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TELEPHONES:
MAIN 46
MAIN 3570

A. M. Blackburn
D. K. Mills

But there are some strong points on the market yet these days, when you can get premiums over December, and there will likely be some strong swells in prices the first few days of December, when you can get premiums over December prices, and farmers who consign will so benefit. The next three weeks will likely be the duller three weeks of the whole crop year. Keep in touch with us for best results. Farmers coming in tell us they appreciate our promptness. Try our service on your next car.

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Farming for Profit

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of body should not be placed ahead of quality. Get a long bodied, vigorous sow, a good forager, with some quality, and you will raise good litters.

HOW HIGH SHALL ROOSTS BE

Several "high authorities" recently agreed that roosts in poultry houses should be about two feet high. This would not have been so bad had they not added; "Under these roosts there should always be a dropping board."

In the first place, roosts for all the light non-sitting breeds at least, like Leghorns, Minorcas, Hamburgs, etc., should be put up at least 3½ feet. We like them even higher in winter, for it is much warmer high up in a well-made house than it is near the floor. During the heat of summer it will pay every time to lower the roosts. If the roosts, or the cross pieces across which the roosts rest, are hung from the ceiling by wires, one or more long links can easily be made in these wires, and then it is a matter of but a few minutes time to lower or raise the roosts. It is true that some of the heavier, clumsier breeds may find difficulty in getting upon at all high roosts, but this kind of birds we have never found it profitable to keep. A small ladder or one or more connecting roosts can easily be made to overcome this difficulty.

Personally we have no use for dropping boards. In hen houses large enough so the room under the roosts need not be used for scratching purposes; but when dropping boards are used, they are more filthy and foul smelling than ever if there is not ample room between the roosts and the floor for the board to be hung very slanting and easily to be gotten at for cleaning. With roosts only 2 feet from the ground this is simply impossible. Again, with roosts and connections so near the floor or ground the danger from skunks and other animals is much greater than when the roosts are swung on wires high from the floor.

The only dropping board we ever saw that we would tolerate in a hen house for a moment, we found in one of the best managed poultry houses in the world-famous Petaluma, Cal., poultry country. This board extended the whole length of a house which accommodated nicely 1,200 laying White Leghorns, and was so high and slanting that when only lightly dusted all droppings rolled to the lower edge against the back wall, and out of an opening left just wide enough for that purpose. Here was a self-cleaning, sweet-smelling dropping board, the only one we ever saw, and this could not be arranged unless the roosts were pretty high.—Dakota Farmer.

POULTRY RAISING AS A BUSINESS

It is not necessary to say anything regarding the usefulness of the domesticated fowl.

Every homesteader in the West who had foresight enough to keep a few fowls could tell you how eggs and chickens helped him out when money was scarce.

Besides, the population of both country and city look to the domestic fowl to provide the table with wholesome and palatable food.

In fact there is scarcely an article of food placed on the table nowadays but what is in some way, directly or indirectly, connected with the product of the hen.

To the person who is desirous of going into poultry raising this branch of live stock probably offers more advantages at less cost than any other.

In other branches the initial cost is always large if animals of good breeding are to be used as the foundation stock for the herd or stud.

The poultry business can be started and carried on with the outlay of a very small sum of money and it is well to start in a very moderate way.

We have seen quite a few instances of men and women going into the poultry business on a large scale, involving considerable outlay, and lacking the most fundamental part of the whole business, viz.: the preliminary training necessary to final success.

It is expedient, therefore, to start in a modest way, and when circumstances and experience warrant branching out, then it will be time to think of enlarging the original small plant.

A beginner in the poultry business has to learn by experience, and costly mistakes are often made, and when failure takes place discouragement follows, with the consequent result that the poultry and equipment are sold off at a severe monetary loss.

Many people are tempted to go into poultry owing to the quick returns for the capital invested, and also possibly from seeing the profit derived, with very little trouble, from the small flock of fowls kept on the farm.

It is, however, well to fully impress upon the mind of the reader that to run a large poultry plant profitably requires the close attention and the wide experience of one who has long since passed the novice stage.

To the beginner going in, in a small way, for poultry, and where it is not intended to raise the grain to feed them, very little land is required.

Space for a house and a good-sized run, together with a patch to raise sufficient green feed, is all that is necessary.

Four to five acres is supposed to be enough land to afford ample space for 800 hens divided into colonies, so for a small flock very little space is required,

that is, if either hens or ducks are kept. Turkeys rove farther afield and need more room.

Of course, it is true that the larger the run the healthier the stock will be, especially in the growing and developing stage and a great deal depends on a strong body and a sound constitution when the period of usefulness is reached and more especially where hens are kept principally for egg production.

Where hens are fattened for the market a large run is immaterial as they need very little exercise, and the short confinement does not impair their health.

Of all the different branches of the live stock industry there is probably none from which such quick returns are made as from poultry keeping.

Whether the poultryman goes in for eggs, raising broilers, mature fowls, or the selection of eggs for hatching, the product is ready for market in a comparatively short time, and monetary returns begin to come in rapidly. The quick returns derived from the poultry business make it an attractive field for those having little capital, and who want to get into some business bringing quick returns.

