

Social Forms and Entertainments



New Bird Game.

This is a novel way of giving a "bird party," the idea is given by Martha Burr Banks.

Supply the guests with cards bearing as many members as there are birds portrayed, by various methods on the walls. These examples will show how the names of the birds are demonstrated, each illustration is numbered, so the guest may write his guess down opposite the corresponding number on the card. It is well to attach pencils to the cards and to start the contest after all have arrived. A half hour is sufficient time to allow for the guessing.

Blackbird; A bird cut from black paper. Redwing; A home with a wing painted red. Flicker; A candle blowing in the wind. Highhole; A hole in the top of the paper. Cuckoo; A cook and two o's. Woodpecker; A match, a peck measure, and an R. Meadow lark; Children romping in a meadow. Yellow-breasted chat; Two men, with yellow shirt-fronts, talking together. Brown thrasher; A schoolmaster in brown, with a rod in his hand. Cardinal; A church dignitary. Crow; A cock in the act of crowing. Hawk; A peddler. Swallow; A child eating. Swift; A boy running. Cross-bill; A bill on which are written these words: "Pay at once!" Spoon-bill; A spoon and a bird's beak. Blue-jay; A blue J. Fox sparrow; A fox and the letters S and P above an arrow. Song sparrow; A bar of a song, a spar, and a man rowing. Junco; A junk cart and an O. Bluebird; A bird with drooping head and wings. Wagtail; A dog. Maryland yellow-throat; A map of Maryland and a stork with a yellow neck. Chippy; A man chopping wood. Flycatcher; A piece of fly-paper. Redstart; The word "start" written in red ink. Indigo bunting; A scrap of blue bunting. Kinglet; A child wearing a crown. Pewee; A small P. Hummingbird; A spinning top. The names of other birds, such as catbird, oven bird, nut-hatch, snowflake, yellow-hammer, brown creeper, kingfisher, sandpiper, chickadee, etc., will suggest their own illustrations.

Have chicken in some form (sandwiches are always acceptable) and ice or cream in shape of birds would be appropriate. It will be easy to manage "bird" cookies and perhaps the confectioneer will make nests of spun sugar in which candy eggs may be placed.

These would be charming at each place on the table. There are many

delightful as well as inexpensive bird books to give for prizes.

A Field Day Party.

This is just the season for a "Field Day" party with all sorts of athletic sports. The guests may be any number, but twenty-four is just about right for the competition. This affair is fine for children, young people and those who are older grown.

Egg and spoon races are great fun as well as the "needle and thread" contest. Then there should be running races, forty yard dashes, interspersed with three legged and sack races.

Rope climbing is most laughable as well as the merry "obstacle" race.

A time-keeper, referee and a "judge" add to the interest and the prizes may be as many and elaborate as the hostess wishes. In some of the races blue and red ribbons may be awarded.

Perhaps tennis, croquet, archery and baseball matches may be arranged.

Refreshments or supper should be served on the lawn or porch. Such a party as this was recently given at a country place called "Glimmergen."

It would be a jolly thing to have the guests conveyed to and from the place in a hay wagon drawn by four horses. Provide horns and have bells on the harness.

It is needless to say that outing suits should be worn. From four to ten are good hours, but the time should be set to suit the convenience of the largest number.

Unique Card Party.

Any game of cards may be played that the hostess prefers or that is popular in the town. Request the guests to dress in costumes representing either the face or suit cards. For instance, have two five of diamonds, one lady and one a man, so that when all have arrived partners may be chosen for the first game. The prizes may be a handsome deck of cards in a case, a book on card games, ferns growing in a pretty jar, a bit of brass or a piece of pottery.

The score cards may be cut out of cardboard in the shape of diamonds, hearts, clubs and spades; the markers may be of these same figures, cut out of thin colored paper and gummed a few days before they are used, so they will be dry.

Serve hot bouillon in cups, patties of chicken and sweetbreads, salad, orange sherbet, small cakes, coffee, nuts, bon-bons. If ice cream is preferred, use the brick cut in thin slices, ornament with tiny hearts diamonds, clubs and spades cut from citron and candied cherries.

MME MERRI.

On Parasols.

