

London Asylum Dairy Herd.

HOGS AND CROPS.

It is always a pleasure to see a useful herd of dairy cows in good working form, and especially at this season of the year, when so many are compelled to get their feed from dried pastures. At the London, Ontario, Asylum for the Insane the cows kept to supply milk for the staff and inmates are a good lot. The present herd of 40 head giving milk and five soon to calve might well be termed general-purpose cows, as a large proportion of them will weigh quite 1,200 pounds each, and are of a sort that would produce good steers from a Shorthorn sire. The farm manager, Mr. William Murdock, likes a good, substantial cow that will give a liberal quantity of milk when well fed. The herd is kept up by purchase, as no cows are reared on the farm, and it speaks well for Mr. Murdock's judgment in purchasing that the herd is of such a high average quality. The cows are largely Shorthorn grades, but a few good grade Holsteins are also in the herd. The 40 head now milking give from 440 to 450 quarts per day, and the best ten average 20 quarts each in 24 hours. If pasture alone had been depended on, the cows would not be doing so well, but apart from a rough pasture, the cows have been getting green corn twice a day since July 5th, until recently, when they get corn once daily in the afternoon, and a run on alfalfa pasture in the morning. Mr. Murdock is a great believer in green corn to keep up the milk flow during dry, hot weather, and each year sows a few acres of corn thick for that purpose. This year he sowed three acres at the rate of 2½ bushels of seed per acre, and this will yield two months' pasture for the 45 head. The cows are brought from the feeding at 4.30 in the morning, milked, fed corn or alfalfa in stable for two hours, then turned to pasture, brought up again at 3 p. m., fed corn, milked, and returned to the pasture field. The cows receive no grain of any sort, and are holding their own well in

How I Built a Silo.

Four years ago, when I decided to build a silo, I did not feel able to build a cement one and did not like a tub, so I thought I would try a new plan. Having a good dry place, I dug out about two feet, cemented the bottom and built a cement wall above the ground a little, making it eight sided and of such a size that 14-ft. scantling would cut in two lengths. We then built up with 2x4 scantling, like an old-fashioned rail fence, 24 ft. high, making the silo 26 ft. deep. On the inside we laid tar paper on the scantling and then boarded it up and down with 1x10 in. hemlock and battens half an inch in the center, rounded off to nothing at the edges, and we sided the outside with inch hemlock well nailed, making a silo that will not blow over with the wind at any rate. Now, as to cost:

The cement foundation cost.....	\$10 00
Lumber and scantling (5,196 ft.).....	51 96
Battens.....	3 00
Four-in. spikes (120 lbs., at 2½c.).....	3 00
Twenty-four lbs. 2½-in. nails (at 3c.).....	72
Work, not including foundation.....	11 25
	\$79 93

I have not had a roof so far, but will put one on this fall, when I think I will have a silo good enough for any one.

Huron Co., Ont.

ALEX. MUSTARD.

POULTRY.

Poultry Notes.

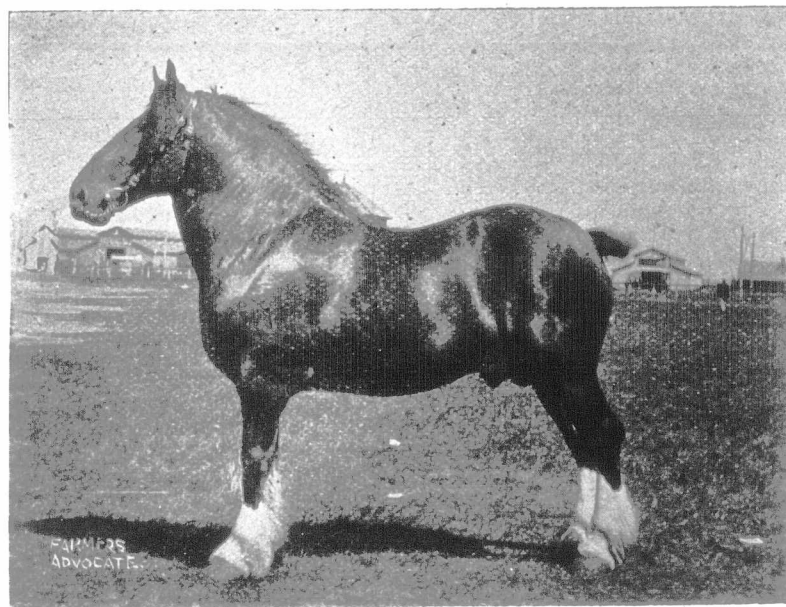
The wise poultry-keeper will be ever looking ahead, and now is full time to consider the stock for next season. The useful life of a hen is unfortunately very brief, and every moulting time the owner is confronted with the necessity of clearing out all those hens that are two and a half years old; in other words, those moulting for the second time. Of course, there is no rule without its exception. Some hens pay to keep a third season, but the average hen does not. The

