

My Farm,

As it is to be.

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## My Farm.

My farm is located in Johnson County, Kansas. Kansas City is about 10 miles away. This, with good roads means about two hours drive, or three with a light load. The place is a hilly, clayey sort of land often found near streams, especially in the eastern part of the state. The soil is fairly deep over most of it. In the south-east corner, however, the rock "crops out", and we have a quarry of fairly good lime stone, and around the quarry, about an acre of shallow land. This at present raises nothing but weeds and bushes. A sort of hill or ridge runs from near the south-west corner of the place in an east-north-east direction, gradually running out a little beyond the center. (from east to west) of the farm. A little land on the south side of this ridge, (nine acres), is to be put into field crops to keep the horses and cow on. Most of the land, however, is situated on the other side of the ridge, with an east and north-east slope. Along the north side of the place is a dry watercourse or ravine. This is perhaps seventy-five feet lower than the highest part of the farm. In a little delta-like formation at the end of this ravine, near the north-east corner of the place, I shall put a strawberry bed, first digging a ditch and embankment.

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to run the water around. The soil here has been washed down and deposited from the higher parts of the place. South of this strawberry bed, the land rises rather steeply to the house. Here is an excellent place to raise blackberries, raspberries, currants, gooseberries, etc., as it is a north slope, and there is plenty of soil over the rocks. Up the watercourse from the strawberry bed, I intend to build a dam across the ravine, making a large pond. This pond will have two purposes: to catch my farm as it starts on a trip oceanward, as it wants to do after and during every hard rain; and to furnish water for irrigation for the small fruits and strawberries just below it. Any fruit grower can testify that a little water at the right time may be the means of saving hundreds of dollars for a fruit-grower. The soil, being clay, will need no puddling for the pond. All that will be needed is to grade in the dirt, and let it rain. The water will be taken from the pond by a pipe that will run under the dam. The pond-end of the pipe will form an elbow, and take the water several feet above the bottom. In this way, the mud can fill the pond and still not clog the pipe. If I wanted to irrigate higher than the water level of the pond,

the gasoline engine of my spraying outfit and a few feet of piping would do the work to a "t".

South of the house, on an east slope, I will plant my cherries. The soil is only fair for cherries, but with careful cultivation, cover crops and manuring the land, I hope to raise good fruit. Just above this cherry patch, will be my vineyard. The land raises excellent grapes, as most of the neighbors can testify. With good varieties, care and treatment, I hope to raise "gilt edge" fruit.

West of the cherry patch and vineyard, will be the peach orchard. Here the land slopes to the W. C. On this land has been, and can, and will be raised the very finest of home-grown peaches. So I will raise fancy fruit for the rich men of the city, and they shall "dig up" the "filthy lucre" for me.

On west of the peaches will be a patch of miscellaneous tree fruits, such as apricots, plums, pears, improved persimmons et c. Here is where I expect to find my hobby, and, incidentally, "worlds" of enjoyment.

The whole north-west part of the farm is in apples. The principal varieties there are Gano Missouri Pippin, and Winesap. I intend to plant more Missouri Pippins and Winesaps, and possibly

some Ben Davis, as they are good sellers. Along the east side. I will probably plant a few summer apples: say three or four trees each of Early Harvest, Red June, Benoni, Pom Pippins, and Seek-No-Farther's. This will give a tolerably constant supply of ripe apples from July until frost.

In planting apples, I would plow the land up deep in the fall, and let it winter mellow. In the spring, I would harrow and work it down to a fine texture and plant the trees about thirty or thirty five feet apart each way. In planting, each root should be straightened out, and have the dirt firmly pressed around it.

Pruning is important, both at the time of setting and afterward. All dead roots should be removed, and all dead tips of live ones. The top should be cut down to just a switch, so that the roots shall start first. The subsequent pruning depends on the way you want the tree to grow. Probably the best way, is to have the tree branch low, and grow low and spreading, thus shading its trunk at an early age and protecting from sun scalds. As it grows low, the wind has not such a good chance to break the tree down. As it grows larger, it will shade the ground so densely that weeds can not grow under it. The only disadvantages of this system, is that it has

a tendency to cause the tree to grow in three or four parts, and as these grow out farther and farther, they are apt to split apart; and the branches grow out so low that it is hard to get in under them to cultivate the soil near the tree. But very little pruning is necessary after the tree has been started right, simply cut off water sprouts and interfering branches. Whenever it becomes necessary to remove a large branch it should be smoothly done and the wound covered with a thick coat of paint or tar to keep fungi from getting a foothold in the tree. The main idea in pruning is to remove branches that are unnecessary, or that will be harmful when small.

