

area, the forage may fall quite a bit relative to grain because of higher transportation costs. Then, a different rotation might be the most profitable.

We've used two systems of computing costs. In one case labor is included. In the other it isn't since some farms have ample family labor which doesn't require an out-of-pocket payment.

Note that when we include labor as a cost, the C-O-M and C-O-M-M rotations give about the same return. But when labor isn't included as a cost, the C-O-M-M rotation has a much greater advantage. This difference grows out of the heavier labor requirements in putting up hay for the additional meadow year.

Value of Land

In figuring returns, we haven't included one item—the value of the land. Obviously, a badly eroded farm is worth much less on the market than one on which erosion has been kept under control. However, most farmers are more concerned about direct returns.

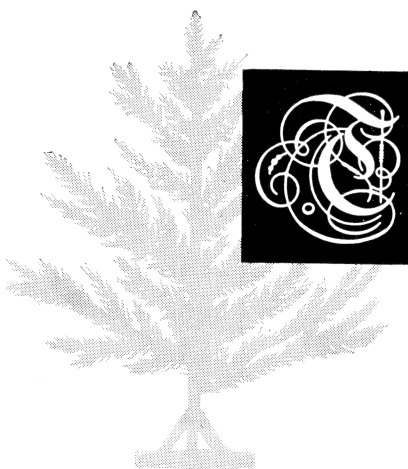
Land value in a sense is a "paper profit" to the family expecting to operate the farm over a long period of time. That's the reason we haven't used it in our figures. But we will include it in our next article.

Third Article

In our third and last article of this series, we'll take up the timing of returns under erosion control practices. When will you need additional capital? When will you get it back? And lastly, what are the problems on rented farms when returns don't come back in the first year or so of the investment?

Pre-emergence Spraying

IN COLLEGE experiments with pre-emergence weed control spraying, the best corn yields were obtained by using 2 pounds of 2,4-D acid per acre. Best yields for sweet corn were secured by using 1 to 1½ pounds of 2,4-D acid per acre.



Toys for

Christmas is coming. Here are some tips on how to buy toys for your children, that little girl next door or Cousin Billy.

CHRISTMAS is coming. And with it, wide-eyed children peering over counters of shining trucks, curly-haired dolls, giant-sized blocks and streamlined engines.

Long before the arrival of Old Saint Nick, almost every child has made up his mind just exactly what he hopes to find under the Christmas tree. It's Mom and Dad, though, who do the final selecting. And it's up to them to choose toys which will help their child grow as well as make him happy. If Aunt Minnie and Uncle John are playing Santa Claus, then they too need to know what's a wise buy in toys.

Sometimes it's easy for parents to choose toys because they think they're "cute," or because Dad always had a yearning for an electric train when he was a youngster. Actually, Christmas toys ought to be bought with the idea in mind that toys are more than just "playthings."

Toys can teach children to play with others. But not every toy will help a child learn. And surprisingly, a child often isn't too happy with a toy which doesn't teach him anything. Why should he enjoy watching a wind-up car scoot across the living room after the first performance?

There's really nothing for him to do but watch. Sometimes he's not even able to do the winding. What fun, though, to own a "do-

with" toy—a puzzle box, a doll to dress, a truck to take apart.

Toys Can Teach

Wagons, balls, jumping ropes and swings are toys that can help a child exercise his arms and legs as he runs, jumps, hops and skips. Those same toys can teach him to cooperate; to get along with others. It takes the know-how of sharing to play jump-the-rope, to pull another child in a wagon or to play catch with a rubber ball.

Other toys can teach a child to use his fingers. And often, the same toy will teach him to think and solve problems. A sorting toy is an especially good example. The youngster learns to pick up various shaped objects in his fingers and place them over a spindle. He has to think in order to get all the red squares or all the yellow circles together and on separate spindles. It's even more of a challenge when he can pile them so that the largest square is at the bottom of the spindle and each succeeding square is smaller.

A simple animal or geometrical puzzle with only a few pieces or a set of building blocks are toys that give similar help in using fingers and solving problems.

A child can learn many things about the objects in his world from toys. A round ball, a square box, a cylindrical block are proof that objects have many shapes. A child learns that all things do not weigh the same when he lifts a wooden box and then a pasteboard box.

From a set of unit blocks he

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Christmas

by Edith Sunderlin

may learn that objects have different shapes—that two blocks laid end on end will fit on a block twice the size of the smaller block. Brightly painted toys of red, blue and yellow are a child's first lesson in recognizing colors.

Toys can affect the emotions of a child. Johnnie laughs when he draws a funny picture. He's proud when he finishes a puzzle. Susie soon forgets that she's afraid of swinging as she "pumps" higher and higher. Billie learns to hold his temper when, after many attempts, he finally builds a grocery store of blocks that won't always tumble.

Toys that can grow with children are particularly wise toys to buy. Keep in mind, also, what your child already has. Well-chosen unit blocks are fun for the 2-year-old who simply picks them up and puts them down. An older child begins to build simple buildings. By the time a child is 6 or 7, he can use the same blocks for more complicated structures. Six-year-old Johnnie may be quite ready for some additions to the more simple blocks you gave him for Christmas when he was four. Eight-year-old Betty may be ready to sew dresses for last year's Christmas doll.

Must Stand Hard Use

Be sure that toys will stand almost more than normal amount of use. One good toy, well selected, is a much better "buy" than several toys that won't last through Christmas day and for that reason won't teach a child a thing. Such a buy isn't a way to encourage thrift in a child either.

A child's particular interests,

as well as his age, are a key to which toy to buy. If a parent encourages a child's interest in something it may continue even when he is an adult. A man who now spends his free evenings as a paid magician, started this hobby when his parents gave him his first magic set.

Books, musical instruments such as drums, song books, water colors, crayons and clay are all possibilities for Christmas toys that are sometimes overlooked. All children love to keep time to music and sing simple songs.

Water colors, crayons and clay are materials which help youngsters to be creative, to use their imaginations.

Not Expensive

Most important, toys don't have to be expensive. Nor is quantity the keyword for buying toys. Too many "bought" toys can hinder a child. He has so much to keep him occupied that he forgets to make use of the natural play materials around him. He doesn't see the possibilities for building roads in loose garden dirt or make-believe houses from orange crates.

Many families find it fun to

make their own toys from scraps of lumber, boxes and other household items. Everyone in the family can help, from a 4-year-old who's able to do the sanding to Dad who might be the construction boss. It's quite easy to build toys similar to more costly ones in the toy department.

Among the toys you can easily build at home are unit blocks, an animal puzzle, a ring toss, a peg-board, a doll bed and a tugboat. Boxes and planks make fine climbing equipment. Cheese boxes, baking tins, sardine cans and flat boards are easily connected together with hooks and eyes for a hauling train. Blocks of wood with handles, two pan lids or a metal salt shaker filled with pebbles are simple-to-make toys which children love for keeping time to music. And don't overlook the possibility of making homemade paste, clay, finger-paint and other creative materials.

You'll find that you can also make broken or weak toys as good as new in your home workshop. A well-worn toy is often an indication that the child values it quite highly. In that case, it's a toy worth repairing—perhaps, even for Christmas.

Look around the house before Christmas morning. Children often prize old clothes, pans, boxes, rags, tools and other "extras" or used items above the shining new toys from the store.

