

Soils and Crops

Address communications to Agronomist, 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto

Fat Turkeys Make Fat Pocketbooks.

Turkeys that are fat when marketed bring the best prices and, if the fattening is done in a systematic way, generally the largest profits.

Different methods are employed in fattening turkeys. The majority of growers prefer to feed two-year-old corn. This is given them from November 1 up to killing time.

Some breeders get more satisfaction from feeding one-third oats with two-thirds corn, and occasionally a meal of cornmeal mush. It is claimed that white-fleshed corn will fatten turkeys more readily and that the flesh will be of finer quality than when yellow corn is fed.

Turkeys must have liberty even while fattening, but given regularly two meals a day they will not be inclined to roam. If they are confined they will lose appetite.

The market demand is for medium-sized carcasses that are plump and fat. Very large turkeys do not sell so quickly. After the holidays birds weighing from eight to ten pounds sell best.

Only well-fattened stock should be slaughtered; there is no profit in marketing poor stuff. Food must be withheld for twenty-four hours prior to killing, so that the crop and entrails will be empty, thus lessening the danger of spoiling. Hens sell best in market.

When killing, tie the feet together and hang the fowl on a pole. Cut the throat and, after thorough bleeding, dry-pick the feathers. Let those of the head and wings remain. As soon as dressed plunge the carcass into hot water, and then into cold, to give the skin a fresher look.

Another method, one generally adopted by the English and Continental poultrymen, is by dislocation of the neck. The legs of the bird are grasped in the left hand, the back of the bird being upward and the crown of the head in the hollow of the hand. The legs of the bird are held against the left hip, and the head against the right thigh or knee. In this position the head is "strongly stretched and at the same time bent suddenly backward so as to dislocate the neck near its junction with the head. The bird is instantly killed, and plucking the feathers must be done at once.

Still another method is to hang the bird up by the legs, cross the wings to prevent struggling, and give a sharp blow on the back of the head with a stout piece of wood, which renders the bird insensible. Then insert the knife in the roof of the mouth, so as to pierce the brain, cutting it along the entire length. Let the bird hang by the legs for a few minutes to allow the blood to drain out. Plucking the feathers must be begun at once while the body is still warm. Feathers should be left on the neck about three inches from the head, and a few feathers on the tail and tips of wings; and care must be taken not to break the skin while plucking. Twist the wings on the back of the bird. As soon as the feathers are removed, the carcass should be hung up by the feet to cool—never hang by the head, for the

blood should be drained toward the head and become coagulated there. Some poultrymen lay the birds on their backs on a setting board, pressing the rump square, letting the heads hang down until the body is set, after which the birds will retain their plump shape. Cleanliness in marketing is a very important factor. The feet and legs of the birds should be cleaned of all dirt. Any dirt or blood that may be on the heads should be removed. It is a good plan to tie up the legs of dressed birds, and if they are to be displayed in a shop, the head of each had best be pushed up under one wing. Before being packed in cases the carcasses should be thoroughly cooled—not frozen. Pack in each case only birds of nearly the same weight, graded to within two pounds. In no case should any bird be lighter than the lightest weight nor heavier than the heaviest weight marked on the package. Pack cocks and hens in separate cases. Wrap each bird in paper, but never use printed paper for this purpose. The head of each bird should be wrapped with a quantity of this paper to absorb the blood. Spread a small quantity of wood pulp or dry clean straw in the bottom of the case. Put paper on the bottom and top of the birds to keep them clean. Mark the cases plainly at both ends.

The Fall Calf.

I have found it rather more difficult to make a calf do well when it is born in the fall. For one thing it is colder usually than it is in spring, and this condition keeps on growing more so as we get into winter. The reason for this slower growth in cool or cold weather is that calves, like all young creatures, need to be kept warm. The baby is just the same war. Keep it warm and it thrives better. Warmth aids growth in the calf.

