

Our Poultry Corner

If you have some things you do not understand in connection with your poultry and want some information, state your case briefly and to the point, writing on one side of paper only, and address it to THE MONITOR PUBLISHING COMPANY LIMITED, we will submit it to Prof. Landry, and when his answers are received we will publish them withholding your name if you so desire it.

HENS LIKE VARIETY

In commercial egg production, feeding is a prime factor—not the mere fact of feeding, but the kind, quality, amount, method, and regularity. It is not so much the kind of feed used as the elements included. Eggs are composed of water, protein, fat, and certain minerals in small portions. Water is the principal ingredient, protein next and fat third.

In the feed, protein and fat must be provided in the right proportions. To supply these, and at the same time make the ration economical and give change enough to keep the hen's appetite robust, is the problem of the poultryman.

Corn, wheat, oats, and kafir are the four grains most commonly used. I would not feed any of them exclusively, and using all of them will be better than otherwise but the relative price must be taken into consideration in deciding this. Wheat is too high now to feed profitably.

Oats the Most Valuable Grain.

When estimating the cost of feed, it must be considered that oats have only 20 pounds of actual grain to the bushel. Forty cents per bushel would be practically 2 cents per pound, and I would rather buy oats at 2 cents than any other grain. To my mind there is no better feed for chickens than oats, any if they are fed plentifully there will be less complaint of lack of fertility in the eggs.

No other grain will take the place of corn in my estimation, but if compelled to use but one grain I would use kafir, for it will come the nearest taking the place of the corn, and will supply the elements we get from the other grains in good proportions also.

I would not feed corn alone, either, for it is fat producing, and lacks in protein, leaving too much of the latter to be supplied from other sources. No grain ration will supply enough protein without an over supply of other elements.

Meat meal is the principal source of protein supply in the modern balanced ration. Alfalfa meal is also rich in protein. An economical ration provides 7 to 10 per cent of meat meal in the whole amount of feed consumed, including grain and mash.

Alfalfa meal in the mash will permit of some reduction in the meat meal. This mash should have a large percentage of bran, for bran is a good regulator for the hen's digestive system.

Nothing Better Than Skim Milk

Milk can almost or entirely take the place of meat meal if the hens can have all of it they will drink. There is nothing like milk to start active egg production and keep it up.

Provide a good supply of the beets and other roots for the hens during the winter when they can get no green forage. A few nails driven into the wall and a split mangel pressed back on each one with the face out will be all that is needed, and the hens will help themselves.

Beets are easy to keep and can be had from fall until spring. They should be buried or put in a cool cellar and covered to exclude the light and air some, or they will wither considerably.

Carrots and small potatoes are both good. Buy a load of mangels this fall for your hens if you have not raised them, and see if they do not repay you for them.

Green Food is Very Important

I would never go into the winter without a field of wheat or rye down where I could turn the flock on it conveniently in the fair weather during the winter, especially if I did not have a good blue grass pasture for them. Blue grass remains green so much of the winter it answers very well where one has it, but it is not so good as rye or wheat.

Where no other green is available during severe winter weather sprouted oats can be provided without much trouble. They are an especially healthful food when prepared in this way, and well worth the trouble, even if you have other greens too.

Red pepper and mustard are both relishes that help to keep up the appetite, but they must not be fed too heavily. Just a small amount in the mash or in a boiled feed once in a while. Celery tops, cabbage leaves, and anything of this kind will be welcomed by them—L. H. Cobb.

HENS EATING EGGS

We have had numerous enquiries from our subscribers as to why their hens should eat their eggs. Usually this abnormality is to be attributed to the

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THE CURIOUS WILL OF AN INSANE MAN

The curious will of an insane man made when he was poor and near death has come to our notice, says "Commerce and Finance," New York. The old man had no property but he realized the true values of life and he sought to pass on to posterity in his will. The document was composed by Williston Fish now a lawyer in Chicago, and is beautiful for its thought. For childhood for lovers and for old age he left every joy. The optimism and wholesome spirit of the document warrant its being reprinted here, although its economic significance is rather remote. It reads:

I, Charles Lunsbury being of sound mind and disposing memory do hereby make and publish this, my last will and testament, in order to justly as may be to distribute my interest in the world among succeeding men.

