

The Poultry Yard.

POULTRY IN HOT WEATHER.

Keep the fowls comfortable in hot weather. Shade, cleanliness and pure water are an essential trio to successful summer poultry keeping. Shade is wanted only during the hot weather, but cleanliness and clean water are needed at all times. Where fowls have free run they will find shade, but when yarded it must be provided for them. Tall growing weeds make the best shade, and some poultry keepers allow golden-rod to grow in the lower end of the yards. This grows tall and the fowls do not eat it, while they prefer its shade to that of trees or bushes. Plums are one of the best trees to plant in the yards and bring in an added revenue from the fruit. When there is nothing of this kind in the yards put up burlap or canvas shelters.

The water must be kept cool and pure. Fowls do not relish warm or filthy water any more than their keepers. The water dish should be kept in a shaded spot and refilled frequently. Meat must be fed carefully in warm weather and not at all if spoiled. Skim milk is much relished and makes a splendid food. Be careful of the mixed foods and take pains that they do not sour. The same grains that are fed in winter are needed, but less corn, of course, and it is better to have it cracked. Keep the house as open as possible, take out the windows and put in slat doors. Whitewash the house frequently, use kerosene or liquid lye killer on the roosts and powder in the nests which should be changed monthly.

PUTTING EGGS IN COLD STORAGE

Many million dozen of eggs are annually put in cold storage during the summer when the price is low, to be taken out a few months later as soon as the advancing prices and decreased supply of fresh eggs assure a profit. The eggs are bought of dealers throughout the country and shipped to large cities that have suitable cold storage facilities, such as New York, Chicago and Kansas City. The eggs are first carefully sorted and graded by expert candlers, then packed in cartons holding 30 doz., and placed in large refrigerators where the temperature and moisture can be controlled. The best temperature is between 28 and 30 degrees Fahrenheit, but below 26 the albumen will congeal and the shell crack.

The candling is done in a dark room under electric light. Every egg is passed before the light to see if it is good, and all cloudy, cracked, dirty and small eggs are rejected and sold for other purposes. A dirty egg is as sure to spoil as a cracked one. As many million dozen are used for manufacturing purposes, there is a market for the cracked ones. Some industries use only the albumen or whites, while others use only the yolks. The eggs are so carefully assorted when put in storage that they are not handled again when taken out if they have kept well, but when there are some that mold or spoil they have to be candled again. More money has been lost in storing eggs than has been made in the business. Yet the profits are so alluring that many speculators are always ready to try it. Only chemical cold storage can be successfully used for this purpose.

CARE OF GUINEA PIGS.

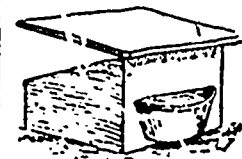
These little animals are strictly pets and no relation whatever to pigs. They are similar in habits and disposition to rabbits and should be treated about the same. Keep in warm, dry hutches which must be cleaned frequently. Feed plentifully of fresh roots, vegetables and grains. The young should have soft food for a time and but little green stuff. Soaked peas and beans are relished and boiled potatoes. Give water and feed twice daily only what they will eat up clean. They are very prolific, and the young, which are three to five to the litter, are born with eyes open and well-covered with hair. Wean them at six weeks old, taking one away at a time.

For Nest Boxes, nothing seems to be more satisfactory to hens than kegs, which may be had for the asking at almost any hardware store. A hole large enough to admit the hen, is cut

in the staves, about 6 in above the bottom, and a nest of cut straw or dead forest leaves put in. They may be placed under the roosting platform at all times. If a hen takes possession of one with evident intention (sitting during the proper season, the whole can be picked up at night, carried to the brooding room, and supplied with eggs. These kegs are readily removed at any time for cleaning.—[G. A. Martin, N. Y.]

Young Turks Die—A Mo subscriber asks why her young turks die, although she gives no symptoms, hence it is impossible to state what may have been the trouble. In R I we are always suspicious of the disease which we term "black head." If any other cases occur, the birds should be opened and examined. The disease commonly called black head shows in the enlargement of the sacca (or blind guts) and also in the liver; the former becoming thickened and the latter being mottled with spots of brownish, yellowish or perhaps greenish color. It has been suggested as a precautionary measure that the turkey roosts, and especially the droppings, should be disinfected early in the spring before the young turkeys are hatched or old ones introduced. A liberal use of slaked lime in the yards is recommended. A disinfectant which may be used consists of crude carbolic acid $\frac{1}{2}$ gal and crude sulphuric acid $\frac{1}{2}$ gal carefully mixed together and diluted with water in the ratio of 1 to 20. This is quite corrosive and care should be taken to protect the eyes from accidental splashing.—[Prof. A. A. Brigham, R I Exper Sta.]

A Water Fountain—Water in an open, unprotected vessel soon becomes



soiled and very warm. Cool, clean water only is fit for poultry and can be kept cool and clean by the device here shown. A box is fitted with a carefully hinged and sloping cover that projects over the sides. An opening is cut in one side which permits a third of the dish to protrude. Turn this side away from the sun. Chicks and fowls cannot soil the water or spill it when thus located.

Do Not Permit Overfeeding, thus making your fowls sluggish, but feed them regularly with a proper amount of food. It is the hen that is active and constantly scratching and searching the ground that lays the greatest number of eggs.—[O. D. Shock, Berks Co, Pa.]