For that reason I try to have a warm and comfortable place for the calf that comes in the fall and is to be raised. A few days after the calf is born I like to take it away from the mother cow, and if I could I would put it so far away from the stable where cows are kept that the cow could not hear it when it bawls. Nothing is worse for a calf than to be within hearing of the calls of his calf. But not always is it possible to remove the calf so far. The next best thing is to care for the calf so well that it will not bawl much, and the cries it does make, if well fed, are not apt to trouble the mother.

Then, too, a dry place is necessary to comfort, and comfort is the one thing a calf ought to have to do well. The straw given the calf should be changed every day. The calf soon weans up a good deal of straw if it is placed where it can. Straw that has been used this way may be placed in the drop back of the cows and go out with the manure. It is good for little else. By shaking out the straw that has been under the calf and drying it we can save some of it for another time. Straw is so valuable in these days that we must waste as little as possible. When the calf is weaned to the fall calf, and that is to furnish it as much green feed as we can. Grass cut from the after-feed may be used as long as the frost stays off. After that we have found it best to go to feeding hay. A nice lock of well-cured hay, clover or timothy, is one of the best things for a calf. Not only does it tend to make the calf grow, but it has a good effect in preventing bowel troubles. The juice from the hay is a good tonic.

To go with the hay, we need some grain. Especially if timothy hay is fed there should be some kind of a laxative grain given. I like wheat bran or mixed feed as well as anything I ever tried. The bran makes muscle and at the same time keeps the bowels regular.

It is not time wasted to brush off the calf regularly every day. It always seemed to me a well-groomed calf would grow faster than one that was rough and dust-covered all the time. It might not be thought that a calf's hide would get very much clogged with dust and scabs, but if you have not groomed your calf for a week or two, just part the hair and look closely, and you will see that the pores of the skin are badly clogged, and when that happens the calf cannot grow as fast nor assimilate its food as it otherwise would. A clean skin saves feed, for the calf uses to better advantage what is given it.

All the time we try to remember that we are dealing with a cow of to-morrow.

Don't Make a Garage of Your Barn. Automobiles, gas engines and tractors should be kept in isolated buildings as far from the barn as possible. The number of automobiles owned by the farmers is steadily increasing and the fire hazard on the farm is increased accordingly.

It is an extremely dangerous thing to keep an auto or run a gasoline engine in the barn. Why should you take the chance of losing your season's raising of cattle, horses, machinery and your own back-fire or gasoline explosion. "Safety First."

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Poultry
The hen that lays must be in the best of condition, strong and vigorous. Her eyes must be bright and clear; a prominent "shoe-button" appearance; the comb and wattles large and red; the bill short to medium in size; the distance between the bill and eye narrow; the head of good size.

The body of a laying hen must be well set, with good back capacity (which really is egg-bell capacity); broad bodies, with ribs wide spread, afford plenty of room for egg and digestive organs. The body should be solid; the birds should not be loose jointed, but compactly built. The legs should set wide apart. The entire body should be neat and of the feminine order. There must be no physical defects nor deformities.

Heavy layers are up first in the morning, jumping from their roosts at the break of day, and going back only after it has become so dark that they are unable to pick up a bit of grain that might be hidden in the scratching litter.

The heaviest layers are also the heaviest eaters and drinkers. Their appetites and thirsts never seem to leave them, and their activity aids in digesting all the food they consume. The heavy layers can readily be picked by examining the crops' while the fowls are on the roost at night—a method that has considerable merit.

Good layers are late molters, but a late molter with yellow in her earlobes in October is not a good layer; the earlobes should be white. Since the laying season ends when molting has well started, no great risks will be taken by marketing the early molters when more room is needed.

There is more activity and nervousness in a good layer than there is in a mediocre one, and yet they are more easily handled. In using traps I have found my heaviest layers to be my tamest birds, and they always seem contented and happy. They show more friendliness, yet they are elusive, but entirely unlike the poor layers which are shy and scary, and which will yell like Indians upon being caught.

McDairy
All feeders with horns should be dehorned before they are put on full feed.

"Dehorning" makes feeders more easily and safely handled and each animal has a better chance at the feeding trough. Also, dehorning avoids the bruised condition of the flesh and torn hides caused by cattle going either in the feed lots and in transit to markets, as well as excessive shrinkage in transit.

