

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

STRAWBERRIES FOR PROFIT

Where strawberries are to be grown with a view to making the crop as a side line to farming, about an acre of ground will prove the most profitable. Less land than that requires too much attention for the quantity produced; more is apt to be handled in a manner so inefficient that it will return small profits.

Setting the plants is done the same with the large plot as with the small one, but the rows should be three feet wide, with the plants set 18 inches apart in the rows. By laying out the rows in one direction, then setting the plants crosswise of these marks, one will be able to cultivate the field both ways, thus effectively destroying all weeds and effecting ideal soil conditions.

Mulching the vines with straw is a tedious job, not requiring so much time on the small plot, but calling for considerable hard work in connection with the large field. In every case however, it is well worth the time employed in spreading it. Distributed evenly to a depth of even two or three inches over the plot, mulching helps to hold the moisture in the soil, forms a clean surface for pickers to walk on, keeps down weeds and holds the fruit off the ground, thus preventing its getting soiled or rotting. Later, it enters the soil as a fine fertilizer.

It will be found that picking the strawberries is one of the big problems in connection with the business, it being difficult to secure good pickers at a price that will leave one much profit. The fruit is usually handled in an inefficient manner by poor help, or good help demands high wages. Where one can secure a crew of youngsters in which most of them are careful not to trample the vines and the fruit, and will take special care in handling the berries, the price one will have to pay for the picking leaves a fair margin of profit. If this cannot be done, the next best plan is to hire grown people who will be careful of both the vines and the fruit. In any case, insist on picking the berries clean as they go, and handling the fruit in a manner that will leave it in the best condition possible for marketing.

Plans for marketing the crop should be laid before the berries begin to ripen. If one delays this till berries are on the market a surplus is apt to pile up and result in much loss, as these berries go down very quickly after removal from the vines. Local conditions will very largely determine the form of marketing strawberries that will prove best. In many cases the local grocerman is glad to engage berries of high quality at a price that is profitable. At some points one may be able to dispose of enough of a wholesale market. Shipping to some large center is practical, provided it is near enough that the berries are not delayed in transit and only for a very brief time after arrival at their destination. Quick marketing is the watchword with strawberries.

Where one has the time to deliver the strawberries direct to the home of the user (and it usually requires little time) this form of marketing will prove much more profitable than any other. The middleman's profit is then saved. Always aim to have enough orders in advance of delivery to take all the berries you will have picked each day. In fact, it is better for both buyer and seller for one to have a waiting list of customers than to have several crates of strawberries around that spoil before they are sold, or to try to sell strawberries which will come under second, or even third grade.

Practically no returns may be expected from the strawberry field the first season. If taken good care of, it will produce a good crop the second season. The plot may be left to produce a third crop, but weeds must be kept down and the runners taken in each direction, care being taken that too many plants are not started. Thin out to four to six inches apart.

Not later than the third season after a field has been established, the old plants should be plowed up. Or, in the meantime, a new plot should have been set to keep one in bearing every year. Still another plan is to train all runners between the old rows of plants. Then immediately after each crop is harvested, plow out the old rows of plants, leaving the new, more vigorous vines for producing next season's crop of berries.

As soon as a plot is well established mulching should be done, regularly, every fall, about the time of the first light freeze. This checks the growth before the injury that would be done by severe freezing while the plants are green. It also prevents excessive freezing and heaving of the soil which so often breaks the roots of the plants, while the ground will be kept cool in early spring, holding back the plants so they will not bloom and be caught by late spring frosts. This is one of the strongest features of mulching, as many a disappointed grower of strawberries will testify, after losing his crop entirely through early frosts.

However, the mulching should be raked from the plants when the weather begins to grow warm, to prevent scalding. It should be worked down around the vines instead of being left over them. This will aid in keeping down the weeds and protect the berries at harvest time.

SHUN MOLDY FEED

Moldy feed must be avoided, especially for young chicks as they are susceptible to trouble from this source. Feed of this kind often produces gas in the crop. Sometimes the chicks show symptoms of fits and partial paralysis as a result of moldy feed.

Small chicks eat but very little feed both in local amount and in proportion to the gains made. This makes it poor economy to take chances on feeding material that is not pure and sweet. Commercial feeds, as well as those which are prepared at home,

FEEDING BROODER CHICKS

The feeding of the artificially hatched brooder chicks is one of the most important factors in poultry keeping, because successful and the right kind of nutrition should begin with hatching and extend throughout the growing period. The first four weeks are the most trying for this period covers the delicate stage of the chicks growth, and is the time when the death rate is the greatest and when mistaken methods will be shown by poor broods. The following principles apply to baby-chick feeding, a discussion of which will better fix them in the mind of the reader.