Meat for Fowls—Fowls in confinement need meat. When at large they can pick up an abundance of animal matter in the form of insects and worms, but they are deprived of this when yarded. Green cut bones are the best form of meat if they are perfectly fresh and sweet, but during hot weather most poultry keepers had better use some of the prepared forms of animal meal which do not spoil easily. Mix in the mash two or three times a week. A fresh sheep's liver or head is also good.

Dieting a Sitter—The first night that a hen shows her desire to sit by remaining on the nest after her mates have gone to roost, I remove her and shut her up and keep her there two nights and one day without food. By that time she is so hungry that when let out she immediately goes hunting for food and forgets all about the family she thought she wanted.—[Rachel Kay, Mass.]

The Barred Plymouth Rock is the breed for me, not because they lay the most eggs in a year, but because they have the most desirable general qualities.—[N. J. B. Va.]

It is said 3,600,000 doz eggs have been placed in cold storage for the winter months at Kansas City.

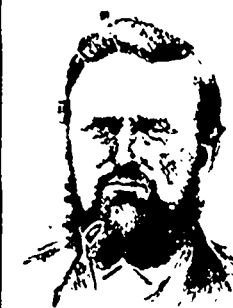
Will some one who has had experience in raising geese and ducks without a pond of water give directions about raising them from setting until ready for the market?—[E. H. J.]

The output of Kan creameries last year is estimated as worth \$950,000.

Lifting the Farm Mortgage.

A MICHIGAN PIONEER'S STORY.

In the fall of '62 I took my wife and two children, yoke of oxen, cow, 3 pigs,



2 hens, a wagon and some provisions and left my old home in Genesee Co. N. Y. Drove 60 miles to Detroit, took boat to Glen Arbor, Leelanau Co., landed on the dock Saturday at 3 o'clock and moved in an old house. As I had never worked on

Sunday I rested, and Monday morning took my axe and cut out two miles of road through the woods to the land that President Grant gave me if I would make a home of it, and we have lived here ever since. I at once cut some logs and rolled up a log house, made shingles to cover it with, and in 10 days moved in it (with no door or window), the happiest man that ever lived, because my little home was my own and I was out of debt. I wish I could say I continued free of debt.

That winter I chopped 3 a of heavy maple, beech, ash and barwood, and cut and drew 150 cords of wood to Glen Arbor (three miles); paid \$20 a ton for hay, \$30 a ton for ground feed, kept the cow mostly on browse, and came out in the spring free of debt. Burned brush and piled logs, and before they were burned 50 apple trees, 5 pear and 5 cherry trees, were bought and ready to set out. Chopped holes among the roots when I set out my trees, and did not lose one. Sold the first load of apples that was ever sold in Glen Arbor, and every dollar that I could spare since then went for fruit trees. Cleared the land by burning the timber as fast as possible, for in those days there was no market for logs, and cut wood winters to clothe the family. (Some of the time paid 40 to 50c for calico). Raised enough to eat after the first year, when we had 40 a cleared. Had to begin back for the old log shanty would not hold all of the children that had come to live with us, and the log stable would not cover all of the stock, so we had to tear down and build anew. And with building, clothing and schooling the children, and some years poor crops and buying tools and improving the stock, we seemed to get a little in debt each year. So we held a council of war and decided to hire \$375, pay the little debts and make some improvements. This was in 1885. That mortgage ate out of the same dish with us, but we paid the high interest for five years of poor crops. Then we had two years of good fruit crops and lifted the mortgage.

We do a mixed farming, but we get our money from the orchard and Poland China hogs, fattening about 10 a year. The orchard consists of 12 a of all kinds of good fruit, with 400 peach trees and a few apricots. Have 70 a cleared, good fences and good buildings.

There have been many heavier mortgages than mine lifted here with nothing but potatoes. There are many fields of 5 to 20 a. Many have also made more money than I have. One mistake was in trying to raise wheat too long, one in not setting more fruit trees sooner. But, thank God, we lived through it, and I can now sit in the big chair and look over well-tilled fields, and look over some of the children's farms, and play with grandchildren ad infinitum. A poor man now can do better here than I have done for there are good roads, mills, schoolhouses and a market for all products, and a daily mail, whereas when I came we only got war news once in two weeks carried on an Indian's back.—[W. B. M., Lennawee Co, Mich.]

I have been reading the long list of "mortgage lifters," and being a farmer myself for 38 yrs and having five in family, and we can live economically on \$600 per year, but these "mortgage lifters" turn in the whole amount of their crops on their debts. Will they explain what they live on?—[G. O. Holmes, Ore.]

The Colorado Harvest—The general harvest began Aug 6 to 11. The barley fields will be the first to be cut; then will follow the wheat fields. The grain crop will be the largest ever gathered in the state. The heavy spring rains, coupled with an ample water supply for irrigation, gave an abundance of moisture and small grains of all kinds got a good stand. The excessive hot weather and drouth of June and the early part of July did not appear to have any evil effects. The grain stands high and the heads are well filled. The corn and potato crops are coming on finely under the good influence of showers during the last weeks of July. The first cutting of alfalfa was heavy and was put into the stacks in the very best condition imaginable. The second cutting will be much lighter, and damaged by rains while in swath. The small fruit crop is abundant, but apples do not promise so well, the orchards not having fully recovered from the severe winter of '98 and '99.

Do not be afraid to give your horse a little green grass occasionally, but new hay should not be fed.

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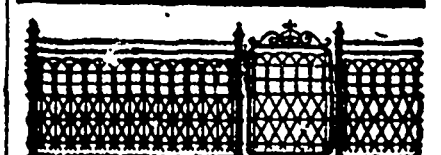
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