

AGRICULTURE.

**POULTRY.**—By feeding just before going to bed, ducks and geese can be trained to come home regularly.

Pullets hatched early will moult early. Eggs in winter means profit. The want of them as clearly means loss.

A good motto for poultrymen to follow is, give pure water, pure air, feed often, and keep all dry, clean and comfortable.

The expense of keeping a dozen fowls where they have the waste and scraps from the kitchen is nothing compared to their valuable product.

Before very warm weather clean out your poultry house thoroughly, and white-wash it, putting a little carbolic acid in the white-wash.

Persian insect powder will be found invaluable in the poultry house during the hatching season. Dust it over the hens while sitting, and you will have no trouble with lice.

On a large farm it is rarely necessary or best to confine fowls in summer, if given free range they will do as much good in destroying insects as they can do of injury; in a garden or small fruit enclosure the case would be different, but it is not difficult to make a fowl-proof fence to enclose these.

Feed the hen well with all she will eat of corn or dough before giving the chickens their first meal of crumbs and boiled eggs, otherwise the hen, who will be very hungry, will leave but little for the chickens. Keep the hens quiet as possible for a day or two, until the chickens get a little stronger.

The eggs of the Asiatic breeds, and indeed all the dark colored eggs, are preferred by cooks and confectioners, and also by those who use them boiled, to the white-shelled ones. The latter, excepting those of the game fowls, are deficient in flavor. The dark colored eggs as a rule are larger and heavier than the others.

Animal matter, in the shape of meat scraps or bone chopped up, may be fed to poultry at any season judiciously to very good advantage. There should, however, be no excess of this food. Bone meal is very good mixed in small quantities with soft food for young chickens. The coarse offal of the slaughter house, plucks, hardslets, etc., should be cooked and minced in small particles when fed. A little of this hearty food goes a great way, and an over-supply is not conducive to health. Raw meat is too crude and gross for fowls. Fowls like newly-cut grass. They should have all they want of it. The clippings from a lawn mower are just the thing for them. Sunflower seed, which can be easily grown without trouble, forms a food of which fowls are extremely fond.—*Poultry World.*

**LIVE STOCK.**—As a general rule it is not best to get any sheep very fat unless preparing it for the butcher. For keeping over one year this high condition is an injury. It cannot be maintained without more care and skill than most farmers can give. If a ewe loses a lamb particular care should be taken not to over-feed her unless she is to be fattened and sold at once.

The difference between well-bred stock and the scrub is so marked that we often wonder why farmers will persist in raising and feeding stock which does not give the best returns for the feed consumed, and which when placed on the market is sure to be sold at a discount. The difference in the prices commanded by the classes of stock should open the eyes of the intelligent farmer to the importance of keeping none but improved animals. In these close times when the range of profits in every business is very small, the importance of making a change for the class of animals which will pay the greater returns in growth and in prices which they will command must impress itself on the minds of all thinking men.—*Rural World.*

If a man has a heavy load to push or draw he lowers his head by bending forward, and throws the full weight of his body against, or to propel, the load. A horse or an ox, if permitted, will do likewise under similar circumstances. The horse is often prevented from throwing his weight into the collar by a tight check-rein, a useless and painful incumbrance introduced by vanity, and retained by thoughtlessness amounting to cruelty.

**THE CHECK-REIN.**—The check-rein is, in nearly every case, painful to the animal, and useless to the driver. Because, it fastens the head in an unnatural posture; and, as the horse's shoulder and head fall together, cannot be of any real support in stumbling.

When, from some defect in the animal or other cause, the check-rein is used, it must be slackened. Because in addition to the easier position of the neck, a greater portion of weight can be thrown into the collar, especially going up hill, thus saving a great and unnecessary expenditure of muscular power.

There is an important difference between a tight check rein and a tightened rein, although not generally understood. The first is injurious, and cannot help the horse, while the latter is often useful. Because the latter is a steady support to the animal's head from a distinct and intelligent source—the driver; whereas the former is only the horse's head fastened to his own shoulders. That the check-rein is inconsistent with the action of the horse's head is clearly shown by the fact that when a horse falls it is always broken.

In contrast with the check-rein is the natural position of a horse's neck. Here nature's arching neck and curving lines are easily discovered and worthy of admiration. Why an intelligent animal like the horse should be disfigured, tortured, and permanently injured, by the use of an institution closely allied with ignorance is one of those conundrums that is continually forcing itself upon humanity, and one that is rarely answered in a common-sense way. Compare the appearance of this horse with one whose head is pulled back in a painful posture, and it is easy to see which is the more graceful, and any intelligent or thoughtful person will readily tell which will stand the greater hardships and perform the most work with the least distress.—*Ex*

The rain, which has fallen during the present week, has given fresh hope to the agriculturists, especially in the Western part of the Province, in which section the crops have been suffering greatly from the continued drought.

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