

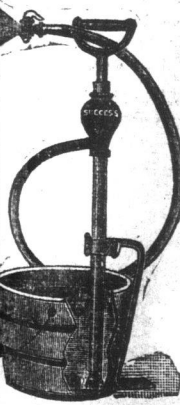
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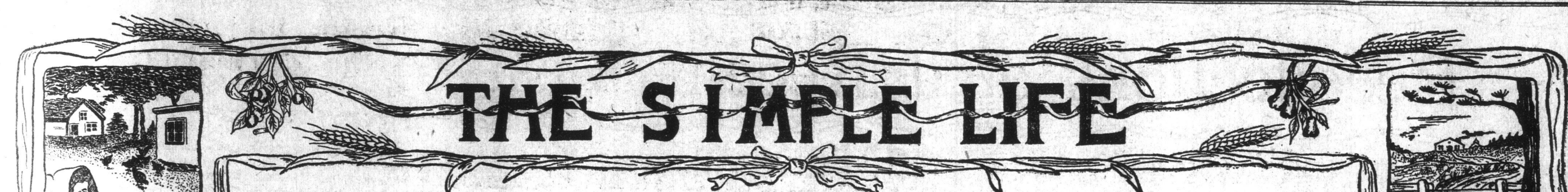
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WITH THE POULTRYMAN

Cross Bred Poultry

VERY little while someone tells us that cross bred hens do better than pure bred, so they will take a good flock of pure bred hens and mate them to a male of another breed, and so spoil the whole lot. Spoil them? Well, perhaps not entirely, but they do throw away more than one good chance to make a little extra money, and without any benefit to themselves. Nothing is gained by crossing different breeds of poultry, but much is lost by so doing.

Where, then, do they get the idea that it pays to do so? Here in the country among the farmers, and they are the ones who advance this opinion chiefly, the usual excuse is that they get more eggs. If this is true then they have a reason, and a good one, for using crosses. But what gives them this idea, and is it fact or fancy? There are generally two reasons for their thinking as they do. First, they say they have tried both. Second, a neighbor who always has eggs to sell keeps only cross bred fowl.

Let us examine the first reason and see if it is true. If it is we must own up they are in the right, and we pure bred advocates are entirely in the wrong and are laboring in vain if we are trying to get the most out of our birds.

Winter eggs are what we want, and if crosses will furnish more of them, then we want crosses, and only pure bred enough to supply those crosses. But—they won't. Facts are what we are after, not theory, and facts are gained only by experience. It has been proven over and over in specially conducted experiments that cross bred hens cannot hold their own against pure bred hens in the laying pens. But is the experience of the farmer of no value? It would be if it was conducted as an experiment should be, but generally it is not, and where it is you will most likely find pure bred fowls even on the farm. The usual way of gaining so-called experience, with perhaps a few variations to suit the individuals, is this: The farmer sees a flock of pure bred fowls and they take his fancy, so he buys a setting or two of eggs. Whether Mediterraneans, Americans or Asiatics, they all receive the same care, for they are hens; and that winter his hens don't lay well. Next season he mates them to another breed, and the following winter may get a fair supply of eggs, and therefore has proven (?) that "pure bred don't pay." Is that experiment satisfactory to anyone who is anxious to know the truth of the matter? Nothing is said regarding the care given, or the condition of the two flocks when they went into winter quarters. Seldom is the flock of hens on a farm cared for alike two years in succession. One winter they will be fed mostly whole grain, and the next revel in hot mash. No wonder their egg records vary so from year to year. Truth to tell, their cross bred do not lay every winter, but they can't lay it to the breed, for there isn't any; so they just say they "don't know why their hens don't do better." Another reason why pure bred hens make so poor a showing, especially on farms where the women have charge of the poultry, is that for a number of years they have set eggs from their best layers until they have a fine laying flock of hens. Then they try the pure bred, and for some one of a multitude of reasons they fail to make good, and the whole catalogue of pure bred fowls are condemned simply because they haven't been given a fair trial and had a good chance to prove their worth.

That there are poor strains of pure bred fowls I must admit, but it is the same with all other kinds of live stock; and these same persons would never condemn a breed of cattle because one or two proved worthless, or a new variety of corn because it fails them the first year, but it isn't so with hens. They must make good under all kinds of treatment and neglect, or they are no good.

