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WISCONSIN BANKERS' FARM BULLETIN

Some Farm Home Conveniences

By

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SAVE MOTHER; THE HOME NEEDS HER

Home conveniences are cheaper than human labor. If we can have the "farm convenient" why not also the "home convenient"?

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Farm Home Conveniences

In war time when there is a shortage of labor in all lines, women may have to help outside the home more and more. On the farm where the labor problem is most acute, woman is returning to her first calling—the tilling of the soil.



In the East the "back to the land" movement is a woman's crusade. Here in Wisconsin, there may not be so much need, but with the ever increasing call for production on the farm, there must come added duties in the farm home. More than ever one pair of hands must prepare the meals, wash the dishes, clean the house, cultivate the garden—even help with the peak of the farm load, and yet take care of the children for whom the home exists.

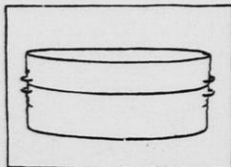
Is there any way in which machinery and other farm home conveniences can reduce the waste of energy and time?

Farmer Sam had listened to the men on the county council present the need for increased acreage of wheat, barley, beets, corn and other food and feed crops. He had learned that there is an employment bureau for placing men and high school boys in the country to increase the labor supply necessary for speeding up production.

"Increase production, reduce distribution, use local supplies and save transportation seems to be the message all along the line," mused Sam. "Wonder what Mary will think of it! All this means more work for her. I didn't hear them say anything about home labor; in fact, they were talking about the call for women as clerks in Washington and nurses for the hospitals, so women on the farm can't expect much help from town girls."



"If we have more help on the farm that sure means 'increased production' in the kitchen and the need to save wheat for the boys at the front means more hot corn bread and barley muffins, more potatoes and puddings, more working over the stove and less filling up on cold bread, cakes and pies.

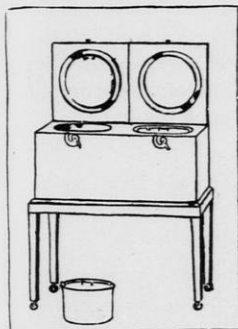


"Glad I put in that water system* last year so there is no lugging of water from the well. All Mary has to do now is to turn on the water faucet and she has all the water she wants. That certainly saves 'transportation'.

*Wisconsin Bankers' Farm Bulletin, No. 44.

"Guess before driving home, I'll see what they have in the hardware shop that will help Mary on 'production and distribution'."

"Aids to production in the kitchen'," said the hardware man, "well, I can give you anything from a clover egg beater to a bread mixer; from a sharp knife to a food grinder; from a blue flame kerosene stove to a fireless cooker; from a steamer to a pressure cooker—which by the way, is just the thing to save fuel in cooking beans, boiling ham or canning fruit. We wouldn't keep house without it.



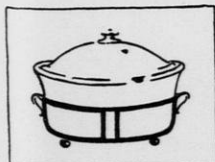
"Here are cake mixers. Oh, you have cut out cake because it uses wheat flour? Use corn flour or rice flour with eggs and corn syrup or honey. My wife learned how at the volunteer class taught by the Emergency Home Demonstration agent. By the way, she made potato bread using riced potatoes for part of the flour; you will need this potato ricer to help prepare the cooked potato for the bread. There are a lot of other uses for the ricer."

"Aids in reducing distribution" were in Mary's mind as she and Sam talked over the rearrangement of their large and sunny kitchen. The stove was far from the sink and the pantry was only a store room far away from the dining room or the work table. They planned to place a new fireless cooker on a platform near the sink, to put up shelves above the sink with a row of hooks underneath on which to hang handy utensils often in use. A new high table with drawers and castors was purchased and a high stool was added to encourage the habit of sitting at the table while working. A new refrigerator placed near both work table and sink saved many steps in collecting material for the preparation of a meal.

Dish washing was the hardest work to simplify because the best dish washers are run by electricity, and Sam had not yet installed a storage battery in connection with his gas engine. They decided to buy cooking dishes made of brown crockery and of glass so that the food could be served in the dish in which it was cooked, reducing the number of dishes in the final washing. Later they found a kitchenette dish washer, which was fairly successful. Kettles had still to be washed in the old fashioned way, but Sam found a "magic mat" woven of metal and yarn which cleaned the kettles without scratching them and saved many minutes a day.

Last, but not least, a kitchen cabinet was added. This brought all the working surfaces of sink, cabinet, movable table and stove near together, and of the right height to do away with bending over while working.

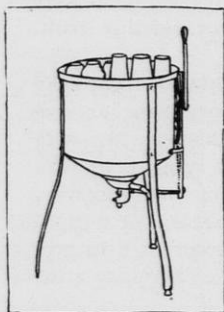
The large space left free in the kitchen was fitted up with table, chairs, couch and magazine and newspaper stand. A homemade screen was used to form a pleasant breakfast alcove and a place where Mary could rest while the food was cooking in the fireless cooker or the steamer.



"Save transportation" was met by the building of a wood and coal box which standing near the stove could be filled through a

door opening onto the porch; with light covers there was little or no dirt during the filling or in the use of the fuel.

The carrying of dishes to the dining table and clearing away of dishes during and after a meal was made easier through the use of a wheeled tray.



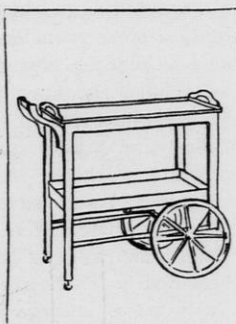
To avoid the carrying of supplies from the cellar to the kitchen, they had a carpenter build a dummy waiter which could be raised by handle and which, when in use, stood against an empty space on the wall of the kitchen. When not in use it could be lowered into the cellar by means of pulleys. (The top of the dummy fitted into the recessed space on the floor level).

The down-stairs bedroom was made into a sewing room and nursery where Sam could keep his farm books and where the baby could be left within sound of Mary while she did the morning work in the kitchen.

"Conserve the health. Doctors and nurses are going to the front. Every loyal citizen must keep well."

Fresh air and sunshine, screened windows and plenty of them, were possible in Mary's kitchen, but how to prevent dust required planning. A portable vacuum sweeper helped some. Filling the cracks of the bare uneven floor with a patent filler, padding the hollows and covering the floor with linoleum made a sanitary kitchen which, with a mop and patent mop wringer, solved the dust problem and did not tire Mary because she did not have to bend to mop the floor or wring the mop.

The Hoover slogan: Increase production,
Reduce distribution,
Use local supplies,
Save transportation,



translated into the terms of the farm home is this: Back of every worker must be an efficient home if we are to make it possible for democracy to unite in a food campaign which will help to win world peace.