

HOME GARDEN
FRUIT CULTURE

IN THE POULTRY YARD

Cleanliness and Tidiness

The following excellent article is taken from Poultry, and the conditions and suggestions it contains are well worthy the serious consideration of Colonist readers who are interested in poultry raising and fruit culture.

"Something like a thousand times a year we come across the statement that some circular, or the writings of some beginner in poultry literature, that some particular variety 'when seen on a green lawn is the prettiest sight imaginable.' We would probably be well within the facts if we were to say that this expression has been made of every variety in the Standard, and has become more badly worn than the place that makes a green lawn in the average poultry yard.

"A strict regard for the actual truth impels us to say that the average poultry yard is unbecomingly so in any place where living animals or birds are closely confined. The lack of esthetic beauty is one of the facts we must contend with. It is a condition that we must overcome by indirect means, and then not always succeed. Too few poultrymen give any thought to this matter, and we are to take the evidence of our senses as a criterion by which to form our judgment of them. Too many poultry yards are allowed to become the rubbish heaps of the farm. Too many are mere bare enclosures, or even fowls, which have no sense of beauty or the fitness of their surroundings.

"It is because there is no money in attractiveness that this sort of neglect is so very common? If so, it is a mistake. Attractiveness is worth money. The attractive building, farm or poultry yard is not only more valuable than the unattractive one under similar conditions, but attractiveness brings attention, and this breeds more business.

"The man or woman who thinks neatness, orderliness and attention to her appearance does not count for a value is working with mistaken perception of the basis of values.

"Tidiness is bad enough, but allowing untidiness to become filthiness is infinitely worse. An untidy place may be in perfect sanitary condition, but if it is neglected, it is followed by the filthiness that invites disease and loss, besides driving away possible patrons that would make for added profits.

"We believe in the usefulness of order, not alone because it is God's law, but because it is the foundation on which reputation is made and success achieved.

"Untidiness is a standing objection to carelessness in methods. It gives open and unmistakable warning that the owner of the premises is likely to neglect his duties, and neglect in any kind of business is a sure sign of failure, accompanied by neglect in every direction.

"One once knew a farmer who became rich at his occupation. He worked hard and produced good crops, but he allowed his orchard to become a waste of brush from lack of pruning. His fences fell into ruin and were patched up by make-shift methods and his land gradually lost its fertility. A neighbor once asked him why he did not draw on his bank account and fix up his farm. He replied that there was no money out of repairs. In course of time this farmer died. His children, never having had an attractive home, did not care to divide the farm and retain it, and it was sold at public sale at a price that was less than half the going price for well-kept farms in the same vicinity.

"That man lived in a square surroundings all his life in order to build up a bank account, and at his death his property was worth less than the surplus in repairs, instead of allowing it to pile up in a bank. He was saving for gold coins, you see, and while picking them up he lost values in another direction.

"The fact that poultry keeping is not of itself an esthetic occupation, if we confine our whole thought to the absolute necessities of its administration, without giving thought to the surroundings, or to the possibility of making values that are not ponderable or that cannot be arrayed and counted and given a specific value, should incite us to a greater effort to make the surroundings as pleasant as possible.

"Not long ago we visited one of the finest poultry plants in this country. On this big farm every building was built up, neatly painted and kept as clean as possible with rather more than ordinary attention to this part of the work. The yards are big and covered with a thick turf. Actually it is the only large poultry farm we can call to mind where the fowls were said to have a green lawn on which to display their attractions, and they add and they look better there than they would in the average yard in which not a spear of grass is allowed to exist.

"The owner of this farm and his wife are both enthusiastic poultry breeders. They probably love money as well as most people. They work hard to make money, although they might live a life of ease.

"But money is not the only object this good couple has in view. They believe in living in the best sense of the word. They do not keep their eyes constantly on the ground hoping to now and then pick up a stray coin of shining gold. They look at the world from a higher place. Their horizon is not bounded by the circle of their farm and their poultry yard. If it were given them to choose, as it was Solomon of old, they might not have wisdom alone, but they certainly would not first ask for wealth, because they do not regard that as the highest object one can seek in life.

"Here is order, tidiness, and in their wake come success such as has come to few in our brotherhood. Everyone who visits this place goes away to find its praises. They tell what a nice place it is to go, how they were attracted with a warm welcome, what a charming hostess the lady partner of this farm is, and thus they make for this good couple in places where their name never would have been heard if they had, in their quest of gold coins, overlooked the value of attractiveness.

"Unimpaired space makes it possible to make desirable conditions on this farm. But limited space does not make it necessary to show seaminess to be entirely neglected.

