

## Big Yields—Less Labor

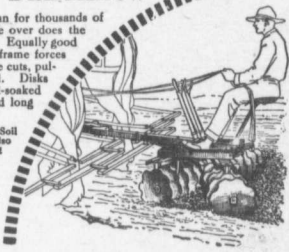
To reap the greatest return at harvest time, cultivate thoroughly before planting. This is the vital time for all crops. With small grains it is the only cultivation. To do it with less labor requires the

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When You Write—Mention Farm & Dairy



### Get Rid of Old Hens

HIGH feed prices have no terrors for the poultry man. We mean the poultry men who have their names spelled with capital "P." Even at present prices for all lines of poultry feeds there is a good profit in egg production under intelligent management. There is one point, however, on which all poultry men agree—there is no money in old hens.

Pullets are most profitable winter layers. One of the most extensive poultry men in Ontario kept careful records of the comparative costs of egg production from his pullets and from his year-old hens, and found a difference of three to five cents in favor of the pullets. Year-olds will, however, yield a profit if they are handled carefully and not allowed to become too fat. Under present conditions, however, the old hen, that is one that has already gone through two laying seasons, is a hopeless proposition as a money maker. Better fatten the old ones up and get them to market immediately. Then give the youngsters a good chance.

### Just a Little "Horse Sense"

LESS fanciers and more poultry breeders are needed. The utility man need not entirely confine his work to raising eggs and poultry for market. It is perfectly legitimate for him to offer for sale eggs for hatching and stock for breeding from these utility fowls. The man who can produce large egg records, or good market breeders, will often be lacking in high scores in his flocks, but they will have a more worthy record than that which a poultry judge can give. The utility breeder selects his stock from among his best workers, and mates accordingly. The fancier mates according to the highest type of perfection, from an outside or ornamental viewpoint, regardless of utility qualities. It is plain that the one gradually increases the usefulness of his flocks, while the other lessens their value for eggs and meat. The first aim should be the utility qualities, and then breed as near the Standard requirements as it is possible without affecting the former. It is surprising how near, by that method, we can come to the claims of the Standard makers. Now it is easier to do that than to try to breed utility qualities into the exhibition fowl. Use common sense—breed utility fowls—remember that poultry was created for food and not for show.

### The Best Poultry Feed

Mrs. C. A. Daniels, York Co., Ont.

As a farm woman with poultry as a source of both pin money and grocery money, I have been following the grain market with interest. Even more closely, however, I have been watching the crops grow on our farm. Our main grain crop is oats and in my opinion, oats are the best of all poultry feeds. Wheat and corn we need, but they are not so important. Oats over Ontario as a whole will be a good crop and therefore cheap by comparison with other grains and we should make the most of them.

Last winter our flock of 100 White Leghorn pullets averaged 60 per cent. egg production and in some months even higher than this. The bulk of their ration consisted of rolled

Western oats; bruised oats some people call them. Our plan was to keep a hopper full of rolled oats in front of the birds all the time. Morning and evening we fed 1. the litter a mixture of whole corn and wheat. At frequent intervals we weighed the amount of feed given in the day and on the average our 100 hens would eat in a day 25 lbs. of rolled oats and about 15 lbs. of mixed corn and wheat. This spring wheat was so high that we discontinued feeding it altogether. The amount of oats consumed increased, but there was no falling off in the egg yield and this coming winter we will make oats an even more important part of the ration than it was last year.

We are also rearing our chickens on oats. The oats are fed in hoppers and to supplement them a mash composed of equal parts of bran, middlings and corn meal is fed wet twice a day. Of course they get all the skim milk they will drink. They are eating a lot of oats, but they are growing wonderfully and a well grown pullet is the first essential to heavy winter egg production. Unless we can buy feed considerably cheaper than it is now quoted, we will depend almost altogether on cracked corn for scratch feed this winter.

## HORTICULTURE

### Fruit Crop Report

SINCE our last report was issued, prospects have fallen off slightly in British Columbia and remained about the same in Ontario and Quebec. The Annapolis Valley early in August estimated the crop at nearly one million barrels, which was 20 per cent. larger than our July report indicated. A wind storm on August 10 brought the crop down 20 per cent. Estimates now being received vary considerably, but 750,000 barrels is probably about correct. In Ontario and Quebec "scarcity and scarcity," about covers the situation in most sections so far as winter varieties are concerned. Early apples are better. British Columbia will have just about as many apples as last year, but on account of small size may not pack as many boxes. The fruit and trees have suffered considerably on account of a scarcity of water for irrigation.

Peaches in the Niagara district will be 50 per cent. of a crop, light in Lambton and Kent and a failure in Essex. The Okanagan Valley will have a fair crop. Niagara will have a 60 per cent. yield of cranberries, Essex county a good crop. Niagara pears are light to medium, other districts light. Annapolis Valley poor and British Columbia, light to poor. On the whole the plum crop will be a light one. Tomatoes are none too satisfactory, although yields are record good in British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Western Ontario.

### The Apple Market.

So far as the fruit season has advanced, prices have been exceptionally high, and it is generally expected that they will be maintained at a satisfactory level. Raspberries and currants have commanded record prices. Consequently there should be no fear as to prices, so far as producers are concerned.

The question of marketing narrows itself down to a problem to be settled by Nova Scotia. British Columbia will not be able to supply the demand in the prairies. Ontario will enter to those markets to some extent, but her crop is very small. Quebec cannot pack enough apples to meet local

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