

### Cankerworm Injurious in Un-sprayed Orchards.

One month without rain, but July 1st we were blessed with a good downpour. From present indications the hay crop will be light, for the dry weather lasted too long to allow of a normal growth. Pastures have suffered, also, and dairy-men have been feeding meal to their cows to supplement the pasture.

Cultivated and well-cared-for orchards have not been seriously affected by the drouth, and apples are generally setting well, with little fungous growth.

The cankerworm has made greater havoc this year than last, having spread over a wider territory. It is strange that so many orchards are wholly or partially stripped by this pest, when vigorous and thorough spraying will keep it in check. It is safe to say that 90 per cent. of the orchards in this section of Annapolis County have been more or less injured by this worm this season—some of them as bare as in winter.

Outside of the injury done by the cankerworm, the orchards promise a good crop again. Last year we had a banner crop of splendid fruit, and if we can judge from the full bloom, dry weather during pollination, and the dry weather of June, we can predict a full crop of clean apples for 1909. More than this, apples have set well, and nothing but a prolonged drouth can materially affect the yield. R. J. MESSENGER.  
Annapolis Co., N. S.

## POULTRY

### Good Pointers on Hatching and Rearing, from a Farmer's Daughter.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am weary of reading the many different ways recommended for caring for hens and chickens. As one of your correspondents said, "No man can entirely adopt another one's plan and make a success of it. Let everyone work out his own method" (which may mean that you must get your own experience, which is sometimes very costly).

I have attended a short poultry course at an agricultural college. I think the course is far too short. The student gets a surfeit of the business. You actually do not know anything certain on any point at conclusion of the course; in fact, you feel as if you had received a cold-water ducking, and came up gasping for breath. You have, as it were, after recovering your breath, to take time to think it all out before concluding what is and what is not worth adopting.

#### SIMPLE WAY THE BEST FOR HATCHING AND REARING CHICKS.

I have hatched and reared chickens for a great many years by the natural way. I find the "simple life" the proper way by which to secure health and vitality. The old hen, in my opinion, surpasses the incubator as a hatcher, especially so when only a small number of chickens are required. Eggs for hatching should be laid by two- and three-year-old hens, not pullets. Old hens of the ages named, if in proper condition, are more likely to lay eggs in springtime with strong germs than pullets.

The dry-feeding method seems to me to be the most natural one by which to raise the chicks. I recommend the following system: For the first two weeks dry oatmeal, wheat screenings or groats. In the second let the chicks have earth-worms or hard-boiled egg in addition. If the chicks are strong and robust at time of hatching, as they should be, you will have no ailing little ones when so fed.

#### A CAUSE OF WHITE DIARRHEA.

White diarrhea can be induced by keeping the chicks in the hot atmosphere of the incubator and with their droppings. I have proved this, among other things.

The incubator should be kept scrupulously clean. The chickens should never be left in it after they are dry. After the hatch is finished the interior of the incubator—trays and all—should be scrubbed with soap and water, and left in the sun for some little time to dry, and be thoroughly aired.

#### PROVING THEORIES.

I have been proving each year some theory. This year I got pullets or year-old hens' eggs. I set six hens on 78 eggs, and put the remaining 200 in an incubator. I hatched with the hens 85%, with the machine, 40%; although last year the incubator, under similar treatment, with two-

and three-year-old hen eggs, hatched 85%—good, strong chicks.

Am raising chickens this year by hens, and then placing the chicks in brooder houses without doors, but with wire runs attached to them. I gave to three hens the work of looking after 120 chickens. With such treatment, and the food as I have already described, I have not lost a chick, and they are now three weeks of age. [Note.—This is certainly good work.]

#### FREEDOM FROM LICE.

Vermin I have not only kept free from, but I have exterminated, by the cautious use of black oil or crude petroleum. I put a little on the back of the hens at night while on the roost. I do this every few weeks, and so keep the hens free from vermin with comparative little trouble. I also spray the house at times with coal oil. Before giving the hens the chicks to hover, I smear them very lightly with the black oil, under their wings and fluff. I do this every few days very lightly. It is not much trouble, and perfectly safe. I oil the heads of the chicks around the ear with vaseline before giving them to the hens. I have spent the night to the "wee sma' hours," many times, powdering the chicks, which I now do in a minute by the mother. J. R. H.

### Profit from Egg Production.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In looking up our list of poultry-producers, we find two instances of success from egg-production alone.

The first is on a small dairy farm, where 12 or 14 milch cows are kept, and 50 laying hens. The hens are under the entire charge of the farmer's wife and two daughters. Our books show that they have brought their eggs to us continuously for the past five years, and, in taking the year 1908 as an example, that their delivery was from 5 to 15 dozen per week. They were paid for these eggs from 17 to 35 cents per dozen, and received in cash \$114.40 for eggs alone during the year. An accurate account of cost of feed for the hens was not kept, but we find that, where a flock of from 25 to 50 hens are kept on free range on a farm, the outlay seldom exceeds \$1.00 per hen.

This leaves a profit of \$64.40 from eggs alone, over and above keeping the home in eggs, and 12 or 15 dozen for hatching chickens, as they aim to rear 50 or 60 chickens each year, that they may have 25 pullets to replace all but yearling hens in their flock.