There are many crops that are used to cover the ground between the trees. I believe, considering the soil and situation, that cow peas would be best for this purpose. A crop of hay could be cut from them in the late summer, and another crop will grow up to be left on the ground over winter and plowed under in the spring following. In this way I would add nitrogen and humus to the soil. If, after a few years of cow-peas the trees show too much a tendency to grow late in the fall, I would change the cover to rye, or raise corn in between the rows.

The windfalls could be gathered up and sold in Kansas City on the market square. The fruit that hung on the trees until ripening should be hand-picked, sorted, and with careful handling, put in the cellar to keep until the market was favorable. I think it would pay a man to sell thru commission merchants, or direct to consumer, but to sell nothing on the market to hucksters, except the windfalls and poorer fruit.

Spraying the apples for <sup>m</sup>any kinds of ailments is important. Paris green on the fruits just as the blossoms fall will get the codling moths, and have a strong tendency to prevent wormy or knotty fruit. Spraying the foliage with a poison when there is an attack, or when you have reason to fear an attack of leaf-eating insects is a good idea. Kerosene emulsion is excellent for any sucking insects, such as aphids.

In planting the vineyard, I shall plow deeply in the fall, leaving a deep dead furrow where each row is to be. After the frost reduces the land to a fine condition, the young vines may be planted in rows six feet apart, and about three or four feet apart in the row. The next fall, the vine should be cut back to a little stem or two about a foot

in length. The following spring, no fruit should be allowed to stand (grow). The plant should be cut back to two or three short vines. A little fruit may be allowed to set the third year, altho. the vine must not raise all it will set. After that, prune according to the low renewal or fan system. This consists in getting the branches to start down close to the ground, and leaving only young wood, three or four canes, each two to three and one half feet in length. The cultivation of the vineyard will mostly be with a five-tooth harrow or cultivator. The 2-horse cultivator may be used in some cases.

As I intend to raise fancy fruit, I will thin the grapes down to a very few of the choicest clusters to each vine. as these approach maturity, they will be enclosed in sacks to prevent the birds and wasps injuring the grapes, and to allow them to get thoroughly ripe before picking. I shall experiment upon growing fine clusters and wrapping them in tissue paper to sell. I have noticed that when a grower thinks enough of his fruit to wrap it in tissue paper and put his name on it, the consumer will do his part nobly.

Altho fungus diseases of grapes are rather scarce in that immediate neighborhood, I think it would be

well to spray, from time to time with Bordeaux mixture,

Of the common varieties, I shall plant Horden, Morris Early, and Hiazra. Of the more tender varieties, Diamond, Brighton

In plant<sup>ing</sup> my cherries, much the same plan shall be followed as for the planting of apples.

The varieties will be: Early Richmond, a few, English Morello and Montmorency. These are "sour cherries" and can be planted 18 feet, each way.

As the situation is not very favorable, the cultivation and care will have to make up for it. With cow-peas for a cover crop, and the occasional application of manure, and constant application of Campbell's method of soil culture, I think I can make my cherries above the best raised in the County.

The pruning is very small in amount, only enough to cause the tree to grow low and spreading, and to remove water sprouts and interfering branches. The cultivation and cover crops will be much the same as for apples.

After getting the soil in a good condition, I will plant my strawberries. The rows are to be four feet apart, and the plants eighteen inches in the row. They will grow here for about three seasons, and then I shall renew by

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allowing the plants to run out in the rows, and then cut out the old plants and removing and burning them. This will be a little dangerous on account of the fungus diseases, but the situation is so favorable, that I shall run the risk, just for that one time. When the bed has run out after this renewal, I shall take up plants from runners and plant them out in the new situation, just west of the barn.

The varieties that I would raise would be early and late, mostly. Altho I cannot tell exactly what varieties will do best on my soil, I think I shall try, of the imperfect flowering varieties. Boynton and Warfield. Of the perfect, Covell, Capt. Jack, and Gandy.

The cultivation will mostly be by a five-tooth cultivator and hoe.

The small fruits that I shall plant upon the hill-side will be mostly blackberries and raspberries, altho I shall try gooseberries and currants.