Poultry breeding is a most lucrative occupation for persons of both sexes, some of the best judges and most keen critics in the West on poultry matters being ladies. There is no branch of animal industry that offers so many inducements to women as some of the various branches of poultry keeping, particularly if they desire to experiment in the production of new forms.

Poultry keeping offers quite a number of marketable products, and a poultry man has only to study his particular environment to get thoroughly in touch with whatever product will bring him the best results.

Thus, a man whose space is limited should confine himself to either egg production, or the breeding of show birds. The man with plenty of room at his disposal should keep the best varieties of domestic hen, as well as geese, turkeys and ducks, and devote his energies to broilers.

With good railway facilities a ready market is always to be found for poultry products, and both dressed fowl and eggs may be shipped hundreds of miles and put on the table in a fresh condition three or four days after.

Only the best products of the fowl should ever be sent to market, all undersized broilers or small eggs should be used for home consumption.

Owing to the ever-increasing demand in the cities for poultry products the best prices are always easily obtainable, and the better the product the higher the price, and the greater the demand.

It should be the goal of every one thinking of going in for poultry raising to put on the market the very best products.

Skill and long experience are required to furnish the best, but as in many other branches of the live stock industry the products which require the greatest skill usually yield the highest prices.

PROFITABLE AND UNPROFITABLE COWS

Two patrons of a noted Ontario creamery, both members of a cow testing association, at the end of last year had these records to study. Mr. A., milking eight cows, sent a total of only 1,360 pounds of fat. Mr. B., with only five cows, sent 1,777 pounds.

Dairymen in other sections are invited to consider what this means. A. had three cows more than B. to milk and feed all year, but received a smaller income than B. by quite ninety dollars. Nor is that all, for the three extra cows consumed feed worth at least ninety dollars more, making another ninety dollars that he was "out."

But one step further: A. worked hard milking those three extra cows, spending probably 200 hours more than B. on a thankless and profitless job. The cows were worth something as an investment, but it is doubtful if they returned any interest on it; some allowance should be made for depreciation, even of this wonderfully inefficient cow "plant," then stable accommodation had to be provided for them; and the general care of the herd called for some expenditure of thought and skill on the part of A. as general manager of his establishment.

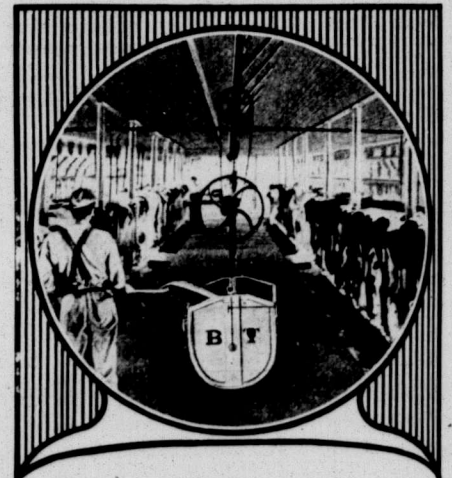
The deductions are plain: However comforting a "guess" may be as to whether a cow, or a herd, "pays," there is nothing to take the place of actual dairy records. Further, whatever the production of a herd may be, comparisons with other annual records should be made in order to see if improvement is possible.

CLEAN YOUR HARNESS

The work for the biggest part of the horses on the farm will soon be over for a season, and the harness will be hung up, and probably will not be taken down again till seeding time, and in the big majority of cases it will not get so much as a rub over with an oily cloth, but just be left to hang and accumulate the dirt and moisture of the stable for the next five months. This is not as it should be, and every careful farmer knows that it pays a man to take good care of his harness, and with a little care it can be made to last twice as long. It has been said that a good pair of working harness properly cared for will last the working lifetime of the horse. All the harness should be thoroughly cleaned, washed and oiled once a year. Freezing-up is the best time to do this. Every farmer should have a small harness repair outfit, such as a punch, rivets and a sewing outfit. A few rivets, stitches and snaps here and there will save a lot of time when seeding commences, and may save you the price of a new set.

This is a good way to clean harness: Hang it at a convenient height and then go over it with a brush to get all the dust and caked dirt in the stitches, loops, and around the buckles. This should be followed with a soft cloth.

In washing the harness a tub should be used filled with tepid water. The water should be soapy. About half a pound of white Castile soap will make the water ready for washing.



Is Your Stable as Clean as Your Kitchen?

It should be as clean. For the health and comfort of your dairy cows, for the production of pure and healthful milk and butter, your stable should be kept absolutely free of manure. There should be no spilling of manure along the passageways. It should be kept a long distance from the barn. A

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is the only satisfactory way of handling the manure. It carries out half-a-ton at a time, so the job is quickly done. Runs on an overhead track away out many yards from the barn. Takes out all liquid as well as solid manure without dripping. A boy can handle the biggest loads and do a man's work. Write for free book No. 22 that tells all the facts. Mail coupon.

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