

PROFIT OF THE HEN FOR THE YEAR 1897.

By Mrs. Jos. Yuill, Meadowside Farm, Carleton Place.

I am of the opinion that hens should be tested singly, the same as cows, to ascertain their individual capabilities. With this end in view I made a test of a pullet of 1896. She commenced laying the first week in November, and having selected a nest for herself away from the other hens, I thought it would be a good opportunity to test her.

I began the first of January, 1897, to keep an account of her eggs. In January she laid 25 eggs which sold at 19c. per doz.; February, 23 at 17c. per doz.; March, 26 at 13c. per doz.; April, 26 at 13c. per doz.; May, 24 at 13c. per doz.; June, 22 at 13c. per doz.; July, 21 at 13c. per doz.; August, 12 at 14c. per doz.; September, 14 at 20c. per doz.; October, 23 at 20c. per doz.; November, 21 at 22c. per doz.; December, 20 at 25c. per doz.; amounting in all to 257 or 21½ doz. eggs during the year.

She showed signs of clucking on the 17th day of August, so I put her in the enclosure for clucking hens, fed her all she could eat, and gave her all the fresh water she could drink, and in four days she began to moult. On the 12th of September she began to lay again and continued laying until the 12th of January, 1898. I set her next day, and therefore in a few days I shall know the result. During the year she laid 21½ doz. eggs, at the above prices amounting to \$3.56½. The food she consumed during this period of time cost 67½c. The express charges on the eggs were 14½c., leaving \$2.74½ clear profit. I am of the opinion that it would pay people fully as well to test their hens separately as to test their cows separately. For while I made this profit from this hen I am satisfied I had other hens out of the same clutch which did not do so well.

In the year 1897 I had chicks hatched out in February, March, April and May. February chicks I found paid best. They moulted in August and commenced to lay during the first week in September, and have laid regularly ever since. March chicks moulted in September and did not commence to lay until the latter part of October. The weather being so much colder it was a greater shock to their systems, and they did not get over it so easy as the February chicks did. The April chicks did not moult at all, and are not laying so well as the previous months' chicks. As for May chicks, I cannot say anything about them as I sold them all.

Last year I fed 2½ lbs. clover at \$8 per ton, 1c.; 5 lbs. shorts at \$12 per ton, 2c.; 20 lbs. mangolds at 10c. per bushel, 3½c.; 5 lbs. ensilage at \$2 per ton, ½c.; meat scraps, ½c.; 5 lbs. oats at 20c. per bushel, 2½c., amounting to 10½c. per day. This year I am feeding 2½ lbs. clover at \$8 per ton, 1c.; 2½ lbs. shorts at \$12 per ton, ½c.; 2½ lbs. bran at \$10 per ton, ¼c.; 20 lbs. mangolds at 10c. per bushel, 3½c.; 5 lbs. ensilage at \$2 per ton, ½c.; meat scraps, ½c.; 2½ lbs. oats at 23c., 1½c.; amounting to 9½c. per day.

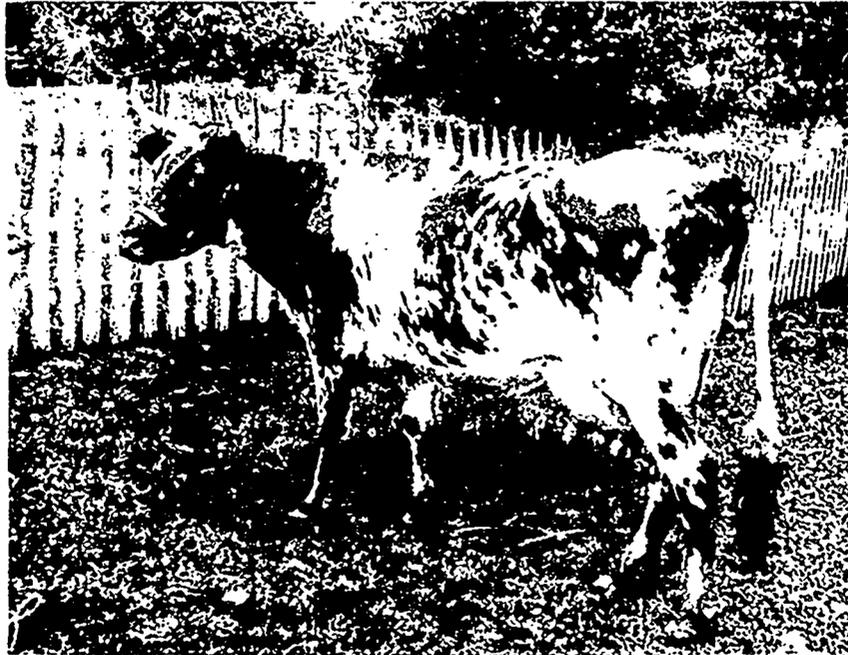
I found that my hens got too fat last year, so by reducing their grain ration they are laying better and are in a

much healthier condition than last year.

I have tried several different breeds of hens, but find that the Barred Plymouth Rocks pay best.

SOW CLOVER THIS SPRING.