Of the blackberries, I shall take some medium growing sort, some descendant of the old Kittatinny. Of the raspberries, probably the Kansas, or some other promising black cap.

My peach orchard will be something to be proud of. The trees should be about fifteen feet apart, each way, the same care being taken as for the planting of the apples.

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As in the case of strawberries, I don't know what varieties would be best, but the five varieties I would give first trial to would be, in the order of ripening, Mountain Rose, Elberta, Mrs. Brett, Picquette's Late, and Salway.

For cultivation, I would give them clean culture during the spring and early summer, beginning deeper and getting more shallow as the season progressed. Later in the season, I would put in a crop of cow peas for cover.

On ordinary years, I would do but little pruning. If the fruit buds had been killed, it might be well to cut back pretty severely to stimulate new growth. If the wood had been killed by a very severe winter, it would be better to cut back to stumps than not cut back at all, or just cut off the killed part.

There is one thing about peaches that the ordinary grower does not seem to understand. At first sight, it seems so illogical to suppose that by pulling off part of the green fruit in order to get a better yield, a man can get more money for his crop, that I can't blame him for being slow to accept it. The fact stands just the same. You not only get better fruit, and more saleable fruit, but in many cases you actually get more by thinning. The poorest fruits should be removed - this process, and taken away and buried or burned.

Let us look into the expense account.

For tools.

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 1 extension disc           | \$30   |
| 1 plow, 14 inch            | \$15   |
| 1 spraying outfit.         | \$250. |
| 1 spring waggon.           | 100.   |
| 1 light " "                | 50     |
| outfit for blacksmith shop | 50     |
| Team of horses,            | 250    |
| harness.                   | 75.    |
| farm wagon                 | 60.    |
| 2 5-tooth cultivators      | 15.    |
| 2-horse cultivator         | 18     |
| miscellaneous.             | 25.    |

Now lets look at the other side of the account after the farmer had worried along somehow until his trees were paying for past favors.

|                           |       |               |
|---------------------------|-------|---------------|
| 700 bu. apples @          | 50 C. | 350.00        |
| 1500 pecks peaches @      | 20 C. | 300.00        |
| 2000 " grapes @           | 15 C. | 300.00        |
| 6000 boxes strawberries @ | 10 C. | 600.00        |
| 3000# cherries @          | 6 C.  | 180.00        |
| Miscellaneous fruits,     |       | <u>100.00</u> |
|                           |       | \$1830.00     |

This is a very conservative estimate, for instance, 50 bu. per acre of apples would only be 1 bu. per tree, while reports are that 18 or 20 bu. per tree is a not uncommon yield. 120 bushels (500 pecks) peaches per acre would be less than a bushel per tree, while, as a matter of fact, we gathered 5 bushels from a 5 year tree last summer. The grapes, strawberries and cherries may be nearer their real value, but under miscellaneous fruits there is two acres of land, in blackberries, raspberries, plums, etc and \$100 is a very low estimate.

Let's look at the other side of the account.

|                                                  |             |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Interest on investment, \$2000 @. 6%             | \$120.      |
| Help during busy season,                         | 250         |
| Wear and breakage of tools                       | 75.         |
| 1 year share of expenses for unproductive years. | 100.        |
| Cost of spraying etc                             | 50          |
|                                                  | <hr/> \$595 |

Gains, wages for my self and Team, 1235.  
The team <sup>and cow.</sup> would live on the 9 acres of field, 4 acres of woods pasture, and the growth of the cover crops. the living of the man (myself) alone comes out of the 1235, leaving \$1000 profit and wages.

Thus you see how I will run my farm. How for a few additional thoughts or items.

With the skill obtained at industrial work here, I expect to be able to raise my own trees, grafting on my own stocks of scions from the most promising trees. Budding is easily learned, so I can propagate my own peaches and plums.

In the blacksmith shop that I propose to have, I can save many ten-cent pieces and quarters and maybe dollars in repairing old and making new tools. Of course, if I made all the money that seems reasonable, just to look over the yields and prices I could afford to have a salaried blacksmith on the farm just for the pleasure of sitting and seeing him work; but "the best laid plans of both mice and men oft gang a gley" So it probably will be here. Insects and fungi will come in and spoil promising crops. Severe winters and untimely frosts will blight many hopes.

And so it will go. yet, the occupation of fruit raising is one that for pleasure and profit can seldom be equaled.