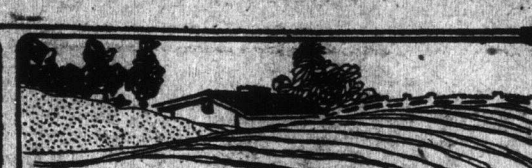


THE SIMPLE LIFE



WITH THE POULTRYMAN

PREPARING FOWLS FOR EXHIBITION



It is not our purpose to enter into a discussion of the ethics of the matter of preparing fowls for exhibition. Suffice it to say that it is only in an exceptional case or where there is scant competition that a bird can win that has not been specially prepared for the exhibition. The pulling of feathers of objectionable color is practiced by practically all successful exhibitors and is not considered a dishonest practice, though it is condemned as "taking" by the Standard of Perfection. Artificial coloring is a practice that is in disrepute generally among exhibitors, and the exhibitor who colors plumage or legs and is caught at it is placed in a bad light by his fellow exhibitors.

The man who sends Barred Rocks to the show room with black feathers in the plumage is laughed at for his carelessness.

Though moderate feather pulling is not considered a dishonest practice, it can be carried to an extreme where it is unquestionably unfair to other exhibitors and dishonest. The pulling of sufficient feathers to change the general appearance of the bird would be a more serious matter. A case of this kind was noticed in a show a year or two ago, where a Loudan breeder ascertained before the show whether the judge preferred a moderately light or dark bird and pulled enough of the objectionable feathers to give his birds the desired color.

Though the pulling of a few off-colored feathers, such as black feathers in Barred Rocks, "ticking" in white varieties, and "smutty" feathers in red varieties, is tolerated, it must be remembered that all these practices are objectionable and demoralizing and apt to be carried to excess by frequent repetition.

However, the washing of birds for exhibition is perfectly legitimate. Though washing will improve the appearance of almost any bird, it is not ordinarily practiced except with white varieties.

The methods of washing practiced by different breeders do not differ in essential particulars.

Four tubs, or two tubs and two large buckets, are required. Two tubs should be filled half full of warm or hot water, but not hot enough to scald the bird. Warm water is all right as long as it stays warm, but if many are to be washed it soon gets too cold, unless hot water is added after each bird is washed. The third tub or bucket is filled half full of warm water, in which is put as much bluing as would be used in bluing clothes. This may be hard water, thought that in the first two tubs should be soft. The fourth vessel is to be filled with cold water, not ice cold, but as cold as it ordinarily comes from the well or cistern. Clean rags should be provided for wiping the birds after washing. A tooth or nail brush is desirable for cleaning the shanks and about the comb.

White soap is ordinarily used from the fact that if all of it is not rinsed out of the plumage, that which remains is not so easily seen. White castile is very satisfactory, though one of the cheaper brands of white soaps that float may be used.

Take the bird by the legs with the right hand and by the wings with the left, catching hold of the wings close to the body and bending them up over the back. Hold the bird in the water a moment, then the legs may be released and the right hand used in soaping the bird. This must be done thoroughly and carefully. After the feathers are well soaked they may be rubbed in any direction without much danger of breaking them. Use plenty of soap and endeavor to get all the dirt out of the feathers. It requires some time to do it, but unless one is willing to do a good job of washing he had better not attempt it at all. Wash carefully at the base of the tail, the wings and the legs. Brush the shanks and around the comb. It is a good plan to wash the head last, as this is usually the most objectionable feature of the work to the bird, and if soap gets in the eyes it can soon be rinsed out.

The next step is the rinsing. This is where most breeders fail to do the work well. The soap must be thoroughly rinsed out of the plumage or the washing had better not have been done. Soapy plumage is as bad or worse than dirty plumage. Sometimes when the bird is placed in the rinse water and the hand rubbed over the plumage it feels "gummy," as though the soap adhered to the plumage. This can be overcome by the addition of sufficient borax or ammonia to the water. Some breeders have discovered this and have kept it to themselves as in the process of rinsing was where they defeated their competitors. Soap remaining in the plumage gives it a creamy tint not unlike naturally creamy plumage. It ordinarily requires as much time and as much care in rinsing the bird as it does in washing it.

