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FARMS AND FARMING

The following resolutions were adopted by the National Poultry Council at Ottawa held during February of this year. They indicate that poultry keepers in Canada are alive to the situation. Resolution 5 is of special interest as this is the first step of its kind to be made anywhere in the world:—

1. That a National Poultry Council be formed, made up of one member from each province.

2. That the Department of Agriculture appoint a representative in Great Britain to look after poultry markets.

3. That markets information be sent out simultaneously from stations in different parts of the country.

4. That the Department of Agriculture extend co-operative marketing wherever possible.

5. That Records of Performance be established in poultry work.

6. That culling demonstrations be carried on in June, July or August, or if that is impossible during February and March.

7. That the sale and distribution through breeding stations of hatching eggs from culled standard-bred flocks be inaugurated.

8. That laying contests be encouraged, local, provincial, federal and international, for both long and short periods, and that the Federal and Provincial Governments supply funds to provide for the carrying on of such.

9. That the Government institute an educational campaign showing the food value of poultry and eggs, and that advertising be used to increase home consumption.

10. That a protest be sent to the Board of Commissioners against any increase in express rates on produce, and a request that the stop over privilege on freight allowed on food products before the war shall again be inaugurated.

11. That it be made illegal to receive eggs into cold storage that have not been candled and dirties and cracks removed.

12. That eggs be systematically distributed for breeding purposes through boys' and girls' clubs.

—“Farm and Dairy.”

* * *

Are Lightning Rods Any Good?

With the approach of spring the question of protecting buildings and stock from lightning becomes a live question for the farmer. Over 90 per cent. of all the damage done by lightning is done in the country. The city rarely suffers. Can this loss be avoided? The answer is emphatically “Yes,” says professor S. C. Lee, of the Physics Department of Manitoba Agricultural College. The protection afforded by lightning rods can be shown by most striking laboratory demonstrations which leave no doubt in the minds of those who have witnessed the experiments. It is a case of life and death separated by a lightning rod.

Reliable statistics of damage done to rodded and unrodded buildings prove the same thing. Lightning rods of the right material, when properly put on and kept in good repair, make your house or barn the safest place by far during a lightning storm. —“Farm and Dairy.”

The Dry Formaldehyde Treatment for the Prevention of Oat Smut.

The present methods of immersing and sprinkling oats for the prevention of smut require considerable time and labour. With a view to reducing this expense, Professor J. E. Howitt, of the O.A.C., Guelph, has tested the so-called “dry formaldehyde treatment” under Ontario conditions. The results obtained so far have been very satisfactory and the investigator recommends grain growers giving the new method a trial. Although the strong formalin fumes will irritate the eyes, nose and throat, if there is no adequate ventilation, the chief advantages are the great simplicity, rapidity and ease of application.

Place the oats in a pile on the granary or barn floor. While one man shovels them over into another pile, another sprays them with a solution consisting of one part formalin (40% formaldehyde) and one part of water. This solution is used at the rate of one pint to twenty-five bushels of seed, or in other words use half a pint each of formalin and water for twenty-five bushels. A small quart sealer sprayer, costing less than a dollar, is most convenient for spraying the solution on the oats. After the oats are all sprayed they should be piled in a heap and left covered for five hours with blankets, canvas or sacking to confine the formalin vapor. They may be sown at once, if desired, as there are no wet swollen seeds to choke the drill.

The following precautions are especially to be noted:—

1. The exact strength and proportions should be adhered to.

2. Cover the seed as directed.

3. Precautions must be taken to ensure that the treated oats are not reinfected with smut spores. Sacks, bins, implements, etc., used in handling the smutted grain must also be disinfected. The sacks should be dipped in a strong solution of formalin (one pint to ten gallons of water) and the seed drill should be cleaned with a little strong formalin solution run through it.

4. To avoid the irritation to the eyes, nose and throat, provide for a free circulation of air through the granary or barn to remove the strong formalin fumes.—C.A.G.

* * *

To make a smooth road bed it is necessary that the soil be put on it in layers, and each layer smoothed; and if possible packed before the next layer is added. When the soil is dumped on to the road in heaps and then levelled, the surface will be wavy. This causes harder hauling, more wear and tear on vehicles, more dust and water will be held in the low places, which will soften the soil and make a starter for a rut.—“Farm and Dairy.” * * *

Have You Considered.

Stumps occupy valuable land; foster the growth of weeds, since in order to keep the land in their vicinity clean much hard labour is necessary; mar the appearance of otherwise smooth field, and hence reduce the selling price of a farm; furnish shelter for harmful insects and animals, and prevent the efficient use of modern machinery.—“The Maritime Farmer.”