

Where Town and Country Meet

MIKE CLARK CHICKEN FANCIER

Baby Chicks Given Lots of Sunshine

"Mike" Turns Hatchings Out to Scratch Early, and Keeps Inside Quarters Warm.

Has Real Playground

Mike Clark, former Douglas county sheriff, who used to chase criminals in and around Omaha, unlike many so-called retired men, is not killing his time away on park benches and at pleasure resorts. Mike has a beautiful home out Florence way and specializes in raising the Rhode Island Red chickens. A little visit around his place last week brought out some of the secrets of his success.

Mike has his basement fixed up as a hatchery. The baby chicks are hatched in incubators and then transferred to a platform near an open window. The window leads out upon the sunny side of the lawn into an inclosure which makes a real playground for the baby chicks. The chicks were scratching in the loose dirt as happy as baby chicks could be. They were big-boned, strong chicks which showed unusual vitality. "How do the chicks happen to be so strong looking, Mike?" we asked. "Well, in the first place I intend to breed the kind that have constitutions. I feed those fellows correctly," said Clark.

Feeding Methods
Clark feeds regularly starter. He gets them out on the dirt as soon as possible. Then, during the summer he sees that the growing chicks have plenty of green feed. He believes most baby chicks are stunted by too close quarters and lack of fresh air. "It pays to get them out on 'old Mother Earth' early," said Mike. He does not permit the cold weather to interfere with this plan, for he told about shoveling the snow away from the window in order to make an outside runway for the chicks. "Keep them dry and have a good warm place for them to go to when they come inside and one need not fear the weather," said Clark.

Trap Nesting
Clark believes in trap nesting in order to get the records authentic. He has a pen of fine birds under trap nest supervision now and makes it a regular practice for all new pens used in his breeding operations. "Trap nesting is not the easiest way to handle chickens, but it is the only correct way to know your hens," said Mike. He has been winner in many big shows with his birds and takes great pride in breeding an excellent strain of fine poultry. No expense was spared by Clark in getting his foundation stock together. He believes many beginners make a big mistake when they start the poultry business with cheap, inferior stock.

Pen Breeding
Mike advises the use of one cockrel for each eight or nine breeding hens. He declared that most breeders used too many hens in the breeding pens. "About seven hens for the cockrel, and not more than nine for a cockrel is the right number to get best results," said Clark. His hens are the big deep-bodied kind and show the capacity that is needed for egg production.