Clover seed is cheap this spring, therefore be sure you get enough to seed down all the spring grain you sow. You can't make a more profitable investment. A spring seeding of clover plowed down in the fall will add from 100 to 150 lbs. of nitrogen to the soil per acre. If left as a cover to prevent leaching during the winter and then plowed down in the spring there will be added to the soil about 100 lbs. of nitrogen. The clover will also gather potash and phosphoric acid from the soil and return them when plowed down in a more available form. The potash will amount to from 100 to 150 lbs. per acre and the phosphoric acid to 30 to 35 lbs. The nitrogen which the clover gathers is taken almost wholly from the atmosphere, so that the clover adds it directly to the fertility of the soil. These figures are the results of careful experiments, and



Purebred Ayrshire Cow, Mary, -1871-

Sire, Leo of Norval -314-, Dam, Jenny -837- The property of A. Terrill, Wooler, Ont.

were given by Dr. Saunders at the Fruit Growers' Convention. The nitrogen is worth about 15 cents a pound so the 100 lbs. to 150 lbs. of nitrogen that is added per acre will be worth from \$15 to \$22.50. The seed is worth from 60c. to 75c. per acre, so for an investment of from 60c. to 75c. we are almost sure to get fertilizing value added to the soil to the extent of \$15 to \$22.50. Besides this the phosphoric acid and potash gathered by the clover will be in an available form for the next crop. The next crop on the land will be a much better one. The texture of the soil will be much improved by the clover. The clover crop pays big interest on the investment, if only sown to plow down again in the fall. Its value increases if allowed to grow and a crop of hay taken the next year. Sow plenty of clover.

EXERCISE FOR THE SOWS.

Every farmer knows that the fall litters are usually more even, healthy, and much stronger than those farrowed

in the spring. Why is this? It is believed to lie in the fact that during the summer the sows have plenty of exercise every day, and that during the winter they are too often confined in a close pen without any opportunity of exercise. Let them have the run of the barnyard, if possible, and you will have much better litters this spring. Give the sows some inducement to take exercise. Another point to watch is to see that the sows do not become too fat, or the litters will be apt to be weak. Let them have plenty of exercise.

RAISE CHICKENS FROM EARLY LAYERS.

The progressive poultry raiser will be mating his birds now for eggs for hatching. Many of them will already have hens or incubators at work. The early chicks are the ones that pay the best. They also make the early layers. The most profitable hens are the ones that begin early and lay well during the winter when eggs are a good price. But as they are a good price, they all go to market. By the time the hatching season is along these hens are

TENT CATERPILLAR EGGS.

It is a good plan to examine the apple trees on mild days for eggs of the tent caterpillar. The eggs will be found in clusters on the top twigs. They encircle the twigs, and are in appearance glossy. Each cluster contains several hundred eggs. They are quickly seen by a sharp-eyed man, and can be easily cut off with a pair of pruning shears with long handles. Gather the twigs, with the clusters on them and burn them, and thus save yourself a lot of work next season.

FARM POINTERS.

On stormy days clean up the grain that is to be used for seed so that it will be ready for seeding when the time comes. It will pay to clean it thoroughly. Remove all the light seed and save only the heaviest and best.

It is a good plan to have a lamb-creep in connection with the pen in which the young lambs are running. They soon learn to eat meal and will make extra growth for it. A pig creep is equally as good an investment.

Spring will soon be here. Look over the plows, harrows, cultivators, and other implements, and see what repairs are needed. Have these repairs made at once or you may lose valuable time when you are ready to use them. Have it done right away, before those who make the repairs are loaded up with work for your neighbors.

Examine all the whiffle-trees and have them put in good shape. If you haven't got a few extra ones on hand, get them made and ironed at the earliest opportunity. An extra one may often save a serious delay. Always keep one made up for use in cases of emergency.

See that the clevises on the whiffle-trees are all in good working order. Have an extra one or two on hand. Have an extra large double-tree clevis or two; it will often save time.

REPORT OF THE CHEESE AND BUTTERMILK MAKERS' MEETING AT WOODSTOCK.

By JOHN ROBERTSON, Ingersoll.

Woodstock, Ont., Feb. 23rd.

The first annual meeting of this association assembled in the Town Hall here this afternoon.

Mr. J. T. Henderson, of Pine River, president, called the meeting to order and spoke on the objects of the association. A good deal of discussion followed, after which preliminary arrangements were made, and several committees appointed to consider by-laws and draft recommendations to be submitted at a future session.

Mr. T. B. Miller, instructor in cheese-making at the Dairy School, Guelph, gave an address on the benefits of organization and of the makers co-operating in regard to their own interests. Addresses were also delivered by Andrew Pattullo, M.P.P., Geo. H. Barr, and others.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24TH—MORNING SESSION.

The chairman introduced Dr. McKay, M.P.P., Ingersoll, who spoke on the benefits of cold storage for the preservation of our dairy produce, and the great responsibility which rested upon the dairymen and the cheese and buttermilk makers of Canada as to the success of the dairy industry.

Mr. Wm. Agur, Brownsville, read a very good paper on the care and management of steam boilers, and recommended that the tubes or flues be kept clean. The bottom of the boiler should be brushed clean and proper dampers used to shut off the draught from the fire when not needed.

BOX STALLS FOR CALVING COWS.

At this season of the year there are a great many cows coming in. It is a good plan to have a suitable box stall in every stable in which to put cows due to calve. Sometimes more than one cow is due about the same time. Then don't risk things, hoping they will come all right. A few minutes will fix up a temporary box stall so that the cow can have her liberty in a suitable place and you will run less danger of losing either cow or calf, or perhaps both.