There is no reasonable excuse for breeding crosses to obtain a flock of hens adapted to the requirements of the owner at this age of the industry, for there are breeds for every purpose, and several for each purpose, to choose from. Breeds to suit every idea of form and size. Then look at the crosses that are made by the "cross bred" advocates. It doesn't seem as though any rational, thinking person would think of crossing two breeds so near alike as Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes with the expectation of benefiting either, yet it is done. I have in mind at present a poultryman whose hens are numbered with three figures, who uses Buff Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds and Buff Orpingtons to make up his mixture. He may not injure his egg production by this cross, for he had three good breeds to begin with, neither has he increased it, and he cannot supply any pure eggs or breeding stock if anyone wants it, thus cutting off two valuable sources of income.

Happily this tendency is slowly dying out.

Farmers are awakening to the fact that poultry pays when it is given the chance, and they are beginning to treat it with consideration. As this takes place we see the results on the various farms by the even, uniform flocks of poultry that proclaim them pure, if not fancy bred.

No, nothing is gained by breeding crosses. Get a breed suited to your requirements, then stick to it and take care of it as it should be. It is not in the nature of hens to run in debt to their owner. If cross bred poultry pays, then pure bred will more than pay.

The Indian Runner Ducks

To me, these sprightly active birds are most interesting of all the duck family. Their two-fold name denotes at once their origin and their habits. They are natives of the West Indies. They are alert and active, ever on the go, and their movements are more of a run than a walk, partaking little of the awkward waddle of ordinary ducks. The carriage is very erect, as shown in the illustrations. In size, they are small, our American Standard calling for weights of four and four and one-half pounds respectively, for ducks and drakes. An Irish breeder, who introduced the first pair of Indian runners into Ireland about sixteen years ago, says that weights there average four and one-half to five and one-half pounds. So the Indian runner is not a competitor of the larger Aylesburys and Pekins for market stock. It is fine as a squab duck, however, and makes a very quick growth. Its specialty is egg production. Given the chance, it makes eggs cheaply, too; with a good range on pasture land, along brooks, ponds, bogs, etc., it secures a large part of its living during the open season. It has a strong homing instinct, and nightfall generally brings it back to its quarters.

The eggs are usually laid during the night. The breeder above referred to gives the average egg yield as 180 per duck, though some individuals exceeded this. A New Zealand breeder tells of two Indian runner ducks laying 484 eggs in a year, while the following year these two and eighteen of their progeny averaged 234 each for the twenty.

My own Indian runners proved very easy to raise. Two settings of eggs produced eighteen ducklings, of which two were killed by one of the hens, the other sixteen reaching maturity. They were brooded by the hens for about a month. At first they were fed prepared duck food twice daily. It was moistened with water; a little clean sand was added once daily, also some cut clover. The other three feeds daily consisted of one of green stuff, the others being wheat bran and ground corn and oats in about equal parts. This latter mixture was gradually substituted for the duck feed, beef scrap—about one-tenth of the mixture—being added as the duck feed was dropped. They were given some grain which they seemed to relish better as they grew older. Almost any kind of green stuff is acceptable to them. To this day, they prefer their grain thrown into their water pan, where they can shovel for it.

They were ravenous eaters till they attained their growth. On range, when ground and water are not frozen, they would need feeding but twice daily. Like all ducks, they want water with their feed. Mine have never had water to swim in.

During winter, they are housed in an open shed, in one corner of which they have their bed of coarse hay. They don't mind cold and snow. There has never been any disease or sign of weakness. They are never noisy except when they get hungry. They are naturally shy, but a couple of the ducks have become tame enough to eat from my hand.

If the Indian runner ducks come anywhere near making good the claims made for them as egg producers, they will fill a large place in this country, especially as they are said to lay almost continuously during the season when the best regulated hens persist in striking. This means a continuous supply of fresh eggs. —F. H. Valentine in Country Life in America.

Preserving Eggs

Water glass (sodium silicate), all things considered, is the most successful preservative yet found for keeping eggs. Whether or not it will be a successful competitor with cold storage as a large economical enterprise, is doubtful but as a cheap, convenient and effective method of preserving eggs for the producer or the consumer of eggs, it is the best method yet found. Many experiments have been tried to determine the comparative value of a large number of familiar methods of preserving eggs. In nearly every instance the results have shown that water glass was superior in most respects.

