

EFFICIENT FARMING

Winter Poultry Notes.

It is best to have breeding flocks mated at least ten days to two weeks before the eggs are saved for hatching. This is apt to eliminate the results of previous matings and guarantee a satisfactory per cent. of fertility. If several cockerels are mated with a range flock it pays to watch the birds until they become acquainted and serious fighting stops. A fine young cockerel is often seriously injured by being constantly chased from the feed hoppers. Because a cockerel is not good enough to lick the boss of the flock it does not mean that the bird might not be a useful breeder under other conditions.

There is not enough profit in artificial lighting to risk trying it on the breeding flock. It is all right for the flock of mature pullets that are being forced for winter eggs. The breeders need their strength to produce strong chicks. When a farmer has 100 hens or less and uses most of them for the spring breeding flock I think he is gaining by leaving poultry house lighting strictly alone.

Sometimes a flock that is heavily fed on mash and grain will seem to be lacking in appetite. I knew a poultryman who found his flock showing no interest in their evening ration. So he stopped passing out the corn and simply piled up a few mangels and scattered them in the litter. The hens went to bed with only salad for supper on a cold winter night. But the next morning they were hungry and ready to make their straw litter fly as they dug for the grain.

On some western poultry farms they are making great egg records and one of the main reasons seems to be the number of days per year the hens can use the range. Such birds readily obtain green feed and it seems to keep them laying and the eggs are fairly fertile. In this province we must feed green food to produce fertile eggs for the early hatching. The green feed adds bulk to the ration and helps to keep hens healthy when they are on a heavy winter ration of grain and mash.

I think it would pay some elevators to carry a larger variety of poultry feeds. It is often difficult to obtain certain ingredients for the home-mixed mashes. At the same time the carrying things that farmers will not buy. It is much easier for them to keep a stock of ready mixed mash on hand. There is a fine chance for many sections to practice more co-operation in the purchase of such articles as ready-mixed mash, oyster shell, beef scrap, fish scrap or high-grade tankage.

Try placing a forkful of clover hay or alfalfa in each section of the laying house and watch the pullets work it over. It gives them something to make life more pleasant on cold winter days. They obtain a lot of useful green feed from the hay and very little is wasted, as even the tough stalks are a good addition to the scratching litter.

Add new litter to the nests often enough to prevent the bare boards from showing. Hens are constantly pecking at the litter and removing it from the best of nests. It is soon broken up and packed in the corners. Twisted hay packed into the nests seems to last longer than straw. Any material is all right if there is enough of it. One broken egg costs more than a heap of nesting litter. Broken eggs in the nests soil the good eggs and may start the egg eating habit.

Do not bring a bird with a frozen comb into a warm room for treatment. Rub the parts with snow until they are thawed and then apply vaseline. The wattles of male birds seem to freeze easily when the drinking water is constantly touching them on a freezing day. Rubbing the wattles with suet seems to help prevent frosting as the water does not remain long on the surface of the skin protected in that way.

Severe freezing of the comb and the wattles seems to devitalize the male birds and reduce their vigor. This is a serious problem when eggs are being saved for early hatching. Hen houses must be protected enough to prevent serious freezing of the combs if many winter eggs are obtained and they show a high per cent. of fertility. The male bird with frozen wattles suffers when they touch the sides of a mash hopper and such a bird is apt to exist on a reduced ration when plenty of feed is needed to maintain vigor.

If cockerels were banded last fall with spiral bands be sure that the bands are not resting beneath the spur and very tight. Such bands may cut off the circulation in a bird's foot and cause the foot to freeze. Even if freezing does not occur, lameness will result. The bands for cockerels must be large and they rest more comfortably above the spur.

It will soon be time to save hatching eggs for early incubation. This to prevent chilling. Store the eggs where the temperature will range between fifty and sixty degrees. Eggs placed in a warm room soon deteriorate. The freshest eggs seem to produce the largest per cent. of plump livable chicks. They seem to lose rapidly in hatchability after becoming a week old.

parted with money and character still retained his racial pride. Sent him . . . to feed swine; another step downward. He must feed animals abhorred by the Jew.

V. 16. No man gave unto him. He finds the far country not only foodless, but loveless. The husks or earb pods which the swine ate are all that stands between him and actual starvation.

V. 17. When he came to himself. The first step towards coming to God is coming to one's self. He realizes that his great adventure has become a miserable failure and begins to connect that failure with himself. It is not a failure of money or food or friends, but a failure of himself. The fault does not rest with the far country, but with himself. How many hired servants . . . have bread . . . I perish. He is now thinking of home. The lowest menial at home has made a better bargain with life than he has. There is more than hunger for bread in these words. There is a great confession of failure and folly on the part of the prodigal.

