

EFFICIENT FARMING

WINTER EGGS.

What are the factors of poultry management which have made possible the production of fall and winter eggs? They can all be grouped under two main heads: 1. Breeding. 2. Feeding.

These are two very big factors, and they cannot be separated. Either one alone will not suffice. The best-bred pullet improperly fed will loaf all winter, and of course the best kind of feed will not make the poor-bred bird lay. The saying goes, "You can't get blood out of a turnip."

Breeding poultry for winter eggs is principally a matter of breeding them for early maturity, or breeding birds which will mature and lay in six months instead of ten or twelve months, as is natural; also breeding birds which have the power of functioning their reproductive organs for a long period instead of for just a short time in the spring or breeding season.

This factor of breeding has long been established in most of our present-day strains of poultry, especially in the light breeds (Leghorns, Anconas, etc.), and our general-purpose breeds (Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, etc.). Of course, these are still being improved each year by breeding, but the main has been established so that for the general run of poultry keepers it comes down to a point of feeding.

The following rations and method of feeding will be found very efficient for fall and winter eggs. About a month before it is expected they should start laying, or just about the time they throw their growing molt, their ration should be changed. They should be taken from a ration of a high fibre and protein content which they have been growing and developing on, and given a more fattening feed as follows:

Parts by Weight.

Bran	100 lbs.
Wheat middlings	200 lbs.
Cornmeal	200 lbs.
Oilmeal	50 lbs.
Ground oats (heavy)	100 lbs.
Meat scrap (high grade)	100 lbs.

This should be fed dry, in self-feeders or hoppers, and left before them at all times.

Scratch Feed—Parts by Weight.
Corn300 lbs.
Wheat100 lbs.
Oats, barley, buckwheat, or kafir corn100 lbs.

This may be varied in ingredients, provided corn makes up from 50 to 60 per cent. of the weight.

The amount of this scratch feed should be increased until they are getting from 10 to 12 pounds per day per 100 birds. If they leave the oats or barley, cut down on these grains in the mixture.

Following this system of feeding will prevent the birds coming in to laying when they are too thin and have no reserve, and will round them up in good shape with a reserve for winter work. About a month of this feeding should condition them, and then they should be put on a laying ration, as follows:

Mash Feed.

Wheat bran	100 lbs.
Wheat middlings	100 lbs.
Ground oats (heavy)	100 lbs.
Cornmeal	100 lbs.
Meat scrap (high grade)	100 lbs.

Feed dry, in self-feeders or hoppers left before the birds at all times, and easily accessible.

Scratch Feed.

Corn	100 lbs.
Wheat	100 lbs.
Oats, barley, buckwheat, or kafir corn	100 lbs.

Scratch feed should be cut down to 8 to 10 pounds per 100 birds per day; one-fourth of this amount fed in the morning, one-fourth at noon, and one-half at night, or one-third in the morning and two-thirds at night.

Feeding scratch in this way will tend to drive the birds to the mash, when this ration is fed, are just about ready to lay, and it will push them across in good, uniform shape, and unless something wrong happens in quality of feed, during the fall and winter they should go through with a pretty steady flow of eggs.

The Hog as a Harvest Hand.

In the busy fall days, with a multitude of things requiring attention, the farmer often has a willing laborer confined in enforced idleness. A laborer so willing that if he can be put at the work he is adapted to doing, he will pay for the privilege of doing it. I refer to the hog. As a sower of seed or cultivator of crops he is a failure, even as a plow he is not a success. I have seen him engaged as a hunter, roving over sun-burned sod pastures and barren woodlots seeking for a chance morsel here or there. He gets little aside from exercise and age, neither have a market value.

The hog must be employed as a harvest hand. He specializes along that line and is an adept at it. But to be truly profitable, he must be provided with a succession of profitable employment.

The first work that may be provided is to harvest a crop of artichokes and parsnips, that were grown the previous year. The large artichoke is usually planted and treated exactly as potatoes except that the artichoke grows so vigorously that the weed problem is a very simple one. In a short time the tops completely shade the ground. We find often a half-peck of tubers at the base of each clump.

Some who do not know, confuse the cultivated artichoke with the noxious weed known as the wild artichoke, and fear it may become a weed, but we have to maintain a well-fenced plot in order to provide seed, as each year the hogs eat up clean all they have access to.