That part of my interest which is known in law and recognized in the sheep-bound volumes as my property being inconsiderable and of no account I make no disposal of in this my will.

My right to live being but a life estate is not at all my disposal, but these things excepted all else in the world I now devise and bequeath—

Items: I give to good fathers and mothers, in trust for their children, all good little words of praise and encouragement, and all quaint pet names and endearments, and I charge said parents to use them justly and generously in the needs of their children, may require.

Items: I leave to children inclusively, but only for the term of their childhood, all and every, the flowers of the fields, and the blossoms of the woods, with the right to play among them freely according to the customs of children, warning them at the same time against thistles and thorns. And I devise to children the banks of the brooks, and the golden sands beneath the waters thereof, and the odors of the willows that dip therein, and the white clouds that float high over the giant trees. And I leave the children the long, long days to be merry in, in a thousand ways, and the night and the moon and the train of the Milky Way to wonder at, but subject nevertheless to the rights hereinafter given to lovers.

Item: I devise to boys jointly all the useful idle fields and commons where ball may be played; all pleasant waters where one may swim; all snow-clad hills where one may coast, and all streams and ponds where one may fish, or where when grim winter comes, one may skate; to have and to hold the same for the period of their boyhood. And all meadows with the clover blossoms and butter-flies thereof the woods and their appurtenances, and squirrels and birds, the echoes and strange noises, and all distant places which may be visited, together with the adventures there found. And I give to boys each his own place at the fireside at night, with all pictures that may be seen in the burning wood, to enjoy without let or hindrance and without any incumbrance of care.

Item: To lovers, I devise their imaginary world, with whatever they may need; as the stars of the sky; the red roses by the wall; the blossom of the hawthorn; the sweet strains of music and aught else by which they may desire to figure to each other the lastness and beauty of their love.

Item: To young men jointly, I devise and bequeath all holsters, inspiring sports of rivalry, and I give to them the disdain of weakness and undaunted confidence in their own strength, though they are rude; I give them the power to make lasting friendships, and of possessing companions, and to them exclusively I give all merry songs and brave choruses, to sing with lusty voices.

Items: And to those who are no longer children or youths or lovers, I leave memory, and I bequeath to them the volumes of the poems of Burns and Shakespeare and of other poets, if there be others, to the end that they may live over the old days again freely and fully, without tithe or diminution.

Item: To our loved ones with snowy crowns I bequeath the happiness of old age, the love and gratitude of their children until they fall asleep.—Journal of Commerce.

The Farm

CARE OF THE CORN CROP

Keep the Cultivator Going—Sowing Clover at the Last Cultivation—Applying Fertilizers to Hills.

(The Canadian Countryman)
It is safe to say that despite the shortage of farm help there has been more corn sown this year in Canada than ever before. Many men who formerly looked with disfavor on silage when they saw the excellent results obtained by the neighbors when they fed it to their dairy cattle, beef animals and even to the sheep and horses became converted and today are its strongest advocates.

Although perhaps the most critical time with corn is when the tassels are forming, so far as yielding is concerned, if the crop does not receive proper cultivation up to this time its yield may be reduced a third or even by as much as one-half. For proper growth corn must have good warm weather. The scorching days and sultry nights that we are having just at present (July 13) is just the kind of weather the corn likes best and grows the fastest in.

During a hot summer, cultivation is necessary to maintain a blanket of loose dirt so as to check undue evaporation of moisture. When the top soil is dry, weeds will find it hard to get a start.

