

Dairy Notes.

Don't keep chickens in the cow barn on account of increasing the lice problem.

The milk stool was made to sit on, not to be used as a persuader.

Don't keep the cows in the barn too much of the time on pleasant days.

Give the cow barn a good coat of whitewash.

Good clean clover hay makes the best forage for young stock. Whole oats make first-class grain feed.

Sunshine is the best and cheapest disinfectant known. Hang the milking utensils in the sun when not in use and put in a few extra windows in the cow barn.

It costs just as much to feed and care for a poor dairy cow as a good one, yet the returns vary greatly. Get rid of the boarders.

Teach the calves to drink and milk the cows by hand. The calves can be taken away the first day. When allowed to suckle the dam, she usually gets notions about how much milk she intends to give for the family.

The first few streams of milk drawn from the udder contain the largest amount of bacteria. Draw this milk without putting it in the bucket.

Bran is a valuable feed for maintaining the milk now in the spring of the year. Koots, such as small potatoes, and better still, rutabagas or carrots are still better.

When the cows are not salted regularly, it sometimes causes the butter to come slowly. This is only one good reason why the cows should be salted regularly.

The milk pail should not have cracks or crevices in the seams as these are the places where filth and germs collect. Have them freshly soldered and do not allow the pail to become rough or rusty.

Always reject bloody or stringy milk as there is usually something radically wrong with the cow in such cases. Milk from sick cows should never be used for human consumption.

Do not milk when the stable is dusty. Some days before calving nor 9 or 10 days after calving. Feed the first milk of the dam to the calf as being laxative it has a beneficial effect on the bowels of the calf.

Arrange to have a clean, well ventilated, fly and mosquito proof stable in which to milk the cows this summer. Life is too short to spend an hour or two every day chasing the cows around the lot. Then besides, milk is too valuable to use as a barnyard fertilizer. The kicked over buckets of milk total quite a sum during the season.

Gas in the Churn.

Every butter maker has noticed the accumulation of gas that occurs during the first few minutes the churn is in operation. Bubbles in the cream come from the same gas. This gas is produced by a certain class of bacteria and caused by a fermenting process, just as lactic acid or sourness is produced by other kinds of bacteria. It is not desirable nor necessary and when abundant is an evidence that a little more cleanliness should be observed in caring for the cream. Too much dirt was possibly collected in the cow barn. Jog the men up on the subject of cleaning out the stable and wiping the cows' udders. Then see to it that the vessels are clean, the strainers new and sanitary, and the milk room free from bad odors. Gas often makes bad flavors in the butter.

Farming an Attractive Business.

Farming is an attractive business, and being attractive proves it is efficient and profitable; but it requires the same care and attention as the business man gives to his business. The same care as is exercised in the buying and selling of goods, the same accurate bookkeeping and the same caution in looking after details.

It is a mistake that any one can make a success at farming; that is a tradition that must go with many more traditions and many old methods.

It is the thinking man, the well informed man who makes a success on the farm.

Farming is attractive from more points of view than the one of money making. There is a rich, full life and many advantages are offered the progressive man; educational, political and social affairs furnish the opportunity for improvement and leadership of a high order.

Our rural districts are calling for men who find farming attractive in every feature and who are interested in all public questions.

May Poultry Notes.

Fresh skimmed milk is one of the most valuable feeds for laying hens.

Turkeys are naturally very thirsty fowls and may be given milk instead of water.

Make the nest for setting hens rather flat, so that the eggs will not roll toward the center.

A tablespoonful of warm milk, with two drops of brandy, will often invigorate a sick bird and induce it to eat, and for that purpose oatmeal boiled in milk to a thick consistency is excellent.

Don't try to set the ten-pound hens. Those that weigh only four pounds will do better.

Eggs should not be set that are over two weeks old, although they will often hatch after a month old.

Don't put kerosene on the roosts during the hatching season. All kinds of oil will prevent eggs from hatching.

