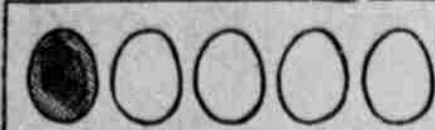


HOW TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF EGGS

Carelessness in Gathering and Packing Causes of Trouble.

ONE OUT OF EVERY FIVE IS BAD

Out of every five eggs that are sold from the farm to the commission man in the city, one is unfit for food. This one egg is waste, and makes a loss to the purchaser. The commission men candle all the eggs they purchase, and discard those that are bad. Thus the loss would naturally fall upon them. The commission merchant, however, figures ahead on this loss, so that after all the farmer is the loser. If



"Of every five eggs sold, one is spoiled." A loss to the farmer as well as the consumer

the farmer receives 20 cents a dozen with this loss figured in, he would receive 25 cents if it were not figured.

Bad eggs are caused in several ways. One is carelessness in gathering. Sometimes there will be found a whole nest full that have been covered several days. These are not fit to go into the case for sale. One of the most fruitful causes of trouble is the leaving in the flock of a lot of cockerels. Except during the breeding season these should all be removed, for when the eggs are fertilized they spoil much more quickly. There is no need for the roosters in the flock, and it is claimed that the hens do not lay quite so well. It is certainly true that there is a difference in the quality of the eggs.

There is a demand for eggs of certain quality, especially in the cities. Such places as soda fountains and high class restaurants are willing to pay a better price if they can be sure of the product. The way to get the better price is to produce better eggs, pack them carefully, and deal direct. Eggs of uniform size and color are much desired. These can only be obtained by having pure bred fowls. Some markets prefer the dark colored eggs, while others prefer white shelled.

In packing eggs care should be taken to keep them away from contaminating surroundings. It is sometimes thought that the egg shell is a solid armor, which protects the egg from all odors or flavors. This is not true. Spores of the molds sometimes penetrate the shell from a damp packer and the inside of the egg takes on a mouldy flavor. Flavors of fruit, vegetables, rotten potatoes, etc., are quickly absorbed.

It is usually advised to pack eggs for special market in cases which hold a dozen each. These are convenient and can carry advertising matter for the farm.

INDICATIONS OF SOIL FERTILITY.

What can a farmer know about his soil? What is written there that he may read? Nature is the greatest of all chemists, and the analysis shown by the plant growth is as certain as that shown in the laboratory.

Many soils need humus. None except peat bogs have too much of it. Humus makes the soil dark and flaky. It makes it loose instead of sticky. It increases the power of the soil to hold water. Whatever is growing on a soil that is rich in humus grows rank and tall and leafy. This is true of everything from pigweeds to corn and clover. The reason for the leafiness and strong growth is the presence of nitrogen in the humus, as well as some decaying action of the vegetable matter. Humus is made of decayed vegetable matter. Nitrogen makes dark green leaves and a healthy appearance in plants. When there isn't enough nitrogen the plants are likely to show pale green or yellowish and the leaves will be thin and sparse instead of luxuriant.

A peculiar thing that some farmers have noticed is that the wheat plants will grow strong and vigorous and have every appearance of making a good crop, but when they are threshed out there will be a lack of grain. The elements that go to form the grain, or seed, are lacking in the soil. It happens that these elements are phosphorus and potash. Phosphorus is the element that was found in the fish when the colonists, and the Indians before them, used fish for fertilizer. Phosphorus is an essential part of the grain of wheat, oats, etc. When the plant grows vigorously, but fails to form grain, it is a pretty sure indication that either phosphorus or potash is lacking.

Every man who has noticed and studied the problem says that nitrogen is the most important element we have to supply. We don't have to buy that, but can take it out of the air. The legume plants, such as clover, cow peas, alfalfa, soy beans, etc. take nitrogen out of the air and fix it into the soil. The following year it is ready to be made into plant growth. Probably the best thing to do on most Nebraska farms is to haul out the manure. The next thing is to plant legumes. Cowpeas will grow where some others will not. Cowpeas not only leave the soil in excellent condition and improve its fertility, but they make a most excellent forage crop for feed.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF FARM MANURE

Of Value When Carefully Cared For and Properly Applied.

VARIOUS METHODS ARE USED.

(By P. B. Barker, Assistant Professor and Acting Head of Department of Instructional Agronomy.)

One hundred tons of farm manure is worth \$200. This is a surprising statement, but becomes more reasonable with a little consideration and thought of the matter. Very few have given this important subject its due attention. There is usually such a large amount of work to do on the farm that there is very little time to consider the subject of farm manure, or any other important subject. The writer is frank to confess that during the cultivating season he went to the corn fields early in the morning with but one main object in mind, and that was to make nine half-mile rounds. He went to the fields after dinner with but one object, namely, to make nine half-mile rounds. This voices the sentiment of many farmers.

Farm Manure, a Nuisance. Notwithstanding the great value of manure when carefully cared for and properly applied to the farm land, it is too often allowed to lay around the barns and sheds, where it is a nuisance, not only to the farmer and his family, but to the public in general. The manure is allowed to accumulate to such a large extent in many cases that it is in the way of people and stock, and consequently impedes the movement around the buildings. Some barn yards contain such large accumulations of manure that the stock cannot move about them as comfortably as under better conditions. This is especially true during wet springs. Instances may be mentioned where the cattle are obliged to stand knee deep in mud and slush, largely due to the accumulated manure. Many new feed lots have been made rather than remove the manure from the older ones.