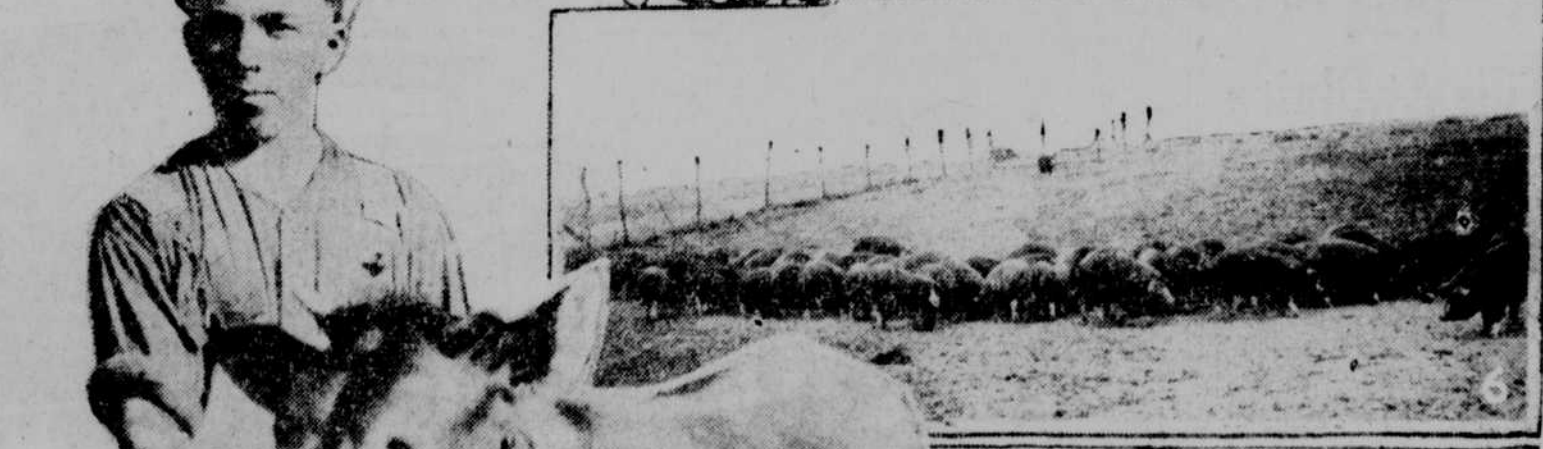
Editor and Agent Visit Summerhill

While making the round of Douglas and Sarpy counties we drove up to Summer Hill farm. Wayland McGee, owner, showed us about the farm. McGee claims there is not a seed planted upon the farm which is not "pure-bred." He plants Reid's yellow dent corn. His system of selecting seed corn is scientific. He selects his seed by hand from the field, brings it to a special room which is equipped with drying racks. The corn is sorted and placed in the racks. Below the room the seed corn is treated to a hot blast from a specially designed stove which pours its heat up through a large funnel. The windows above are opened and perfectly dry air is circulated through the corn.

We drove about the Summerhill farm for an hour and looked over the stock and crops. McGee has the best patch of winter wheat we saw in the day's drive. He has 19 head of spring calves which look good. One old cow gave us a little thrill by chasing us in the vicinity of her pure-white baby. She was within her rights, so we went on to the 200-acre field of rye. McGee will have rye enough on this field to make a "supply" for the entire city of Omaha. Maxwell says he raises more rye than all the rest of the county put together.

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Scenes Taken on Douglas and Sarpy County Farms



No. 1. A number of "A" type houses on the farm of Phil Frazier, Fort Crook, Neb. This type of house, while better than the old-fashioned colony house for farrowing pigs, is not considered the best type. Frazier says he prefers the Wisconsin type of house, which is lower and better ventilated than the tall type. It holds the warmth created by the sow, has higher doors which permit the light to penetrate farther back into the house, thus obviating the necessity of the pigs sleeping close to the draught in order to get into the sunlight. Plans for the Wisconsin type of house may be secured from any Nebraska county agricultural agent or from the state university, agricultural college.

No. 2. Scene upon Summerhill farm, near Bennington. This magnificent estate is owned by Wayland McGee. The herd of fine purebred short-horns has been gradually improved by the use of good sires from the university farm at Lincoln.

No. 3. "Old Daisy." This is one of the good red cows belonging to Fred Ohrt, Bennington. Ohrt belongs to the Douglas county cow-

testing association. He is testing off his herd of common cows to determine the best ones. The high-producing cows are being crossed with a pure-bred Ayrshire sire. This cow has a 12 month record of 8,425 pounds of milk, 3814 pounds butter-fat, 4.5 per cent test.

No. 4. The accredited flock of white orpingtons belonging to Mrs. Gus Heitman, Bennington. O. N. Summers, state extension poultry specialist, says that this is one of the best flocks of white orpingtons in the state. They had a record of 106.7 eggs per hen last year.

No. 5. Accredited flock of Barred Rocks belonging to Mrs. Phil Frazier, Fort Crook, Neb. Mrs. Frazier has been improving the flock by the use of good cockrels from the university.

No. 6. Sixty-nine fall pigs raised from 10 sows. Phil Frazier, Fort Crook, says: "The hog lot sanitation project advocated by the state extension workers is the best method of raising pigs that I have ever tried." He keeps his pigs worm free now by farrowing them upon clean ground.

No. 7. Willard Whitney of Valley and his purebred Guernsey heifer. Willard is a member of the West-

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Farmers Are Busy With Planting

Spring Days See Activity in Fields; Model Farms Are Seen on Inspection Trip.

