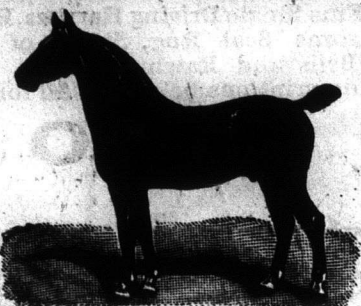


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ing hens, they learned mathematics when
they figured profit or loss, and compo-
sition and writing were both necessary
in the preparation of the reports. Thus
the contest fulfilled some of the require-
ments of the school curriculum.

What is the object of education? Cer-
tainly it must be to teach the child how
to be a valuable man or woman. These
children learned what dry studies never
teach, and the respect for education that
they acquired caused them to look for-
ward to college careers with the hope of
developing into successful farmers. The
teacher was taken at the end of the
term at almost twice the salary, because
she had become a better instructor. American
schools need more of this kind
of education; it brings results. Children
should be educated with interesting and
concrete things, and be shown how
practical and valuable school work can
be made.

Controlling Potato Pests

G. R. Bliss, Iowa

Rotation, the use of healthy seed and
spraying will control all potato pests.
After they have once started the only
remedy seems to be spraying. This
should be done very thoroughly, seeing
that every leaf and stem is covered, and
the mixture should be properly pre-
pared. In order to prevent injury to
the leaves, fresh stone lime should be
used. Spraying with lead arsenic or
Paris green will control the Colorado

boys beating the bushes. After several
drives they usually disappear. It is a
good plan to drive them into a windrow
of hay, straw or other combustible ma-
terial and set fire to it. However, it is
by far the most satisfactory and easiest
method to spray. This is comparatively
simple, and it pays to take the trouble,
but constant attention is necessary.

There are several other injurious in-
sects which attain considerable impor-
tance at times. Among them are the
potato flea beetle, the potato stalk borer,
the stalk weevil, the white grub, the
potato tuber worm, the scab gnats, plant
lice, wireworms, cutworms, leafhoppers,
and grasshoppers. Most of them may
be destroyed by spraying. Rotation is
the only practical means of handling
the stalk borer, the stalk weevil and
the tuber worm. Grubs are troublesome
only on very rich or heavily manured
soils.

Fowls lay in six months

Robert Wallace

In order to lay the foundation of a
laying flock I think it important to
start with only one pair of fowls. These
birds should be the best possible to ob-
tain. They should be of good size and
shape for the breed and always in good
condition prior to the breeding season;
that is, they should never have been
sick. It is all well enough to have good
looking fowls as well as fowls that lay
and pay well but from a utilitarian



I should have a yield of 30 bushels to the acre, 5 miles from Mirror, Alberta, on the G.T.P. Railway

beetle. This should be first applied when
the old beetles first appear. If properly
done this will destroy the slugs as soon
as they are hatched. Usually three or
four applications are sufficient. A great
many farmers pick off the old beetles
by hand and kill them immediately by
dropping them into kerosene. The eggs
should also be destroyed in this way.

Thorough Cultivation Helps

The long bodied blister beetles are
often known as the old-fashioned potato
bugs. They appear in great numbers,
and if not instantly checked will com-
pletely defoliate the potato vines in
two or three days. There are several
species, but only two are troublesome to
potato growers. These are the striped
and ash gray blister beetle. These
insects lay their eggs in the ground.
In a short time the active larva appears
and feeds upon the eggs of grasshoppers
and solitary bees. It molts several times
and finally forms a pupa in the ground,
appearing as an adult late the following
spring. The adults only are injurious
to potatoes.

In the first place, cultivation may
prevent them from getting a start, and
may compel them to leave after once
started. But if they are present in
large numbers, more drastic measures
are necessary. A spray of lead arsenate
or Paris green should be applied to the
vines upon the first appearance of the
insects. This should be continued fre-
quently, for although this means instant
death to the insects they are quickly
replaced, and constant attention is
necessary. They may be driven out of
the potato patch by a line of men and

standpoint the looks of the birds may
be very considerably overemphasized.

Most of my breeding birds have free
range. Others have at an eighth of
an acre run with their colony houses.
As I keep only one breed, Rhode Island
Red, this plan works very well. I use
both hens and incubators for hatching,
but prefer the incubators because they
save time, are cleaner, are always ready
for use and are more economical. In
order to have a flock in laying condition
for early winter, I like to have all the
hatching occur between April 10th and
May 10th. In six months, Rhode Island
Red pullets, if properly managed, can
be brought to laying development. I
think it not wise to force development
of this breed so as to bring the hens
into laying condition earlier. If this
is done, the chances are the pullets will
be more or less weak and not likely to
stand the strain of egg laying.

During the first two weeks I feed noth-
ing but chick feed, water and charcoal.
The floors of the brooders are covered
with coarse sand. No feed at all is
given until the chicks are 24 hours old.
After the first week or two I make a
mash of about equal parts of meal, bran
and middlings, and add one part to six
of meat meal. This is fed three times
daily and followed with a little hard
grain, mostly cracked corn. When about
two months old, the mash feed is given
twice a day and followed with a feed
of grain.

My chicks always have large grass
runs and open, airy coops. They are
kept in small colonies of 20 to 25; I
like flocks of this size better than larger
ones because the chicks are less likely to

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