Another plant that is fit for early spring, not only for man but for swine, is the parsnip. Its cultivation is understood by all gardeners.

When these spring roots have been harvested, there should be a field of clover or rape ready to keep the hog profitably employed. A mixture of alfalfa, June, Mammoth and sweet clover or a little alfalfa mixed in does not come amiss. The clover should keep them busy until July, as during May and June clover is at its prime. Now if there is a plot of oats and peas adjoining the clover during July, harvesting will begin in earnest and every day's work will show a big profit.

Of course, after the middle of September the corn must claim the attention of the farm force and the swine must not be left out of the corn harvest. They are adepts at it. Plant a piece especially for them with soybeans in it. Hogging down crops is no slovenly method, it is the height of efficiency, as repeated experiments have shown that it pays. It gets the young stock into vigorous growth early in the fall and finishes off the older hogs in time for the early market. Hogging down corn is a combination of the excellent self-feeder, together with a self-harvester.

In closing, I will speak of root crops for hogs. They enjoy and thrive on them. Carrots, artichokes, parsnips, mangels and beets are excellent for the purpose. The ordinary objection to the raising of roots for stock feed in Canada has been the cost of labor necessary for their production. Much of this labor cost is the harvesting of the crops. The cost of raising them is not great. We cannot profitably maintain the pig in idleness and allow him to burn his energy in fruitless wandering over barren pastures, nor can we afford to simply maintain him on costly grain, nor gather and serve his food when he can, with great success, harvest his own crops.

Let us try out the hog on a portion of our corn crop this year and then prepare to keep him busy when we make out our crop plan for the coming year. Rape is good, a mixture of sweet clover, alfalfa clover, June clover or alfalfa is better. Peas and clover will be excellent for August. While corn and root crops will be available from September until the ground freezes.

The Dairy

The season for cold nights will be here all too soon, in this northern climate. While it is true that keeping the cows inside means more labor in cleaning the stable, and more difficulty in keeping the cows clean, the extra fertilizing material collected in this way will probably pay for the extra labor. If this does not, the extra supply of milk received by keeping cows in a comfortable stable at times when the temperature drops below freezing point, or close above it, may do so.

Experience shows that cold has a very marked effect in lessening the milking for some time, when the natural tendency is for a cow to dry up, and during which time every means should be taken to keep her milking. Cows should milk at least ten months of the year. Leaving cows outside during cold nights, after they have been milking for six or eight months makes a greater tendency for those cows to go dry.

Where cows are kept inside, the stable should be cleaned regularly and some absorbent material like sawdust, shavings, chaff or cut-straw, should be scattered along the passages, on the platform, and in the gutter. This helps very much in cleaning the stable, and in keeping cows clean.

Another advantage of stabling on frosty nights, is that it prevents cows eating frozen feed, which is generally injurious to milk cows. They may be kept in the stable or yard after the pasture thaws, and in this way, animals are protected against digestive troubles and conditions are more favorable for maintaining the health and milk-flow of the animals.

When dahlias and cannas are frost-bitten, cut off the tops, leaving about six inches of the stems. Remove the roots in a clump with dirt attached. Spread roots out in the sun to dry, then store in a dry, well-ventilated cellar, on the floor or on shelves. Keep the varieties labeled.

Hens With Records.

The wisdom that established a Record of Performance for dairy cattle has found an echo in the establishment of something similar for poultry under official supervision. The Record of Performance for poultry relates to the development of egg-laying strains which will bring greater profit to the poultry-keeper. The first report recently issued, gives details of performance of trapezoid birds for the period extending from September 1, 1919, to November 29, 1920.

The regulations governing the tests were framed by the National Poultry Association and authorized by the Dominion Minister of Agriculture. The record period extends over 52 consecutive weeks and calls for the laying of at least 150 eggs. Any Canadian breeder may enter. Certificates are issued for birds filling the primary requirements, and "advanced" certificates for birds laying within the prescribed period at least 225 eggs. In the first year of operation entries were received from sixty-seven breeders for a total of 4,436 birds, of which 761 qualified, including 80 for advanced certificates. British Columbia stands at the head with 1,625 entries and 381 qualifications, and Ontario second with 1,086 entries and 218 qualifications. Quebec had 869 entries and 7 qualifications; Manitoba 203 entries and 55 qualifications; Prince Edward Island, 246 entries and 46 qualifications; Saskatchewan, 120 entries and 41 qualifications, and New Brunswick 180 entries and 11 qualifications out of 24 entries. Single Comb White Leghorns made the best showing in British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario. White Wyandottes also showed up well in Ontario. Applications for entry for 1921-22 have to be with the Poultry Division of the Live Stock Branch, Ottawa, by November 30.

