

FRUIT MARKS ACT

Particulars regarding the packing and marketing of fruit are given in Bulletin No. 11, recently issued by the fruit division of the dairy and cold storage branch at Ottawa. Purchasers of fruit in the prairie provinces should acquaint themselves with the clauses of this "Inspection and Sale Act" in order that they may know what steps to take in order to have redress in case inferior fruit is offered as number one.

All fruit in closed packages intended for sale must be marked to designate the grade of the fruit *fancy No. 1, No. 2, or No. 3*, and the package must also bear the name and address of the person who packed and shipped it, and the name of the variety or varieties of fruit contained. Packages found by an inspector not to be up to the standard are labelled "Falsely Marked."

Persons found guilty of violating the act are liable to a fine not exceeding \$25.00, and not less than \$10.00 for the first offence. For the second offence the maximum fine goes to \$50, and for the third to \$200 and costs. In default of payment the guilty party is liable to imprisonment. Any pecuniary penalty goes one-half to the informant or complainant and one-half to His Majesty.

The bulletin also contains valuable information for fruit inspectors, growers and packers.

FRUIT CROP CONDITIONS

The Dominion fruit crop report for June says:

The weather continued cold and wet in Eastern Canada, while the fruit was in bloom. The cool wet weather in many sections has been accompanied by severe frosts when early varieties were in bloom; and, as a consequence, the fruit has not set as well as the bloom prospects indicated. A frost during the night of the 3rd of June did serious damage to strawberries and tomatoes in Eastern Ontario. Since about the middle of June, it has been fine and warm, inducing rapid growth throughout Ontario and Quebec.

In Nova Scotia the weather during this month has been, for the most part, cool and showery. The wet weather at the time of blossoming is reported to have interfered with the setting of apples. A frost the 6th of June undoubtedly did serious damage.

In British Columbia the weather during the past month has been favorable for fruit of all kinds. The weather for the most part has been clear and warm, with frequent showers.

THE KITCHEN GARDEN

This is the time of year that farmers begin to wish they had a fine garden to which they could go daily for a supply of fruits and vegetables. The Canadian West is not congenial in general climate for the production of tropical crops, but the gardens of many in all parts of the prairie provinces demonstrates that a satisfactory variety both of fruits and vegetables can be produced every year.

The trouble has been that those who have not this very desirable supply of table delicacies are not satisfied to spend reasonable time preparing the soil and caring for the crop. Now is the time to lay plans for next year. Decide on a suitable location for the garden; note what neighbors have found to be suitable varieties; find out what are suitable cultural methods, and make up your mind that in 1911 you will have a nice variety of garden stuff for home use.



Many intend to build new poultry houses before winter, and such should better be planning about them now, while the past winter is fresh in mind. Recently I saw a new wrinkle, easily adapted to almost any house. It consisted of a slanting board, the high part being under the roosts farthest from the side of the building, and sloping downward to the side of the house.

At the lower end an opening from the outside was made as long as the slanting board was wide to enable one to scrape the droppings from the board from the outside of the building. There should be a tight box, or a cement trough into which the droppings should be scraped, in order to save all the fertility.

By having the roof of the house project over the walls, all the rain will fall on the side of the trough, when it is necessary to leave them there a few days. E. C.

GRADING OF EGGS

The Poultry Producers' Association of Canada has been carrying on a laudable work in an endeavor to place poultry products on the market under reasonable grades and in condition to bring the top market price. This organization recognizes the fact that thousands of dollars are lost annually by poultrymen, even in eggs, because the producer exercises no care in marketing.

Following are the rules of the association in regard to eggs:

GRADING

It must be remembered that all eggs must be shipped new laid. A new laid egg is an egg that is not over 5 days old when shipped, an egg that has been gathered promptly and kept in a moderately dry, cool place (under 60 degrees), free from foul odors and other contaminating influences. On holding a new laid egg to the light it will be seen that the air space in the large end is very small, and the yolk almost invisible. As the age continues the air space enlarges, and the yolk becomes visible.

Rough shelled and abnormal eggs should never be shipped.

Though some markets may call for several grades of eggs as a general rule there is no necessity for many grades. What the best trade demands is freshness, grading uniformity in packing and regularity in supply.

