

EFFICIENT FARMING

Why Not Raise Turkeys?

It seldom pays to try for real early hatches of turkeys—April is early enough to set the eggs, and May is the best month for hatching. It is often advisable to gradually remove most (but not all) of the eggs the turkeys lay in their chosen nests and set them under chicken hens or in an incubator. The hatching results are usually about the same—and an extra clutch of eggs can be secured from the turkey hen before letting her start to set. Of course, turkey eggs require four weeks of incubation instead of three as with hen eggs.

Tame, quiet hens of the larger breeds, such as Plymouth Rocks and Orpingtons, make the best turkey mothers. Ten turkey eggs are about right for a good six-pound hen. If the turkey hen is to do her own hatching, fifteen eggs is the best number. If the eggs are placed in a machine, the heat and general care is the same as for hen eggs, but it never is satisfactory to try to hatch turkey eggs and hen eggs at the same time. The difference in size, thickness of shell, and length of hatching period all operate against the mixed hatch.

We always wash and dry the eggs carefully just before setting them. In very dry weather, or if the eggs have been kept ten days or more before being set, a couple of subsequent washings in lukewarm water during the incubating period help insure sufficient moisture to the eggs. Especially when they are being incubated under chicken hens is there little likelihood of providing too much moisture.

Turkey eggs for hatching should be kept in a cool, dry, dark place, and turned to a different position every day. Care should be taken that they are never roughly handled, knocked or jarred. Eggs for hatching should not long be exposed to sunlight or other strong light.

The hatching power of an egg decreases with each succeeding day that it is kept before setting. Turkey eggs that have been kept four or five weeks will frequently hatch, but a time limit of two weeks is advisable—and the fresher the egg the better its chance of producing a strong poul.

To prepare a nest for turkey eggs, scoop a hollow in fresh moist earth and over this shape with your hands a nest of clean, dry straw or excelsior two or three inches deep. Sprinkle a few crumpled tobacco leaves under the straw, or spray or sprinkle lice-killer on the ground. Don't put this directly on the nesting material, however, as it might injure the germs in the eggs by contact. It is quite necessary to keep the nest free from vermin, and it is also advisable to catch the hen once or twice while she is setting and dust her thoroughly with a reliable insect powder.

Cover the nest with a coop or shelter of some sort that will keep hen and nest dry and secluded. It is best to set the hen at night, shutting her in for a day or so until she has become accustomed to the surroundings. Even when "stolen" nests are found it is best to protect them from the weather by a coop or shelter with an opening at one side for the hen to get in and out.

If at any time during the hatch any of the eggs are badly soiled, they should be carefully washed with warm water and thoroughly dried. If any of the eggs become broken, see that the other eggs are washed clear of the yolks or whites, else the pores of the good egg shells may become closed and the chickens within suffocated.

Turkey eggs usually hatch well, and the hardest part is getting the chicks past the first month of their existence. The three main things to avoid are dampness, cold and vermin. The poults should be kept confined to a large box for the first few days, but after that they should be given as much liberty as the weather permits.

Poults should be fed often—four or five times a day—and just a little at a time for the first few weeks. Cracker crumbs, oat meal, cracked corn, wheat, stale bread soaked in milk, etc., are excellent at first. Gradually add wheat middlings (shorts), mixed moist but not sticky. Add oats to the grain ration, and be-



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gin to use whole corn instead of cracked as soon as possible. The poults should have ground bone or meat scraps and green food or vegetables supplied to them regularly if their range does not afford a plentiful supply of these materials. Sour milk or buttermilk is good for them at all times.

While turkeys being fattened should not have such a large range that they can "run off" their fat, they do not do well when confined to small coops such as may be used in fattening chickens. Limited range is better. Turkeys are great bug, worm and seed eaters and if allowed to wander a long way from home for their feed they do not fatten so well as where their roaming is curtailed by liberal feeding. Especially when the weather begins to turn cold and insect food becomes scarce in the fall, an increased grain diet must be provided for the growing turkeys.

