

As a rule the markets are well supplied with poultry products of ordinary quality, but the supply of good poultry is much behind the demand for same, hence high prices for first-class poultry. The object should be then, the production of high grade stock. Along this line much may be accomplished by proper fattening, but this does not mean the addition of a layer of fat over the carcass. The main object of fattening is to finish the bird, to make it more meaty and the meat tender, juicy and more palatable.

There are two practical ways of fattening, pen and crate fattening. In pen fattening, the birds are simply restricted to a pen with a small yard attached, and are fed fattening rations. In crate fattening, the birds are kept in smaller numbers, four to six, in specially made crates in a darkened place. Pen fattening is in many cases more convenient, but crate fattening can be easier controlled. The fattening period is three weeks. The day the birds are put in they are not fed at all, only water given them. The next few days they are fed sparingly, and then they are given all the food they will eat three times a day.

To make a success with poultry as well as in any other business, it is not enough to produce the goods. One must be able to sell his product to the best advantage. One reason so many farmers fail is because they are poor business men. Business ability is a gift in itself, and not many rules can be laid down to this end. One must study the different ways and means of the poultry business, know the market demands, and keep his eyes open to what is constantly going on in the poultry world.

In marketing a product, the appearance must never be sacrificed because of lack of time or expense of having it look right. It is the goods of a thing that attracts people's attention. The egg boxes and shipping crates should be neat and attractive.

Quality in chickens is denoted by smooth oily, leg scales. The old country breeds excel in this respect.

Hens can be divided according to laying powers, into three classes,—those that lay no eggs in winter, those that lay from 1 to

30, and those that lay from 30 to 40. Some have said that if a hen lays a lot of eggs in winter she will not lay so many in the spring as a hen that laid only a few during the winter. I have found that the hen that lays in winter will lay as many eggs in the spring as the hen that did not.

The Value of a Feeding Trough

When the weather is dry and the ground hard there is no objection in scattering grain, provided—and this is extremely important—that too much is not supplied. There is no means of gathering any that remains, and if too liberal a supply is given it is sheer waste. The same thing applies when there is a scratching shed attached to the roosting compartment—so great a boon to both fowls and to owner.

In wet weather, on the other hand, the grain should only be fed from a trough; otherwise wastage is bound to ensue.

Soft food, too, should always be given in a trough. We have often seen mash thrown down on the ground, with the inevitable result that a large proportion of it was wasted. The fowls trample on it, making what they do not eat at once quite unfit for consumption.

Mash, therefore, should always be fed from a trough, and under no circumstances—no matter how dry the ground—should it be thrown down on the ground.

A trough can be made very simply and at a very small cost. Two pieces of wood, nailed together at right angles, with end pieces, are all that are required.

Window Gardens

By Frances Roberts

When a man has plowed his yard and sodded it and rolled it and finally succeeded in raising a carpet of soft green velvet,

he does not consent gracefully to any request from his wife for a flower bed. It is easier to grow geraniums than grass, and it seems to take the combined efforts and patience of the family to cover the brown earth that stretches around the house, with any sort of sod. One sympathizes with the man who stood on the velvety turf in front of an old English Country place and feasted his eyes on the green expanse that rolled evenly from the house to the hedge that kept it within bounds.

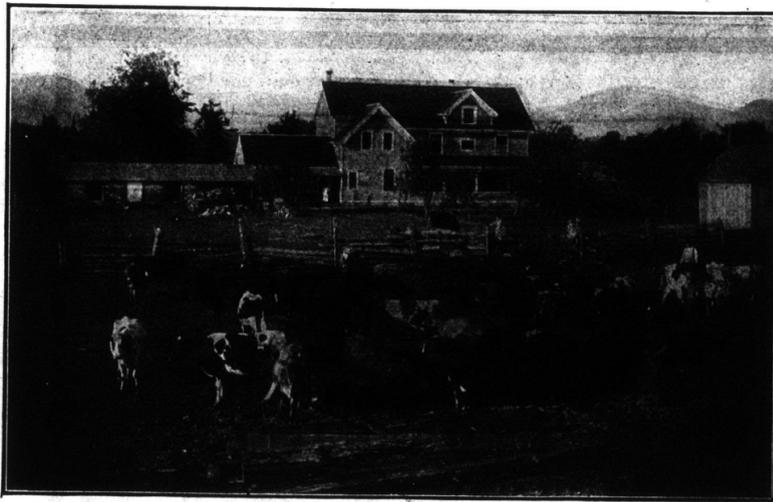
"I've dreamed of a lawn like this," he said, enviously, "but I never hoped to see one. How did you manage?"

The Englishman looked at him quizzically and then let his eyes wander along his pipe stem to the bowl. "Well," he drawled, "you plow the land and sow it first to oats. Cut them down and plow under. Plant your grass seed, roll the ground and—wait for about five hundred years."

All of which goes to show that a lawn, worthy of the name, is a most desirable adjunct to a house, although it is not obtained without worry, disappointment and the cost of much grass seed and time.

"I tell my wife that she can have her flower beds anywhere she pleases but on the lawn," generously volunteered the proprietor of an ideal bit of turf which he had snatched from the surrounding wilderness, that stretched ragged weeds to the very fence, and dressed in a neat suit of finest green.

It is this adoration of the lawn which is making women turn, even as their English sisters long since turned, to window boxes. Women must have flowers, and the hour's work in the moist earth among the tender plants has saved many of them from nervous prostration. If they cannot have flowers on the lawn they will have them in the windows, and the box of training vines, aflame with nasturtiums or vivid with geraniums, has grown to be a part of mansion and cottage. When rightly placed so as to accentuate the lines of window or porch, it is a picturesque addition, but the box that is put on stilts against the house has no part in it and is an abomination that rots the siding and its own unsteady legs.



Peace and Plenty. A B.C. Farming Scene

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