Don't make nests of any material with seed or grain in it. The temptation to scratch will be too great for the hens.

Provide a box filled with dust, so that the hens may take a bath. No lice will remain on them that roll in the dust.

Don't fail to give the chicks fine grit, even the day they are hatched. You must supply what nature has overlooked.

Rolled oats or crushed oats make the best and cheapest food for chicks until four weeks old. After that a variety should be given.

An idle, lazy hen seldom produces many eggs. She is usually over-fat and longing to do her duty as a market fowl, so as to end her useless and unproductive existence.

Oyster shells not only furnish carbonate of lime, but assist in grinding the food in the gizzard. No matter how sharp or hard any substance may

be that is swallowed by the fowl, the gizzard completely demolishes it and grinds it into an impalpable powder, from whence it is passed into the intestines, where the digestive organs extract all that can be appropriated for the nourishment of the body and eggs.

How to Obtain Fertile Eggs.

It is often said that the first requisite to obtaining strongly fertilized eggs is healthy, vigorous breeding stock. Of course the proper number of females mated to a male has considerable influence on the fertility of the eggs, but without strong healthy breeders it would matter but little how many, or how few, females were placed with each male.

The health and vigor of the male will have much to do with the number of hens he should have with him in the breeding yard. The number usually mated to one male ranges from eight to fifteen, according to the breed and the condition and activity of the males. The smaller breeds like the Leghorns are often given fifteen, and sometimes more, to a mating, but the larger breeds, like the Brahmas and Cochins, are sometimes given mating as few as a half dozen hens to one male, especially when mating very large males.

In the first place it is hardly ever possible to breed vigorous healthy stock from weak debilitated fowls, no matter how much care may be taken in raising it, so the first consideration is to have a pen of breeders which are the offspring of healthy, vigorous stock themselves, and then to keep them in good health by proper housing and feeding. The practice, all too common, of housing fowls in warm closed houses in the fall and winter months, is often responsible for the poor health of the birds and consequent infertility of the eggs in the spring.

Fresh air is one of the best health preservers we know anything about and the breeding birds should be provided with quarters that permit them to enjoy the benefits of the open air life as much as possible at all times. To this purpose the cloth front houses and scratching sheds now coming into general use are great aids. The fowls should be housed, even at night, in houses that allow for thorough ventilation, and should never be closed in, in a tight house where there is not sufficient air over night to prevent the atmosphere becoming foul, even in the coldest weather.

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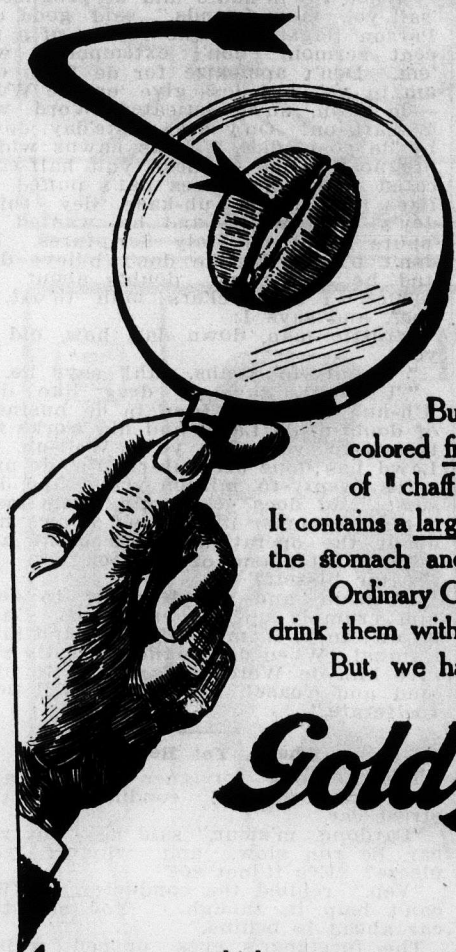
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