As soon as the turkeys become accustomed to a heavier grain feeding, they may be fed once or twice a day on ground oats, middlings and corn meal moistened with milk. Corn and oats (also wheat when it is not too expensive) should be given in addition to the mash. Provide the birds with plenty of drinking water at all times.

Some successful feeders use a mixture of equal parts of ground oats, barley and corn, with table scraps, boiled carrots, potatoes or other boiled vegetables mixed with milk. Vegetables fed freely have a tendency to make the flesh plump and white.

In marketing turkeys it pays to have them well fattened and well dressed, so they will look better than the average. Attractiveness goes a long way in selling market fowls. Do not give food to the turkeys for twenty-four to thirty-six hours prior to killing; full crops and entrails taint the meat and prevent its being kept for any length of time without spoiling.

In dressing turkeys for city markets do not remove the head, feet or entrails, but have the whole carcass, including head and feet, perfectly clean. Kill by sticking a sharp knife into the base of the fowl's brain, through the mouth, instead of chopping off the head.

Dairy Notes.

It is much easier to manage calves if each one has a halter. They are more easily halter-broke at an early age and this saves pulling contests later in life when the animals are very strong. Pulling a calf around by the ears is a hard job and apt to develop an unamly stubborn nature in the calf.

The salt block is a sure method of providing a steady salt supply for the cows. Place a block in a box in the barnyard and the cows will enjoy licking the block a few moments each day. A steady supply of salt is better than a large supply at irregular intervals, followed by a long period without salt. These salt blocks last a long time and do not easily crumble up into fine bits that might be eaten by poultry.

On cold and wet spring nights the young cattle need shelter nearly as much as in the winter. If they do not have a dry resting-place the exposure may devitalize them and make certain individuals more susceptible to tuberculosis. The health and steady growth of the young heifers has a great influence on future dairy profits and such animals need the best of care.

The best guarantee that a cow will prove all right is to buy her of an honest farmer or dealer. If you buy a cow that is due to freshen at a certain date and she never freshens, the honest seller will be anxious to make it right, if possible. If the honest seller tells you that a cow is a profitable milker you will not be able to see the bottom of the pail after milking that cow. Of course, the buyer must use some judgment but it is true that many experienced farmers are fooled when buying cows. They can take some of the risk out of such deals by purchasing cows of honest dealers. When you have good luck in buying a cow do not fail to give the seller credit. In this way the honest cow dealers are encouraged and the others soon lose a lot of business.

The farmer who raises an occasional heifer for his herd often finds that he obtains better cows than he can buy for prices he can afford to pay. When you raise a heifer from a good cow and a pure-bred bull, there is always a chance that you will obtain for the cost of production a cow that you cannot easily duplicate for that amount of money.

Unexpected casualties often take the heart out of the dairy farmer. Many cows have died from eating staples, pieces of fence wire and other foreign materials. Be careful about making repairs around the barn and keep the barn and pasture as free from junk as possible. One farmer recently lost a good cow because she licked up nitrate of soda which was

Meets Consumers' Demands

How One Fruit Grower Gained Favor.

Mrs. Mary Ames, fair, fat, and nearly forty, was talking excitedly. "It makes me furious," she declared. "I have trouble enough now to keep within my household allowance, without having anyone try to put over anything like that."

Mrs. Ames was secretary of a woman's club and was taking advantage of an after-meeting group to voice her opinions. Several of the club members were listening and agreeing.

"What's the excitement?" exclaimed Mrs. Jacob Hollister, as she joined the group. "You look peeved, Mary."

"I am," retorted that lady, and she proceeded to explain. "You would be too. I had a bushel of potatoes from Gus Walker's farm. They were delicious, flaky and white when baked. The whole family liked them so well that I told Mr. Walker I'd like to have him bring me my winter's supply. He set the price. I didn't specify or haggle. The only arrangement was that he was to keep half of the potatoes until I wanted them later in the winter because you know our cellar is too hot to have potatoes keep well."