The most common method of dehorning is to saw the horns off. There are saws specially designed for the work.

Dehorning clippers are also used.

Cement Walks on the Farm

"You haven't very good walks out here in the country," I remarked to my country cousin, gingerly picking my way through the muddy barnyard as I accompanied him while he was doing his chores.

"No—not very good," he replied, smiling over the thought that I should expect to find walks on his farm.

And why not? Can any one think of one good reason why farm buildings should not be connected with walks? Why should there not be walks—cement walks preferably—from the house to the wood shed, to the chicken coop, to the hog pen, to the granary, etc. Thousands of trips between these places are made every year, dozens in a single day.

During the inspection of some hundreds of farms the writer has not yet seen a complete system of cement walks—or any other kind of walks—on a farm. As a rule the only walk extends from the front door of the house to the road, or from the side door to the driveway.

Every farmer understands how to mix cement and how to build things of it. The watering tank, the short driveway leading into the barn, the basement floor of the barn and the hog feeding pen all bear evidence of his familiarity with cement. Why, then, is nearly every farmer willing to plow

THE CHEERFUL CHERUB

The dignity of labor There's nothing now surpasses.

I have a pick and shovel—I'll join the upper classes.



especially where a large number of cattle are to be deborned and where they are deborned before the horn becomes hard and brittle. The chief objection to deborned with the clippers is that thin or hard horns are sometimes crushed or splintered, resulting in a wound that heals slowly. This objection is partly overcome by using clippers that are constructed with V-shaped blades which, when pressed together, bring four cutting edges against the horn.

The best time to deborn is in late fall and early winter, or during the cool weather of spring. If the weather is cool there is very little danger of wounds becoming infested with screw worms. However, it is best to apply some fly repellent, such as pine tar or one of the coal-tar products to wounds.

Pure Bred Sheep.

Any sheep raiser who purchases a pure bred registered ram of any recognized breed recorded in the Canadian National Live Stock Records or eligible for such registration for use in his own flock, and who has not previously used a pure bred registered ram shall be entitled to the annual premium of \$500 for two consecutive years provided he will comply with the regulations specified in Pamphlet No. 19 "Information Concerning the Policy Regarding Pure Bred Rams," issued by the Live Stock Branch, Ottawa. This pamphlet will be sent free upon application to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. It has been decided that the best way to prove the value of pure bred rams is to help every sheep raiser, who has not previously used a pure bred ram, to use his own flock for demonstrating the value of this practice. Therefore the Dominion Department of Agriculture will grant to bona fide applicants who comply with the above-mentioned regulations a sum of \$500 annually, for two years, for each pure bred registered ram. No individual sheep raiser shall be permitted to receive premiums for more than four rams. Regular forms to be used in making applications under this policy are to be found in the back of Pamphlet No. 19.

Cover the Tender Plants.

To prevent the winter-killing of valuable plants, they should be properly covered and the proper time. Every winter many thousands of herbaceous plants—that is, plants which die down during the winter and come up again in the spring—are killed by improper covering. They should be covered as late as possible in the season, preferably after the ground has been frozen. A mulch of straw, leaves, or well-rotted manure will not only help the plants through the winter, but will give them a start in fertilizer value when growth begins next year. Plants which retain their foliage through the winter should be covered very lightly; a solid mat of material is likely to kill them.

Danger Signs.

Wherever gasoline is stored, danger signs should be posted on the doors, warning against the carrying of lights of any kind.

Health Talks

By John B. Huber, AMMD

Address communications to 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto

The Value of Good Cooking.

Nothing sweetens life, assures good temper, dissipates disease and preserves health so much as good substantial food, enticingly prepared and wholesomely cooked. Yet how many homes there are in which this belief is not held!

In these topsy-turvy times of ours, when many men are doing women's work and many women men's work, I was not surprised the other evening, at an industrial exhibit, to see a man cooking and serving a meal in demonstrating a small electrical stove. Indeed, it delighted me to see such highly developed culinary skill in a mere man.