Many people have been heard to say that they disliked to drive past certain farm buildings because of the unsightly manure piles surrounding the barns, sheds, etc.

It is not an uncommon thing to hear men and women complaining about the unpleasant odors encountered in passing certain places because of the vast accumulations of this refuse. How disagreeable it must be to live in the midst of such odors. Is it any wonder that some wives wish to leave the farm?

Of all the ill effects of farm manure possible, the most alarming ones are those connected with the unsanitary environment of such accumulations. Many stock wells are unfavorably located in some draw or on land that is lower than that where the barns are located, and consequently much of the leachings from the manure are carried into the wells during heavy rainstorms. The shallow stock wells are sometimes so contaminated with such leachings during early wet springs that the water is colored, and yet the milk cows and other stock are compelled to drink this impure water.

Many wells from which the drinking water for the family is obtained are located so as to become contaminated with leachings from the manure. One of the most important considerations on any farm is the position of the wells with reference to barns, feed lots, etc.

How Some Farmers Dispose of Manure. The disposal of the manure on live stock farms is a big one. Various methods are used in managing these accumulations of manure.

Some farmers build their barns, feed lots, etc., on the hillside in order to permit the manure to be washed down the slope during the heavy rains. A few have deemed it advisable to build on sandy places, since the large portion of the manure would leach into the soil, leaving the yards in a drier condition than would be the case on heavier soils which are more or less level. Many farmers are making a free use of their wheat straw for bedding purposes to absorb and hold the liquid manure and at the same time administering to the comfort of the stock. A great number are scraping the manure onto nearby fields, where the applications are apt to be too heavy and frequent for best crop yields. Large quantities of manure are hauled from livery barns and dumped into nearby fields. Some instances, by the way, have been observed where such dumping grounds were in the same locality where the town people get their ice for the summer.

According to data in the office of the department of instructional agronomy which has been collected in the past three years from persons registered in the soils classes of the college and school of agriculture and winter courses, numbering about 2,000 individuals from Nebraska farms, a very large portion of the manure is burned or wasted in other ways. A few localities are using all the manure for fertilizer purposes. Many are applying about 25 per cent of it to the land and many counties are utilizing less than 50 per cent in any way whatever.

It is a mistaken idea that sparse feeding is favorable to reproduction. It is, however, true that a method of feeding which induces excessive fatness is unfavorable to reproduction.

REED OUTLINES HIS PLATFORM

"Greatest Good to Greatest Number, With Least Possible Injury to Anyone."

CANDIDATE FOR U. S. SENATOR

Believing in the fundamental principles of Democracy, and in accordance with a statement which I made about the time I filed as a Democratic candidate for United States senator, I submit herewith a brief declaration of the platform most agreeable to the views of the rank and file, which is as follows:

The greatest good to the greatest number, with the least possible injury to anyone, of which the following is a part: More rigid economy; better enforcement of existing laws; lower the tariff to a revenue basis; construction and improvement of highways and public property throughout the states, at national expense, during periods of serious depression, that there may be public employment for the unemployed, if any, forcing no one to lower his manhood by begging, accepting charity, or resorting to crime, and, upon revival of general business enter private employment again; initiative and referendum; fair and just pensions to those who served our country in time of peril; make a member of the railway commission of each state ex officio a member of the interstate railway commission to represent the state affected when rates are to be changed in any manner, that we may have one rate instead of forty-nine as we now have, enlarging the powers and duties of such commission. And,



WILLIS E. REED.

(Democratic Candidate for United States Senator.)

that we may go further than the physical valuation of common carriers, we should require the commercial valuation of all common carriers. The law relating to rebates should be so modified as to release the innocent public who, at present are legally charged with knowledge of rates which, on account of their multiplicity, it is impossible for them to know. It is better that the railway be forced to lose where they have made undercharges in freight or passenger rates than to subject the innocent public to higher rates or criminal prosecutions, as is the case under the present law. Conservation of all national resources; election of United States senators by direct vote of the people; international arbitration as well as between labor and capital; such remedial trust legislation as will best relieve the public from unjust exactions, and so plain and clear that honest business efforts may not be thwarted through a misconception of the law. The rights of the state should be carefully guarded and in no manner surrendered in violation of the federal constitution and its amendments. The national incorporation act, as proposed, would soon become a serious menace to the general welfare of the people and the rights of the states, is an undemocratic measure and should be defeated. The Aldrich currency bill is equally threatening, injurious and unjust and should never be permitted to become a law. Each proposed measure should be considered fairly and justly with a view of improvement upon the structure of our laws and in the administration of justice, and it should make no difference from what source or party the measure is advanced, if it is a good one it should be supported, if bad it should be rejected.

If nominated and elected I shall do all in my power to carry out the foregoing platform. WILLIS E. REED.

St. Louis, March 22.—Daniel Callahan was arrested by postoffice inspectors, who say he is wanted for complicity in three diamond robberies, aggregating \$120,000, in the robbery of a postoffice sub-station in St. Louis and other thefts.

Primary Bill in Michigan.

Lansing, Mich., March 22.—The Michigan house passed an immediate effect presidential preference primary bill. The measure is now before the senate, where it was defeated during

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