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Stock and Poultry.

As one of our correspondents has been writing up the good qualities of the Herford breed, we give this week a cut of a magnificent male of the breed.

FEEDING IMPROVES.

If feeding will go far toward creating a superior breed, feeding will improve an animal. Nothing is more certain than that as a rule. There are cows, of course, that are good for nothing as milkers; and nothing can be done for them but to send them to the butcher. But there are many valuable cows among our natives, and many indeed that are exceedingly fine cows. If such cows are well fed and well cared for, they may make good breeders and are themselves eminently satisfactory for dairy purposes. Suppose the owner of a herd of common cows sees what he can do by giving his cows just as good care as the Holstein and Jersey gets. He must not expect to equal them, but he will probably be surprised, if such treatment is now in his management, with the result. Suppose he provides such shelter as these breeds generally get, and which is necessary for maintaining a full flow of milk. There is nothing that will lessen the flow of milk quicker than the chilling of the cow. If she becomes chilled, as a dairyman recently expressed it to us, "you have locked the milk glands and you can never pick the lock." The cow, in other words, will give less milk at the next milking, and she will never recover until she has another calf. Once lower the flow and it is permanently lowered. But thousands of our native cattle are not guarded at all against this danger, and it is no wonder that they are unsatisfactory. In the experiment which we recommend, therefore, provide good comfortable quarters for the cow, where she will be safe from the blasts and storms of winter. Then feed her generously with good hay, oats and millet. Linseed meal in small quantities, if it is handy, will prove useful.

The Secretary of the Maine Board of Agriculture, Z. A. Gilbert, (an excellent authority) says in his last report that "it has been found that a cow in milk weighing one thousand pounds live weight, requires" (per day I presume) "of digestible material, 2.5 lbs. albuminoids, 19.5 carbohydrates, and 0.4 lbs. fat; and that nutritious material should be obtained from about 24lbs. of fodder. If the cow is heavier than a thousand pounds a proportionate addition should be made to the atic, and if lighter a reduction.

FOOD FOR LAYING HENS.

Many and varied are the articles opening from time to time in the poultry departments of our agricultural papers on this subject; but very few, if any of them, are entirely to the point. For instance, many people (and writers too) suppose there is some particular grain standing at the head of the list, and it alone is qualified to produce eggs in miraculous quantities. Hence we see long articles recommending corn for fowls next issue, another recommends wheat for fowls, and so on *ad infinitum* while the fact remains that fowls will not and can not reach the highest state of productiveness on any one kind of grain and again young birds, say last year's pullets of any large birds not fully grown, require food of a different character from that fed to fully matured fowls from the fact that they are producing eggs and growing as well. Now our system (and it has

SETTING HENS.

As the spring advances the hen will lay and then want to sit. She could be accommodated by giving her a nest on the ground, with a damp sod on the bottom, lined with clean, dry straw cut in pieces. The advantage of the damp sod is that it prevents the feverish heat which a thoroughly dry nest induces and which weakens the chickens so much as frequently to render them unable to leave the shell; and we know that when a hen sits herself it is always under a wall or about the roots of trees, where the damp grass is the foundation of her nest. How strong and healthy such broods are we all know; so, if we would have Nature's success, we must imitate her procedure as far as we can. When sod could not be had, we have found sandy earth to do as well. Breaking the straw in pieces prevents the chipping of the eggs during incubation,

with a damp cloth; if the egg is left on the shell, when dry it forms such a thick coating that the chick cannot penetrate it, and so perishes in its dismal prison.

Wherever the hen is set she must have food once a day and a copious supply of fresh water. She must not be off her nest more than half an hour; generally she returns to it spontaneously, but should this not be the case, she must be gently driven on. Soft food, such as has been described above, has been recommended, and we have no doubt it is excellent, providing dry grain be given in addition. Oats we have always found to be the greatest favorite with our hens.—Ben Parley Poore in *Am. Cultivator*.

VALUE OF HEN MANURE.

The editor a Germantown (Pa) paper lately saw on the premises of a first-class farm, some time ago, a well constructed hen-house, though not at all complying with the conditions which hen-fanciers would impose. It was well designed only for laying and roosting in, and at first seemed strange to find, at mid day, with a cool atmosphere, turkeys and chickens occupying it. They had free egress and ingress and were not fed or watered in it, yet the chickens always went there to lay. The secret was revealed, however, when the proprietor informed us that he had it cleaned out every week. All the droppings of the fowls were scraped from the floor, which was an inclined plane, into a trough or receiver, from which they were shoveled and heaped up, and the place white washed frequently. This required but little over half an hour, and the manure for last season was estimated at \$120, and quite sufficient in quantity as an application to his entire crop of corn.

Farmers don't pay as much attention to their hen-houses and the manurial product as the real importance demands. Here was a most valuable amount of fertilizing material, obtained with little labor upon the premises, ready for use when needed, which would have cost a heavy sum to provide; besides, from the excellent arrangement of the house, which was by no means expensive, an increase of eggs was obtained which more than covered all the additional expense in labor.

Pigs need a run at grass. An orchard is a fine place for swine; it affords good grazing for the pigs, while the trees are benefitted by the destruction of insect pests. Young pigs may be fed at an early age with profit. Much depends upon the early start that the animal gets.

Good cows, like good men, are seldom valued at what they are worth; inferior ones are often over-estimated.



proved satisfactory) is to feed three times a day adult fowls, and not feed the same kind of grain twice. In the morning we give the Orthodox hot breakfast of corn meal, chapped barley, or wheat shorts, the other two meals being whole grain substituting about three times a week, a meat diet for the noon meal. We use all kinds of grain, buckwheat, corn, barley, oats, wheat, millet, &c., &c., for old fowls. We feed principally such food as oats, barley or millet, but occasionally a feed of corn or wheat. The reason of this is old fowls are more apt to fatten than growing birds, but to make hens lay well they should have a meal of vegetables three times a week, and broken bones or oyster shells which they will eat with avidity; also lime in almost any form old mortar. For instance, give the birds a box of dust or sand and a warm house, keep it scrupulously clean, pour a little coal oil on the perches once a week to keep them clear of vermin, and your fowls will surprise you.

J. W. BARTLETT.

and is also much safer for the chickens than the long straw, which is apt to entangle the feet, wings and neck, and not infrequently cause their death. Sitting boxes of wood have been said to be uniformly too warm, dry and close to produce healthy chickens, and wickerwork baskets with wooden divisions have been recommended. We have no doubt such baskets are excellent when they can be had, but for our own part, we have tried every way and find nothing better than a nest literally on the ground, and put into shape by means of a few large stones, pieces of wood, or any thing that comes to hand. With a knowledge of the principles on which to work, a very little ingenuity will make simple materials go a great way. As we said before, the hen must be put into a quiet place, she does not like noise while hatching, and if disturbed is apt to leave her eggs or to break them by sudden movements which terror causes. When any of the eggs are broken the shells should be removed and the others carefully wip