Place the bird in the bluing water and hastily rinse the plumage, moving the bird about and agitating the water so as not to get any part of the plumage too blue. In fact there should not be enough bluing in the water to make the plumage appear at all blue.

Finally dip the bird in the cold water. There is a stimulating effect to this that has a tendency to prevent taking cold.

Some omit the final plunge in the cold water and give a half teaspoonful of whisky and a grain of quinine.

The bird should be wiped as dry as possible with clean rags, and placed in an exhibition coop near a stove or a warm place to dry.

The first few times a person washes a bird he will probably get splashed a few times, especially if he does the work alone. It is of course much easier if an assistant is to be had. The assistant can then hold the bird while the other does the washing, or one can be washing while the other is rinsing.—Poultry Success.

GEESSE

Goose breeding is not practiced much as an exclusive industry, but can often be made a profitable side line to poultry or ordinary farming. They require but little care and food where good pasture is to be had.

The Toulouse is the most popular variety. They are the largest, mature early, and are not as wild and noisy as some varieties.

The gander is usually a trifle larger than the goose, has a larger head and neck, but is not as deep bodied as the goose. The gander has a louder call, also.

Two geese are usually allowed for one gander. The first year of their maturity, young geese lay from eighteen to twenty-four eggs. The second year there is usually an increase of a dozen over this number.

Goose eggs are often set under hens. It is a good plan to set as many hens at a time as possible, and at the end of the first week,

days or even longer. When they trail out for the grazing grounds again their systems are so thoroughly saturated with water that they do not have to return again for three or four or even five days. Similarly in the fenced pastures of Texas, cattle will not visit the water-tank oftener than once in two days, even in midsummer. This is true even though there is a water tank placed on every section.

It is the same thing that the fitter has to contend with in his show herd. If left to themselves his charges will usually drink about once a day. There are a few that in summer will drink every twelve to eighteen hours, but there are others, not a few, that if allowed to take their fill will not drink oftener than from thirty-six to forty-eight hours. With range cattle or farm stockers this may be allowed, but not so with even steers in the feed-lot. But take the case of the show steer. Roots, bran and chaffed hay are added to his ration until it attains twice the bulk of that of the steer in the feed-lot. Then the show steer is fed three or four times daily and fed only what he will clean up, so his appetite is kept always at a keen edge. There is no room in him to hold a two days' supply of water, for no sooner is his paunch emptied of one meal than it is filled with another. Take such a beast as this and allow him to tank up with about twenty gallons of water every other day and the result is disastrous.

The trouble has two ways of manifesting

Last and least comes the question of when to water. With the horse, having but one stomach and a small one at that, it may not matter whether he be watered before or after eating. Even here, however, experiment stations have reported in favor of both plans. But while the horse has one small stomach, the ox has four large ones. The majority of fitters both advocate and practice watering before feeding, but that very astute stockman, Thomas Clark, of Illinois, has advocated that the show cow always be watered after feeding, and he has given very good reasons for his theory. Personally I have tried both plans. If one plan is better than the other my observation was not acute enough to notice it. But a change from one to the other was usually marked by a slight disturbance in gains and appetite. The idea is to water often, water wisely, water well, then you may hear of your skill with the feed pail.

WHY DANISH BUTTER LEADS

Danish creameries issue rules for the general treatment and milking of cows. Those concerning milking are interesting. At the top of the card are the words "Good Advice," beneath which is a drawing of the udder and teats of a cow with the hand of the milker placed in proper position. On either side of the card are columns shaded to indicate the percentage of fat present in the first milk

The committee of Irish dairymen sent to investigate the Danish creameries close their report with this tribute as to the fine character of the Danish farmers:

"The most interesting feature in every form of co-operation in Denmark is the extraordinary fidelity universally observed towards their own institutions by the people who participate in them. A member of a Danish co-operative society, deliberately violating the rules, would certainly have a very uncomfortable time of it in his own district. Every one feels that the creamery has been organized to develop the people's industry and that with its success or failure the welfare of the people must stand or fall, and it is really astonishing the extremely few cases in which expulsion of members took place because of fraud perpetrated on their society. In this way co-operation has materially assisted in the development of Danish character."

