

Cost Versus Beauty.

The proud owner says, "This is a high-grade Canadian, and this is a pure-bred Holstein." The admiring visitor to the cow stable remarks, "What beautiful cows!" The thoughtful student asks, "What yield of milk and fat do they give?" The practical man inquires, "What does their milk cost?" And the hard business sense of the dairyman leads him to determine cost of production of milk and fat through the medium of cow-testing associations. The high-grade may give but a poor weight of milk, the pure-bred may test low, while the common grade may possibly be producing milk at the lowest cost. No one knows definitely just what the cost is until some record is kept. Milk may cost 92 cents per 100 pounds; fat, 25 cents per pound. These cost prices may be up to \$2.00 per 100 pounds milk, and 50 cents per pound of fat with some poor cows, or they may be reduced by good economical feeders to 35 cents per 100 pounds, and 10 cents per pound.

This all goes to prove that the careful dairyman, and particularly the average and possibly careless farmer, should take immediate steps to find out what profit each cow brings in. Enormous improvement and largely-increased profits have been made by the men who are sufficiently alive to their own interests to weigh and sample each cow's milk regularly, and keep a record of feed consumed. Blank forms for milk and feed records are supplied free on application to the Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa. A good record for this month, from a herd of 18 cows, is an average of 1,020 pounds milk, 3.9 test, 39 pounds fat. One grade in the herd gave 1,530 pounds milk testing 4.0 per cent. fat. C. F. W.

POULTRY

Selling Poultry for Profit.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The one fact that always distressed me about the Poultry Pointers in most agricultural papers was their want of timeliness. Valuable advice on incubation comes when the hatching season is over; "What to Feed Young Chicks" when the few that are left, from improper food and treatment, are ready for the market; and so on through all the different phases. Just here I want to congratulate "The Farmer's Advocate" on being an exception to this common evil. The seasonableness of its articles and material is a just cause for its popularity with country residents. The help that it is meant for comes at the time of need—not after the need has passed.

Of course, everyone is aware that the most profitable way to dispose of pure-bred poultry is to sell for breeding purposes; that is, if the breeder conscientiously abstains from shipping any imperfect or inferior birds, for, wherever such birds go, it will be the end of his trade in that community, and perhaps in many others, through that one sale. Remember that the paying part of your success as a breeder depends on the reputation that your product and your dealings build up for you year after year. So never hesitate on this point. Every bird that your experienced eye cannot rest on favorably for breeding purposes, send to the block.

As for chickens destined for table consumption, the sooner you get them in marketable condition, the better it will pay you. All the early hatches not already disposed of should now be ready to fatten for broilers. Crate-fattening seems now to be recognized as the best method of the present day. I do not practice it myself, however, for I find that if I feed the chickens all that they will eat three or four times a day, they roam very little, and fatten quickly.

When the chickens are ready to kill, if you live too far from the city to reach the open market, the best way is to prepare a sample pair, and make a trip to the dealers to take orders. In this, as in all things, the superiority of the article for sale will determine the price. A great deal depends on the killing and dressing. Be sure always to starve your birds for 36 to 48 hours before killing, and never cut or twist their necks; instead, take the bird, with its feet held tightly in your left hand, and its head in your right, letting the under part rest in your palm, the beak passing out between your thumb and forefinger. Quickly stretch the neck taut, then give a sudden, sharp jerk upwards to the head in your right hand, and you will dislocate the neck at the base of the head. Hang the bird by the feet, and begin to pluck immediately, using both hands. In this way, the blood will all flow to the disconnected portion of the neck, and the feathers will come out ten times as easy while the bird is fresh. As soon as the bird is clean, and while it is yet warm, lay it on its back on a hard surface, take a leg in each hand, and press firmly and slowly downwards close to the body, folding the leg at the knee. This will cause the bird to plump up, and greatly increase its apparent size.

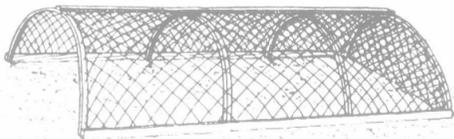
Tie each leg separately in that position with strong twine, taking care to roll the twine over the bent knee many times, and to tie the knot very firmly. The next step is to take the head, bring it under the left wing, just through so that the beak will rest on the wing joint, and again tie the bird, this time passing the twine over the wings and breast, and tying as carefully as before. Perfectly clean chickens prepared in this way command a higher price than the ordinary, for they are better, look better, and can be packed in crates and shipped any distance.

In closing, I will remind the inexperienced poultry-keepers that this is the best time of the year for them to dispose of any surplus stock they may have in the shape of old hens or males which are not needed as breeders. Anything in the shape of poultry, well cleaned and dressed, will now sell readily for a good price, until the fall chickens become plentiful on the market. (MRS.) W. E. HOPKINS.

Carleton Co., Ont.

Safe Portable Runs for Chickens.

If a rat gets a taste of chicken, he is apt to return for another and another, until the fine brood almost vanishes, and, while he usually works at night, in retired places he will pick off a stray one in the daytime. Other enemies—hawks, cats, crows, etc.—are also at times lovers of chicken, and a run for the little chicks, where they can be safe day or night, is useful. Any style of coop will do that prevents these pests



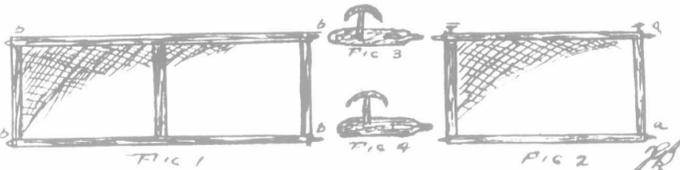
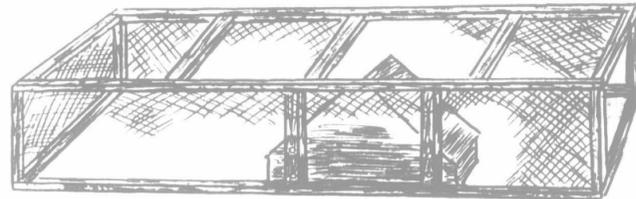
Portable Run for Chicks.

from gaining entrance. Stakes may be driven into the ground to form a run for the chicks, and poultry netting used as sides and covering. Or, if a more substantial and convenient form of coop is desired, the one shown here will be found satisfactory.

