Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Saturday, August 24, 1935.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "NEWS NOTES FROM WASHINGTON." Items of interest to women, from the United States Department of Agriculture.

--ooOoo--

Another Saturday in August, and that means another letter from our regular correspondent in Washington, D. C.

Her first news item is from the United States Forest Service, about the 20 million trees distributed to farmers last year. But I'll read her letter:

"By this time," says our correspondent, "you've probably read about the 20 million tree seedlings distributed to farmers last year for woodland and shelterbelt planting. They were distributed through Federal-State cooperation, to 38 States and to Puerto Rico and Hawaii. The trees were sold at cost.

"State nurseries produced nearly 75 million trees, for planting on State-owned land. The total number of trees distributed by State nurseries, not including the stock planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps, reached more than 121 million, in 1934. That's more than twice the number distributed in 1933."

Well well! It looks as if we're going to be a nation of trees -- and goodness knows we need 'em, to keep the soil in place, and for other reasons.

New York leads in distribution of trees for farm land planting. The number, if you can bear to listen to another number -- is more than 48 million. Puerto Rico and Pennsylvania are next. The trees planted in the East, and also in the South, will be used for timber, and for pulpwood or turpentine production, combined in many cases with holding the soil in place.

Farmers in the Eastern States went in for "murmuring pines," and spruce trees -- red, white, Scotch and Norway pine, and Norway and white spruce. Southern farmers planted pine trees, and black locust.

Farmers in the States around the Great Lakes planted large numbers of pine and spruce. In the Middle West, and a little farther West, the farmers planted many Chinese elm, caragana, cottonwood, red cedar, and other species suitable for shelterbelts and windbreaks.

Out in Washington State, the farmers planted Oriental arbor vitae, Douglas fir and black locust. In Oregon, too, firs and locusts were popular.

Now let's do a little traveling, and see what they planted down in Puerto Rico, and over in Hawaii. . . . Well, according to this report the Puerto Ricans planted over 800,000 casuarina (cass-you-a-ree-na) seedlings, and a good many cassia and Spanish cedar. The casuarina, if it's new to you, has wood that is hard and red. It's sometimes called beefwood.

In Hawaii, where more than three-fourths of the trees will be used for wood, they planted red mahogany, Japanese cedar, and red murray gum trees.

Well, that takes care of the tree situation for the United States, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii. With that weighty problem off our minds, we can attend to the next news item, which comes from the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Many times, homemakers, you've been warned to "cook pork well." And you know why. Sometimes, in raw pork, or in pork that has not been properly cooked, there are minute parasites known as trichinae (tri-kye-nee). They cause the ailment known as trichinosis (trick-i-no-sis).

According to your weekly letter:

"Although only one or two percent of hogs in the United States are affected with trichinae, there is danger -- especially in products prepared from farm-killed hogs -- if the meat is eaten without first being thoroughly cooked. When a pork product is the composite result of meat from many hogs, as in packing-house products, there is less likelihood of clinical trichinosis."

Well, the familiar warning, cook pork well, is now in the form of an attractive illustration, that will protect us more fully from the danger of trichinosis. This new illustration reminds you to "Cook Pork and Its Products Thoroughly." It also says, "Pork Is a Savory, Nourishing Food," and "Pork is Rich in Protein, Fat, and Vitamin B."

That's not news to us, however; we know that pork is a most appetizing food. What's better than pork chops and cream gravy?

Well, back to the illustration we were talking about. It can be used in a number of ways -- on wrappers for pork products; or as an insert in packages of meat; or it may be enlarged for display as a poster in meat shops. Also, the "Cook Pork Thoroughly" poster may be used in trade journals, consumers' magazines, or in advertising. You'll probably see a good many copies of it, from now on.

Referring again to our weekly letter:

"The Federal Meat Inspection Service requires safeguards against trichinosis in the preparation of all pork products that are customarily eaten without further cooking. To be safe, products prepared on farms and in uninspected establishments require procedures similar to those enforced under Federal meat inspection. Adequate cooking of pork will always kill any trichinae; hence the caution, 'cook pork thoroughly,' applies to all raw pork products, whether inspected or not."

And that concludes our news items for today. . . . I'll be with you again on Monday, as usual.

#####