"Well, what was the matter?" Mrs. Hollister tried to hurry her a bit. "Did he bring the whole lot at once?"

"Worse than that," snapped Mrs. Ames. "I thought, of course, the potatoes would be like the sample bushel. Well, they weren't. They were about as different as they could be. The potatoes were a mixture of the red and the white varieties. Some would boil to pieces while others stayed hard with the same length of boiling. And in the lot there was over half a bushel of potatoes about the size of small plums. You couldn't use them for anything but salad, and they really weren't good for that."

"You can't trust these farmers," chimed in a listener.

"Well, he won't get another chance to cheat me," declared Mrs. Ames. "Next winter I'll buy from the store, from someone of an established reputation. I don't relish the idea of being stung."

"Oh, see here," objected Mrs. Hollister. "It isn't fair to condemn all farmers because you've had an unfair deal from one."

"It isn't just one," cut in another woman. "I had a similar experience in getting my winter's supply of cabbage."

"But still," persisted Mrs. Hollister. "You leave out of the reckoning the best kind of farmers. They, too, have established reputations for fair dealing. The farmers are keeping pace with other businesses and professions and are making efforts to build up a reputation for their produce."

"Like you," sniffed Mary. "You have to show me."

"All right," Mrs. Hollister took up the challenge. "How many of you bought apples from that carload last month?"

"I did."

"So did I."

Every woman in the group with the exception of the school teacher had purchased apples.

"Well, weren't they all right?"

"Absolutely," agreed the women.

"Well," Mrs. Hollister went on to drive the point home. "Those apples were raised on an Ontario farm. That farmer is not content, though, with just selling his produce. He wants to build up a real business reputation for himself. Listen to this."

She opened a copy of the daily newspaper, just off the press, and read:

To My Friends, the People of Carlton:

Greetings.

My carload of apples sold, they are now in your home. But I still feel an interest in them. I desire that they give you the greatest satisfaction.

Keep them in the coolest possible place of even temperature, but not where they will freeze. If you wish to take the trouble of wrapping each apple in paper you will be well repaid for the extra effort.

Hoping that the services I have given may merit your further patronage, I thank you for your favor.

Yours truly,

E. E. Chickering,

Prop. Orchard Grove Farm, R.R. No. 1, Cedarvale, Ont.

"There are farmers and farmers," she remarked when she had finished reading. "It's too bad that the few dishonest, incompetent ones should give a black eye to the reputable ones. It's only too evident that shady dealings by their very nature seem conspicuous. Mr. Chickering is only one of many of the up-to-date farmers who have the right idea. He is giving a public demonstration that he is not afraid to acknowledge that he grew and sold those apples. More than that, he wants to warrant your satisfaction with the sale, so far as possible. So he tells you how to take care of them. And he is building up the opportunity for making a sale next year. I think he deserves our patronage."

The women agreed that he did. It is rather too bad that Gus Walker could not be present to learn just how much undesirable advertising he had received.

He probably laughed when he saw that advertisement of the apple grower. But there is advertising and advertising. Some of it pays. It's a sure thing that the Walker brand does not.

one can accuse her of being overdeveloped mentally.

A box stall is a great help in managing a cow at freshening time. If it is well bedded the calf will find a warm clean nest soon after it is born. The cow will have plenty of room and it will be easy to take care of her and the calf. When cows freshen in the woods or pasture it may take time to find the calf and the cow will not be under observation in anything should go wrong. The box stall is the dairyman's hospital and often a very necessary part of the farm equipment.

being made to save the young pigs at farrowing time. The houses were wet and damp a large part of the time. Sows and young pigs ran together, the older pigs robbing the younger ones, starving many of them to death.

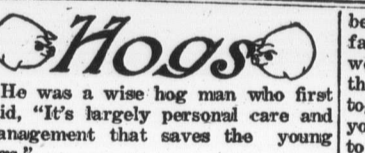
The first man's feed bill was 157 pounds of feed per pig raised, which cost \$4.19 (counting all the feed fed from the time the sows were bred until the pigs were weaned when eight weeks old). The second man fed 455 pounds of feed, which cost \$11.62 for each pig raised to weaning age. Here is a difference of over \$7 in the feed cost of a weaning pig, due almost entirely to personal care and management.

