Winner In Live Stock Project To Get Medal

The Thomas E. Wilson gold medal for the outstanding county 4-H Club livestock member is again being offered this year in all the counties of the State, it is announced by E. G. Jenkins, State Boys' Club Agent. This medal is provided through the National Committee on Boys and Girls club work.

This and other prizes offered in the contest are to be awarded by club leaders at the close of the feeding and showing season. Forms for the use of the contestants may be secured from the county agent's office. Mr. Jenkins requests that all reports of county winners be submitted to his office not later than October 15 to permit sufficient time for judging.

The winner of State honors will receive a $50 gold watch and will automatically become eligible to compete for one of the four all expense trips to the 17th National 4-H Club Congress which will be held this year in Chicago from November 25 to December 3. From the four trips winners three will be selected to receive cash scholarships of $300, $200, and $100. In addition to these awards for the first time, a prize of a watch fob with gold emblem will be awarded in every county of the United States to the club member whose record in livestock projects are designated as outstanding by the county agent.

It is pointed out by Mr. Jenkins that these contests have been especially beneficial in that they have encouraged and assisted more than 30 Maryland boys to start college careers and aided hundreds of others to master problems of livestock production and to establish valuable herds of their own.

STUDYING SEAWEED DIET OF WATERFOWL

When eelgrass suddenly and almost completely disappeared along the Atlantic coast in 1931, the United States Bureau of Biological Survey promptly began a study of the effects on wildlife. A study was begun—in cooperation with pathologists—to determine the cause and a remedy. Eelgrass is a food especially to sea brant. Other salt water fowl also feed upon it.

The blight which kills the "grass" appears to affect only that growing in Atlantic waters, reports Dr. Clarence Cotton of the Survey. Pacific coast varieties appear resistant. But attempts to transplant the west Coast variety to the east coast have failed. However, there is encouragement in repeated attempts of eelgrass to reestablish itself.

The plant grows only in salty or brackish water. On tidal flats and in estuaries eelgrass beds have been found to a depth of 10 feet or more at low tide. It is distinguished by long tapelike olive or dark green leaves 6 feet or more in length.

CONFERENCE TELEPHONE CALL LINKS NINE ARMY CORPS AREAS AT ONCE

Coast-to-Coast Hook-up Connects War Department's Headquarters For First Time

International News Photo.

General Malin Craig, Chief of Staff, (left) listens while General J. O. Mauborgne converses with the 9 Army Corps Areas during the telephone conference call which linked them via a coast-to-coast circuit recently for the first time.

The first occasion in its history in which the War Department in Washington, D. C., was in two-way voice contact with all of its nine Army corps areas at one and the same time occurred recently when Major General Joseph O. Mauborgne, chief signal officer, conferred with the signal officers in the headquarters of all nine corps areas over a coast-to-coast telephone conference circuit. This demonstration of fast intercommunication was arranged with the cooperation of the Bell Telephone System.

Included in the conference circuit were the headquarters of the corps areas at Boston, New York, Baltimore, Atlanta, Columbus, Chicago, Omaha, San Antonio and San Francisco. The commanding officer and his staff in each area heard the demonstration and conversed with one another and with General Malin Craig, chief of staff of the U. S. Army, who attended in Washington with members of the War Department general staff.

The conference circuit used in this demonstration of the speed with which the War Department can communicate with all its major divisions throughout the country is a recent Bell System development in telephony. Special switchboard equipment makes it possible to link together by telephone persons at separate points anywhere in this country and even abroad, so that all may hear and join in the conversation. While specially arranged, the conference circuit set up for the War Department was not essentially different from those regularly used to interconnect groups of people for business or social conversation.

WILL STUDY FUR FARM INDUSTRY OF COUNTRY

Nobody knows how many fur farms there are in the United States; or how many animals areon the farms; what the investment is; the number of persons employed; or the value of the fur farm crop.

Fur farmers need this information as an aid to good management. The Bureau of Biological Survey is trying to collect it in a first inventory of fur farming in the United States. It is compiling as full a list of fur farmers as possible and is sending questionnaires to them asking for the facts in regard to each fur farm. WPA workers will tabulate this information and put it in usable form.

Some fur farmers may be missed. Anyone in the business who does not receive a questionnaire is requested to send his name to the Biological Survey in Washington, D. C., and to answer the simple questions that will be returned to him. Summaries will be published but information in the individual returns will be kept confidential.

