Bees and Poultry

Bees on the Farm

When we consider the small cost and the small amount of work necessary to care for a swarm of bees, it is surprising how few farmers have even one swarm. Every farmer should have some bees. With a little information and care any person of average intelligence can make beekeeping a source of pleasure and profit.

When you start beekeeping start on a small scale. Read all the available literature on the subject. Get pure bred bees as they are much easier to handle than the common bees. A swarm of Italian bees can be obtained for five dollars from any up-to-date beekeeper. One of these swarms will produce each season about fifty to seventy-five pounds of good, clear honey worth ten cents per pound. In addition to aproducing this honey they will throw off one strong swarm. They should not be allowed to swarm more than once, else the parent colony will be greatly weakened.—Agriculturist.

Mongrel or Pure bred Fowls

People going into the poultry industry, whether it be upon a large or small scale, as a rule have their ultimate financial success in view when embarking upon the sea of chickendom. They are very few in number who go into it "for their health," but the mighty dollar is what prompts men to take up this work. To insure this success much is given to sites, poultry-house plans and breeds, and we find that the greatest success has attended those who have been extremely careful about these

matters There is a common error that the majority of farmers make, into which practical poultry-keep-ers do not fall, and that is the keeping of mongrel fowls. It is astonishing what foolish notions so many people have in their minds concerning the merits of fowls of this description. A good many claim that mongrels are more hardy than pure breds, and, as a consequence, require less attention and care. What an ex-tremely foolish idea, to imagine that simply because a hen is a mongrel, the fact of its being so makes it more hardy. We will admit that at times we see purebred fowls that do not appear as healthy and hardy as some others that are a cross between a haystack and a sawhorse, but it is the consequence of improper or too close inbreeding, and not simply because they are pure-breds. Again, some claim that mongrels will lay a greater number of eggs with less feed than will purebreds. It may be that we do not just understand the term mongrel. but if we do, we have as yet failed to hear any satisfactory arguments to prove such statements, and we have never vet seen that

class of birds excel as egg-ma-

While there are no reasons why we should continue raising mongrels, there are many reasons why, we should discard our old whims and stock and spend our time upon something that may be improved, and in this short article we will attempt to make clear only a few of them.

QUALITY IN EGGS

Our first source of revenue from the flock is the supply of eggs. Some will say, "An egg is an egg Certainly it is, but we have found out that there are many different sized, shaped, and colored eggs, and also that these do not sell as well when all colors, shapes and sizes are mixed, as when they are kept separate. In some markets dark-shelled eggs will bring from two to five cents per dozen more than will white-shelled ones, while in other markets the direct reverse is the case. It stands in hand, then, to meet the demands of our markets, and use the breed that produces the color desired. When we want white-shelled eggs, suppose, for instance, we take the Minorcas or the Leghorns. These will give us the color desired, and the Minorcas will give us the larg-est egg in existence. Many breeds us dark eggs, but probably Cochins give us the darkest. So when our birds are of one pure breed we can get the color desired and the eggs will nearly all be of uniform size and shape, and, as we well know, such can be, and are, sold at a higher price than eggs of every size, shape and color in one grand mixture.

The verv same argument will apply to the sale of the carcass when the hen's work as an egg-producer is over and she is introduced to the hatchet. A pair of birds with nice white skin and yellow shanks will sell for a higher price any time than will a pair of the same size with one having the kind of skin and-shanks mentioned and the other with a bluish-black skin full of-plack pinteathers and having black shanks,

LARGE PROFITS FROM PURE BREDS

Then when we show we have a pure-bred stock it will not be very long before our neighbors and friends will know the fact also, and when they see that we are making larger profits out of our flock they will want some of the same stock. Then will be our chance to sell a few sittings of eggs for hatching purposes. There is always a demand for eggs for this purpose, and, as a rule, they are sold at a figure much in advance of regular market-prices, and many times they are sold at from \$3 to \$5 per dozen and quite often at \$10 per dozen. And who ever heard of a man buying mongrel eggs to hatch a few cockerels therefrom to improve his pure-bred

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