year's stock, to take the place of the old hens, unless the stock is to be diminished. It is only by keeping the best of the pullets that the quality of the stock can be kept up and improved. Every farmer knows the value of quality in cattle and sheep breeding, that only the best should be bred from, and that keeping the best pays. The same is true of poultry. By the best I mean well grown, healthy specimens, that come from healthy stock, bred for laying or table points, or both. Such birds can be relied on, while some cheap-purchased stock is an unknown quantity—we know nothing of the pedigree of the birds, or if they are constitutionally sound.

When your fowls do not lay, and you seek about for the reason, you may be told, perhaps, that the houses are not warm enough. Even if this be so, and you remedy the defect, the time has been lost, eggs have not been forthcoming when they ought to have been, and what is quite as bad, nothing you can then do will be followed by an immediate supply of eggs. Has this been your experience, reader, in the years gone by? If so, try this year to have your henhouse made warm and comfortable before winter sets in. "Why," you say, "it is not fall yet." Yes, I know, but do not put it off until November; there will be so much to do then you will not find time to patch up the old henhouse. I think most of us feel the first cold of autumn and winter more than severe weather later on. So it is with the poultry, and, unfortunately, many of the fowls are not in full feather yet, and therefore feel it the more.

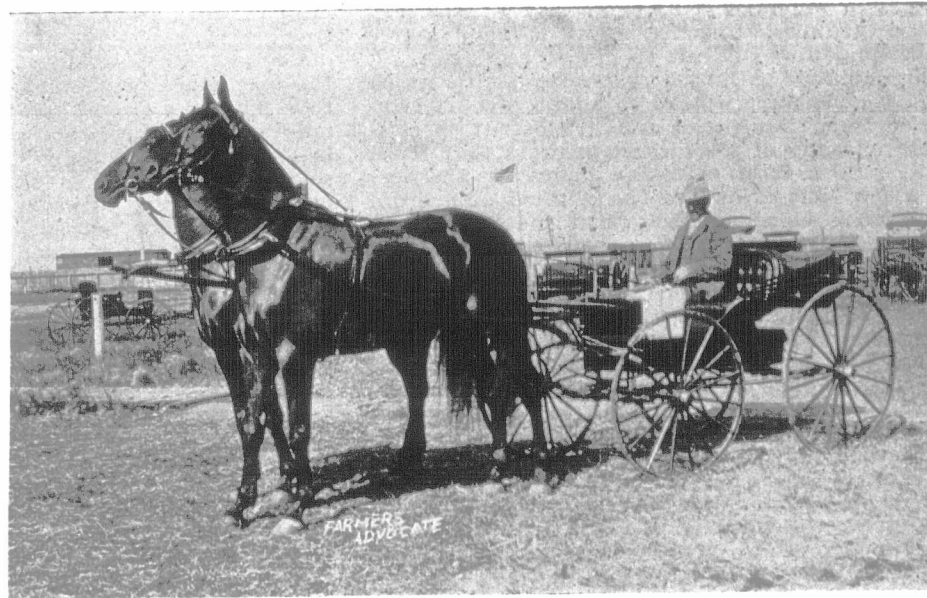
Should the house stand in a very cold place, a covering of felt will help to keep it warm, and this should be tarred just as soon as it is put on. Your early hens and pullets may look like laying any day, and nothing on your part should be left undone which may check them doing so.

By keeping on your place unprofitable fowls you must be keeping poultry at a loss. Yet on



ROSEMOUNT, CLYDESDALE STALLION.

First-prize 3-year-old and sweepstakes at Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition, 1901.
OWNED BY W. SWENETON, V. S., CARBERRY, MAN.



FIRST-PRIZE CARRIAGE TEAM.

