

It is almost always worthwhile to be cheated.  
People's little frauds have an interest which  
more than repays what they cost us. —Logan Smith

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on the back.

Besides picking up full ears of corn, I pick up the pieces of ears. This takes up little room in the bucket. The pieces are separated at storage and used first. Last year there were two 55-gallon barrels full.

Wet ears are also separated at storage and set aside to dry.

Before starting, notice where corn is down from the wind, rootworm, etc. These places and row ends are the most productive.

I have been gleaning corn since 1959, and each year is different. Some years you work in the rain; in some it's cold early; in some the snow shuts you off early. I can only pick up on week-ends and holidays, but someone not working in town could pick up a lot of corn in an average year.

The 150 bushels I got will easily furnish ten calves, two goats, five chickens and three geese with all the corn they need in a year, along with oats. Only supplements, salt and mineral will have to be purchased.

Cut your feed bills! Help yourself to this wasted resource.

### Sources of orach, marrow, & cardoon

by Luci Meighan  
Laytonville, California

We are lifetime members of the Seed Savers Exchange, an organization devoted to preserving the old varieties of vegetables that are nearly extinct, and I have orach seeds to share with any interested readers who will send me a loose 22¢ stamp and a SASE. Instructions will accompany the seeds.

Orach was a common summertime spinach substitute in Europe during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, and it is truly *delicious*! It grows tall, like a sunflower, and produces saucer-sized leaves all summer, beginning at about the time the last spinach plants are picked.

Orach withstands heat, drought, and poor soil, but it will be tenderer,

sweeter, and it'll last longer if it gets reasonable care. It's an ideal homestead vegetable for the above reasons, and in addition, in the fall it produces tons of seeds, enough to plant green feed for animals. (Our chickens and burro are crazy about it.)

We also grow the old-fashioned vegetable marrow instead of today's hybrid zucchinis. Last summer we got 119 lbs. of squash—immature, 3-4 inches long—from *one* marrow plant! (Compare that to the 12-16 lbs. per plant from the hybrids.) Anyone who will send me a few seeds of their favorite heirloom vegetable (please, no seed company hybrids) plus a few words of description and instruction will get a 22¢ loose stamp and marrow seed from me.

Last year we discovered cardoon, thanks to a wonderful seed company called "La Marche' Seeds International." (P.O. Box 566, Dixon, Calif. 95620. Send \$2 for their catalog... you'll get your money back just in marvelous recipes!)

The fleshy stems of cardoon taste just like artichoke hearts! They're so good, it's decadent! Anyone who loves artichokes but is in the wrong climate for growing it can have it in abundance with cardoon.

### Computer help for homesteaders

by Jack Ryan  
El Dorado, Arkansas

I guess I wasn't really surprised when I read that eleven percent of COUNTRY-SIDE readers have home computers. It's nice to know I'm not the only one out here "beyond the sidewalks" who finds a computer to be useful.

Until recently, El Dorado did not have a computer store. Since I did not wish to travel 60 or 100 miles to the nearest stores, my knowledge of computers and software was limited to what I could glean from the magazines or by trial and error after buying a Commodore 64 by mail.

I had need of a database program

to run on my Commodore 64, but really had no way to know which program to buy. Actually, none that I read about sounded right for me.

So I wrote my own. Now, as I am in the middle of revising my program, your article in the February issue suggested to me that maybe other readers might be able to use the program, too.

"Database" was written to help me with my card file. I like to put references to all articles of interest in COUNTRYSIDE and the other magazines which I read onto 3X5 index cards. Unfortunately, I have three double-drawer file cabinets almost full of cards. Rather than buy more cabinets and cards, I'm putting my file "on computer." I can get about 1000 cards on one floppy disk. Now I can call up references on composting, ducks or solar energy from a file taking up a fraction of the space of a file cabinet.

If any reader of COUNTRYSIDE would be interested in trying "Database" on their Commodore 64, send me a check for \$10 to cover expenses. I'll return a copy of the program on disk and complete instructions.

Thanks for a great magazine. —JACK RYAN, RT. 5, BOX 244, EL DORADO, AR 71730. PH (501) 862-1907.

## Jalapeno hints

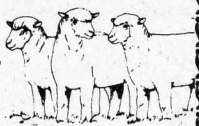
Several people responded to Mary Anderson's letter about jalapeno peppers (December, 1984, page 12. No tomatillo recipes yet, however.)

Lillian Boyer, Tolano, Illinois, said she's been canning hot peppers for years and doesn't have any trouble with them, but she cleans the seeds out before putting the peppers in water. "If your hands should burn or sting, soak them for a few minutes in a small pan of alcohol," she suggests. "Don't dry them with a cloth — just shake them dry. The sting will be gone."

Barbara Robbins, Fall River Mills, California, couldn't find her rubber gloves when she was canning jalapenos last fall ("My children had obviously borrowed them for some important project") and she didn't want to drive

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