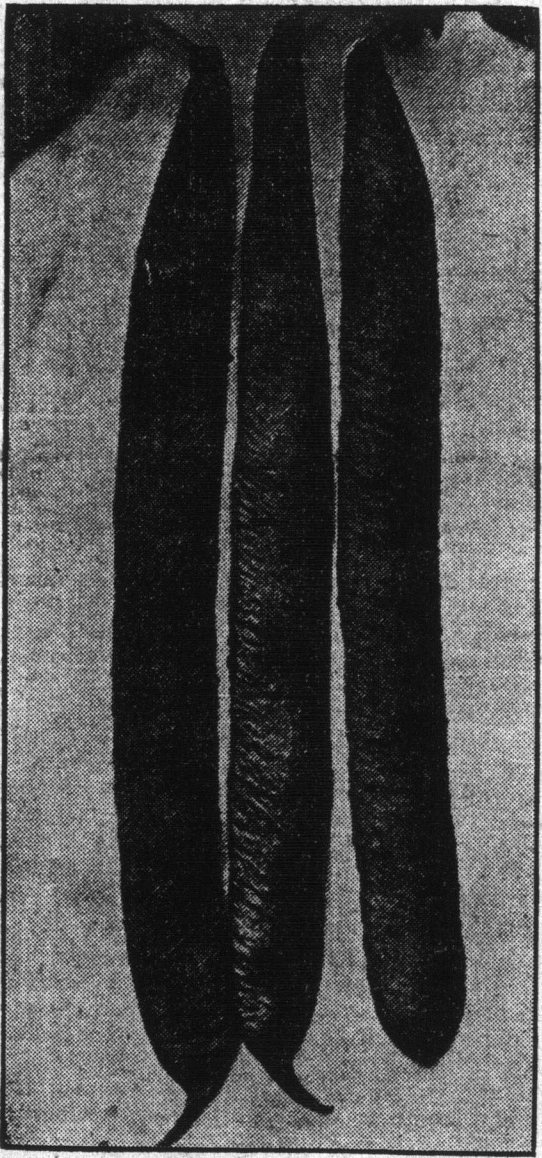
It can be purchased at the drug store either in crystal or liquid form. The latter is very much to be preferred, owing to the fact that it is difficult to dissolve the crystal. One part of water glass to nine parts of water makes a liquid having a consistency not quite heavy enough to cause the eggs to come to the surface, but still sufficiently strong to furnish the coating which prevents the air from entering through the pores of the shell. This sealing of the pores, excluding the air and thus preventing the access of the germs which might cause decomposition, is apparently the real principle involved in the use of water glass. Some experimenters have found that one part

of water glass to ten parts of water is sufficient.

The eggs can be preserved in almost any receptacle which will not spring a leak. I cannot see any particular advantage of stone or metal over wood except that the latter is more liable to leak and there will be more evaporation from the sides. Wooden tubs have the advantage of cheapness. Oak tubs are usually stronger and safer than ash tubs. I would not, as yet dare to recommend galvanized iron receptacles, owing to the fact that there may be a slight chemical reaction between sodium silicate and the galvanized iron. In any case, something should be placed over the eggs to keep them beneath the surface of the liquid and to prevent excessive evaporation.

As yet, so far as I know no experiments have been tried which will determine how well preserved eggs will keep after they have been removed from the liquid. As soon as the eggs are taken from the water glass, they should be washed and dried, after which they will have a beautiful, clean, natural appearance, wholly unlike that of eggs kept in cold storage or by most other methods of preserving. Lime, for instance causes the shell to be brittle and rough. Vaseline and other oily substances adhere to the shell.

As regards the quality of the eggs, after being kept for nearly a year we found that they were very satisfactory for all purposes except, perhaps that of boiling. We are inclined to



A New Giant Runner Bean With Pods 9 In. Long.

think that even this difficulty may some day in a measure be overcome. In our experiments it is astonishing how firm and solid the white and yolk were after the eggs had been kept so long in the water glass. No perceptible evaporation had taken place, as was shown by the small size of the air space. The vitelline membrane, which encloses the yolk did not rupture in many instances when the egg was broken. This is one of the best tests to determine fresh or well-kept eggs.

While we should always endeavor to use eggs as near new laid as possible, for preserving it is not absolutely necessary. I have found that eggs even one or two weeks old kept very satisfactorily in water glass. Eggs can be preserved for about one cent or a little more per dozen.

For the farmer or the village resident this method of preserving eggs offers an easy and very sure way of reducing the cost of eggs to be used in the family and makes it possible to increase the number consumed when eggs are scarce and high. In the long run, this so-called new method but in reality a very old process will result in great good to poultrymen because it will tend to increase the price of eggs during the summer when eggs are plentiful and to decrease the price during the winter when they are scarce, thus equalizing conditions and increasing the consumption of the egg product. —Ex.