The margin in cost was so great that it showed up vividly when the hogs were sold. The first man made a profit over feed cost of \$129.19 on the 36 hogs he sold. The second man's 84 hogs lacked \$436.65 of paying their feed bill when they were marketed.

Nothing will yield bigger returns to the hog feeder than the few extra hours required to give the sows and their young pigs good care at farrowing time and during the few weeks that follow.

cause colds and bronchitis. A tablespoonful of castor oil and about five drops of turpentine may help the bird. It should be placed away from the flock as colds spread rapidly by means of the drinking water. Potassium permanganate in the drinking water helps to reduce the chances of cold spreading. Color the water a deep crimson. A small amount can be made up as a stock solution and enough added to the water each day to color the drinking water. Do not breed from birds that have had colds.

The young chicks may die because of a lack of vitality in the breeding stock or it may be due to a lack of a balanced ration. Try feeding chicks plenty of sour milk and give them a grassy clover range. Watch for head lice as they devitalize growing chicks during hot weather. A bit of hard placed on the head of each chick will destroy the lice.



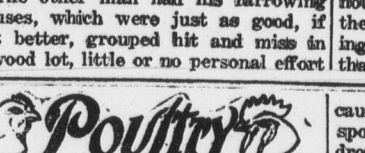
Hogs

He was a wise hog man who first said, "It's largely personal care and management that saves the young pigs."

Two farms known to the writer offer an excellent example. Ninety-three per cent. of the pigs farrowed were raised to weaning age on one of these farms last spring; only 37 per cent. on the other.

The man who raised 93 per cent. of his pigs had his farrowing houses carefully arranged in a row, panels making an outdoor lot about 15 feet square for each pen. The sows farrowed their litters separately where the other hogs could not disturb them. Each sow and her litter was kept separate until the pigs were five or six weeks old. Dry bedding was carefully provided at frequent intervals. The young pigs had every opportunity to live and to get a good start in life.

The other man had his farrowing houses, which were just as good, if not better, grouped hit and miss in a wood lot, little or no personal effort



Poultry

K. H.: I have some hens that seem to have a rattle in their throats when they breathe. I first noticed it two months ago and gave them roup medicine, and they got over the attack, but now they have the same thing again. They go blind in one eye which swells up, but the hens do not die. Will you tell me what is the trouble? My little chickens seem to get a nice start and grow for a while, then they get light, droop awhile and die. What is the cause?

A rattling sound and a gasping for breath is a sign that the birds have bronchitis. They may recover in a short time but such birds are more subject to the disease again. It is most apt to occur when the hens have been out in a cold wind or rain storm. Roosting in a draughty coop may

The Sunday School Lesson

APRIL 17TH

Bible Teachings About Work, St. Mark 6 1-3; St. John 5: 17; 2 Thess. 3: 6-13; Golden Text—Rom. 12: 11.

The Bible makes clear (1) the right and duty of every man to work, (2) the right of every man to the product of his labor, (3) the right of every man to the rights of the community as a whole, (4) the right and duty of every man to lay up in store for himself and his children, some part of that product; and (5) the right of every workman to the respect and honor which is his due. The Bible also recognizes that a man may freely yield up any or all of these rights that he may the better serve God and his fellow men, and has given us in Christ the great example of self-denial.

The Gospel of Mark is generally held to be the earliest of the gospels, that of John to be the latest. The epistles to the Thessalonians are among the earliest writings of the New Testament, and were sent from Corinth by Paul about the year 52 A.D.

Is Not This the Carpenter?