Shown at the recent (1901) Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition.
OWNED BY T. D. STICKLE, CARBERRY, MAN.

flesh. Considerable credit for this should no doubt be given to the fact that the cows are treated for the fly pest once a week with an application of fish oil and carbolic acid mixed in the proportion of two tablespoonfuls of the latter to one gallon of the former.

Other live stock on the farm includes some 200 hogs of various ages. The brood sows, some 18 to 20, are choice individuals, largely of Yorkshire and Tamworth breeding. These are kept to utilize the kitchen refuse, getting little else except at finishing period, when a little home-grown grain is given. By the end of October there will have been sold of hogs in one year some \$3,000 worth, all of which went to the packing house, except a few pure-bred Tamworth boars sold for breeding purposes. The sows have abundance of liberty, are not overfed, and invariably produce large litters. One sow that had previously had three litters, of 18 each, farrowed 19 on August 7th this year.

The crops grown on the farm are very heavy, the mangels, and corn for silage and husking, being extraordinary in bulk and evenness over the fields. The potato crop, usually very good on this farm, promises to be poor this year, as few have set in the rows. The oat crop was very heavy, and in all the stubble is now growing a first-class catch of clover and timothy, even where the oats were badly lodged. The crop rotation followed is oats, clover, hoed crop, and sometimes two hoed crops in succession. The farm is rich and clean, and, with the good treatment it receives, yields abundantly.

In a recent issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE a correspondent complained of the increasing number of old bachelors throughout the country, and in the Home Department of this issue a contributor—"Uncle Daniel"—gives some wholesome advice to young men in search of a wife. We commend a perusal of his letter.

latter will take a long time moulting, and probably rest the whole winter, not laying till spring has come, the weather mild, and eggs cheap and plentiful. In fact, she will, probably, not pay for her keep. Still, it must be confessed that it is a great drain on the poultry-keeper to clear out so many birds and fill their places with pullets which otherwise could be sold at a profitable figure. The stock birds should be hatched in March, April or May, the three great hatching months; March or April for the heavy birds, April or May for Leghorns, the latter taking a shorter time to reach maturity. We need not overdo it and take early-hatched birds and force them on to maturity, for perhaps they will lay in late summer a batch of eggs, then moult and take a long rest. I had a pen of twelve early-hatched pullets. They laid a few eggs early in the fall, and then I noticed they were losing the feathers from their necks and heads. In a short time they had every appearance of a moulting hen. This was my first experience with early-hatched moulting pullets. It is not likely to occur again. I did not get a dozen eggs from them for three months, and then they were nearly bare when cold weather set in, when they should have had good warm coats. Then, too, I lost the eggs when prices were the highest. Experience is a grand teacher, but sometimes an expensive one. October is quite soon enough for pullets to lay, for then there is no fear of their moulting.

I mentioned before the drain on the owner in having to fill the places of the old hens, instead of selling pullets, but some escape the difficulty by ignoring it and selling recklessly, arguing, apparently, that it is best to make a profit when it is to be had. But this is a very short-sighted policy. There must be young pullets for next

scores of farms are hens found in food and house room through the winter which lay never a penny's worth of eggs; and besides eating their heads off, they are occupying the room and consuming the food other fowls would turn into money. These old hens make excellent soup.

Then, the same weeding out process must be continued among the chickens; some go ahead, the majority are a level lot, and to a certainty there will be some which lag behind. Th's third class is the one whence disease springs, whereon insects are bred and scattered, and wherein your money is sunk past recovery.

These, then, are better cleared away, no matter at what price; they will never make large nor profitable birds, and never should they be used for stock.

Perhaps I have been too emphatic. Maybe by skillful treatment, expenditure of valuable time, and a large slice of luck, some sickly, weedy chicken may ultimately be pulled around into a decent fowl, but the chances are heavily against it. The time, food and care can be more profitably employed in keeping the best chickens still the best; it is a mistake to think you can bring the consumptive, the ropy, the liver-diseased chicken up to their standard.

Perhaps, too, up to now many of the fowls have been roosting out of doors, but are now driven by the weather to seek the shelter of a roof; this generally means overcrowding the house, and this is attended by the greatest evils. In all ways, then, thinning out and selling or eating all the old stock should be rigorously proceeded with.

Here is a sum, readers, for mental arithmetic: Which is the more profitable, fifty fowls in full profit, or a hundred which do not lay an egg.

FARMER'S WIFE.