III. Coming Home, 18-24.
V. 18. I will arise and go to my father. David Smith sees in these words only a resolve for bread only, but it seems rather the first step in an open confession of error. It is his heart, not his stomach, that leads him homeward. Will say . . . I have sinned. His first words are to be words of confession. How different from the proud words with which he went away.

V. 19. No more worthy to be called thy son. He feels that he has forfeited his place in the home. He has no longer any rights there. Make me as one of thy hired servants. He is willing to accept any place that his father sees fit to give him. It is his father's will, not his own, that is to be supreme. The least that his father will give is more than he deserves.

V. 20. A great way off . . . his father saw him; because all this time the father had been waiting and watching for his return. The shepherd seeks anxiously for his lost sheep. God must wait longingly for the lost soul. Had compassion. His father's love goes out to his son, ragged, footsore, gaunt and miserable as he is. Ran, and fell on his neck. He does not wait sternly for words of confession or turn away. He not only sees his son, but sees through him and reads all the inward story.

V. 21. The son said. He begins his little prepared speech of penitence.
V. 22. But the father said. His father interrupts the unfinished speech. He does not wait till he asks a slave's place, but immediately proceeds to give him a son's place. Bring the best robe . . . a ring . . . shoes. All three things signify a restoration of the prodigal to his filial place in the home. The restoration is immediate. It is complete. It is loving.

Vs. 23, 24. Bring hither the fattened calf. It is also a joyful restoration. There was always a calf fattening for festive occasions. This my son was dead; to all intents and purposes. This was the prodigal. A faithful man may forget or despise his sonship. But God cannot forget his own fatherhood nor the sonship of the sinner. His love seeks. His love searches. His love waits. His love has compassion. His love restores.

Application.
We have been so accustomed to the title usually given to this "most beautiful and precious of all the parables"—the Prodigal Son—that we are apt to overlook the truth that it is equally fitting, and perhaps more so, to call it the parable of "The Loving Father." The father in the parable well and truly represents the love and longing of a normal human father for his children—of course, there are some who fall below this character. Our Lord takes this tender relationship at its best, and says to us, God is like that, only better: "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" The best of all "good things" that the heavenly Father gives is love, forgiving love.

Eliminating the illiterate makes for race improvement.
Practical education enables us to take advantage of the experiences of other people.

The man with calloused hands is often more refined than one with manicured nails, for refinement is a mental condition, not a physical one.

First prize live stock, corn, or apples are commendable attainments, but first prize boys and girls should be the heartfelt desire of every parent.

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1/2 lb tin
80¢

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Fundamental Principles of Co-Operative Marketing

(By R. D. COLQUETTE, Professor of Marketing, Ontario Agricultural College.)

ARTICLE II.

A co-operative marketing association, to ensure the greatest degree of success, must be founded on a special industry. It must, as Powell says, crystallize around a specific economic problem. In other words it must be organized on a commodity basis. Organization on a commodity basis means simply that a co-operative marketing association must confine its marketing activities to a single product or a group of products having similar marketing problems. The outstanding examples of successful co-operative marketing organizations on this continent have strictly adhered to this rule. Grain has one set of marketing problems, livestock another, fruit another and dairy products still another. If an association of producers solves the problems connected with the marketing of a single product or group of similar products it will have done all that can be expected of one organization.

One of the chief reasons, therefore, why organization according to product is so successful is that the marketing of each product or class of products has its own distinctive problems. When the producers of a product organize to market it collectively they have a common motive for holding together. That motive is the solution of the particular problems of the particular product which their association handles.

It is chiefly because men have not realized that their industry, such as growing fruit, dairying, grain grow-

ing, etc., is not local in its marketing aspects that the country is strewn with the wrecks of local co-operative efforts. If there is one lesson that has been more conclusively taught by experience than any other it is that marketing problems cannot be solved by isolated local associations, each handling a small volume, with a correspondingly heavy overhead and with little possibility of competent management. The rule is: Organize by the commodity and not by the locality.

Of course there is a limit to the area over which a co-operative association can economically function. With most products, however, it is not difficult to determine what area should be covered. The three prairie provinces, for example, form a distinct production area for a distinctive product, hard red spring wheat. A co-operative association for the marketing of hard red spring wheat should, therefore, cover that area. In British Columbia there is a tree-fruit section including the Okanagan and adjacent valleys. The Okanagan United Growers, splendid example of successful co-operative effort, covers that territory. For the marketing of dairy products, Ontario would appear to be a logical area of production to be covered by a single marketing organization.