For, although cooking is the job of the woman in a home, there are many bachelors, without a mother or other woman relative to help them, who could with impunity learn to cook and cook well, instead of depending upon a restaurant for their meals, or perhaps a delicatessen store.

The person who appreciates the value of good cooking, has fewer ills than his neighbor who does not.

Questions and Answers.
My daughter, 19 years of age, had influenza and now her lungs are affected. Our doctor ordered her to a mountain farm. After two months

there, she became so homesick that I had to bring her home. She was failing fast and came back a nervous wreck. At home she seemed to improve at first, but she has constant fits of coughing and spits up blood. Is there a cure? This state has been trailing on, now, for six months.

Answer.—Your letter exhibits a sad aspect of that most pathetic of all diseases—tuberculosis. How often homesickness, and like emotions, retard the cure! In such a case as your daughter's, it is just as well that she should have left the sanatorium, no matter how excellent that institution undoubtedly was. The well-managed sanatorium is by far the best place for the tuberculosis cure; but if there is so debilitating an emotion as homesickness in evidence, the home was a better place. Your daughter at any rate acquired the methods and habits essential to the successful treatment, and these should be most faithfully practiced at home. All the sanatoria in existence could accommodate only five per cent. of the tuberculosis sufferers in the world, and many of the rest do get well if they are obedient to their physicians and do nothing else in life than "to labor to get well." Information regarding the management of this disease in the home, is being mailed you.

Save the Old Sacks.

Old sacks, lying around get to be something of a nuisance. If stored in the right place the time may come when they are real handy.

Ripped apart and shaken out well, they make good blankets to throw over the cows at milking time. They may be sewed together so that they will come far enough to protect the legs. An old sack is a good thing to wipe off the horses with when they come in all wet and chilly. Get clear down to the fetlocks and up as far as the tips of the ears. Be careful when working round the ears. Some horses do not like it at all.

I have thrown an old sack over my shoulders when going from the barn to the house in a storm. Better to keep an old sack at the barn for that purpose, however.

If you ever get stuck in the mud with the auto, just put a few old sacks in front of the hind wheels. Usually the machine will walk right out over these. Some people carry a few old sacks under the seat just for use when caught in the mud. They take up little space and serve a good purpose.

In threshing time if we run short of grain sacks, the old bags come in handy. There is a temptation to fill them too full, however.

An Inexpensive Mash Hopper.

A self-feeder for pens that costs practically nothing, never clogs up, and never wastes feed is somewhat of a boon, according to my experience. It consists merely of a light wooden box about four inches deep suspended four or five inches from the floor, and a piece of one-inch mesh poultry netting cut to fit loosely into it. This wire is to be put on top of the feed. It settles down as the feed is consumed, and effectively prevents any from being thrown out. If a piece of heavier wire is bound in around the edge, this added weight will keep the piece of poultry netting in place even when the box is nearly full. The idea of having the whole thing suspended is to keep the hens out of the box, which it does. These feeders are so inexpensive that there is no excuse for not using enough of them to feed even the most timid hens access to feed at all times, thus doing away with one of the chief causes of lowered egg yield in large flocks.

Concrete Floors Return Cost.

By increasing the value of manure produced, concrete floors for feeding stalls will return their cost in about one year. The extra crop returns from manure kept on concrete floors is due to the soluble plant food saved. The cost of concreting floors generally amounts to about \$5 an animal in the ordinary feeding-stable, and the saving in manure is equal to this amount of every 1,000 pounds in live weight of steers or cattle fed for the year, as compared with animals fed on earth floors.

Concrete floors also make it easier to provide sanitary places for animals. The stitching gave way in one of the straps of the harness. If we had not had a hand riveter, with a good assortment of rivets on hand, we would have been compelled to make a trip to the shop. As it was, five minutes fixed the strap and business went on all right.

Buy Thrift Stamps.

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SELF-HELP.

In this period of envy and discontent, when a day is deemed uneventful when it does not show a riot, strike, lynching or bombing; when in the eyes of the discontented it is criminal to own anything and treacherous to be peaceful and law-abiding; when industry and thrift are regarded as old-fashioned and idleness and shiftlessness are at a premium, it is well for every person threatened with the prevailing type of industrial influenza or incited with "I Won't-Work-ism" to pause, think and take a serious survey of himself or herself.

