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HELD GOPHER KILLING CONTEST

This year the young people of this district organized and carried on a gopher killing contest with good success, although several improvements could be made in the rules governing the contest. This is the manner in which they went to work. A meeting was held at a certain home and a president and secretary were elected, two persons as captains of opposing sides, and six persons, three from each side, were elected to count tails. All persons over 12 years of age were eligible to join and had to send in their application to the secretary before the end of April. (It would be an improvement to have all applications in before April 1.) A meeting was held every other Friday evening to get tails counted and recorded. Gophers could be caught or got in any way, except on Sunday. The winning side had the privilege of demanding a forfeit from the losing side. The contest opened April 1 and closed July 20, the forfeit being paid one week after closing date. An improvement could be made here. A forfeit could be paid at the end of every month, the contest lasting three months, and the side losing twice out of the three months should pay a special forfeit at the conclusion of the contest. This would keep the enthusiasm up during the middle month. It is liable to fall off after the first month and then rise again near the end of the last term.

We had 26 contestants divided equally between two sides and the total number of tails secured were 7,256. Some of the contestants were good workers and some of them no good at all. During the contest we had an enjoyable social time every evening we counted the tails. The forfeit paid by the losing side was a can of ice cream, while both sides joined in getting up a concert and all enjoyed the two minute impromptu speeches.

While this contest was going on the council of our municipality were paying two cents for each gopher tail during April and one cent during May and June, so that the contestants took the tails home after the count and took them over to the municipal secretary and got their bounties.

I might say that as president of this contest I enjoyed it very much and think all districts that are infested with gophers should organize just such a contest as it certainly does away with a lot of the pests.

WILMOT ROACH.

Sask.

RAISING PLYMOUTH ROCKS

On May 1, 1916, I put 13 Plymouth Rock eggs under a clucking hen, taking care to clean the nest and put fresh straw in first. I took the hen off every day for a few minutes and gave her some wheat or oats and always had a drink of fresh water handy for her. I always fed the hen at the same time each day.

It was on May 22 when the first chick came out and by the end of the next day all the 13 were out. I then built a wire pen in one corner of the yard with a small place enclosed for sheltering the hen—and chickens at night and from the hot sun. I fed them on oatmeal and rice first. Then after the first two weeks I gave them plenty of bran mash and a little wheat. At first I fed the hen separately so that the young chickens would not get the hard grain. After the first two weeks I let the hen and chickens out, but not letting them go too far away for fear a hawk might get them. I continued feeding them wheat, bran mash and bits left from the table until the end of August. Then I started feeding them plenty of corn and they were able to pick up quite a lot of grain around the barn after threshing was over. By the end of November they were good

sized chickens and I sold them for \$1.05 each.

MARJORIE SUTTABY,
Ont. Age 15.

LOOKS AFTER THE POULTRY

It was five years ago last spring that I came to Canada. We started farming on a small place. We only had four horses and two cows. After we got settled in our new home my father bought a few hens. Every year they have gradually increased and now we have quite a number of hens.

Last fall mother gave me the poultry to look after. I gave them warm food all through winter to make sure of some eggs. It turned out to be a very successful method. I got a few eggs nearly all winter. They did not lay through the coldest weather.

My hens did not get broody till late in the spring, so I did not get any early chickens. I have a nice lot of chickens, but they are all late ones. I hope I will have better luck next year.

LILLIAN FLOWER.
Sask.

A YOUNG TURKEY RAISER

Last year one of our neighbors gave me six turkey eggs. I set a hen on them and in a month I had six little turkeys. They were funny little things for the least bit of rain would kill them. They did not all live. One got drowned, another got lost and the third one was killed by an old hen, so I had only three left. I fed and looked after these myself. They would come when I called for they knew I was going to feed them. They were bothersome when they grew large enough to get on the roofs, for then they did not want to go into a building. By Christmas time they were all three a nice size. I gave one away and kept the other two. I still have one of them.

MAY THOMPSON,
Alta. Age 12.

WEYBURN CLUB SWINE CONTEST

Boys' and girls' club work at Weyburn, Sask., is being carried on with continued enthusiasm. A swine contest, under the auspices of the Rural Education Association, is a feature of this year's work. The first judging took place on June 9 and resulted as follows, the possible number of points being 50:

	Points Secured
Allan Mitchell	40
Stella Peterson	39
Herbert Thompson	38
Robinson Peacock	36

The second judging took place on August 9, 75 points being the maximum obtainable, with the following results:

	Points Secured
Stella Peterson	65
Herbert Thompson	55
Allan Mitchell	45

The pigs will again be judged on October 1 and the results will be published in this department.



GETTING AN EARLY START IN POULTRY

the same, for I wanted to have it to say I broke them in. I went to the stable and got the horse. I did not want the saddle for fear they would throw me and my feet would catch in the stirrup. I went to the pasture and put it on Dolly, the three year old, and ventured to get on her back. When I tried to make her go she only kicked. I got off and treated her very gently and finally she got so quiet I could ride her anywhere. Then I thought I would train her to do some

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