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About the Farm

Frosted Corn Just as Good for Feed

As the years go by, says a Canada farmer, I am coming more and more to value maturity in the corn for silo. I used to be continually afraid of getting the corn frosted and preferred to have it a little green as a lesser evil of the two. I now would risk frost any time rather than put green corn in the silo. For some reason or other the cows milk better on mature ensilage and it goes farther. The professors tell us that mature corn has much more food value, and they must be right.

In case I do let the corn stand a little too long and it gets frosted, I cut it into the silo just the same, sprinkling it with water and tramping it down solid. It is then just about as good for feeding purposes as if the frost had not gotten near it.

Succeeds with Clover and Redtop

R. E. Barrett

I purchased one bushel of clover seed and 100 pounds of re-cleaned redtop, just half enough, some would say, but as I had made many failures before, I did not feel like spending money for more. When the time came to sow the ground was frozen as hard as a rock, and as I wanted to sow by the common method practised in this section, which is what we call the bugle or horn sower, guided by stakes stuck in the ground, I was greatly puzzled at first. But remembering that necessity is the mother of invention, I set about to devise some means or plan by which I might get the seed sown at this time. I soon hit upon the following plan, which worked to perfection:

I obtained stakes 6 inches long and about the size of a large bean pole and to the bottom of these I tacked three pieces, sloping them on one side at the top, where I tacked them to the pole, and I was ready to go to work. These pieces which act as legs and are tacked on to the long pole, should be 18 inches long and as much as an inch square, so that the weight of them will cause the stake to stand up in any wind in which we wish to sow seed.

Sows Clover on Frozen Ground

If well made these stakes will last for years, if you choose to lay them up where they will not get broken and believe me, they made several dollars in my neighborhood last year. I loaned my stakes to my neighbor just across the road, and some of the others caught the idea and used the same method, and all clover sown by them made a fine stand, while that sown in March after the ground had thawed was either in spots here and there, or a total failure. I like it much better sowing while the ground is frozen, as it is much easier walking on solid ground than walking in the mud shoe top deep.

Natural Incubation

By W. A. Sherman

Since the broody hen is likely to be the main dependence of the farmer for hatching chicks, and since the fowls which are kept in comparatively small flocks comprise the greater part of the poultry of the country, it follows that the proper handling of the hen is of far more importance to the industry as a whole than is the most skillful manipulation of the mechanical incubator. The man or woman who handles a flock of 300 fowls or less should be especially interested in so managing the sitting hens as to get the greatest result in the shortest time and with the least possible percentage of loss. In all poultry literature no single subject which is of so great importance, which is so easily within the grasp of every reader, and in which rules can be laid down that are of so nearly universal application, has been given such scant attention.

The first point to be emphasized is that broodiness is not a voluntary condition. No hen sits because she is mentally conscious of a desire to sit, and no broody hen deserts her nest because of any perversity of disposition. She sits because of a change in her physical condition which she is powerless to control, and she leaves the nest when this condition no longer exists, very much as the fever patient leaves his bed and gradually resumes his normal activities when the fever is spent. Broodiness is a fever which does not reach its height until two days or more after it is first manifested. Hence the hen should not be given eggs earlier than this if she is to be set where she has laid, nor should she be moved to a new nest until she has been two nights on her own nest. Many losses result from setting the hen too soon, only to find that she did not really have a sitting fever, but had simply given a false alarm.

Probably nine-tenths of all hens that are allowed to hatch eggs are expected to incubate them in the same nest in which their clutch has been laid; and it is safe to say that in a majority of cases this is wrong. Indeed it is very conservative to say that three-fourths of the hens on the average farm will do better if moved to well-made nests where privacy is guaranteed than they can possibly do if set where other hens have access to their nests. No man thinks of running an incubator in a hen-house where fowls can perch on the thermostat. Yet millions of hens are set every year where they are climbed over or driven off by other hens, and when returning to the nest they are expected to choose correctly between nests of which there may be twenty as nearly alike as man's ingenuity can devise. The absurdity of expecting the hen to hatch successfully under such conditions would be apparent if we were not so accustomed to accepting them as a matter of course.

The Homing Instinct

Another vital mistake is made in ignoring the fact that the homing instinct of the hen is accentuated by the sitting fever and that the desire to sit in the place where her eggs were laid will always overcome her tendency to stay with eggs which may be given her elsewhere. For this reason, even after she has been contentedly brooding in a new place for a week or more, she will return to the original nest if given an opportunity to do so. It is therefore never safe to give full liberty to a sitter if she is on the same farm where she has laid her eggs, but those which have been bought from other farms can be liberated after the first week if desired, since they are unacquainted with the surroundings and will not wander far from the nest. In our own hatching we use all of our own hens which become broody, purchasing at the same time all the sitters we can find in neighboring flocks. All are set in coops made especially for the purpose, and if they are not moved until the fever is well established not one in ten fails to settle down to business in her new quarters.

Favors The Holstein Breed

The Board of Council of the State of North Dakota is preparing to establish pure-bred Holstein-Friesian herds at each of the seven penal and charitable institutions under their supervision. In fact, pure-bred foundation herds have already been established at the larger of the institutions and others will follow.

An Always Ready Pill.—To those of regular habit medicine is of little concern, but the great majority of men are not of regular habit. The worry and cares of business prevent it, and out of the irregularity of life comes dyspepsia, indigestion, liver and kidney troubles as a protest. The run-down system demands a corrective and there is none better than Parmelee's Vegetable Pills. They are simple in their composition and can be taken by the most delicately constituted.