THE AGE TO MARKET HOGS

Different men have different ideas as to the best age at which hogs should be sold, and each man may be right in his own circumstance. Some feeders practice running hogs along until they are a year or so old, fattening them up for the last month or six weeks and turning them off at a good weight, usually late in fall or early winter. Others again crowd the pigs along right from birth, get them up to 180 pounds or so by the time they are six months old and sell them then. Between these two extremes are all kinds of hog raising systems and there are as well a whole lot of farmers in this country who don't believe in marketing hogs at any age, and they too may be right in their circumstances.

Does winter hog feeding pay? We are a little inclined to doubt sometimes whether it does or not. But if every body were feeding summer hogs only, and all dumping stock on the market at the one season, pork prices would tend to go so low in the fall and rise correspondingly in spring and summer, to such a point that winter feeding would become the more profitable after all. So there are some points to consider that are of more significance than merely the convenience of the feeder. Hog raising to be profitable must be a permanent industry. We can't jump in and out of it at will and make much money.

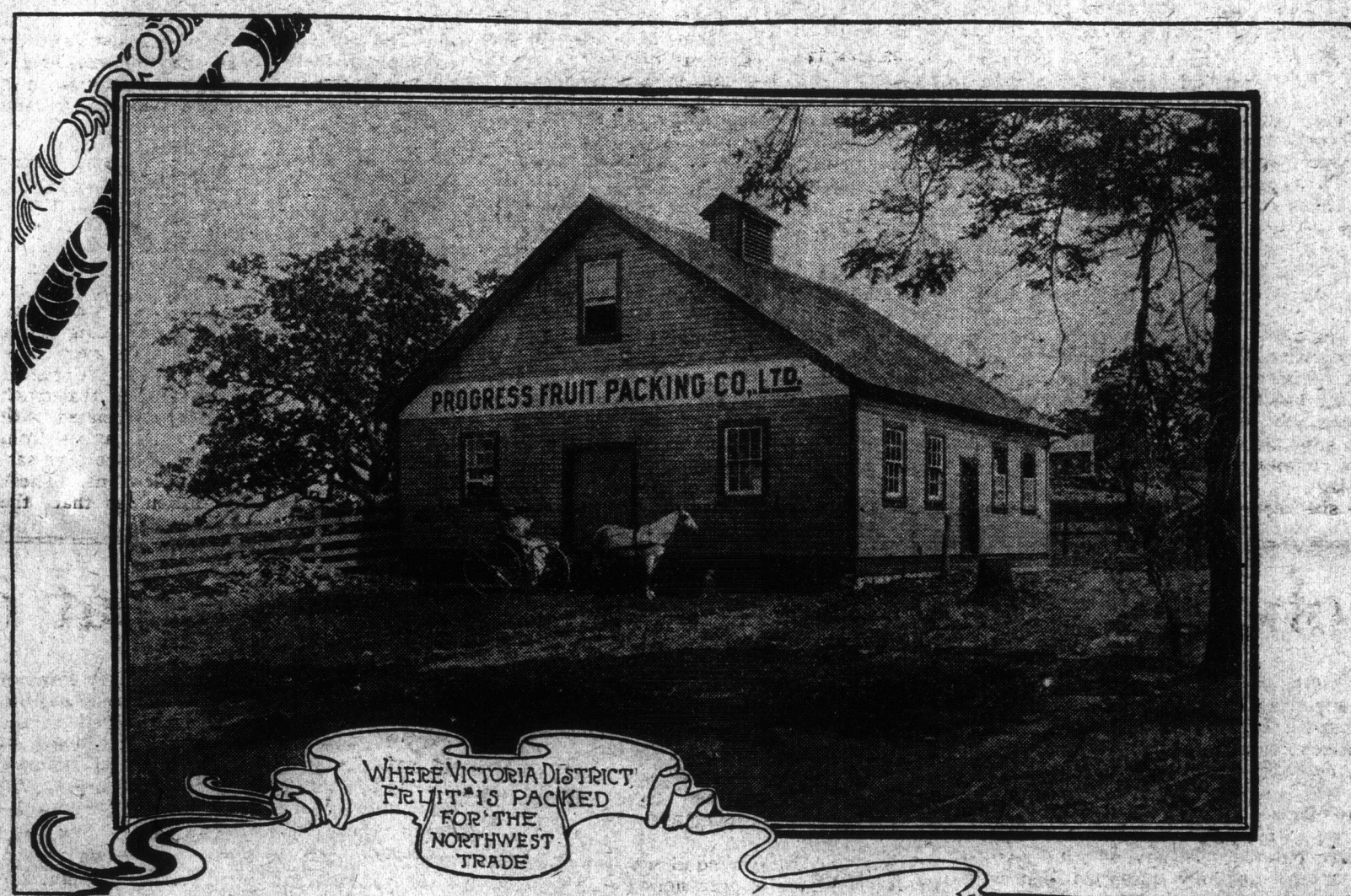
Experimental results tend to show that the more rapidly a pig can be pushed along from birth to maturity, within reasonable limits, of course, the more gain will be shown for the food consumed. That is, it costs less to produce a pound of pork in a pig that has been fed well and kept thrifty and growing right from weaning, than it does to put pork on one that has been allowed to shift for himself more or less during the early period of life and is penned up later to be grain fed for the fattening process. There are reasons for this. Young animals of all kinds are able to digest their food more thoroughly than older ones, are able to assimilate more nutriment from it and gain in weight correspondingly more rapidly. Everybody knows that a calf, once it has lost its calf flish, is a harder proposition to get beef on than is one that carries its milk meat right along. It is the same in a large way with hogs. Pigs that are stunted and half-starved for several months after they leave the sow never feed into pork as cheaply as pigs that have received full rations right along. They may fatten up all right, sell for as much money as the well fed hogs, sometimes it may happen in case of cheap grain and fairly good pork prices, that in their old age, they will turn in more profit than younger animals. But it is rarely this occurs. On the average the pigs that get up against the full trough all through the growing period make more money for their owners and better bacon for the man who buys them.