Persons who complain the most and kick the hardest about "social and industrial injustices" and the "collapse of civilization" can never have looked in a mirror or felt of their own pulses. In nine cases out of ten the fault lies not in the times, but in the kickers themselves.

The present may be called a "crutch" age, when too many persons are leaning on "neighbors" and "brothers" and "sisters." Men who all their lives have been bolstered up by others seldom are good for anything when a crisis comes—and the nation now is in a crisis. Individuals who have been industrial leeches all their mature lives are looking still for something to lean upon. Failing to find it, they "damn" the system and join the procession of Reels. They are "again the government" whatever it may be.

Our social and industrial organization needs no radical treatment; it does need a strong dose of old-fashioned "self-help." If every workman and every workwoman, every toiler and every producer, every individual who contributes anything to the sum total of each day's national growth and wealth would stop growing, get busy and take a table-spoon of "self-help" night and morning, a national miracle would be wrought in thirty days, perhaps less.

The greatest fortunes ever accumulated were the fruits of endeavor, with no capital to begin with but industry and ambition. These men have won most who have relied on themselves. "A man's best friends are his ten fingers," said Robert Collier, who with his wife came to America in the steerage. Ninety per cent. of what is called genius is persistent industry. It is said that Bryant wrote "Thanatopsis" one hundred times. Gibbon wrote twenty years on his "History of the Roman Empire." Haydn once was an errand boy and a bootblack, yet he composed the contralto "The Creation" and was courted by princes and dined by kings and queens.

It is not necessary, however, to search the past for inspirations. Andrew Carnegie began his business career as a hunch boy at the age of twelve. He had no "crutch" but himself; he gave no thought to strikes, an eight-hour day or collective bargaining. The only "crutch" he had was marked "self-help," and many times he looked at it each day. He not only accumulated a vast fortune, which he distributed for the benefit of his fellow-men, but furnished indisputable proof to all who are prompted to desert, throw up their job and throw down their tools that opportunity is everywhere.

There is plenty of room without fees for membership in the best organization on earth—the Self-Help League.

Why Some Chimneys Won't Draw.

Building a chimney by extending the flue downward to the floor or into the cellar, makes a place for the accumulation of soot, ashes, etc., so as to save the expense of cleaning the flue; then the cold air below the pipe hole chills the entire column of air in the chimney; it is, therefore, heavy and impedes the ascent of the smoke. The remedy is either to fill the flue with cement to six inches below the pipe hole, or cut off the flue with a sheet iron plate, the plate to be covered with several inches of cement, so as to make it airtight.

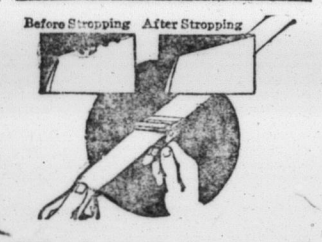
The chimney of the kitchen may be much lower than the main part of the house. The wind blowing over the house falls like water over a dam, sometimes almost perpendicularly on the top of the chimney, thus it beats down the smoke contained therein. The remedy is to build the chimney higher, or add a smokestack to equal the height of the main building.

A building or a large tree may be near to and higher than the top of the chimney, so that the wind passing over it would blow down the chimney. A new or green chimney will never have a perfect draft. It will not draw perfectly until it is thoroughly dry.

In building chimneys care should be exercised to avoid dropping mortar on the inside, which sometimes causes serious trouble by stopping the air course. A heavy weight may be let down by a rope and worked against the inside of the flue to force an opening.

Remedy For Moss in Pasture Lands.

A good coating of ground limestone, or of slaked lime, will fix the moss. It comes in on sour land, and lime will sweeten the soil. It may be well, also to sow some grass seed early in fall, harrowing the land if possible to cover the seed. Some white clover and also some white sweet clover seed might be added in the spring. If sown when the ground is lightly frozen the seed will cover itself. Timothy, red top (reclaimed seed) and June grass are the seeds to sow in the fall.



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