Fine shadow lace decorates some of the daintiest parasols, and it is put on in many pretty ways. Sometimes tiny lace squares are inserted in the silk, but in a number of cases the lace is put on in the shape of a frill and caught here and there with a tiny pink rosette. When the parasol is simple and of one color it is a pretty fancy to have the edge outlined with tiny closely packed silk blossoms.

Two of the Season's Smart Costumes.



blue, and blue and gray checked cloth. The skirt is of the check; the coat of the plain cloth, with revers and cuffs of the check; vest of white corded silk, with collar of the same, which lies over the coat. Small gold buttons trim the vest; it is fastened



The costume on the right is in sand-colored pique, the skirt slightly draped at the right side, the fullness being fixed under the wrapped seam.

The coat is one of the fashionable shape that hangs rather long at the back and cut up at bust in front, where it is fastened by two buttons. The collar and revers are faced with black satin.

Hat of sand-colored Tagel, trimmed with feathers and black satin ribbon. Materials required for the costume: 5 yards 42 inches wide, 1/2 yard black satin 22 inches wide.

The other is a combination of dark

with press studs. Hat of gray Pedal straw, trimmed with a blue mount. Materials required for the costume: 2 3/4 yards check 44 inches wide, 2 yards plain cloth 44 inches wide, 1 yard corded silk 20 inches wide, 1 dozen small buttons, 1 large one for coat, 4 1/2 yards lining silk for coat.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



Sell only fresh eggs.

Time to select seed potatoes.

Lime is beneficial to clay soils.

Good feeders prepare in advance for their stock.

The fowl does not perspire as do most animals.

The fast walker is the profitable horse on the farm.

System in the dairy should surpass all other matters on the farm.

The quantity of milk in the pail is the most dependable sign of a good milker.

By keeping stock always in a good condition the cost of maintenance is lessened.

Laying hens should have their heaviest feed of the day not long before roosting time.

The energies of the dairy cows are convertible into a profit almost every day of her life.

The only time to develop stock is when you see the animal is young and growing fast.

Farming on a business basis eliminates small mules just as it displaces small horses.

The duck comes nearer perpetual motion than anything on the farm—not excepting the boys.

Pasture or other feed will go farther when there is plenty of water, shade, and protection from flies.

When a cow is foundered, plenty of water to drink and very light feed, will often correct the trouble.

If you want to raise a good cow you must first raise a good calf from the start all the way up to the cow.

Milk utensils should have a sun bath every day, but they should be protected from dust at the same time.

If tissue paper is squeezed hard and stuffed into a mousehole it will form a barrier through which mice will not nibble.

While there is but little sale in market for guineas, they are the nearest approach to the wild fowls of any meat known.

Dairying and poultry raising go together, the waste of the dairy being more profitably fed to poultry than anything else.

Where calves are kept in the barn, furnish plenty of bedding, and when out of doors have a suitable place for a shelter and shade.

Poultrymen who have tried it, claim that a teaspoonful of Venetian red in a gallon of drinking water is a good bowel trouble preventive.

Mice and rats have little show around buildings or homes where order prevails and general farm sanitation is looked after as it should be.

Give the pigs a fair start in life by feeding the sow upon milk producing rations. There is nothing much better than skim milk mixed with shorts.

In the market stock yards the bunch of hogs that is even in weight, conformation and color will bring more than the lot made up of all sorts.

Keep the apple trees well sprayed to free them from the destructive work of insects, worms and scab. If a satisfactory crop of fruit is to be expected.

Feeding in sheep husbandry is like any other problem in live stock management! However good the breed without good care and feeding they will degenerate.

The truth is the farmers of the middle west are raising better mutton than ever before, and people are learning that it is about the best and cheapest meat they can buy.

It is a mistake to discard a breed on the supposition that it is not a hardy one. Hardiness can be instilled in any breed by proper housing, proper food, proper attention, and systematic breeding.

A poultry breeder is greatly pleased with the success of his diet of steel-cut oats and new milk for young chicks. He alternates his feeds, giving the oats and milk one meal, and a mixture of cracked grains in litter for the next. Wheat boiled in milk is also good.

Unless the stock turkeys are large it is almost impossible to get the young ones to a good weight. It is best to purchase the largest and finest stock obtainable to breed from.

Wheat is just as capable of increased yields as oats and corn, and those farmers who have combined science (common sense) with their agriculture, have reaped not 14 bushels but 30 to 50 bushels per acre for a series of years.