St. Mark 6: 1-3. It is quite evident that Jesus had learned his trade in the shop of Joseph the carpenter of Nazareth. Indeed every well brought up Jewish youth, in those days, was apprenticed to some craft or occupation, as Paul to that of tent-making. It is quite possible that Jesus became the support of His mother and His brothers and sisters after Joseph's death, and that He continued to be their support until His younger brothers were able to relieve Him. It was not until then, when He was about thirty years of age, that He left the carpenter's bench to take up His great ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing.

It is equally true that Jesus worked with His hands to earn bread for Himself and those dependent upon Him, and that at the call of God He turned aside from that kind of work to another. He sets an example of toil both of hand and brain. He is first craftsman, then teacher and preacher. Even then distinctions of labor were so marked that the people of Nazareth marvelled how it could be that the carpenter whom they knew should have become so wise and gifted a teacher. But that experience at the work bench had brought Jesus very near to the heart of the great masses of the people, as it does to this day.

"I Work." St. John 5: 17. In His ministry Jesus is still the workman. The Jews by a narrow interpretation of the Sabbath law had forbidden many kinds of labor on the Sabbath, even the exercise of the hearing art, except when it was necessary for the saving of a life. Jesus asserts His right to do good on the Sabbath day, and especially to heal sickness and suffering. This is God's work, and in it there is no distinction of days. "The Sabbath," He said, "was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." It is well that we should preserve it secretly as a day of rest for the toilers, but we should beware of making Sabbath laws which are against, and not for, human welfare.

Every Brother That Walketh Disorderly.

2 Thess. 3: 6-13. Moffatt gives the meaning more clearly as follows: "Brothers, we charge you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to shun any brother who is loafing, instead of following the rule you got from us." Paul was no loafer. In Thessalonica he and his companions worked at their trade and earned their living while they preached the gospel. "We did not loaf in your midst, we did not take free meals from any one; no, toiling hard at our trade, we worked night and day, so as not to be a burden to any of you."

Paul declares that they did this not because they had not the right to their support at the hands of the people whom they served in the gospel, but because they wanted to set a good example. They had said, in their teaching, "If a man will not work, he shall not eat," and they believed they ought to practice what they taught. The people were not yet prepared to understand the fact that preaching the gospel, and teaching the converts, made a sufficiently great and important work to occupy their whole time.

Busybodies. Paul had learned that there were some among the Christian folk of Thessalonica who were loafing, not working, "busybodies instead of busy." These were causing trouble, as idle people usually do. Paul solemnly charges and exhorts them to keep quiet, to get to work, and earn their bread honestly.

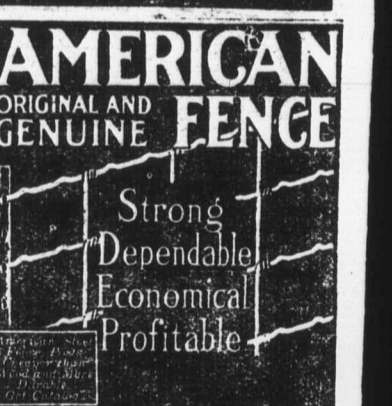
Application.

A well-known English preacher points out from how many different callings earnest Christians got their recruits; tentmakers, fishermen, soldiers, lawyers, physicians, carpenters, statesmen, household servants, sellers of purple, agriculturists, and a great many others. These early Christians carried on in their respective vocations, and thus adorned the doctrine of their new faith. Whatever their peculiar prejudices had been Paul made it very clear to them that God Himself was a worker, and that there was nothing to be ashamed of in honest toil. Work was something which could be done to the glory of God, and labor was a thing which might become a real means of grace.

Recently an Ontario farmer told us an experience of his which we found interesting. Not long ago he engaged a Russian to help him on the farm. After being with him for a few months the Russian one day asked for a private conversation, which was granted. "Are you poor?" he asked the farmer. "On being assured that the latter was not in financial straits, the Russian continued, 'Then why do you work? In my country only poor people work; nobody works who can do without it.' This simple statement reveals one of the causes of Russia's troubles to-day. In that unhappy land work is something to be done only under the pressure of necessity. What we need to realize is that there is nothing degrading about work."

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