Membership in a purely co-operative marketing organization is confined to producers of the product handled by it. The idea is that they bind themselves together to sell the

product collectively instead of dumping it on the market in competition each with all the others. Their primary interest is the sale of the product of their labor and no one who is not a producer of that particular commodity can become a member of the marketing organization or have any voice in the control of its policies.

By the same principle the association does not purchase the product of non-members. If it did so it would speculate and a co-operative marketing association never speculates. It acts as the selling agency for its members and is organized for the sole purpose of selling their products and their products only.

The control of the association is confined strictly to its producing members. Voting power cannot be secured by purchasing stock. If stock is sold to nonmembers it is of a special class, something like municipal debentures, which carries no voting power. The one member, one vote system is rigidly adhered to.

As organization may cover a considerable, and sometimes a very large area, local matters are looked after by local associations, which, by federation, form the central selling agency. Such locals must have full control over local matters and be fully responsible for financing local plants such as elevators, cheese factories, etc. The central does not finance or control them. They finance and control the central. Through it they coordinate their efforts in dealing with all matters of policy which are not local but which concern them all.

Local associations are grouped into districts for the purpose of electing directors to the central board. Representation on the board must be by districts so that control of the central will not get into the hands of men representing only sections of the territory covered. Representation should, as near as possible, be in proportion to membership so that each member has his proportionate voice in the control of the association's policies. The board of directors, for convenience, appoints an executive from amongst its members. The executive gives to the association that constant and detailed direction which is necessary to success in business. The executive should consist of the most able of the men constituting the board of directors, irrespective of the districts which they represent. It is directly responsible to the board, to which it should report frequently for approval of its actions and for instruction.

The central selling agency has full control over all matters concerning the sale of the product. It establishes grades, provides facilities for merchandising the product, and, if a trade mark is used, owns and controls it, stipulating the conditions by which local affiliated associations may apply it to their product.

The next article will deal with pooling and merchandising, the methods by which a co-operative marketing association handle and sell the products of its members to their mutual advantage.

The Sunday School Lesson

JANUARY 21

The Prodigal Son, Luke 15: 11-24. Golden Text—There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.—Luke 15: 10.

Lesson Setting—Our lesson to-day is one of the three great parables spoken with a common purpose in them all. They are the parable of the Lost Sheep, the parable of the Lost Silver, and the parable of the Lost Son. The Pharisees murmured against Jesus because he kept company with publicans and sinners, people beyond the pale of respectability. Jesus' answer is that lost people need saving and saving can only come by seeking. True religion is a seeking, not a separated thing. God is a seeking, not a separated God. It is one thing to keep company with sinners for the sake of the evil in them. It is another thing to seek the company of sinners for the sake of the good in them.

I. Leaving Home, 11-13.
V. 12. Father, give me the portion of goods. By Mosaic law, each child got one portion, while the eldest got two portions. These portions were often distributed during the father's lifetime.

V. 13. Took his journey into a far country. It would take some time to convert his portion into money, but

as soon as possible he said farewell to the old home and the old life. In his foolish way of thinking, he wished to see and know and taste life, and that, he thought, could not be done at home. Doubtless the father who saw him afar off when he came back, watched him till he faded out of sight. Doubtless the elder son was too busy in the fields to say goodbye. The prodigal went, gay clothing, and jaunty step and light heart. Wasted his substance with riotous living. The prodigal's idea of liberty is license, the unrestrained following of one's desires. He wasted not only substance, but soul.

II. Thinking Home, 14-17.
V. 14. When he had spent all. When prodigals scatter money, they gather friends of a dubious kind. It did not take long to drain the prodigal's purse. A mighty famine . . . he began to be in want. Famine was common then as now, in Eastern lands. The famine aggravated his poverty.

V. 15. Joined himself to a citizen of that country; became the slave of a Gentile master, a great degradation for a Jew, for the prodigal who had

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GRAIN RATES TO CANADIAN LAKE TERMINALS

WINNIPEG, MAN. TO FORT WILLIAM, ONT.	420
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MAN.	415
CARLETON PLACE, ONT.	410
BRANDON, MAN.	405
VIRIDEN, SASK.	400
GRANDVIEW, SASK.	395
WOLSELEY, SASK.	390
WOLSELEY, SASK.	385
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EXPORT GRAIN MARKET

GRAIN RATES TO AMERICAN LAKE TERMINALS

LEEDS, ND. TO BULWATH MINN.	417
MINNAPOLIS, MINN.	412
ST. CLOUD, MINN.	407
BRONKHORST, MINN.	402
GLASGOW, MINN.	397
TELEO, MINN.	392
WILSON, MINN.	387
WILSON, MINN.	382
WILSON, MINN.	377
WILSON, MINN.	372
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SETTLERS—LOOK ON THIS PICTURE AND ON THAT!