This leaves them with the revenue from the disposal of the 25 hens, and surplus cockerels.

In questioning them with regard to farm poultry paying, they say that it is far the most profitable branch on their farm, and that if they could only get their cows, hogs, etc., to pay them the same percentage of profit, they would be more than satisfied.

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The second is rather a peculiar case, where the farmer and his wife attribute their success entirely to breed. It is quite true that they were not very successful until the last two years, when they made the change and established the breed which they at present have, which is a straight cross-bred Rhode Island Red and Brown Leghorn. This was done by breeding a pure-bred Red cock on a flock of Brown Leghorns, and keeping the pullets for layers. This gave them such wonderful results that they will not keep any others, only straight cross-bred birds, going to the trouble each year of breeding a pure Red cock on pure Brown Leghorn females to get their laying stock.

I must say that they have a very fine flock of hens, beautiful in appearance and plumage, laying a considerably larger-sized egg than either of the breeds does as a pure-bred. We have been able to grade all the eggs from this flock No. 1, weighing, on an average, several ounces more than 1½ pounds per dozen, which is seldom the case with Leghorns.

This is a large dairy farm, and they also bring their eggs in to us weekly, the net proceeds from this flock, in eggs, being considerable in advance of the first named, per hen.

They also state that the poultry branch is the most profitable branch on their farm, which speaks well for the poultry, as they have an up-to-date, well-managed farm in all lines.

Now, I do not say that a cross from these breeds is the only and best-laying hen to be produced, as I have no doubt that there are other pure breeds and crosses of pure breeds that will give equally good results, but these people have intelligently worked out something that is giving them results, and, rightly or wrongly, give all praise to the ship that carried them over.

Brome Co., Que.

A. P. HILLHOUSE.

## THE FARM BULLETIN

### Ditching Machine Making Good.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have just returned from an extended inspection of the work being done by the new traction ditcher that is operating in the Niagara district, and thought possibly a report thereon might be of interest to your readers.

The machine completes the ditch full depth and true to grade in passing once over the course, leaving the ditch bottom ready for the tile. The work is so satisfactory that I think that in a short time these machines will be in use in many parts of the Province. There is work enough to keep quite a number of these machines busy. I know of 10 or 15 miles of ditching in Simcoe County that could be contracted for to-morrow by anyone proposing to get a machine. There is 10 miles of work ready for contract in Wentworth. There are numerous other counties, e.g., Victoria, Huron, York, Lambton, etc., where much draining is being done, and where several miles of work could be secured in advance, sufficient to keep a machine busy for the first month, and that is all that is necessary. The Niagara machine has more work ahead of it now than it had when it started operations in the spring, with more coming all the time, and many who have had work done by it want it back again when the crop is off.

For two days I watched it working in hard, stony clay, and it was surprising to see the stones that it would root out, some of them over a foot in diameter, and in places close enough to form an almost continuous row beside the ditch, but of course it did not dig as fast in such land as in land free from stones.

The cost of machine ditching is somewhat lower than of ditching by hand in most parts of the Province. Besides, there are not enough men to dig by hand one-quarter of the drains needed in Ontario. All these circumstances combined should lead to the speedy adoption of the ditching machine, and the consequent revolutionizing of ditching operations throughout the Province. I am more firmly impressed with the value of the machine than ever. WM. H. DAY.

### Central Canada Fair.

There are many things about this year's Central Canada Fair in Ottawa, September 10th to 18th, which will make it particularly attractive to live-stock men and farmers. Over \$13,000 in cash prizes is offered in the cattle, sheep, swine, horse and poultry departments, and, in addition, the gold medals and special prizes offered are worth at least \$1,000 extra. All of the live-stock buildings are being gone over, and many incidental improvements effected, so that the convenience of exhibitors will be fully catered to. In every department which interests the farming or stock-raising community the prizes have been materially increased, and in many instances they exceed those offered by similar exhibitions in other parts of the country. The directors are planning for this year's fair to be the banner one in the association's history. About \$90,000 is being spent on general improvements, including a new fireproof grand-stand, while numerous new and attractive features will be introduced. The extent and value of the prize-list is such as to greatly encourage stock-raisers and farmers to compete. Full information regarding the exhibition may be obtained from E. McMahon, Secretary, at Ottawa, Ont.

### Western Fair, London, Sept. 10-18.

The management of the Western Fair, London, Ont., are putting forth extra efforts this year to make the exhibition more popular than ever in all its different branches, but to none of them are they giving more attention than to the live-stock department. A large amount of money has been added to the prize-list. In the horse classes several changes have been made; sections are added in the roadster class for "farmers only"; other sections in the high-steppers for tandems and four-in-hands, while in speed events several hundred dollars have been added to the purses.

In the cattle, \$500 has been added to the Shorthorn class alone, and substantial increases to the other classes, as previously noted in "The Farmer's Advocate." Increases have been made in the sheep classes, and one new class added in the swine. A third prize in cash has been given the entire poultry list, beside a fine lot of specials. The agricultural and fruit departments have been carefully revised and added to where it was thought advisable. Send for prize-lists, entry forms and all information to the Secretary, A. M. Hunt, London, Ontario.

Over one hundred cow-testing associations were in operation in Canada on June 15th; inquiries for organization continue to be received, there being noticeable activity in the Maritime Provinces.