"Go with us to another poultry

farm of five acres, crowded with white fowls, lying alongside the busiest railway in this country, the numerous trains of which both forth and back day volumes of sooty smoke. The third largest city in this country is near at hand. The surroundings make for uncleanliness, but the yards do not show this. Everyday care keeps the houses clean and sweet, without offensive sight or repelling odors.

"The yards are necessarily somewhat restricted and bare of greenery except for roses, but yet large enough to furnish a shield to hide the bare ground. Does the owner allow this bleak barrenness of his yard to offend the eye by remaining plainly in sight? Not at all. He plants vines along the fences and during the whole of the season when visitors may be expected these vines furnish a shield, to counteract the barren appearance of grassless yards, and add to the attractiveness of the place by their graceful growth and their emerald green leaves. Here, too, the visitor is delighted by the appearance of the place and the cordiality of his reception and goes away to become a standing advertisement for it, which is the best kind of advertising and the cheapest that anyone can have.

"Within twenty miles of where these words are written, a farm of five acres is kept for simple farm purposes. The proceeds of the poultry yard are sold in the nearest town at market prices, or consumed at home.

"This farmer has a fine home, surrounded by beautiful trees. The other outbuildings are good and the fields show the handiwork of a farmer who has been successful in his business.

"The poultry yards, on this farm are filled with raspberry bushes, currant bushes and other fruit trees. These grow with this vigor that they hide the ground, except here and there. It is one of the most attractive poultry yards we ever saw.

"From the bushes and vines in this poultry yard, bushes and trees, small fruits are harvested, many dollars' worth being sold every year, after the needs of the family are supplied.

"The hens have shade all summer. They do not walk about in the sun, and their roots of the trees and bushes, keeping them cultivated. The rains wash the droppings off the ground, but all along untidiness to become filthiness is infinitely worse.

"An untidy place may be in perfect sanitary condition, but if it is neglected, it is followed by the filthiness that invites disease and loss, besides driving away possible patrons that would make for added profits.

"We asked the owner what he did when the berries and other small fruits were ripening to prevent the hens from eating them. He replied that he let the hens eat all they wanted of them. The bushes were so vigorous and fruitful that the hens only ate a small proportion of the fruits and berries, and what they left made a larger crop than would have been produced under ordinary circumstances, so he could well afford to divide with the hens.

"Here is a sense where the attractive alone led to profit from an unexpected source. This friend of ours planted the small fruit poultry yard expecting the hens to eat all the fruit his only object being to hide the bare ground and give shade in summer. The result was so unexpected that he enlarged the poultry yard, so as to include in it the whole berry patch and small fruit orchard, and he has solved the problem of completely hiding the barrenness of a poultry yard, in a way that costs little and adds to his comfort and profit."

Healthy Breeding Stock

Many breeders of experience have learned—and many amateurs are learning—that the first requisite to obtain healthy and fertile breeding stock is to breed good healthy progeny from weak, debilitated parent stock. No matter how much care may be taken in the raising, so that first consideration is to have a breeding stock which are themselves the off-spring of healthy, vigorous stock, and then to keep them in good health by proper feeding and housing.

"An all too common practice is to house fowls in too warm, closed houses in the fall and winter months. This is often responsible for the debilitated condition of the birds and consequent infertility of eggs in the spring. Of course the number of females mated to a male has much influence on the fertility of eggs, but if the breeding stock is not strong and healthy, no matter how many females in the pen, the results would be apt to be disappointing. But if the birds are all healthy and the females in a pen is not so apt to make many so much difference in the fertility of the eggs as is often supposed. A strong male bird can be satisfactorily mated to a very large number of females.

Poultry Notes

Hens generally sit very close together on the roosts at night. If putting up roosts, allow about seven inches for each bird, and keep the roosts for Mediterranean breeds, nine inches for American and twelve for Asiatics.

Poultry like fruit of all kinds, but decayed and over-ripe fruit should be avoided as it induces bowel complaint. It is a mistake to have high ceilings in the poultry house, as all such buildings are too cold in winter. They should be just high enough so one can walk in the house without touching the ceiling.

Hens should always have lime or mortar in order to furnish material to form egg shells with. Hens like raw egg shells, which they consume to egg shells unless fed with scraps.

An unexpected draft of cold air striking the fowls at night while on the roosts is responsible for many a case of cold and incubent pox. Geese can not profitably be kept in farming, but they may be profitably used as a pasture to roam over, and must have a pasture to roam over. While it has been proved that duck farming can be made profitable with confinement, it is not profitable with them.

Let your hens have lime in the orchard, and where practical among the small fruit. They will help the fruit trees by riding on them, and the insect pests which infest them, and at the same time provide the poultry with a good source of lime, which they require.

Keep your chickens clean and limewashed, but don't raise chickens and vermin at the same time and have success with both.

