

flock? Many do not care to go to the trouble of buying eggs of pure-bred fowls and hatching them themselves, but instead buy a cockerel or two to infuse new blood in and improve their flock. Then you have a chance to sell a bird at from \$2 to \$10. Sometimes they go as high as \$100 for a single bird. But do we ever hear of a mongrel cockerel being sold at such a long price?

When feeding to produce eggs, if we have a flock of pure-breds of one breed we can better regulate the feed to the general requirement, and when we have found a food ration that will start two or three laying we can rest assured that we can expect them all to soon begin to lay for their keep. When we have a dozen or more different breeds and as many sizes in a flock we cannot do this for what food would keep one hen in laying condition would keep others rolling fat, others again would starve on the bill of fare.

John B. Pettit, Fruitland, Ont.

#### Growing Artichokes.

Artichokes are receiving more attention as a forage crop. They are grown in some parts of Ontario for hog feeding. A large American grower gives his method of growing and handling the crops as follows:

"Plow the ground as deep as for potatoes and harrow till will pulverized, then plow furrows about four inches deep with the team hitched to a common stirring plow, making these furrows the same distance apart as corn rows. If to be cultivated with double shovel they might be closer together if the soil is good and rich. If artichokes are large, cut like potatoes, one or two eyes to a piece. If small, plant them whole. Drop about 16 inches apart. Cover with the plow, just like when covering potatoes. This leaves the ground in ridges. Before the artichokes appear harrow lengthways of the rows; this will partly level the ground and also destroy any weed seeds that may have germinated. If the ground is foul a later harrowing crosswise will destroy more weeds in their "infancy," and the young artichokes will get a good start.

"When the rows can be plainly seen cultivate with a double shovel or cultivator for the first time and as often thereafter as is needed to keep the soil loose and the weeds down.

"When the blossoms begin to fall cattle can be turned in the patch to pasture off the tops, as they as well as horses will eat the stalks and leaves greedily. The stalks make excellent fodder cut at this time and cured right. My experience with artichokes has always been on stumpy land; therefore, when cutting the tops for fodder I have used a scythe, cutting one row at a time, but making one swath from two rows.

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Start as soon as dew is off and cut till along in the afternoon. The next morning gather into piles which will make a good forklift. If there is no danger of rain they may be left in the field till the whole is cut and cured, otherwise haul in as soon as leaves are pretty well dried. Anyone who has handled clover or peavine hay will know when it is right. It is perhaps needless to say that if stacked outdoors it must be covered with something more impervious to water, as the fodder is quite too coarse to shed rain.

"There is nothing more greatly relished by stock than this same coarse fodder, which they eat up clean, leaving none even of the coarse stems. This past season, to my regret, the artichoke tops were not utilized, as they could not be pastured, being in the same field with a lot of corn fodder, and as no help could be hired at the proper time, the tops were wasted. If the artichokes are to be dug it makes the work much pleasanter when the tops have been removed. If wanted only for the hogs they can do their own digging when the ground is not frozen, and will do it so effectually that not a plant will appear the following spring. One can never do this by hand digging. Some say the tubers left in the ground save replanting, but it is doubtful saving, as the stand is never uniform and what plants appear between the rows must be sacrificed. Better plant anew each year, then we know what to expect."

#### Oiling Farm Machinery

The ease and comfort with which haying or harvesting may be conducted will depend largely upon how the machinery runs, and the running of this machinery will depend largely upon the kind of oiling which it receives before being put to use.

Many people think that any kind of oil will do. But there are different oils for different purposes. Nothing is better for cleaning off gum rust or almost any kind of dirt than kerosene oil, but its usefulness ends there. It should not be used as a lubricant for heavy machinery. The regular machine oils are better. The heavier the machinery the heavier bodied the oil should be. For a wagon, for instance, ordinary axle grease is best. Light machine oils used on a wagon axle soon wear off, leaving it dry in a short while. For a hot box good pine tar will cool it off when nearly everything else has failed.

The question of oiling, then, is most important. Make a study of your machinery and decide upon the kind of oil best suited to each one or each part. A dollar or two invested in suitable oils will save a lot of worry and time in the busy haying and harvesting season.