It is during a wet year that weeds are the greatest bother. As numerous experiments have shown that the destruction of weeds is of more importance than the maintaining of the dust mulch it follows that it is during a wet season when the weeds are most plentiful that cultivation should be given most often and most thoroughly.

Just how many times corn should be cultivated will depend on the season and the freedom or otherwise of the land from weeds. When a man is careless as to whether or not the manure he applies to his corn land is full of weed seeds, he may have to give six cultivations where a more careful farmer would only have to give three or four.

An extra cultivation may result in increasing the yield of silage by as much as two tons to the acre.

Some farmers make a practice of sowing clover or alfalfa in the corn at the last cultivation. Although in some cases good catches are obtained this way, more often than not the results are disappointing. The following advice on this point from the Experimental Station, at Amherst, Massachusetts is interesting:

"The best success in seeding to clover can usually be counted upon when the work is done in late summer or very early autumn. Dog days furnish ideal conditions for germination and rapid growth. Clovers may be sown at this time either alone or with grasses. If the field can be cleared, plowed and thoroughly harrowed, it can be brought into the very best possible condition; but where clover is to follow corn, it is impossible to remove the corn in season to sow the clover. Under these circumstances, seeding in corn appears to be the best plan. The ensilage corn, since it is carried from the field as soon as cut, furnishes conditions on the whole more satisfactory than field corn, with which the young grass and clover will be killed where the stocks of corn stand while curing. During the years that the writer had charge of the college farm in Amherst a good many acres were annually seeded in corn, and during the entire period there never was a failure. The culture of the corn should be level. A spike-toothed cultivator should be used at the last cultivation, and the seed should be immediately sown. It will not need covering. The best time for sowing in this way is usually between July 20th and August 5th. It is desirable to sow the seed before the corn is so tall as to make it difficult to swing the hand over it in sowing. Those who have not tried this method of seeding appear usually to fear that the stubble of the corn will be in the way in harvesting the hay crop; but if the field be rolled the spring following the seeding, no such difficulty will be experienced. Clover sown in this way in the corn becomes thoroughly established before winter; it is very unlikely to winter-kill, and it will give a full crop the following season."

Some corn growers in Kent and Essex are adopting the method of their fellow corn growers in the States of applying artificial fertilizer to the corn in the hill. The wisdom of this practice is very doubtful. In the first place if the spring is at all dry the growth of the corn plant is very liable to be retarded owing to the fact that the fertilizer is too concentrated for the tiny roots to absorb. Moreover, the feeding roots of the corn plant are not confined to a small space just around the stem. They ramify all through the soil, when fertilizer is used it should be sown broadcast. Director E. E. Thorne of the Ohio Experimental Station, writing on the subject, says:

"There is extremely little lateral movement of plant food in the soil, as

any farmer will realize who observes the small spots in a field of oats, growing after corn that has been fertilized in the hill.

Another reason for scattering the fertilizer over the entire surface of the ground is that the crop immediately fertilized never consumes all the plant food given, but a considerable part is carried over for the feeding of subsequent crops. In the five-year rotations of wheat, clover, timothy corn and oats which the Ohio Experiment Station began at Wooster in 1894 and at Strongsville a year later, one plot has been fertilized only on the wheat crop. The average increase of wheat has been 13.7 bushels at Wooster for 20 years and 8 bushels at Strongsville for 15 years. This has been followed at Wooster by an increase of 749 pounds of clover hay, 401 pounds of timothy, 7.4 bushels of corn and 3.6 bushels of oats, and at Strongsville by 868 pounds of clover hay, 469 pounds of timothy and 2.6 bushels of corn, with an apparent loss of 3 bushels of oats valuing wheat at 90 cents per bushel, corn at half a dollar, oats at one-third of a dollar and hay at \$10 per ton, the increase of wheat has been worth \$12.33 at Wooster and \$7.20 at Strongsville, and the residual gain for the other four crops has been worth \$10.65 at Wooster and \$6.98 at Strongsville. The value carried over has therefore been 86 per cent of that realized in the fertilized crops at Wooster and 97 per cent, at Strongsville.

