken by cows gives an unpleasant odor and flavor to milk, matures in midsummer. Each plant at that time has at its base a large, soft-shelled bulb, and several smaller, hard-shelled bulbs. The soft-shelled bulb germinates in the fall, and by the following spring the new plant has begun to form new bulbs. Most of the hard-shelled bulbs, however, remain dormant until the following spring. There is, therefore, an overlapping of generations, which accounts for the remarkable persistance of the wild onion. To eradicate this weed from a piece of land it is necessary to take this fact into consideration. The land should be plowed late in the fall as deeply as may be necessary to bury the plants that have come up from the soft-shelled bulbs before they start to produce young bulbs. The next spring, in order to bury plants from the hard-shelled bulbs, the land should be prepared as early as possible for a cultivated crop by harrowing, preferably with a disk, the land being gone over frequently enough to prevent any top growth of wild onion. After planting the crop, corn or cotton being the best for this purpose, the cultivations should be made with the purpose of keeping [illegible] of the onion at all times. An implement of the sweep type, or an ordinary cultivator to which sweeps or weed knives are attached, is [illegible] for this purpose, since it cuts the onion stems off below the surface. These sweeps vary in length from 6 to 18 inches, and may be fitted to any of the modern cultivators in place of the shovels. They should be wide enough to overlap, so that none of the weed stems can slip through. If the work is well done the weed will be entirely killed by "laying by time." If it shows up again in the fall, however, the process of late fall plowing, followed by a cultivated crop the next spring, should be repeated.

This weed occurs commonly in pastures, and if a pasture is badly infested all that can be done to eradicate the pest is to plow up and follow the cultivation method as outlined above. If a pasture is not so full of it as to warrant such a radical course, each clump of the onion may be attacked. This may be done by going over the pasture several times during the fall, winter and spring with a mattock or similar tool. Unless the entire root system is dug out, however, the plant will return. In place of this method it is sometimes practicable to use a chemical plant poison, such as crude carbolic acid.

Wild Onion in Wheat.

The bulblets produced on the top of the onion stems are about the same size and weight as the wheat grains, so that they are very difficult to separate from the latter. This fact results in serious loss to wheat growers, since the bulblets contaminate the flour and gum the mill rollers. Farmers suffer a loss of from 20 to 50 per cent. when such wheat is offered for sale. Fields should be cleaned of the onion by the cultivation method before they are seeded in wheat. In the South Atlantic States, however, the seeding may be deferred until so late in the fall that the soft-shelled bulbs will have time to germinate and may then be destroyed before the grain is put in. The hard-shelled bulbs will not germinate early enough in the spring to mature seeds before the wheat is harvested.

It is also necessary to use wheat for seed that is free of the wild onion bulblets. Many millmen will be interested in knowing that this department has worked out a method of separating the onion bulblets from wheat on a commercial scale.

Farmers wishing to eradicate the wild onion, or garlic from their fields, will find additional information in Farmers' Bulletins 608 and 610, which can be obtained free by writing to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

EARLY VEGETABLES

Writers Give Advice In Pictorial Review For March.

If you want vegetables at the earliest possible moment, you must make a study of your particular garden plot. Latitude, altitude, exposure all affect the earliness of your soil; but the decisive factor is always its physical condition. Wet, cold soil is weeks later than dry, sandy loam. Never walk in your garden, dig it, or handle it when it is wet. It will cake and harden in lumps. Ground is exactly right for planting when it is moist and yet will crumble in your fingers like gingerbread. Do not plant until your ground reaches this condition. Plant as soon as it does.

Your ground must be rich. If you can not get manure for it, buy a bag of complete fertilizer, containing nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. One bag will last several seasons for a small plot. Buy a bushel or two of lime. Save your wood ashes, if you have a fireplace. Make a rectangular pit, lined with boards and covered with a hinged, fly-proof lid. Here throw your kitchen waste to rot. Occasionally sprinkle in lime and frequently earth. Dig the resulting compost into your soil. In Spring like manure. Sifted coal ashes will lighten your soil if it is heavy and wet.

Plant first hardy vegetables, such as onions, lettuce, radishes, parsnips, carrots, peas, beets, turnips, etc. A cold frame will hurry things along but it isn't necessary. If you want onions early, take a small box—one that canned goods come in will do—put two or three inches of earth in the bottom, stick it full of onion sets two inches apart each way, and tilt against the sunny wall of your house. At night and when cold, cover with glass, tack on oiled paper, or throw a burlap over it. Glass or oiled paper can remain on permanently. Oil stiff paper such as a hardware man uses and tack on strips of wood. Last year we put out such a box March first. The temperature was fifteen degrees above zero and two days later it dropped to zero. Yet when we set out our garden onions on April tenth, the box onions were over an inch high. The cold had not hurt them, and we had them to eat weeks before our garden onions were ready. Keep a box of soil in your cellar and it will always be ready for use.—Lewis and Mary Theiss in Pictorial Review.