Breeding stock should be selected for health, strength, vigor and maturity first, utility second, and fancy points third. Unless a bird is matured, and possesses size, vigor and a sound constitution, it should be barred out of the breeding pen.

Mixed rations are best.

It pays to save the manure.

Keep the eggs in a cool place.

Save the meat scraps for your fowls.

Fowls cannot be healthy without exercise.

The biggest cow is not always the best milker.

A bit of planning will always save time and muscle.

Proper food and a variety of it makes strong, healthy chickens.

As a growing proposition there is nothing better than a spring pig.

Hogs must be unheaded, have spirit and finish and be fast walkers.

If the sow is fed on sour, dirty swill the effect is quickly seen in the pigs.

Undue excitement during hot weather often proves fatal to overfat fowls.

Clean earth is one of the best absorbents that can be used in the poultry house.

The dairy farm is a highly developed business establishment and should be so operated.

Whitewashing the nests, inside and out, is a good means of keeping them free from vermin.

It takes a stockman's eye to detect the first symptoms of failing conditions of his stock.

Little chicks need a feeding coop where they can eat in peace away from the older fowls.

Those who have silos full of sludge find winter feeding easy and satisfactory to the live stock.

A poultryman too careless to keep the henhouse free from vermin does not deserve to succeed.

A good feeding creep for chicks may be made by tacking some coarse mesh poultry wire over a frame.

A quarter spent for a batch of butter paper is money well invested where butter is marketed.

Young pigs kept in dry, dusty lots and fed on corn exclusively will not make money for their owner.

A quarter buys a dairy thermometer and no dairyman can make a better investment of two bits.

No honest breeder will sell a culled ram to an ignorant farmer. It is as bad as passing counterfeit money.

Milk, cream, and butter are susceptible to all manner of taint and the result is antimated butter products.

Drought can be largely controlled by care of the physical condition of the soil and in the preparation of the seed bed.

Dust sitting hens with pyrethrum powder twice or three times before the eggs hatch and there will be no lice on the chicks.

Poultry and fruits are closely allied. Both do well together, and they readily thrive on the same land without hindering each other.

The sun has a purifying effect on milk pans and pails, but they should be covered with light screen cloth so the flies cannot chase over them.

Any woman who manages well can find an hour during the day when she can shut herself in from all outside worries and recline, relax and rest.

It is just as necessary to plow or otherwise cultivate the peach orchard when it bears not a peach as it is when the trees are to be loaded with fruit.

Decaying matter of any kind left lying around at this time of the year may prove a very costly bit of carelessness to anyone that is raising chickens.

It is in favor of the sheep that it will yield a profit under conditions so unfavorable that other farm animals under the same conditions will be unprofitable.

Ducks can be raised without free range. In fact they should be kept away from the hog lots or stock yards, where the clumsy birds are at the mercy of the stock.

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PREPARATION OF RATIONS FOR SWINE



This is a picture of a \$5,000 Poland China boar, raised at Glen Ellyn, Ill. His head denotes his splendid breeding. With hogs selling around \$8.00, this unlovely animal is one of great importance to the farmer and consumer as well.

(By E. J. IDINGS, Idaho Experiment Station.)

How to prepare feeds for hogs to secure the greatest economy is a question frequently asked by hog raisers.

Corn should be fed on the cob. Where shelled corn is bought it should be ground or soaked. The Iowa experiment station after exhaustive trials found that feeding on the cob was most economical and that soaking for twelve hours was equal to grinding.

Such small grains as wheat, barley, oats and rye are commonly fed in Idaho and other northwestern states. The outer layers of these grains become very hard after a few months, and when such hard, flinty grains are fed to hogs a large part of them pass through the digestive tract whole as waste.

Hogs can be induced to do their own grinding by scattering grain on a rough concrete or other feeding floor, or by feeding grain in the sheaf. Ordinarily, however, we have to grind, roll or soak the small grains. Coarse grinding which leaves hard sharp cornered pieces is not recommended. Grains must be ground fine, especially for young pigs. Rolling grains leaves them in a porous condition, and when taken into the stomach they make a porous mass upon which the digestive juices can easily act. Grinding or rolling ordinarily saves about ten per cent.