There are rather too many farmers in this country trying to put pork on old hog carcasses. In some cases they have reason for doing so, a reasonable excuse probably for wasting feed; but as a general rule it is merely a fancy of their own for which there is no substantiation in experimental feeding work. Nine times out of ten the pigs that pay best are those that reach selling weight at the earliest age. A man can strike it right the other way once in a while, but the chances are too long to make it worth while.

HORSE'S SENSE OF SMELL

No animal is endowed with a better sense of smell than the horse. To the blind horse the acuteness of smell is a safeguard. Horse and Stable says:

"The horse will leave musty hay untouched in his bin, however hungry. He will not drink of water objectionable to his questioning snuff, or from a bucket which some odor makes offensive, however thirsty. His intelligent nostril will widen, quiver and query over the daintiest bit offered by the fairest of hands with coaxing that would make a mortal shut his eyes and swallow a nauseous mouthful at a gulp. A mare is never satisfied by either sight or whinny that her colt is really her own until she has a certified nasal certificate to the fact. A blind horse, now living will not allow the approach of any stranger without showing signs of anger not safely to be disregarded. The destination is evidently made by his sense of smell and at a considerable distance. Blind horses, as a rule will gallop wildly about a pasture without striking the surrounding fence. The sense of smell informs them of its proximity."



test the eggs and give each hen four eggs, which is about as many as an ordinary hen can cover satisfactorily. At hatching time care must be exercised that the hen does not injure the goslings, as their queer appearance often excites the wrath of the hen.

Various methods of feeding goslings are practiced. A good mash, not wet enough to be sloppy, is all right. Where they have all the grass or clover they want, stale bread makes an excellent food for them.

The goslings may be marketed when nine or ten weeks old, if desired, when they should weigh from twelve to fourteen pounds.

A patch of rye will help out wonderfully with the winter feeding.

The Embden geese rank next in popularity to the Toulouse. They are white and are practically the same size as the Toulouse.

The African Geese resemble the Toulouse in appearance, but have a black beak and knob.