ANOTHER SHO' SONG

DELMAR RESIDENT PENS RHYTHMIC TRIBUTE TO NINE EASTERN COUNTIES.

While he was on the Cambridge a B. C. & A. Railway steamboat, S. K. Slemons, now a resident of Delmar, wrote the following poem, which he named "A Tribute to the Eastern Shore." It reads:

Were I to journey in foreign lands,
And roam this wide world o'er;
No fairer home would I desire
Than Maryland's Eastern Shore.

'Tis a goodly land, tis a favored spot,
'Tis the garden spot of the world;
On a better land in a fairer clime,
No banner is yet unfurled.

Its beauties to many are yet untold,
But they lure on every side;
By the verdant hill, the gentle stream,
And down by the ocean side.

In lovely tints of modest hue,
In bowers of festive green;
In sturdy oaks and stately pines,
Its grandeur swells serene.

The scarlet berry in spring time comes,
The luscious peach in June;
The golden wheat and melon sweet,
In their turn follow soon.

The blushing rose, its dainty leaf,
With fragrance fills the air;
While lilies frail and violet sweet
Are nestling everywhere.

Here sports and pleasures, too, abound
Beneath the pale moon's light;
Under beating rays of the summer sun,
As clothed in a mantle white.

Their names on Fame's Historic Roll
It's noble sons have traced;
While stations high and banquet halls
Its daughters, too, have graced.

Its lovely maids of modest mien,
Their beauty rich and rare;
In country, village, town, I ween,
Are the fairest of the fair.

The homes where love and peace abide,
Which discord ne'er comes o'er;
Are next to Eden in their joys,
On the beautiful Eastern Shore.

Practically all electric street cars in Europe are equipped with meters to induce motormen to be economical with current.

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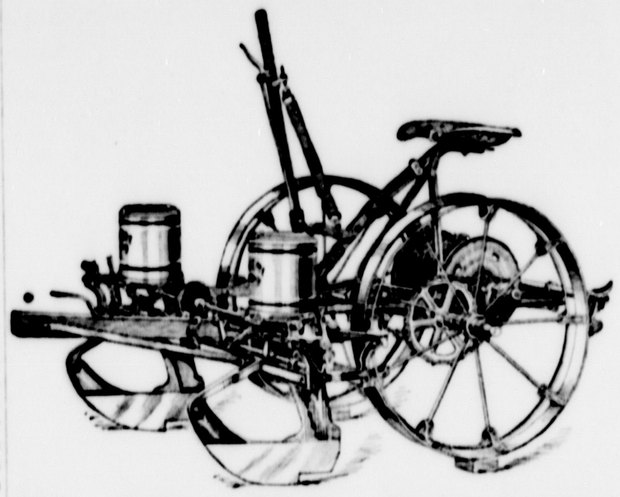

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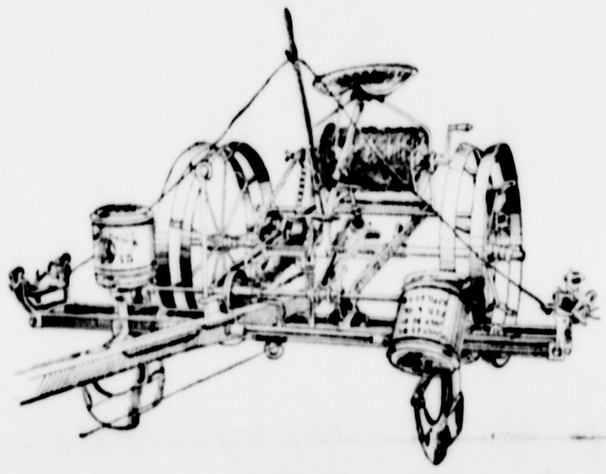

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Queenstown, Md. February, 27, 1917

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I can certainly recommend the New York Life to wives and ladies generally, as they will make no mistake by getting policies, if they can get them.

Thanking you for your promptness for the settlement, and for courtesies generally, I am,

Very truly yours
(Signed) ISABELL C. BUTLER.

I heartily endorse the above statement of my wife.
(Signed) CHAS. W. BUTLER.

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