Just prior to hatching, the yolk is drawn into the chicks body, and supplies the growing chick with nourishment for a number of hours after hatching. It is undesirable to attempt to force the chick to eat within a period of from 48 to 60 hours, after hatching. The best practice is to supply plenty of fresh water and sand when putting the chicks in the brooder. A good plan is to give the chicks their first feed in the morning after they are placed in the brooder.

The young chick which has been artificially hatched has to be taught many things which under natural conditions it would learn from the mother hen; such as searching for feed, and the elementary process of eating. The natural instinct of the chick is to pick up bright things, and for this reason, feeds which are easily seen are desirable. A good practice is to throw a limited amount of rolled oats on the floor of the brooder, only what the chicks will eat in an hour or two. Rolled oats are very nutritious, are relished by the chicks, until the end of the second week, ever, their continued use is undesirable. Dry cracked grains are sometimes fed, but they have been found to be less satisfactory.

Grit to enable the digestive organs to perform their functions, and shall to supply the lime so essential in the formation of bone, should be placed before the chicks when three days of age and kept continuously before them till maturity. Sand placed on the floor of the brooder will help, but will not of itself be as effective as two or three handfuls of sharp granite grit and fine oyster shell placed in several conspicuous places in the brooder.

Plenty of fresh air is essential, since the chick gains weight rapidly, much of this weight being water. Stale or stagnant water carries disease germs and is liable to produce digestive disorders in the flock. Keep fresh water before them constantly, using a small siphon fountain, which can be rinsed out daily to keep it from getting slimy.

Wheat bran is an important asset in the feeding of baby chicks, since it is easily digested, and contains a form of vegetable ash which is very readily assimilated. Wheat bran alone may be kept in small hoppers, and will furnish nearly a balanced ration for the first two weeks.

Owing to the small size of the digestive organ of the small chick, and its heavy feed requirements in proportion to its size, it is wise to give only small amounts of feed at a time and to feed often. The practice should be to feed four or five times a day during the first week, gradually diminishing the number of feedings until the end of the second week. Cracked grains may then be fed three times a day and dry mash kept before them constantly.

CULLING AND BETTER FEEDING

Urging testing of cows and showing possible gains from intelligent management, a successful dairyman says:

For February, 1926, my herd of 18 cows, 17 of which were milked, produced a total of 457 pounds of fat which at 50 cents was valued \$228.65. The total of feed was \$142.56, leaving a profit over feed of \$86.09.

In February, 1927, this herd consisted of 19 cows, 17 of which were again milked. They produced 534 pounds of fat which at 50 cents a pound was valued at \$267.90. The total cost of feed was \$149.27, leaving a profit over feed of \$118.63 or an increase of income over feed cost for the entire herd of \$31.54.

The average profit for all cows in the herd including those dry was in February, 1926, and \$6.19 in February, 1927. This increase of \$1.41 more profit per cow for the shortest month in the year was due to the culling of poor producers and better feeding. During the intervening year seven undesirable cows were sold and these replaced by five cows purchased and three heifers raised. The cows were fed a more liberal and better balanced grain ration consisting of oats, wheat feed, corn, oil meal and cottonseed meal. The roughage in both cases was practically the same, consisting of corn silage and mixed clover and timothy hay. The same prices were used both years in figuring the value of the butterfat and cost of feed.

I charged \$12.00 a ton for hay, \$4.00 for silage, oats and barley at \$28.00, wheat feed at \$30.00, corn at \$32.00, oil meal at \$43.00, and cottonseed meal at \$33.00. The increased profit came in spite of the fact that there were two dry cows figured in the average for 1927 as against only one in 1926.

should be stored in a dry place where there is no danger of molding.

Feeding without care is useless. Give the cow sunlight; it has its place in the economic production of milk just as well as good food.

Do you know young chicks often die from regular chills? Well, they do. Keep them dry and warm on damp, chilly days.

Invest something in kind words and compliments in the home. The biggest dividends are not always derived from investments of cash.

RAINBOW CHASERS.

Stanton A. Coblenz.  
There are some men that seek for truth afar.  
Beyond the borders of the last, dim star.  
Yet truth gleams here within a blade of grass—  
They catch a glimpse and, searching still, they pass.

WHITE STREET

I like to walk out on our street a night  
Like this and watch the first white fall of snow  
And scuff it down before me as I go  
And feel the cool caress of flakes alight  
Upon my face. . . . Lamps make grotesque sight  
In their fluffed wigs and dotted veils that blow  
Before each blinking eye. Perhaps they know  
Their droll indulgence gives us new delight.