For ordinary purposes two grades of eggs will be found sufficient to satisfy the demands made on the producer, viz.: New laid selects and No. 1. Another grade of common stock may for a time be marketed, but they must not be sold under the brand of the association.

NEW LAID SELECTS

To consist of strictly new laid eggs, not over five days old, weighing not less than 24 ozs. to the dozen; clean, of uniform size and color; packed in substantial neat cases having clean fillers.

No. 1.

To consist of new laid eggs, not over five days old, weighing not less than 21 ozs. to the dozen; clean; packed in substantial and neat cases with clean fillers.

NOTE.—Common eggs, not covered by the foregoing grading, must not be marketed under the brand of the association.

EGG-MARKETING SUGGESTIONS

If the co-operative egg circle proves as successful as it seems likely to do, it will work a great change in the marketing of Canadian poultry produce. However, while heartily welcoming the ad-

vent of co-operative effort, we would point out that it is not necessary to wait for the organization of such a circle in order to effect improvement in the marketing of poultry and eggs. Bulletin 162 of the Kansas Experimental Station contains some practical suggestions which we commend to the consideration of our poultry readers.

The demand for eggs seems practically unlimited, more especially for the better grades. Growth of storage industry has tended to equalize prices, by increasing the demand in summer, when fresh eggs are plentiful, and supplying the demand in winter. Since the demand is greatest for the best grades, it seems obvious that a little more attention to details will pay well.

The extra profit possible is to be made by obtaining the top retail price and, as consumers become acquainted with the product by obtaining a premium of from one to five cents per dozen over the regular price paid for ordinary eggs.

To obtain top prices the eggs must be uniform in size, color and quality. The uniformity in color is not always important, and depends upon the market; uniformity in size excludes small and extra large ones; while uniformity in quality calls for absolutely clean eggs that have been gathered promptly after being laid, kept under the best possible conditions, and marketed not more than three or four days after they are laid. Only eggs with firm, strong shells should be marketed. One thin-shelled egg may not only prove a total loss, but may also soil half a dozen others.

It is necessary to provide clean nests. Gather eggs at least once a day, and oftener in warm weather, and keep them in a clean, dry, cool place. Any small or dirty eggs should be used at home; a dirty egg, if used at once, is as good as any, but it will not keep as well, and will spoil the sale of clean eggs. Never put in an egg that is not known to be absolutely fresh.

The time of marketing will depend on local conditions, but should be as often as once a week at any time of the year, and at least twice or three times a week in summer. In cases where it is impossible for a farmer to take his eggs himself as often as that, he can arrange with a neighbor to take the eggs on alternate marketing days. Where it can be done in connection with the sale of other produce, such as dairy products, the most profit can usually be made by selling direct to the consumer. In such case, it will probably pay to put the eggs either in plain carton, or in cartons which have the name of the farm printed on them. The plain cartons can be bought for 60 cents a hundred, or perhaps for less in large quantities; when printed, of course, the cost would be greater, but it would probably not exceed one cent each. [Note.—The above figures must be taken as applying to United States conditions. Over there, the manufacture of cheese cartons has become a large business, and certain improvements in manufacturing processes are possible. In Canada, the plain cartons would probably cost in the neighborhood of a cent apiece, or perhaps a little more.—Editor.]

If it is not feasible to sell the eggs direct to private customers, it may be possible to sell them to a grocer who has a high-class trade, and will be glad to get absolutely reliable eggs for his customers. In such a case, it would be worth while to put the eggs up in cartons, with the name of the farm on them, in order to educate the customers to call for eggs from that farm. When a farmer has a good many eggs and does not wish to bother with cartons, he can often do well by selling his eggs to a hotel or restaurant.

If none of the ways suggested are feasible, then the eggs can be obtained from them also as soon as they are convinced that the eggs furnished them are absolutely reliable.

Children on the farm can be taught to care for the eggs, and will take pride in doing it well, especially if they are given a share in the profits.

It will take time to work up a demand for selected eggs, but when people are once convinced that the eggs can be depended on, they will not only call for such eggs, but will tell their friends about them.

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Take my Electric Belt for what it will do for you. Wear it when you sleep at night, or while you are resting after your work. You will find it a vitalizer, a tonic to your nerves, a rejuvenator of waning vitality. Use it for any ailment which drugs have failed to cure, and you will never cease praising it.

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