

The Giddings News

November 18, 1921

AM AGRICULTURIST

The editor enjoyed a visit to the farm of Herman Kriegel, a short distance from town. Mr. Kriegel had invited us to see his Japanese ribbon cane before he cuts it.

The farm that Mr. Kriegel owns is well known to the editor and we remember it as one that was not very productive in years gone by. In fact we believe that the farm really "came unto its own" for the first time when Mr. Kriegel acquired it.

There are several acres in a variety of ribbon cane and we were caused to think that we were in the fertile lands of the Brazos bottom. The cane was planted three years ago and it has produced two crops. The present crop is over six ft. high and it laps in the rows that walking down in them is with great difficulty. We selected at random a hill and counted sixty full size stalks, each of which will produce good syrup and hog and cattle feed.

Mr. Kriegel then showed us a patch of cane that was planted on a piece of ground that overflows. It was the bed of a branch and much water flows down the same. The cane showed where it had retained the soil and also gathered more drifting soil, thus serving a double purpose of holding and building up the soil.

Although it was the last week in October, we saw June corn that will soon be producing roasting ears and cucumbers in full bloom. His patch of Darso (a variety of maize) is very productive of this new kind of feed that is being planted extensively of late.

His patch of spineless cactus (prickly pear) is interesting when we think that it does not freeze and that one plant has produced 26 leaves in one year. The editor did not know why prickly pear was created until he lived in the San Antonio country. Down there, feeding meal and hulls is unknown as long as they have "pear." And "pear" is a good feed. We fed was no other feed to be had. It, of necessity because there was no other feed to be had. It is a good milk producer.

The thornless dewberries and the Himalaya berry vines several yards long were also novelties in this section.

All of this was interesting, but what caught our eye as being the best of all was the yard of brown leghorn chickens that we saw just at feeding time. But that will be for another time.