

In the Poultry Yard

Model Poultry Houses

Mr. F. C. Elford, chief of the Poultry Division, Ottawa, will introduce educational features in poultry culture at the Simcoe and Beachburg fairs this year. These will include model poultry houses, desirable and undesirable breeds of fowl, crating birds, etc. In this work he will cooperate with the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

How I Handle My Flock of 20th Century Hens

When it begins to get cool in the fall, I see that they are put into warm quarters, and begin feeding a warm mash in the morning of cracked wheat, bran and potato parings, or any scraps at hand from the kitchen table mixed with milk or water. I also give them some chopped onions occasionally with their mash.

I keep them in the yards, not overcrowded, and feed in clean troughs. I give them plenty of fresh water. When too cold, warm it with water from the kettle, and so begins the day in a pleasant way for Mrs. Biddy. I give them a good carpet of straw or any kind of litter in which I scatter a few handfuls of fine grain and they will scratch for it and sing as though they did not know winter had come. If it snows and blows, I keep snow out of the yards and scratching room and keep Mrs. Biddy busy scratching and she will thank you with an egg each day. While neighbors' hens set on snow banks or hover in the corners, mine are enjoying their warm breakfast and working in their carpet for their dry feed and meanwhile earning it, thereby giving me eggs to sell at good winter prices, which pays me for my trouble, some would call it.

When snow is on and the boys enjoy hunting, I give them a few cents each for the jack rabbits they bring home. I roast and chop them fine and how the biddies do enjoy the fresh meat. At night I give them a feed of whole corn, which is scattered in the litter and helps to keep them warm through the chilly night. One important thing not to be overlooked is the supply of grit and egg shell material, such as gravel, powdered china and bone, oyster shell, ashes, lime, etc.

Another item is clean coops and watering vessels and dusting places. In March and April, when the majority of hens are beginning to lay, mine have retired to the sitting room, furnished with nests, feed, water and dust, hatching and brooding the early chicks which are always profitable.

Mrs. GEO. MILLER, JR.

Market Only Clean Eggs

The aggressive housekeeper takes an honest pride in marketing crates of picturesque eggs, products the best that skill and tact can produce. This motto should be practiced in every line of work on the farm. A crate of nice, clean, fresh, saleable eggs has far more attraction for the purchaser than eggs put up in a careless way. To present customers, or send dirty eggs to market impairs their value and is an indication of the want of care on the part of the sender. To insure good results and become a factor in building up the egg trade one must enter in the taste of the consumer, in appearance and flavor. If eggs come dirty from the nest they should be cleaned before considered saleable.

An easy and convenient method of doing this is to put the eggs in a handy dish, pour some warm water over them, increase the heat until it reaches the point called blood heat. This will dissolve any dirt that may be upon them without rubbing. Lay a linen cloth, folded over several times, on table near the dish, and as the eggs become clean take them out and lay them on the cloth. The water will quickly drain off of them, the cloth will absorb the water, obviating the possibility of a stain on the underside of the egg shell. The egg, being hot, will dry off themselves and the shell will naturally assume the bright, fresh appearance observed in the fresh laid egg. Badly stained eggs that will not yield readily to this process of cleaning may be dipped into vinegar for a minute, they then will be easily cleaned.

MRS. C. E. BUCKNER.

Norfolk, Ont.

Commercial Importance of Poultry

The importance of poultry in the commercial world is shown by the following from the National Provisioner of New York:

"We now eat last year's fresh eggs and last year's fresh poultry just like we do last year's fresh meats. Cold storage is the wizard in the case. It keeps them on tap. The census enumerators found all the hens, ducks and geese setting the day he was around. The figures sent in showed that the barnyard fowls of America laid 107,000,000 dozen or 2,000,000,000 eggs a year for consumption. At an average of 15 cents per dozen they were worth \$250,000,000. To the above must be added the hatching eggs, or, better, the hatched birds that are sold as spring or other poultry. Last year this amounted to \$220,000,000 worth. Thus, the annual egg and poultry market crop amounts to \$570,000,000.

In comparison: Our much vaunted wheat crop the same year realized \$303,000,000; our cotton crop \$325,000,000. It beats our production of gold for the year three times over. The sum realized by the poultry industry would have paid all our public school bills for that year and have had a surplus of \$12,000,000 to spare. There are a lot of other crops which the hen could beat in sets of three each. This showing enhances the importance of the chicken and makes the poultry yard a strong competitor of the stock yards."

Farmer's Class

Turning to the dairy products in the prize list of the Canadian National Exhibition, it will be noticed that section one, class 231, in the butter-making competition, is confined to farmers' wives or daughters or female help, men being excluded. The prizes are \$40, \$30, \$20 and \$10. In the free for all section 3 of the same class, the farmer or his wife or daughter, are allowed to compete, the prizes in this class being \$25, \$20, \$15 and \$10. In the fruit classes, they have all been revised and divided into sections, one section being devoted to commercial and export, and the other to domestic and home market.

We want capable persons in every district to represent The Farming World at the fall fairs. You can visit your fall show and make a little pin money at the same time. Write for particulars to The Farming World, Toronto.

\$38,500 for Special Attraction

No less a sum than \$43,000 will be distributed this year at the Canadian National Exhibition in premiums, mainly for live stock, in addition to which \$38,500 will be expended on special attractions.

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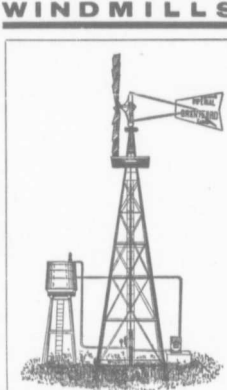
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