Our Sanitary Chemical Closet.

Last winter we decided it was time we adopted one more of the conveniences (we now consider it a necessity) of our modern times and accordingly purchased a chemical closet.

We face the coming winter with a far greater feeling of preparedness and satisfaction than we ever did before.

We searched for a long time before we found just the closet that appealed to us. There are many on the market now, some quite inexpensive, others more costly. We finally decided on one. It is substantially built, is finished in white with a dark mahogany seat and it certainly lends to the attractiveness of the bathroom.

We find that the chemical closet is perfectly sanitary. The exposure entailed by an outdoor closet during winter is no small factor considered from a hygienic point of view.

The very best of closets cost but a comparatively small sum, and no farm home should be without one, if running water is out of the question. If there is no place in the home for one, do as we did—procure some wall-board, do a little sawing and nailing, and a small room can soon be made. We find that the cost for chemicals is trifling.

The pine tree is believed to attain an age of 500 to 700 years.

Storing Bulbs and Roots.

Before freezing weather we take up our tuberous begonias, of which we are very fond, and place the plants, with about one-half of the tops left on, in a shed where they are safe from frost but still get plenty of sun and air. As soon as the tops dry they are removed, and the bulbs packed away in shoe boxes filled with clean, dry sawdust, until we are ready to start them the next spring. Tuberous begonias are very tender, and we very carefully get them up before the first hard frost.

Cannas and dahlias are taken up just after the tops have been blackened by the first frost. The tops are cut off several inches above the ground and the roots carefully dug so as not to bruise them. Each clump is labeled so that we will know what they are in the spring. After drying a few days in the sun, they are placed in slatted crates so that the air has free access to them, and then stored in the vegetable cellar. We have found that dahlias will not stand quite as low a temperature as potatoes, but they keep all right where the temperature does not go below 34 degrees.

Gladioli are very much harder. We often have not taken these up until after the first furies of snow. In digging them we are careful to secure all the little bulbets, or cornels, which have formed around the old bulbs. To save these, the old bulb, with the cluster of little bulbets, is lifted, and put in a screen with a fine mesh bottom, made for the purpose, which will let the dirt sift through while retaining the little bulbets. Each variety is labeled and put separately into strawberry boxes until thoroughly dry, and after that in paper bags until the next spring.

Dairy Products Values.

The production of creamy butter in Canada increased three-fold in the first twenty years of the century and more than doubled in price. Figures given in the Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, issued at Ottawa, show that in Canada in the year 1900 the creamery butter produced was 36,066,739 lbs., valued at \$7,240,972, or a little over 20 cents per pound, while the quantity produced in 1920 was 110,030,390 lbs., valued at \$62,306,794, or 56½ cents per pound. The total production in 1919 was 108,890,707 lbs., valued at \$56,371,985, or rather more than 54½ cents per pound. The cheese made in factories in 1900 amounted to 220,833,269 lbs., valued at \$22,221,430, or a trifle more than 10 cents per pound. In 1920 the amount made was 145,921,008, valued at \$39,087,987, or more than 26½ cents per pound. In 1919 the quantity made was 167,734,982 lbs., valued at \$44,805,794, or at about the same price per pound as last year. The total value of all dairy products in Canada in 1920 was \$144,483,188, as compared with \$135,196,602 in 1919, being an increase in favor of last year of \$9,286,586. The capital invested in dairy factories in 1920 amounted to \$32,767,317, the number of employees to 11,211, and the wages to \$8,776,676. In 1919 the capital invested was \$28,388,026, the employees 10,716, and the wages \$7,629,997.

As long as we live in the hearts we leave behind, we will never die.—Campbell.

An Ice House You Can Build

Each year we appreciate more and more the value of ice on our farm. Sometimes I wonder that more general attention is not given to the ice crop. For ice is a crop after all, and a very valuable one too.

There is no one who can use ice to such good advantage as the farmer. All perishable products must be kept for a longer time than in the city, where there are stores to depend upon. And the cellar is not always as clean and sweet a place to keep meat, butter, and fruits as it should be. Consider the possibilities that lie before the farmer who has a small cold-storage plant to enable him to hold his milk, fruit, and vegetables until market prices improve, and we realize better just how valuable ice can become.