Considerable difference of opinion exists as to advisability of wetting

feeds for hogs. The self-feeder is successful if regulated to prevent waste; and when used feeds are, of course, fed dry. When rations are given in a trough, our experience at the Idaho experiment station indicates an advantage from wetting feeds. Dry and floury feeds need much liquid to moisten them, and the saliva and digestive juices are hardly sufficient for this purpose; furthermore, wetting makes feeds more bulky, thereby preventing rapid eating, and when fed in this rather bulky, wet form they satisfy the appetites of the older hogs for bulk.

Cooking and steaming were common a few years ago, but are now no longer popular. It has been found that cooking tends to lessen the feeding value of some grains; and in most cases does not bring enough benefits to pay for fuel and time. Exceptions to this rule are potatoes and beans, which give best results when cooked.

Alfalfa hay is cheap in the northwest, and can be successfully used for a large portion of the brood sow's winter ration, and as a small part of the allowance for fattening hogs. Experiments at the Idaho station indicate that alfalfa can be fed whole in a rack with greatest economy. After exhaustive trials the Nebraska experiment station found that alfalfa fed whole was slightly more economical than cutting or chopping it into short lengths, and that grinding fine into meal as compared with the other methods of feeding alfalfa was not so profitable on the farm.

CARE REQUIRED FOR THE WINDOW GARDEN

Particular Attention Should Be Paid to Water and Shade for Plants.

(By L. M. BENNINGTON.)

Pay strict attention to the potted plants as regards water and shade, for all plants require some shade during summer, especially from the afternoon sunshine.

See to it that plants intended for winter blooming are not allowed to bloom now. Pinch off the buds as they appear.

Pots plunged in the border must be turned once a week to prevent the roots striking through the drainage hole.

Now is the time for making cuttings of geraniums and the like. Keep the slips damp until well rooted; then pot. Keep all buds pinched off until frost appears and kills outdoor flowers. The oleander will root quickly if slips are cut three or four inches long, put in a bottle of water, and hung in a shady place.

Seeds of pansies, lantanas, primroses, impatient Sultana, and the like must be sown now for winter blooming.

If you never have seen the snapdragon of the present day, and want spikes of beauty a foot long to gladden the dark eyes of winter, sow seeds of the improved snapdragon.

Kill Pocket Gophers.

An orchardist at Quincy, Wash., says that he has been successful in destroying pocket gophers in the orchard by digging a hole 2 1/2 feet deep and a foot across. He has found that the pocket gophers get into the hole and are easily killed. He reports to the Western Farmer that he has found as many as 17 pocket gophers in one hole.

Area of Cornfields.

The combined area of the cornfields of the United States is nearly equal to the area of France or Germany.

Mules and Horses.

There are 4,386,000 mules and 20,667,000 horses in the United States.

TABLE BIRDS OF THE RIGHT QUALITY

Houdan Males Take Kindly to Fattening Process and Flesh Up Rapidly.

Houdan males are good breeders, and seldom fail to produce chickens that grow without much trouble, and when the time arrives for the separation of the sexes the cockerels will take kindly to the fattening process and put on flesh rapidly, and make up into table birds of good quality. The flesh of the Houdan is of good color, fine in grain, juicy and of fine flavor, and on that account it has gained for itself the premier position as a table bird in its native country. The breed has been used with advantage in the production of cross-bred fowls both for table use and egg production. To reproduce fine table birds Houdan males are mated to buff Orpingtons, whilst to produce a good laying cross, Houdan cockerels are mated to Leghorn or Minorca hens. The Houdan white Leghorn is undoubtedly the best cross known for egg production, and the crossing of these two distinct breeds not only accounts for increased prolificacy in the progeny, but the process of crossing improves the fattening qualities of the cockerels produced. It may be truly said that the Houdan is capable of improving the progeny of most fowls with which it is crossed, and on that account it is an excellent breed to turn down with a view to the improvement of farm stock of a nondescript class. A few male Houdans mated to mongrel hens will stamp their likeness on the progeny, and not only will the chickens produced excel over their dams' better properties, but they will prove meat layers.

Lime for Fowls.

When there is a scarcity of lime in the bill of fare the shells of the eggs become thin. When being laid these soft-shelled eggs usually break and the hen thus acquires a taste. It is always best to gather the eggs several times a day so that there will be no chance for breakage by hens crowding on the nest, or by the newly laid egg striking those already laid.