



**Curb and its Treatment**

This is an enlargement of the ligament on the back of the hock, or of those structures which hold the bones of the hock in a proper position, upon certain occasions extraordinary stress is put upon them, thus causing a sprain, an enlargement, and lameness. Severe galloping on heavy ground, high or wide jumping with a heavy weight in the saddle, injudicious backing, such as foolish riders or drivers sometimes have recourse to when an animal, from ill-temper or otherwise, objects to go in the desired direction, are among the more common causes of the disease. It is also noteworthy that curb is one of the hereditary complaints the horse is subject to, therefore a mare suffering or having suffered therefrom should not be chosen as a breeder. The best method to detect this defect is to stand close to the hind quarters of the animal, and look down the limb affected, from the cap of the hock when a slight enlargement will be observed, about 3 in. from the point of the hock. It is also easily detected by taking a glance at the leg sideways. To treat this the object should be to reduce the inflammation, and for this purpose a continual application of cold spring water will be the chief thing. Arnica lotion is also advisable. Equal parts of spirits of wine, water, and vinegar also form a good application in the first stage of the complaint. After such treatment for a week or ten days, the inflammation should have abated, or have entirely left the part, and the next thing to be done will depend upon the state of the disease. Under most circumstances, the best agent probably will be a blister, consisting of biniodide of mercury, but before it is applied the hair should be carefully clipped off the part close to the skin. In bad cases the hot iron even has to be resorted to, but before either blistering or firing it would be prudent to call in a veterinary surgeon as he would be more competent to advise what blister would be best in order to avoid a permanent blemish, or whether a more drastic remedy ought to be employed. The shoeing is the next matter to attend to. The heel of the shoe should be raised so as to take the stress off the back tendons of the limb affected, and this precaution should be taken for a considerable time after the curb has subsided and the animal has resumed work. Rest, however, is absolutely necessary for a considerable time after the swelling has gone down to prevent a recurrence of the inflammation.—Warwick.

**The Ewe Flock**

If it has not been sooner done it is time to separate the lambs from their mothers. First let us move all the flock to a bit of choice pasture, some bit reserved for this occasion. Let ewes and lambs run there until they become wonted to the place. Then quietly remove the ewes, leaving the lambs where they are. If the lambs are destined for the market it is well to set out troughs and tempt them with oats. No matter how good is the pasturage, a bit of dry grain seems to adhere to the ribs of a lamb. Herein can one distinguish the real shepherd. He remembers his little flock, he goes gladly to feed it, he sees that each lamb comes to eat and all at one time, so that none gets more than its share. The ewe flock one studies with real interest. He culls some perhaps, but let him beware how he culls out the thinnest ones, possibly they are his best mothers and richest milkers. He carefully trims their feet, he puts the lam with them and marks the date. He puts them on rich pasture because that leads to twin-bearing. A bit of grain will not hurt the ewe on poor pasture at the breeding season, only beware that it be not too large a bite. Green things are what make the ewe flock happy, and to conceive in multiples.—Breeder's Gazette.

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**Dairy Thoughts**

The droppings from the cattle will benefit the pasture more if they are spread or broken up with a spike-tooth harrow. This prevents the grass from being killed out and weeds coming in where the droppings have lain. The most important business of the dairyman is to increase the amount of manure substances and apply them where they will do the most good to the growing crops. He is in no wise a public benefactor who keeps two cows to do the work of one. A poor milker is one of the surest means of diminishing a milk flow. Too many dairymen are conducting their business as a side issue when they should be making it the leading feature of their farming. The new cow has an individuality of her own and the feeder should be more acquainted with her as soon as possible after she is brought into the herd. Go your limit on a good bull. If your cows are deficient in the flow of milk, buy a sire that will make up the quality. If their milk is deficient in butter fat, breed from a sire whose tendency is to build up along that line. Feed records are just as essential as milk records. It is the profits we want rather than the phenomenal milk yields that are made by feeding large quantities of expensive concentrates. Proper feeding determines the amount of gain in the dairy business. Milk records and feed records make knowledge definite. If we are to make a success of the dairy business we must put thought behind and into our everyday work. A cow will never do her best unless she has perfect confidence in you. The modern dairy cow must be handled with understanding, and her owner must have a knowledge of her wants and make every effort to supply them. A good cow in the hands of a poor dairyman is a poorer proposition than a poor cow in the hands of a good dairyman. Both are very poor combinations, however, a good dairyman will not keep poor cows more than one season. Good pasture lands are the basis of successful dairying. To make dairying a success we must make it of interest to the boys. Good cows are not developed by chance, but are the product of good foods.