No argument should be needed to convince the observing farmer that it would require a much longer time than 4 years to realize this residual value of the fertilizer, if dropped a spoonful every 3½ feet, where it would be practically out of reach of 99 plants out of every 100 of the small grains and grasses which follow the corn in systematic rotation on every wisely managed farm.

IS THE JERSEY DELICATE?

The Evidence Goes to Show that It is Just as Hardy as Other Cattle

The idea seems to be generally prevalent that the Jersey is somewhat of an excellent butter cow, is somewhat delicate in constitution, and moreover, is somewhat susceptible to tuberculosis. While this may be true of some individual, or certain strains of the breed, it is by no means true of the breed as a whole.

Indeed, it is safe to say that the Jersey as a breed is just as hardy and free from disease as are Holsteins, Ayrshires, or any other of the dairy breeds.

Breeders in the Island of Jersey, where the Jersey originated, have been particularly careful to keep tuberculosis out of their herds. That Jerseys in Canada are remarkably free from this disease is evidence of the fact that when the herd of David Duncan and Son, one of the oldest Jersey herds in Canada, were tested for tuberculosis some years ago, when the regulations came into force whereby all farmers shipping milk or cream into Toronto had to have their cows tested, not a single cow reacted.

In the month of January last, when the Canadian Live Stock Association were meeting in Toronto, the Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture for Alberta Province, spoke as follows:

"The Government has, in the Province of Alberta, seven Demonstration Farms, and keeps a separate breed of cattle on each farm. Notwithstanding the fact that it is fairly cold in our country, we have had excellent success with our herd of Jersey cattle. We test for tuberculosis regularly every six months, in all our herds, and notwithstanding the remarks you sometimes hear about Jerseys being delicate and not able to stand the weather, we have never had a single Jersey react, and it is the only breed that has never reacted. That was something of a surprise to me, as my knowledge of Jersey cattle was limited. In addition to our herd of Jerseys, we have a herd of Holsteins, one of Ayrshires and one of dairy Shorthorns."

At the same series of meetings, Prof. E. S. Archibald, B. A., B.S.A., Director of Animal Husbandry at the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa, and of over thirty other experimental farms, operated by the Dominion Government from the Atlantic to the Pacific, stated:

"While the climate in Ottawa was quite severe in the winter, the Jersey stands it fully as well as any other breed (all the leading dairy breeds being represented) and that when their farm buildings were all destroyed by fire, in a very cold winter, three years ago, when the cattle were given their feed on the snow banks for days in almost zero weather, and notwithstanding the fact that two of the Jerseys were fresh, in milk, the Jersey kept up their flow of milk and stood the hardships as well as any of the other breeds."—Canadian Countryman.

For regular feeding of horses on hard work a grain mixture of oats, 85 per cent, bran 15 per cent, fed at the rate per day of 1½ pounds per 100 pounds live weight, given in three feeds, will give excellent results.

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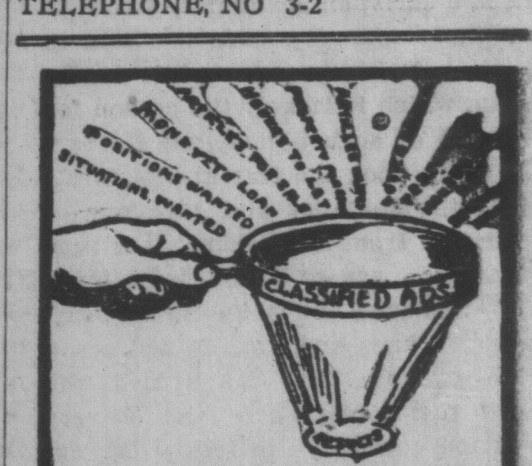
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