Our street is still as scenes in fairy-land.  
With ermine carpet spread out everywhere.  
A glistening softness now drapes every tree.  
And while I reach to catch within my hand  
Some fragile spangles as they slip through air  
I think how calm a clattering street can be!

—Agnes MacCarthy Hickey, in the New York Sun.

Columbus Memorial.

From the New York Times.  
The project of a memorial to Christopher Columbus in the form of a giant lighthouse at the mouth of Santa Domingo harbor is at last taking shape. Speaking for the Pan American Union, Secretary Kellogg has announced that a competition in designs for it will be held, open to architects in all parts of the world. The government of Santo Domingo has set aside the land for the memorial and has appropriated \$300,000 to cover the preliminary expenses. The cost of construction is to be defrayed by the nations of North and South America. When the memorial is completed the traditional remains of the great explorer will be moved from the cathedral in Santo Domingo City to a specially prepared crypt in the new building.

Whatever the disputes of historians as to the precise spot in the Western Hemisphere first seen by Columbus, or of the true resting place of his bones, the people of North and South America will see in the proposed memorial lighthouse a tribute to a great explorer to whose activities every one now living in the western world is indebted. The selection of Santo Domingo as the site for the memorial is appropriate as being midway between the two American continents. The choice of a lighthouse as a beacon to guide the countless successors of the first trans-Atlantic navigator, who felt his way cautiously into the unknown world that he believed to be the Indies.

The spirit of the 20th century is reflected in the preparations to use part of the Columbus Memorial Park as an airport for inter-American aviation. The beacon is to guide the pilots of the air as well as those of the seas. It is the contention of the sponsors of this project that the natural air route between North and South America is by way of Cuba, Santo Domingo and the chain of West Indies that stretch in a curve to the northern coast of the southern continent. If suitable landing stations are built at short intervals on this route, it will be possible to find shelter when the furious winds are loosed in the Caribbean that threaten destruction to all things that fly and to ships on the seas.

Turkey in Jail.

From the Terre Haute Tribune.  
A newspaper reporter in Fort Worth, Tex., got an idea. He went to the jail on Christmas day when the prisoners were dining on turkey and dressing, mince pie and ice cream, and enjoyed an entertainment program prepared for them by the good people of the city.

He looked through the prisoners' records and found several names of men who were serving terms for abandoning their families or refusing to provide properly for their children. Then the reporter went out and looked up the families of these men. He found most of the abandoned children in misery. Some were being fed by charity. Some were being cared for by their heroic mothers who were working at hard and ill-paid tasks to feed them.

The reporter's idea was that delinquent fathers should be made to work and be paid a living wage by the city, instead of being kept in idleness and in turkey and ice cream in comfort of a modern jail, the money to go to the support of the families. He would keep dad boxed up until he got the work habit so thoroughly that he would continue it outside.

It would not do to abandon the idea of punishing evildoers. The experience of centuries proves that punishment pays. But it is not humane or intelligent to punish the innocent along with the guilty. The incarcerated offender should be made to support his dependents. It would soon be found that most men would prefer to work outside prison than inside.

Q. What are the different kinds of meters for measuring water? H. N.

A. Water meters are of three general types, the positive, the inferential, and the proportional. Positive meters measure the actual volume of the water; inferential meters measure the velocity of the flowing water and the quantity is deduced by a computation from that record; proportional meters measure a fractional part of the full flow, and are necessarily only approximately accurate.

Not the First One.

From America's Humor.  
She: How dare you! Papa said he would kill the first man who kissed me.

He: How interesting. And did he?

Extravagant.

From America's Humor.  
"I've heard there's folks in these large apartments that buy butter by the quarter pound."

"Ay, not! Maybe, when they have company."

Guy's hospital, omdon, was founded by Thomas Guy, a bookseller of the time of Queen Anne.

If you smoke for pleasure



—get right up front where the pleasure is. Have a Camel.

The real object of smoking is to enjoy it.

Camels

Camels lead by billions and keep right on growing

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Not Big Enough

Dora—Why do her people object to him?  
Doris—There are seven in her family and the car holds only six.

The fool politician fights friction; the wise one "soft soaps" it.

Slang doesn't care how bad its syntax is.

Dad Knew

Young Son—"What is an air pocket, dad?" Father—"Mine, after your mother has gone through them."

One has to live a long time before one discovers that it doesn't matter much if one doesn't talk.

Many a luxuriant head of hair is due to the mellowness of the soil.

Usual Process Reversed

Cement bags are tied at the top first and filled from the bottom. They are then sewed shut.

There is more to art than nakedness; but some art never gets any farther than that.

The product of a tight shoe or an oak tree is a corn.

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