"Go with us to another poultry

THE FARM AND FIELD

The Holstein Friesian

The following official report from G. W. Clemons, secretary of the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada, will be of interest to British Columbia dairymen who are interested in this remarkable breed of cattle.

Since my last report fourteen cows and heifers have made official records which entitled them to a place in the Record of Merit. These tests are vouchered for by Prof. Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College, and unless otherwise stated are for a period of seven days. The amounts of milk and butter fat are actual, and the amount of butter is estimated by adding one-sixth to the amount of fat.

1. Rose Rattler (7400) at 5 y. 8m. 7d.; milk 462.2 lbs.; butter fat 18.80, equivalent to 21.4 lbs. butter.

2. Daisy March (3967) at 4 y. 10m. 14d.; milk 463.56 lbs.; butter fat 13.83 lbs. equivalent to 16.13 lbs. butter.

3. Abbecker Trynke DeKol (4241) at 4 y. 8 m. 20 d.; milk 427.9 lbs.; butter fat 12.28 lbs. equivalent to 14.83 lbs. butter. Owned by Walburn Rivers, Faldens, Ont.

4. Corinne Albino DeKol (6852) at 3 y. 2 m. 19 d.; milk 330.2 lbs.; butter fat 12.23 lbs. equivalent to 14.27 lbs. butter.

5. Thirty Days—Milk 1469.6 lbs.; butter fat 50.76 lbs. equivalent to 59.28 lbs. butter. Owned by Geo. Rice.

6. Fafort Butter Girl (5870) at 2 y. 11 m. 19 d.; milk 275.12 lbs.; butter fat 12.28 lbs. equivalent to 13.14 lbs. butter. Owned by Thos. Hartley, Faldens, Ont.

7. Daisy Wayne A. DeKol (6144) at 2 y. 1 m. 29 m. 370 lbs.; butter fat 10.20 lbs. equivalent to 10.95 lbs. butter. Owned by Walburn Rivers, Faldens, Ont.

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recent work by the Agronomist of the Wisconsin Experiment Station seems to indicate that copperas (sulphate of iron) is equally useful for the purpose of weed killing and has the advantage of being a great deal cheaper.

Prof. R. A. Moore, the agronomist, in a letter states that "we were able to exterminate or partly exterminate many other noxious weeds, in addition to eradicating mustard from grain fields. I expect to carry on extensive experiments this year to see if we cannot in some way put Canada this under control." He summarizes the work done under his direction in the following sentences:

"In various parts of the state, grain fields were found to be so contaminated with wild mustard that it was impossible to eradicate it by hand pulling. By spraying these grain fields at the proper time with a 20 per cent solution of iron sulphate when conditions were proper, the mustard plants were practically all destroyed.

"The spraying should be done on a calm, bright day after the dew has disappeared, as the work is more effective if the solution is put on in the warm sunlight. When rain follows the spraying within a few hours, the extermination of the mustard will not be complete.

"The grain fields should be sprayed when the mustard plants are in the third leaf, or before the plants are in blossom. In order to have the best results, the spraying should be done in the morning, the time of day, following the spraying, the tips of the blades of the grain may be seen to be blackened, but no detrimental effects can be noticed, either to the crop or grasses seeded with it, two weeks after spraying.

"Daisies, cockspur, bind weed, rag weed, chickory, sheep sorrel, yellow

weed, wild lettuce, and many other weeds were partially or wholly eradicated from the fields where tests were made for the extermination of the mustard.

"Iron sulphate can be purchased for about seven dollars per ton in small quantities and can be readily handled. One hundred pounds of iron sulphate will make sufficient solution for the proper strength to spray approximately one acre. From twenty to twenty-five acres of land can be covered in a day where the sprayer is kept in continuous use.

"The iron sulphate solution is not poisonous and can be readily handled without injury. White clothing coming in contact with it will be discolored, but not burned.

"The solution is made by emptying a hundred pound sack of iron sulphate (copperas or ferrous sulphate) into an ordinary 52 gallon cask (a coal oil barrel is of that capacity) and then stirring the chemical into solution with water for seven to ten minutes, when it will be found to have been dissolved. The solution made in this way is approximately twenty per cent, although some German investigators have had good results with 15 per cent solutions. It is necessary to watch the machines used for spraying, as the nozzle is apt to clog with the iron sulphate. Iron sulphate in a commercial form is obtained as a by-product in the manufacture of steel and wire, and Canada thistles that received the iron sulphate spray solution seemed to be badly scorched and further experiments will be made in the hope of subduing such pests."—Ex.

A Good Lime Wash.

To half a bucket of lime add two handfuls of common salt and two handfuls of tallow, or better still, soft soap, at the rate of two pounds to thirty gallons of wash. Slake slowly, stirring all the time. This quantity will make two bucketfuls of wash which possesses the properties of being very adhesive and unaffected by rain.

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