The other standard varieties of geese are the Brown and White Chinese, Wild or Canadian and the Egyptian, all of which are much smaller than the three preceding varieties.

AROUND THE FARM

WATERING THE SHOW HERD

FREQUENTLY the successful fitter of show stock is lauded to the skies by both the press and the public for his successful manipulation of the feed pail. Perhaps the credit is due the water bucket rather than the feed pail, but always it is the feed pail that gets the credit. To understand the why of it, take the case of range cattle as an illustration. The grass for many miles about the water holes is eaten into the earth. They soon acquire the habit of coming to water, but once in six or seven days. When once they do come to water they drink and drink till they have to stop from sheer misery. Then they retire to some near hillside where they rest and ruminate until they can return and drink again. They may lie about the water holes in this fashion and drink and rest and drink again for two

itself. One result—and the least harmful—is scouring. The animal is thrown off feed for a few days and when a few days later he is ready to tank up with water again he is not so full of feed and so there is more room for water and less trouble follows. But scouring is followed with costiveness, and so the gain of a month is lost in a week.

The second result, more serious but less frequent, is founder; and "been feeding too heavy," or "too much corn" is the advice of your sympathizing neighbors. At the shows the fitter says: "Oh, he was a poor feeder; wouldn't gain over thirty or forty pounds a month," or "he took something like the rheumatism and I had to turn him out."

It is all sheer nonsense to say that a beast accustomed to all he will eat three or four times daily for months can be foundered by eating too much. More than nine times out of every ten when a show beast is scouring, off its feed, costive or has gone lame, the trouble is caused by over-drinking, not over-feeding. And with such a beast your success depends less on how and what you feed than on how you water him.

To water wisely, the first thing to do is to teach your charges to drink from a pail only. The lesson is a hard one. Some cattle will obstinately refuse to drink from the pail for three or four days where they have been accustomed to drink from the tank only. Surely no animals are greater slaves of habit than cattle. But there are sometimes no tanks on the fair grounds, and it is a poor time to teach new habits when the show day is on. Besides they should drink from the pail at home. Then you are in a position to restrict the morning drink enough that they will drink again at noon. Do this with judgment; see to it daily; let nothing suffer for water but let nothing drink too much at once. Remember that on your skill with the water bucket depends your reputation as an adept at the feed pail. As to how often to water—it must be at least twice a day through early spring and autumn and three times daily through warm weather. In theory it would be best to water as often as you feed. But if you feed four times daily you will find it hard to make your cattle drink so often, especially in cool weather.

drawn from the cow, and in the last milk drawn.

The rules on the cards are as follows—

To the Milker

- 1—The cow is a living machine.
 - (a) Kindly treatment entails less labor and gives more milk.
- 2—Good work improves the living machine.
 - (a) Milk clean. Clean milking develops the udder and increases the quantity of milk.
 - (b) You receive richer milk.
 - (c) Remember that the milk last drawn is by far the most valuable.
- 3—Clean milking.
 - (a) You should wear tidy and clean clothes.
 - (b) Have the pail clean as well as the creamery can.
 - (c) Thoroughly clean the udder by rubbing with a piece of linen.
 - (d) Wash the hands thoroughly before milking.
 - (e) Let the udder be quite dry before you begin to milk.
- 4—Carry out the work properly.
 - (a) Milk with dry hands.
 - (b) Seize the teats with the whole hand.
 - (c) Keep a gentle pressure on the udder.
 - (d) Milk as fast as you can and never cease working until the milk is wholly drawn.
 - (e) Don't strain the teat beyond its natural length.
 - (f) Remember the value of the last drops.
- 5—Healthy state of the udder.
 - (a) If there be soreness or lumps in udder or teats, stoppage in milk canal or unnatural colored milk, don't mix that milk with any other, and don't send it to the creamery.
- 6—Milking times.
 - (a) Begin milking always at fixed times.
 - (b) Milk the same cows in the same order.
- 7—Regard this excellent work as one of honor.

To the Farmer

- 1—Clean the Cows.
 - 2—Have good air in the stalls.
 - 3—Light should be freely admitted.
- The above rules which are faithfully carried out, tell why Danish butter is ahead of all in all the markets of the world.