Although fur animals in the wild are one of the nation's great resources, it is a depleted resource. Most of the furs used in the United States now come from other countries. This, says the Biological Survey, is one of the reasons for the importance of the fur farm industry.

Fruit Growers TerraceOrchard

The Gardenhour brothers, fruit growers of Smithsburg and the first in the State to construct orchard terraces to the requirements of the Soil Conservation Service for erosion and flood control, have increased their acreage of peach trees this year—and all are planted on the contour.

Just a year and a half ago, they signed an agreement with the Soil Conservation Service calling for construction of a system of orchard terraces, one in an established peach orchard of about 20 acres and another in a new two acre peach orchard. This agreement also provided for 15 acres of terraced crop land, 3 acres of terraced pasture, and 3 acres of terraced land permanently planted in hay.

Gardenhours carried on their farming operations as usual. During 1937 they observed the amount of water running off the 37 acres of terraced land and, although rainfall was normal, found that less water than usual ran off their fields. All water from these fields runs down a ditch close to the farm house and for the first time in their memory the spring house next to the ditch was not flooded. They noticed also that after heavy rains the water instead of running off at once drained out of terraces from 18 to 24 hours. each trees planted immediately below terraces grew about 50 percent larger than those planted elsewhere and during a summer dry spell the corn grown close to terraces stayed greener.

The new plantings of peach trees along terraces has been so satisfactory that this year the Gardenhours have had 6 acres of former crop land terraced and planted with new peach trees. When they bought another farm of 73 acres in January of 1938, they immediately requested the Soil Conservation Service technicians to draw up plans for terracing practically all the sloping land on this farm. An agreement was signed calling for 17.4 acres terraced for peaches and 20 acres for apples. Five acres of this apple orchard were terraced and planted last spring.

Neighbors have noticed the benefits derived from this work and at this time 125 acres on five farms in the Smithsburg area are being protected by terracing designed and constructed by the Soil Conservation Service CCC camp at Boonsboro.

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POINTERS ON FEEDING FOR SUMMER EGG PRODUCTION

Summer eggs usually sell on a rising market following the low point in the spring, says Dr. M. A. Jull, head of the University of Maryland Poultry Department, who suggests that flock owners check on their feeding program to insure as many eggs as possible during the summer. The usual rise in prices is expected to take place this summer.

Dr. Jull calls attention to a four point program for summer feeding offered by H. W. Titus, poultry specialist for the U. S. Department of Agriculture. County agents and the extension service will help to plan economical summer rations based on the feeds available. The recommendations from Titus are general suggestions on methods.

One: If the hens have been laying well on the diet they have been getting this spring, do not risk changing the diet now. Continue feeding the same diet and do not turn them loose to pick up their living without the supplementary feed that will keep them laying well. If they have not been laying well, improve the ration.

Two: If they are laying well, continue the same plan of feeding and management; if not, improve the system. If the hens have been getting feed at certain hours, continue feeding at these same hours.

Three: If the hens are on an all mash diet, give them a little more than they will clean up. Then clean the hoppers and feed the surplus to nonlayers before it gets stale or spoils. The layers should have first chance at a full feed.

Four: Keep up the total protein in the diet. Laying hens need a diet with 16 to 17 per cent protein in summer.

RADIO PROGRAM

The next Home Demonstration Radio Hour will be heard on July 6 between 11:30 a. m. and 12:30 p. m. Those who will preesnt talks will be Ella Gardner, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Bernice Forest, Clothing Specialist for the Wyoming Extension Service; and Mrs. Lorena Sterrett, ranch woman of Albany county, Wyoming. Music will be provided by the Homesteaders Orchestra.

S. M. Oman

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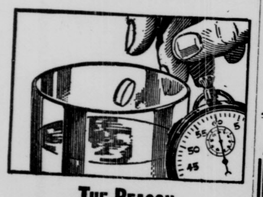

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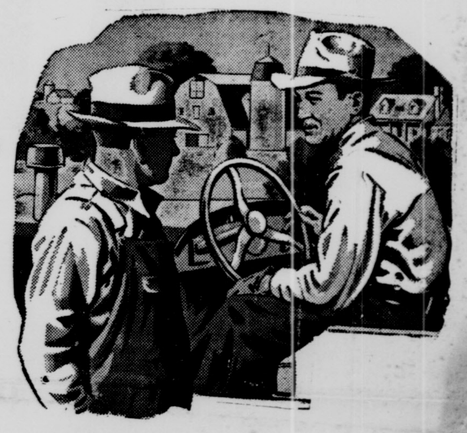

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