If possible, have the manure drawn away from the stable as fast as made. It may be spread directly on the land or piled in heaps to be used later. In the latter case, it should be turned occasionally to keep it from heating. Of course, manure should never be spread, or piled at this time of year on land which has much of a slope, otherwise much of its value will be washed away.

AROUND THE FARM

Home Treatment for Colic



COLIC is a term commonly applied to every disease of the abdominal organs accompanied by pain. This pain, however, may be caused by diseases of other organs situated in the abdominal cavity but not in the digestive tract, and this pain is then spoken of as false colic. In the majority of cases the stomach and intestines are involved and are the organs from which the pain arises, and we then speak of true colic.

Authorities further subdivide true colic into engorgement, parasitic, spasmodic, flatulent or gaseous, etc.—throughout a list of a score or more divisions, and then give treatment for each. The ordinary individual is here seriously handicapped by being unable to tell true from false colic, and as far as the various subdivisions are concerned, he is entirely lost. This is only one of the many reasons for calling to your aid an educated veterinarian, and it also helps to prove the fact that the uneducated "horse-doctor" (who looks wise and deals in superstition) is not capable of treating your animals. But as not everyone can obtain the service of a veterinarian the following treatment, composed of drugs found in nearly every home, is suggested.

When your horse is taken sick and shows evidence of abdominal pain, observe the animal's actions; try to call to mind any circumstance that may have occurred to cause this pain. Now decide whether you have an attack of false or true colic to combat, that is, whether the abdominal pain, which the animal manifests by looking at the flank, pawing the ground, switching the tail and attempting to lie down, comes from the digestive tract or not. If the horse has been in good health, with good appetite, etc., and evinces this pain suddenly, you have every reason to suspect that he is suffering from an attack of indigestion, and not from any constitutional disease. Then take the weather into consideration; has the animal been chilled, thus changing the normal flow of blood from the intestinal tract to the surface of the body, and in that way interfering with the secretion of the digestive juices? Has he had access to a large quantity of cold water while he was warm or after eating, thus washing the undigested food into the intestines where it may undergo fermentation and cause flatulence? The next step is to find out what kind of true colic it is, and treat accordingly. For all practical purposes you can divide all true colics into three classes.

Engorgement, or colic from overfeeding, most often occurs after a horse gets loose during the night and eats all that he desires, or after being fed twice through mistake. It is also apt to occur in the spring when the animals are first turned to pasture. In this colic, the horse sometimes sits down like a dog, in order to decrease the pressure of the overloaded stomach on the lungs.

The object of treatment is to empty the stomach, and this must be done by a purgative, as the horse cannot vomit. Use one-half pound of Glauber's salt, four ounces of table salt, and half an ounce of ginger in one quart of water; or half a pint of linseed oil with two ounces of oil of turpentine. Either of these answers the purpose and acts by softening the stomach contents and carrying it off into the intestines. The pain may be decreased by two-dram doses of fluid extract of Indian hemp, placed on the tongue, or half an ounce of Jamaica ginger and an ounce of aromatic spirits of ammonia in eight ounces of water. If nothing else can be obtained, place half an ounce of laudanum or three-quarters of an ounce of paregoric on the tongue. These are constipating, and so are not often used. Permanent relief can be obtained only by emptying the stomach, and rupture of that organ will cause death unless relieved in a short time. The veterinarian here has access to hypodermic drugs and the stomach tube, but these are useless in other hands.

Spasmodic or cramp colic is caused by a spasmodic contraction of the intestines due to interference or irritation of the nerves supplying the walls of the intestines. Indigestible food, large quantities of cold water, while the animal is warm, cold rains, or chilly, damp atmosphere may be the cause of the disease through interference with the nerve supply.

This class of colic is easily differentiated from the others as it always begins suddenly and is characterized by violent and sharp pains alternating with periods of ease. On applying the ear to the abdominal walls intestinal sounds are noticeable. The intervals of ease are apt to become shorter and shorter, as the disease progresses, and finally cease, leaving the animal in constant pain. The treatment must overcome the contraction of the intestinal walls and in that way stop the pain; at the same time we must endeavor to remove the irritating substances that caused the trouble. This may be accomplished with two ounces of oil of turpentine and two ounces of sulphuric ether or laudanum in a pint of linseed oil. Another valuable remedy, that can be repeated in a half or three-quarters of an hour, is one to three ounces of alcohol (not wood alcohol) or whiskey, and a half ounce to an ounce of Jamaica ginger in a pint of water as hot as can be swallowed with comfort. Four ounces of whiskey in hot water is good if nothing else is at hand. A cathartic

of one ounce of aloes (Barbadoes) or a pint of linseed oil should be given in every case to carry away the irritating substances.