BILL OF STOCK FOR ONE COOP.

Four pieces 3/4 x 4 inches, 12 feet long; 4 pieces 3/4 x 4 inches, 5 feet long; 11 pieces, 3/4 x 4 inches, 2 feet long; 5 pieces 2-inch furring, 5 1/2 feet long; 8 hook clasps; 8 good-sized staples; 2 pieces chicken netting (1-inch mesh) 18 inches wide, 12 feet long; 2 pieces chicken netting (1-inch mesh) 18 inches wide, 5 feet long; 1 piece wire netting (2-inch mesh) 5 feet wide, 12 feet long.

Take four of the 12-foot pieces and six of the 2-foot pieces, and make two frames 2 x 12 feet, like Fig. 1. Then make two frames 2 x 5 feet, like Fig. 2. Now take the hook clasps, like Fig. 3, and drill and countersink an extra screw hole, as in Fig. 4. The house for the chickens to stay



Vermin-proof Chick Run.

in nights is shown, rear view, in the upper figure in the cut. It is made of 3/4 or 1/2 inch stuff. Make the floor 2 feet square. Then take three pieces, 7 or 8 inches wide, for the walls. Nail the bottom to these. Then put roof on, being sure not to get it more than 2 feet from floor of coop to peak of roof. On the back side, a few inches from one end, put a 2-foot piece perpendicularly. This is to attach the house to the side of the coop, so that it can be lifted with it.

Now take the hook clasps and put them on corners of Figure 2, letting them project far enough to make the staples that are to be driven into the corners of Fig. 1. After hooking the end and side pieces together, put a board on the

front of the house that will just fill the opening, hanging it with hinges from the top, so that when raised it will make a shade. Fasten a stick 2 1/2 to 3 feet long to the lower edge of the door, to project through the netting of the top of the coop. This is to open and close the door. Put the five pieces of furring across the top of the coop, one at each end, one at the center, and one at the center of each space, and nail lightly. Spread the 2-inch netting over, and fasten with staples to the furring. After the season, when you want to put the coop away, take off top netting with the sticks, and roll up. Unhook the corners, take off house, and lay one of the long sides on the ground, cleats up; put ends on between the cleats, put other side on, cleats down; drive a few nails where they will hold all the parts together, and the whole thing can be put away in small space.

Another style of run that may suit some is also shown, and is made as follows:

Take four old carriage rims and fasten them together 4 feet apart, by three 1 x 2-inch strips, 12 feet long. Two strips are nailed at each end of the rims near the ground, and the other at the top. Place your wire over the rims, and cut it the right length, so as to have just enough to tack on the strips. Use 1-inch mesh-wire netting 6 feet wide and 14 feet long—the extra two feet to close up one end. Place a coop of hen and chicks at the front or open end.

GARDEN & ORCHARD

Probably Boll-worm.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am sending you a sample of corn that is being shipped in large quantities from Florida. I have handled eight cases, eight dozen in a case, and found not one cob but what was eaten and spoiled by what I expect is the "travelling cutworm." I think the Government should at once stop the importation of this pest to our country, by having inspectors at each port to destroy the corn or send it back to where it comes from before it has time to affect our crops. Three years ago the same thing happened, and a good many of the crops around Toronto were eaten or spoiled by the pest. The Vegetable-growers have asked the Government to do something in inspection of these early-imported vegetables, as to disease and duty. We gladly welcome good fresh vegetables from the other side, but trash and pest-eaten stuff must be kept out, or our crops will be like those in the South. The vegetable-growers and farmers had better keep a sharp lookout for the quick-moving cutworm, and have bran and Paris green ready. J. W. RUSH.

York Co., Ont.

[Note.—The ear of corn received from Mr. Rush shows the seriously injurious effects caused by some insect. The eaten and disfigured grains represent only part of the injury that may come to the ear, as the path of the insect opens the way to a luxurious growth of molds, and invites invasion by other insects. No insect was found on the ear sent, but the work is similar to what is done in corn-ears by the Cotton Boll-worm (*Heliothis armigera*), an omnivorous feeder, favoring green corn particularly. One observer has said that there appears to be only one thing that they like better, and that is boll-worm flesh; they are generally accused of cannibalism. The Cotton Boll-worm moth is occasionally captured by collectors in Ontario. Now and again I have heard of its larva attracting attention in the corn fields, but the only time and place that I ever saw it injurious enough to be worth speaking of was in 1898, in a corn field belonging to Mr. Shaw, near Dorchester Station, Middlesex Co., Ont. At husking time, it was not rare to find two or three larvæ in an ear, although, commonly, there was but a single worm.

The full-grown larva is about an inch and a quarter to an inch and a half in length, and rather less than a quarter of an inch in diameter. Its color varies from pale ochreous to rose-brown, and it is prettily marked with several parallel brown and white stripes. In form, it is not unlike the larva of the larger cutworms or army-worm.

In the cotton-growing region it is said to be three or four brooded in the season, hence there it becomes a serious menace to corn and cotton crops. In Ontario, although it may appear now and again in undesirable numbers in the corn