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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

PIGS BITING EACH OTHER.

Re pigs worrying each other. I would say that I do not know the cause, but have found ringing them, when they start fighting, to be a good cure. It gives them something else to think of. G. A. S.

WOOD ASHES FOR GRAPE-VINES

I intend to use wood ashes around grapevines, and would like to know what quantity per vine would be safe to use; how far it should be kept away from the vine, and what time of the year is the best time to put it on.

Ans.-With regard to using wood ashes around grapevines, I may say that there is not much danger of using too much, although it would be wasteful to apply more than were really necessary, which, of course, depends upon the nature of the soil. You could safely apply a peck of wood ashes around each vine. The ashes should be spread evenly over the ground as far out as the roots extend, at least five or six feet in all directions. There is no danger of having some of it come near the trunk, although it would be of most use farther out, where the rains could wash the potash down to where the roots could make use of it. Ashes may applied any time of the year, but probably the best time is in the spring, when the soluble plant food they contain will be washed out by rains and carried down to where it may be made use of by roots. H. L. HUTT. O. A. C., Guelph.

FEEDING COCKERELS.

I have five Wyandotte roosters in box about 6 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet high. 1 am feeding them on cake made of equal parts bran and corn meal, and a handful of oil cake, and I give them all the corn they want, but they do not seem to be doing well. Could you make some improvements on this?

Ans.-I am not just sure, from the statement of the case, whether the correspondent wants to fatten these cockerels, or to develop them. If he wanted to fatten them, his ration would not give very good results. If he would change his ration to equal parts of ground cats, with the bulk of the hull sifted out, corn meal and shorts, or, better, oats, buckwheat and corn meal, and mix this with skim milk, and then give just what the chickens will eat readily, he would get them to grow fairly well, providing they were healthy to begin with. To get them to grow as they now are, I think it will be necessary to turn them out, or put in larger pen, where they can run about, an let them take exercise by digging in straw or other litter for their feed. You will have to get them into a healthy condition before you can do much with them.

Chickens that are in so small a space, in my experience, should not be fed whole grain, and in addition to this you can only keep them thriving for a limited time; with an ordinary person, three weeks is the limit, and with a careful person, never over-feeding, etc., you can probably keep them in good condition for about 4 or 5 weeks, possibly 6 weeks at the outside. After this they would begin to get dull and listless, and probably show signs of becoming unthrifty. If you want to develop these cockerels (not fatten them), it would be wise to feed them some vegetables, also wheat, oats, barley and corn in equal proportions in preference to corn alone. I would be inclined to take out the oil cake. Oil cake is not very palatable for fowls. One teaspoonful each day to the five birds would plenty. I would prefer using some middlings, with bran and corn meal, also some meat food.

You do not mention giving any grit to the chickens. This would be essential. They should have both grit and lime, or, if you can get grit which contains lime, so much the better. The ordinary commercial grit, commonly known as mica spar, contains no lime, and, probably, as grit is not as good in some respects the small, sharp gravel that comes from a gravel pit or from limestone quarries. Mica spar, when fed with oyster shells, gives satisfactory results. Coal cinders also work moderately satisfactorily. W. R. GRAHAM. O. A. C., Guelph.



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