Flatulent or wind colic is most often caused by change of food, such as new hay, grain or green food, or by fermenting or indigestible food, such as mouldy grain and hay. Feeding an animal while in an exhausted condition is another fruitful cause of this disease. This form of colic comes on more gradually and the pains are apt to be less severe than those of cramp colic, but they are often continuous. The chief symptom is the swelling of the abdomen, especially in the region of the right flank, which, when tapped with the finger, gives forth a drum-like sound. The intestinal sounds are low or may be entirely absent. If the animal is not relieved, the gas continues to accumulate and the pressure on the lungs causes very difficult breathing and finally death of the animal from compression of the lungs, rupture of the intestines or blood poisoning by absorption of the accumulated gas. The treatment consists in trying to stop the formation of gas and in assisting the expulsion or absorption of that already formed. One-half pound of Glauber's salt in one quart of water, with ginger or pepper, is very useful. One ounce of common baking soda or one ounce of aromatic spirits of ammonia, in eight ounces of water, given at short intervals, is also good, and charcoal has a reputation for the absorption of gas. Two ounces of oil of turpentine in linseed oil, and two-to four-dram doses of creolin in water are also used to stop fermentation. To relieve the pain, two ounces of sulphuric ether and two ounces of laudanum may be given in water, or two-dram doses of fluid extract of Indian hemp on the tongue. Half an ounce of chloral hydrate is also effective, but is poisonous and will burn the mouth unless given in sufficient water—say eight ounces. The best treatment, however, is the puncturing of the intestines at the most prominent point of distension on the right flank. This is done with a trochar and canula, or hypodermic needle (absolutely clean), and is best performed by a veterinarian, although, to save life anyone may attempt it. The hair must be clipped and the instrument and skin thoroughly disinfected.

Now there remains a word to be said concerning the general treatment of any of these forms of colic. First the animal should have a roomy box-stall with plenty of bedding to prevent injury while throwing himself about. He should be thoroughly rubbed with straw or rags to stimulate and equalize the circulation; a few drops of turpentine or spirits of camphor sprinkled on the skin before rubbing will be of great benefit. The body should then be covered with a blanket and flannel bandages applied to the legs. Mustard made into a paste with warm water and rubbed on the abdomen often affords relief. In mild cases exercise may be of value, but it is not to be recommended in more severe cases. In all cases enemas are to be recommended. Do not administer drugs through the nose on account of danger of pneumonia.

Modern science has given the veterinarian many new drugs and instruments (especially the stomach tube) which enable him to save many cases that formerly proved fatal, but the fact remains that he cannot always be obtained and these simple drugs become invaluable.—Country Life in America.

Cause of Streaky Butter

Every now and again, as if to keep the question green, some person gets to his feet and wants to know what is the cause of streakiness in butter. Experts make experiments and theorists advance conclusions, with much conflict of opinion.

In New Zealand an attempt was made to prove a contention. The butter from 20 churnings was divided into two lots after washing. One lot from each churning was worked one minute without salting and placed in the refrigerator. No. 2 was salted, worked one minute, and also put in the refrigerator. Investigation afterwards showed that not one of the unsalted parcels was affected, while in every case the salted lots were affected. Access was then had to a large number of samples which had been marked down in price by commission men, and in every case where the evenness in the coloring was very distinct it was clearly possible to distinguish by the taste that the light streaks had no salt or less salt than the more deeply colored portions. The conclusion arrived at, therefore, was that the salt had not been evenly worked. As to why the salt had this effect it has been suggested that it is because the salt drives out the buttermilk along with the excess of water. To test this theory the unsalted and salted samples were submitted to a chemical analysis to determine the percentage of casein.

In three of the salted churnings there was less of this constituent than in the unsalted; but in the other two the salted lots led the way in this respect. In all cases the unsalted lots were the lightest in color, due, it is supposed, to the action of the salt, which deepens the color of the fat. The obvious remedy is to get the salt well worked in.—Hoard's Dairyman.