

per fowl, it leaves a profit. Looking at it in another light, we may add that the item of picking becomes a large one, if there are a great many fowls, and it may be saved where there are a number of persons in the family.

SELECTING THE BEST HENS

"There are always a few good hens in every flock, and when it is noticed that a particular hen during the season seems to excel the others in laying, do not sell her because she is moulting or has stopped work for a while, but keep her for another year. You may not be able to breed as good pullets from her as she is herself, because something depends on the kind of rooster she may be mated with, but, leaving the value of her offspring out altogether, it is always safe to retain a hen that has shown herself profitable. Hens often last four or five years, and it is time to dispose of the good hen only when she begins to fail.

INJURIES FROM ROOSTS

"When the roosts are high the fowls will crowd together, each endeavoring to get as high as possible, instinct prompting them to do so in order to avoid danger. If they have a long sweep to fly down they are seldom injured, but where they are compelled to jump down almost under the roost the result is a bruise, which becomes hard and callous, being known as bumblefoot. It is not easily cured, but frequent application of crude petroleum is the best remedy, though sometimes the knife must be used. A fowl that has once had bumblefoot is worth very little afterward, as it will become lame again at times. Make the roosts low, and all on the same level, which is the surest preventive.

THE DROPPINGS IN SPRING

"When spring opens it is not advisable to keep the droppings separate from other manures, as the warm weather is not favorable, but mix them with the barnyard manure. Winter is the time to save the droppings, as then they will be more valuable, coming from matured stock. The manure from growing animals or birds is not as valuable as that from those which are matured, and as labor must be bestowed on the proper preservation of droppings now they can be made more serviceable in the general heap or by immediate use."

Points of the Sheep

Old, broken-mouthed or, we may add, ruptured ewes, must go, and a faulty udder is, in most cases, an unpardonable defect. It is less easy to still further cull the flock of its less desirable members. Great judgment is required in culling out the weak members, but the opportunity must be taken, and no doubt rigorous weeding is one of the secrets of improving a flock.

A weak, bare, or badly-colored head, speckled ears, when a uniform color is in type, pink or badly-colored lips and nostrils, and spots where no spots should be, a rusty, sour, ugly head in any breed should be got rid of. It is no great matter if we cull beyond our usual limit, as there are plenty of opportunities in early autumn to replace by buying a few good ewes.

Nothing looks better than good heads, and strange as it may seem, a sheep's head, which is only worth 9d. at the butcher's, is worth a lot of money when carried on a good ram or ewe.

Next to the head and ears we look for good necks. Ewe-necked sheep never look well, and a good scrag is a strong point. Let us therefore, as far as possible, weed out long or hollow-necked ewes. A muscular neck indicates strength of constitution, and good muscular development, and I have never known a sheep-breeder who did not strongly object to a shabby neck. Mr. Ellinar, the father of the Southdown breed, insisted on the importance of this point. Mr. James Rawlence, of Bulbridge, one of

the oldest of our noted breeders, would not keep a weak-necked ewe, and no man who values his flock would buy a ram with this fault. The neck ought to be muscular, arched, tapering and neat.

Shoulders are as important as neck, and should be considered as follows: First, they must blend with the neck. They must be well laid back so as to produce thick "crops" and a great girth. Secondly, they must be wide over the tops. Thirdly, they must be wide through the heart from blade to blade. Nothing can be more effective than a good fore-end. If you try to think of it, imagine the sheep to be grazing with her head towards you, and you will then notice the grand effect of good shoulders. Deep floor to the chest and a prominent breast, coming well forward between the fore-legs, complete this part of our picture.

Next let us look at the ribs and back, the loins, the quarters, the let-down of the legs of mutton, and lastly, at the general ampleress of form. There is no mistaking a good sheep, and when looking through a flock for drafting, every mean, undersized, bad charactered or defective ewe must go.

A good flock cannot be got up in a year, but each year tells. It is the object to take off the tail and put on a new and improved head to the flock every year, and thus to build up the ideal which every good breeder carries in his mind's eye. This is drafting or weeding, and no successful breeding can go on without it.—*London Live Stock Journal*.

CORRESPONDENCE

Sows his Own Seed if Clean

To the Editor of FARMING:

Yours of 22nd July just received. As I have changed my place of residence, being now a resident of the Tp. of East Oxford, Co. of Oxford, instead of the Co. of Kent as formerly, hence the delay in receiving your letter.

(1) I consider a clover sod turned down in July and well worked in the surface the best preparation of land for fall wheat.

(2) No. (3) September 1st to 10th.

(4) Red Clawson. (5) I sow my own seed if it is good and clean and the variety suits me. I think it better "to have the devil you know than the devil you don't know."

(6) Fifteen bushels per acre.

Trusting this will not reach you too late to be of service to you.

JNO. CLARKSON.

Woodstock, Ont., Aug. 2nd, 1899.

Shipping Cheese Too Green

To the Editor of FARMING:

In reply to yours of July 26th I would say that:

(1) I have had no experience in the use of formalin for the prevention of mould on cheese. In factories in my section where they have been troubled with the mould the trouble has been overcome by applying two coats of white-wash to the walls and ceiling of the curing-room, and having good ventilation.

(2) Quite a few of the factories have put in ice-racks, and where they have been put in they have been beneficial in lowering the temperature of the curing-room, and making the condition of curing more favorable. I find factory-men very slow to adopt any method of improvement where there is any expense to be incurred.

(3) I have visited no factories this year where they have put in sub-earth ducts.

(4) In my opinion I think the cheese in this section compares very favorably with last year's make.

I find there are fewer poor cheese made. One mistake I find that factory-men are making is that of shipping their