**When Dairying Does not Increase Soil Fertility**  
Far too few farmers raise enough cows or other live stock on their farms to supply enough manure to keep up the fertility of the large areas. There should be an increase in the number of head of cattle kept and a decrease in the number of acres necessary to supply food for these cattle. In other words, he should resort to more intensive methods. What farmer is there who has sufficient manure to cover the percent of his farm that he would like to each year? The man with a 16 acre farm who keeps 40 to 50 cows and 20 to 30 young stock besides hogs and horses is going to see results in the increased productivity of his fields from the manure derived from these animals. Some may believe this to be impossible. And it is, if everything that goes to feed the animals comes from the farm. But this should not be the case. If the animals receive no feed other than that grown on the farm the fertility of the soil would be decreasing, for it has been calculated that only four-fifths of any crop fed to animals is returned to the soil in the form of manure. That is, one-fifth goes to make milk, beef or pork. Hence it is easily seen that if nothing is obtained from outside the farm there is an actual lessening of the plant food. The remedy for this state of affairs is to grow all the roughage on the farm necessary to feed the animals and what concentrates are possible, but in the main the concentrates will have to be purchased from outside in the form of cottonseed meal, linseed, gluten or corn meal, the kind to be determined upon by the price and fertilizing value as well as the food value.—O. V. T.

**A Good Manger**  
The principal requisites of mangers in the cow stables are: 1. They should be large enough to hold the feed so that the cows cannot easily throw it out in front or under their feet. 2. They should be sanitary and easy to clean. 3. They should be arranged so that the cows cannot get their feet in them. 4. They should be divided to prevent cows from stealing feed from each other. 5. They should be convenient for feeding, mixing feed in the manger and removing refuse hay from the front. Most types of mangers, especially when built of wood, are hard to keep sweet and clean, although they may fulfill all other requirements.

**The Way to Get a Good Moulting**

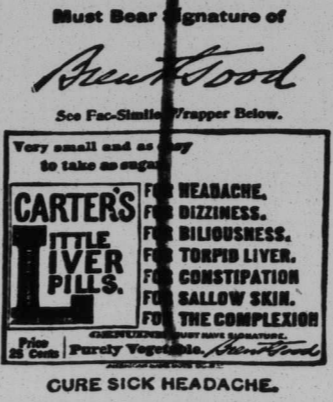
The chief trouble in the poultry-yard just now is the moulting, which, however, is a natural process of nature, and must be encouraged in every possible manner. Many breeders promote a good moult before autumn sets in by confining the birds in sheltered quarters and reducing the food supply almost to starvation point. In a natural way a fowl's moult lasts about three months, although an enforced moult is much quicker, and may be completed in eight weeks. Immediately the feathers begin to fall nutritive food should be given liberally, as it is naturally a great strain on the fowl's resources to grow new feathers. An extra expense at this period will be recouped later in the season. Directly the moult is over, laying commences in real earnest. It sometimes happens, with early hatched birds, that pullets will lay a batch of eggs and fall into moult, from which they do not recover until early in the New Year or spring, causing a loss of eggs. This necessitates the importance of hatching at the right season of the year, remembering that massive breeds take eight months, and the small and active five months, to mature. In addition to shelter and extra food flowers of sulphur and boiled linseed added to the hot morning soft feed assist the new growth of feathers, whilst when a fowl overmoults herself and becomes almost naked, it is necessary to rub sulphur ointment in every night and confine her to the house. Some poultry-keepers, as no eggs are forthcoming during moult, reduce the food, which is a great mistake, and will prejudice the supply of eggs of a later date. Plenty of green food must be given to keep the blood cool during moult, or feather-picking will result. Loose feathers quickly accumulate, and should be removed every few days, or insect pests will infect the house. Poultry-keepers will always be well repaid for looking after their birds during moult. It is invariably found that whilst town and suburban poultry-keepers are watchful and careful during the fowl's change of plumage, those residing in country districts, especially farmers, pay little or no attention to the moult, with the inevitable result of poor returns when winter eggs are expected.

**More Eggs for Nothing**  
Most farmers keep fowls. Most farmers, too, do not get as many eggs as they should, and in most cases this could be remedied, not by more expense (for farmyard fowls must not cost much to keep), but a little more trouble and common sense. For instance, on many farms, the fowls are fed twice a day—in the morning and the early afternoon—generally after the farmer has finished his breakfast, and dinner. This means that the unlucky creatures go without food, (especially if they pick from mid-day), or soon after, till the next morning, sometimes for nearly twenty hours. Further, if a hen happens to be laying at feeding time, and does not come off the nest, she has to go without a meal for twenty-four hours and most people know that laying hens require more food than others. How can one expect hens to lay well under such circumstances? And yet I know from personal experience, that these conditions exist on many farms. Again, if a change of diet were more frequently given farmyard fowls would lay much better. A change now and again would cost no more, but the poor fowls have to have what ever is handy, and often are fed on one kind of grain for months. How would the farmer like to have, say bread and butter, without a change, for a few days even? If farmers would feed their fowls a little oftener, say three times a day (before they have their own breakfast, at mid-day, and just before dark), and if they would change the food more frequently, and provide some fresh clean water for the fowls to drink, I can assure them that the increase in eggs would be remarkable. The cost is nothing, only a little more time and trouble are required.—Reader.

