

CORRESPONDENCE

Purchasing Tread Powers

To the Editor of FARMING:

I would like to give a word of advice as to the purchase of tread powers; not that of any particular maker, but as to the size to select for farm work. I believe that the three-horse size is the more preferable for the following reasons: For example, we calculate the power of one horse is taken to run the machine up to its working speed, the power to cut or grind being delivered from the second horse, therefore double the working power will be derived out of a three-horse tread power. To get additional power out of a tread power, the rule is to increase the elevation. So a three-horse opens the way to decrease the elevation and add to the comfort of the horses, and a three-horse power operated by two horses will generate as much power as they will on a two-horse power, and not the chance to crowd one another and the first cost is not much more. I give this out as general information, as we are so often asked for our opinion.

D. THOM,

Manager Thom Imp. Works.

Walford, Ont., Dec. 15th, 1899.

Pure Bred vs. Grade Poultry

To the Editor of FARMING:

As poultry keeping is creating a little interest amongst farmers of late, I decided to carry on a small experiment to ascertain whether there is money in fattening young poultry or not. On October 3rd I selected eight male birds about five months old, as equal in size as possible. Four were pure bred B. P. Rocks, and the others were grades by a pure bred B. P. Rock cock and Cochin and Langshan grade hens. They were shut up in coops 2 feet by 3½, and 16 inches high, with four birds in each coop. They were fattened for four weeks, and given all they would eat of fine ground oats and barley softened with skim-milk. They were fed three times a day, and had all the milk they would drink, no particular record being kept of the food consumed.

The birds were weighed at the beginning of the experiment. The pure bred Rocks weighed 21 pounds, and the grades 20 pounds. Four weeks later, at the close of experiment, the pure bred weighed 32 pounds, and the grades 26 pounds. They were left without food for twenty-four hours, and then killed and dressed for market. From the time they were fat and had their last meal until ready for market they lost a pound a head.

The grade birds were then sent to Toronto, and sold by a commission man at 60 cents a pair; the pure bred found a ready sale in the town of Mildmay at 7 cents a pound. There was a decided difference in quality in favor of the pure bred birds when ready for the market. The grades consumed as much food as the pure bred.

F. X. BEINGESSNER.

Mildmay, Ont., Dec. 8th, 1899.

Barred Rocks the Best

To the Editor of FARMING:

I have pleasure in replying to your questions as follows:

1. From 100 to 200 laying fowl can be kept on the average Canadian farm without interfering very much with other farming operations.

2. The most profitable fowl for the farmer to raise for egg production is the Barred Plymouth Rock. This is also the most profitable for fattening purposes, although the Wyandotte is a very close second. I say this after having experimented with Leghorns and Minorcas, as well as the Rocks. The Leghorn will lay more eggs in a year, as a rule, but the Barred Rock will outlay it in the winter months, when eggs are worth the larger price.

3. I have had no experience in keeping fowls without a proper hen-house, but I know that they must be regularly attended to, and a modern hen-house reduces the labor required to a minimum. I should say that to obtain the best result an up-to-date coop is a necessity.

4. The average farmer ought to be able to produce on the farm all the feed required in fattening poultry, with the exception of green bone, which is a necessity to produce the greatest growth in the shortest time, unless plenty of milk is used.

5. A fair income for a farmer to realize every year from his poultry would be from \$1 to \$2 per hen.

6. There is no reason why a farmer should not fatten poultry as successfully for the British market as for the Canadian market. In preparing fowl for the former, however, care must be taken not to use any feed that will give a yellow tint to the carcass, the white skinned fowl having the preference there.

London, Ont.

G. W. MILLER.

Women's Institutes

To the Editor of FARMING:

In a late issue you asked for suggestions as to which would be the better plan,—to have women meet with the men at the Farmers' Institutes, to which institute lecturers could be invited to lecture upon subjects of particular interest to women, or the other plan of holding meetings quite separate and distinct. I wish to present a few reasons why the latter system is much to be preferred. We have in this township the first Women's Institute, which was started in February, 1897, and has met regularly twice a month since, except for about four months in the hottest and busiest part of the summer, when no meetings are held. I have watched this new departure with much interest, rather fearing their interest would flag, but whether the directors are a more enthusiastic and persevering lot than the average I know not, but as a matter of fact the interest seems as keen as ever, though many of the members think monthly meetings would be better, as not requiring quite so much strain upon the directors to prepare a good programme. I must say that I have been somewhat surprised at the average attendance, which has been good, and that in spite of the fact that no effort whatever is made to secure membership, and that members are not even notified of the meetings, and that frequently, owing doubtless to pressing cares at home, a good programme is not prepared. This all goes to show me that if members were drummed up, and an amount of work put upon the preparation of a programme, as is usually done by men, that this Women's Institute would have a crowded house once a month the year around. Doubtless some will sneer and say, "Oh, yes, they like to go to gossip." But as a matter of fact there is no time for that. The meetings open at 2.30 and close at five o'clock, and the time is fully occupied with the programme. Now what is the programme? Is it anything that would likely interest farmers? Quite likely much of it might, but I do not think farmers, as a rule, would go to hear a paper on bread-making, with the ensuing discussion. Miss Rose gave one on that subject to the Women's Institute, and over a hundred women listened. I notice Miss Rose lectures at Farmers' Institutes and often no women attend. They do not wish to sit all day listening to addresses and discussions on ensilage, under-draining, cattle feeding, or other subjects of interest to farmers for the sake of at last having one lone lecture on a subject of interest to themselves. Neither would a farmer go very far to hear a lecture on bread-making or children's clothes. It seems to me that by trying to combine the two things upon one programme, the whole meeting is seriously injured. A farmer would say: "I am not going to drive five miles to hear a lecture on ensilage and then sit there and listen to a lingo about bread, and *vice versa*," and so neither go, whereas if the whole day was occupied by subjects of interest to him, he might attend and *vice versa*. I know that before such a thing as women's institutes were heard of, a strong argument could be put up in favor of ap-