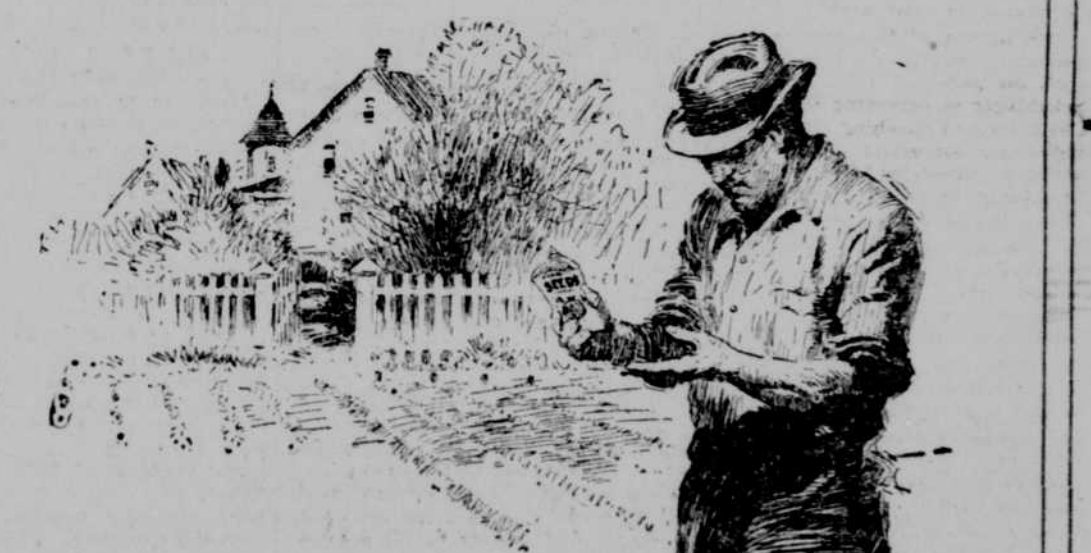
'Spring' Pigs Look Good

By C. H. BLAKELY.
Douglas and Sarpy counties have their seeding well under way. The dry weather in March put the soil in good shape and farmers have been taking advantage of this situation. Last week, in company with E. G. Maxwell, county agricultural agent for Douglas county, the "cow editor," as the city desk has dubbed us, took a trip over the two counties. We saw Sarpy county farmers finishing up oats seeding. At the farm of Phil Frazier near Fort Crook we learned that over 50 per cent of the seeding had been completed. Frazier said the neighborhood would finish up within a week, if weather remained favorable.

Frazier's "Pig Luck."
Frazier showed his spring hatch of fine Poland China pigs. The sows were averaging eight pigs per litter and Phil said, "I am going to raise them all, for I have learned how to raise pigs." He is a booster for the hog lot sanitation methods being advocated by state extension workers. He told us that a few years ago he was losing nearly all his pigs. He had 10 sows which raised only 30 pigs. Something had to be done. He came to Omaha and looked up the

county agent. Maxwell explained the method of farrowing the pigs upon clean ground. Phil went home and Maxwell forgot all about his call. Last summer Frazier asked Maxwell to call at the farm. He had followed the agent's suggestions and had a fine crop of spring pigs. This winter he raised 69 from 10 sows and sold his spring pigs from the same sows, 73 head of them weighing 305 pounds, for \$11.35. Mrs. Frazier, mother of a large family, manages a flock of unusually good poultry. She is a member of the Douglas county accredited flock work and is striving to perfect her strain of Barred Plymouth Rocks. Douglas county farming is getting away with an early start. Spring seeding within a week will be completed. Winter wheat don't look so good. "See those dead patches out there," exclaimed Maxwell. "I examined a lot of fields the other day and found Hessian fly in many. As we drove over the county we saw but few fields of good winter wheat. Oil is said to be better for stoves than blacking. Use very little and rub it in thoroughly. Polishing can be done with soft paper—newsprint do very nicely. Bee Want Ads Produce Results.

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