I believe many of us can profitably use ice to a far greater extent than we do, and when we put so much labor into harvesting it a little more trouble expended in keeping it is well worth while. A suitable ice house will save half the ice you are accustomed to putting in a shed that has poor insulation.

There are two or three weak points in general ice-house construction. The first is a poor foundation, preventing good drainage. The second is the kind of a roof which absorbs the sun's heat so that the inside of the house becomes like an oven. While there is usually little choice allowed in the selection of a site, there are certain precautions which should be taken.

If a site chosen be on a slight elevation, drainage will give no trouble; otherwise provisions for the drainage of water from the melting ice must be made. In building the floor, which can be placed on stone or cement walls, or on cedar posts set in the ground two or three feet, excavate at least one foot below the sills, and fill the whole of the inside between sills with cinders or very coarse gravel, snatching off the surface with the shovel or cinders.

An ice house of this kind will be as good an investment as you have on the farm, provided you have a pond or river close from which to fill it.

The Sunday School Lesson

SEPTEMBER 13

Abstinence for the Sake of Others. 1 Cor. 10: 23-33; 3: 16, 17. Golden Text—1 Cor. 10: 31.

Connecting Links—Paul went on from Athens to Corinth. Some years later, writing from Ephesus to the Christian community in Corinth, he recalls his first coming to that city. "I was with you," he said, "in weakness and in fear, and in much trembling." He had travelled far in strategic hands; he had been driven by persecution from place to place; he had parted company with his travelling companions and had gone on alone. It may be that he was discouraged by the small success of his preaching in Athens. At any rate he determined to attempt no more philosophical discussions, for he says, in the letter above quoted, "I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." But, after a while Timothy comes from Thessalonica, bringing good news from the church there, and Paul was comforted and encouraged.

The city of Corinth presented grave and difficult problems. It was a busy commercial city, a sea-port on the Greek Isthmus, having six or seven hundred thousand of a population. It gathered into itself much of the best and of the worst of the ancient world. Unfortunately that worst was very bad indeed, and Corinth became notorious for its vices. "To accuse a man of behaving like a Corinthian was to accuse him of leading a low, shameless, and immoral life." It is probable that, outside the Jewish colony, there was very little religion. And yet it is his finest and most effective appeals for unity, charity and temperance. 10: 23-33. "All things are lawful." No doubt Paul means all things clean, wholesome, and useful. But of such things, things which in themselves are not wrong or harmful, and which he might freely do, there are some which he will not do. They "are not expedient." It is better for his own sake and for the sake of others that he should not. The doing of something which might be to him quite innocent and harmless, or which would give him real pleasure, would cause harm to others, or would not be the best employment of his own time. "All things edify not." The man who regards life seriously, who has high ideals and ambitions in life, will seek not merely to avoid what is unlawful or harmful, but to know and do what is positively good, what will edify, or build in character and efficiency, and in the ability to render service to others. Paul recognizes not only the law of commandments and prohibitions, but also the higher spiritual law of choice and self-control. Above all he would place the law of love, the earnest desire and purpose to help others. "Let no man seek his own, but each his neighbor's good." (Rev. ver.)

"The earth is the Lord's." (see Psalm 24). Paul applies what he has said above to a case of conscience which had arisen in the Corinthian Church. The question was whether or not a Christian man might eat without offence meat which had been slaughtered in sacrifice to the idol temples, or drink wine which had been offered there. Such meat and wine were offered at public banquets. A man might presumably, buy or use them without knowing their history. Paul comes to the first free use of them. "Eat, asking no question." For the earth and all its produce is God's, and nothing is in itself unclean.

But if a question is raised, and your neighbor be offended or hurt, by what you have done, Paul counsels abstinence. "To abstain from some things for the sake of others is a Christian obligation. It would seem as if there had been some in the Corinthian Church at Corinth, who had insisted upon their rights. Of such, Paul must have been thinking when he wrote: "Love seeketh not her own." Now if Paul had written: "Love seeketh not that which belongs to others," we would easily have understood his position; but he goes further and insists that love is willing to give up, to deny itself, to abstain for the sake of others. Depend upon it, the man who is continually saying, "I'll have my rights" is not possessed by the spirit of Jesus Christ.

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