

### Give Summer Chicks a Chance

When summer chickens are on hand they should invariably be reared upon perfectly sweet ground. Very frequently the birds are quartered just where the spring chickens were cared to the feathered stage, and thus the handicap of tainted ground is introduced to start with. In a like manner the same coops are often used without the required cleaning and lime-washing. Insistence upon thorough cleanliness should ever be the rule.

Rear summer chickens away from the earlier-hatched birds, because if the latter can have access to the summer rearing ground they will not only sicken the food, but will prove spiteful to the weaker generation. It is customary in some districts to run an astonishing number of chickens with a hen. Should prolonged damp weather be encountered the hen is not able to brood them properly, and so dry them quickly. Exercise a little moderation in the matter if certain results are desired.

**WATER THAT KEEPS COOL.**  
Summer chickens require more water than spring ones, and as warm water is not good for them an effort should be made to ensure its being kept cold. Cold water may be secured by providing it in unglazed earthenware vessels, and standing those vessels in the shade. Keep the vessels scrupulously clean, and rinse out and refill frequently. The vessels being

porous, the water within them is kept cool by the evaporation of that which percolates through the sides. Summer chickens should always have plenty of shade available at will, and although the birds should be quartered upon short turf at the start they ought, if possible, to be allowed to range over rougher ground when strong upon the leg.

### Alsike Clover for Seed

T. G. Raynor, Seed Division, Ottawa  
The time is now drawing near, if not already here in some parts, when alsike should be cut for seed. Those who have had no experience with alsike may sustain a heavy loss by not harvesting it soon enough. There is unevenness in the blooming of the plants and also in the ripening of the heads, the lower parts maturing seed first. Hence, in no case should alsike be left until it appears to be fully ripe before cutting.

Examine the heads frequently after the seed has formed and when most of them show signs that the seed will shell out, cut it as soon as possible. It should be cut when damp with dew or rain to prevent shelling and when the straw is more or less green; the fodder then is quite palatable and nutritious.

The reaper with four or five knives is perhaps the best machine to cut alsike with when the straw is long enough. If the straw is short a table fixed to the cutting bar of a mower may be used. Where a bunch accumulates it is lifted or shoved off by a fork or rake behind the mower. If a mower is used without the table attachment there will likely be more loss from tramping and raking. When hauling the machine in the field or storing in the barn it is advisable to have the canvas spread over the sheafings of the wagon. This saves a lot of seed.

### Sheep Husbandry in Canada

Coincident with a number of other active agencies designed to revive the sheep raising industry in Canada, there has been issued by the Live Stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture a new edition of that exhaustive and practical treatise "Sheep Husbandry in Canada," which received such a warm reception some four years ago. This work of 126 pages, which constitutes a report as well as a helpful bulletin of instruction, covers the history and condition of the sheep industry in every province, pointing out the weak points and the offering useful information for the guidance of older shepherds as well as those who are just beginning, or desire to begin, raising mutton and wool.

In this work the author, who is a trained sheep man, brings out clearly the great advantages of keeping sheep from the dual standpoint of direct profit in cash returns, and the even more important indirect one of cleaner farms and better crops. Then there is a special section, "From the Block to the Table," designed to popularize the consumption of mutton and lamb. Other sections deal with weed destruction by sheep diseases, wool, housing, enemies, breeds and breeding, feeds and feeding, and other important matters.

Under "The Industry in the Different Provinces" some startling new facts, concerning the profits made from sheep, are brought out. It is shown that a flock of about 150 ewes worth \$6 each, after housing, feeding and care were guaranteed against loss, gave in 1911 a profit of more than \$600. This occurred on a Manitoba wheat farm. A large issue has been printed to be supplied free to those who apply for it to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

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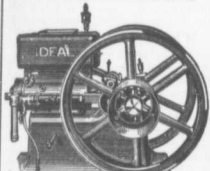
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