**Head Lice Menace to Young Chickens**  
Head lice kill many late hatched baby chicks, according to Professor J. G. Halpin, of the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin. Many persons attribute the losses to all sorts of diseases, when a careful scrutiny would reveal the head swarming with lice. A small magnifying glass will help distinguish the vermin. There are no particular symptoms which indicate infestation, other than a general lack of thrift. A good remedy is four parts of vasoline or lard mixed with one part of blue ointment. The top of the head should be well greased at intervals of a week. It is better, however, not to wait for the lice, and cost the farmer more in time, but to treat every chick when hatched.

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**THE OLD-FASHIONED FATHER**  
What has become of the old-fashioned father, with a hand like a sugar-cured ham, who used to spank a wayward son until he had to stand up at his meals for a week? Owing to the degenerate trend of these effeminate times, spanking has become a lost art. It has been succeeded by moral suasion and the power of love. Well, moral suasion is a good thing to have about the house, like an assortment of pink pills, but there are times when nothing will reach the spot with so much force and earnestness as a sound, six-ply spanking, applied in a cool, calculating spirit. For instance, when a boy gets in the habit of staying out all night trying to fill an inside straight or seeing who can lap up the most beer in passing a given point, moral suasion will do him about as much good as reading the 36th chapter of Genesis to him.—Kimball's Dairy Farmer.

**SHEEP SHOTS**  
Sheep eradicate weeds. Send to the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, for literature on sheep. Sheep pick up dollars from the stubble fields. Sheep chores are the highest chores about the farm. It costs little to start in sheep, and there is always something to be realized out of them quickly. Start the sheep flock with whatever stock is available and grade up with the down bucks until you have a first-class farm stock. The Merino-Shrop grade of sheep make a hardy, early maturing type, well adapted to the country, fine in the wool and well covered with flesh. Organize your neighbors and buy a carload of sheep to put on your stubble. Sheep will bring you dollars every month of the year. There are two revenues from a flock of sheep—wool is going up in price, and mutton keeps down the feed bill.

**KEEP EVERYTHING WORKING**  
It has been recognized by business men that everything must be kept at work if an enterprise is to prosper. Loafers will kill any business in the long run. The business of farmers is no exception. Unfortunately, definite rules are not as easily worked out for farm operations as for many other kinds of work, but as knowledge accumulates it becomes easier and easier to establish general principles of this kind. One farmer called attention to the fact that about the first of September a great many hens in a poultry plant either cease laying or do not lay enough eggs to pay for their feed. He advises immediate sale unless there is some special reason for keeping them for the remainder of the season for so far as these hens are concerned failure to sell will result in loss. Dairy-men recognize that unless a cow produces during the season more than enough saleable product to pay for her keep, which includes interest on the investment, she should be disposed of. Any animal which ceases to be profitable ought to be sold immediately, unless for some sentimental reason or other it is to be retained. This failure to keep everything working is a terrible handicap for agriculture. It will never be possible, of course, to determine just what animals are profitable until comparatively accurate records are kept. The up to date farmer is doing this and he must do it more and more. A field which does not produce enough grain to pay the interest on the investment, the cost of production and then some must be so treated that it will show this profit. All these things require thought and study. It makes it necessary for the farmer himself to do less manual labor and work harder with his brain. In the long run, it will be found that brain work is much more profitable than manual labor. It will also be found that it is more wearing, but the combination of the two works very nicely.—Maritime Farmer.

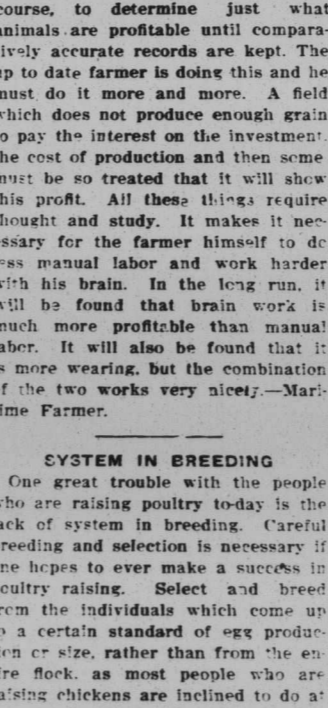
**SYSTEM IN BREEDING**  
One great trouble with the people who are raising poultry to-day is the lack of system in breeding. Careful breeding and selection is necessary if one hopes to ever make a success in poultry raising. Select and breed from the individuals which come up to a certain standard of egg production or size, rather than from the entire flock, as most people who are raising chickens are inclined to do at the present time. The application of the laws of breeding is essential to success with any kind of live stock. This important matter is too often overlooked, and as a result many failures are recorded that otherwise would have been listed under the head of success. A poultry farm, rightly conducted, operated by a man or woman with a reasonable amount of experience, common sense and judgment, will pay as well as most any other business for the actual amount invested. There are thousands and thousands of people in this country making a comfortable living raising poultry.—Maritime Farmer.

**Strong, thrifty calves** cannot be expected from cows that have been fed starvation rations for a few months before calving.

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