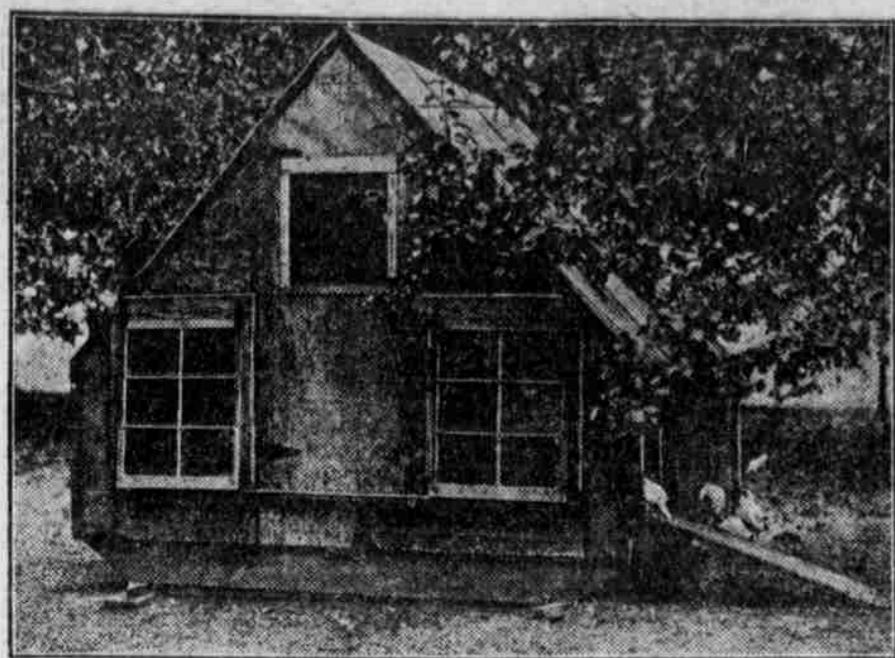


BEGINNING WITH POULTRY IN RIGHT WAY



This House Will Care for 100 Incubator-Hatched Chickens.

(By ELIZABETH PUTNAM.)

The beginner will do well to begin on a small scale—a city lot or a big back yard will be large enough—and grow up, or rather, let the business grow until it reaches the stage where it becomes unwieldy. How soon and at what point this stage is reached depends entirely upon the person who is back of it.

There are only a few poultrymen capable of carrying on with profit a business where the hens are counted by the thousands, though so many are making the hundreds profitable that the poultry products of the United States equal those of the dairy in value.

An expensive outfit is not only unnecessary, but unadvisable. Use the ruder forms to begin with, and make the profits pay for the more elaborate buildings. If they cannot do this, you do not need the buildings. A warm, and especially dry situation is the prime requisite. Of course, there must be good ventilation.

Many secure this by using cloth instead of glass in the windows. The method admits light, and at the same time allows for the circulation of air without danger of draft. Use new muslin of light weight, preferably unbleached, as it is stronger. Old cloth may seem good enough when it is put in place; but before you are aware it will be torn by a hard wind and the damage done to the flock will more than counterbalance the supposed economy in using half-worn cloth.

The material used for the building will depend largely upon circumstances. Some have had excellent results with only the shelter afforded by old rails and corn fodder. But in other locations this would not be an economical plan. The plan of using two plane boxes, removing the top and back of each, and placing them the width of one box apart is a good one. The slope of the boxes continued to the ridge outlines a slight roof, which may be covered with the pieces of board removed from the top and back of the boxes.

If you have the building it may be protected by an annual coat of gov-

ernment whitewash, applied with a sprayer. This not only gives protection to the wood from the weather, but tends to keep down insect pests, the success being still greater if the inside is treated in a similar way or with frequent sprayings of kerosene.

If you are troubled with rats, a cement floor will stop their progress and will be easily kept clean. A scratching shed is a great advantage, and in summer it will be most useful for keeping the chicks dry during rainy weather or while the dew is on the grass.

A compartment for nesting boxes is also a convenience. Hens like to be removed from the flock at this time; and if this is not done there is uneasiness, and when they are sitting, great danger of breaking the eggs.

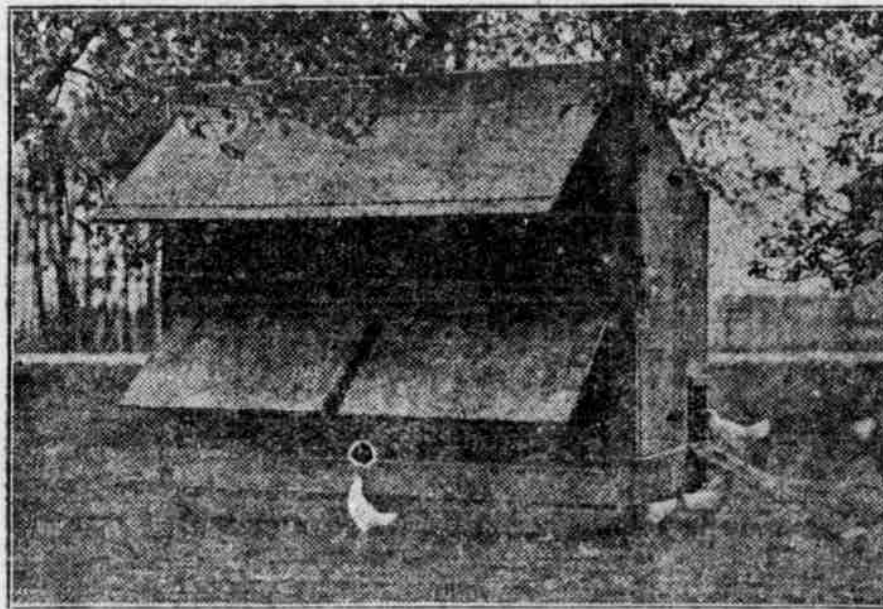
Cheese boxes make convenient nests, and these may be obtained of the local grocer free or for a trifle. Never allow the nest boxes to be fastened permanently. They should be removable and frequently cleaned out and treated with a good insect powder.

There are many good insect powders in stock; many that are worthless. The age rather than the brand of the article is of interest, for it loses its strength in a season, despite manufacturers' assertions to the contrary. If it is not strong enough to suggest a sneeze it is scarcely a protection.

If you cannot afford pure bred chickens, gradually work up to it. But select some breed at which to aim. Drifting in a haphazard way, getting Leg-horns here and Orpingtons there will never result in anything but a mongrel flock.

Do not think for a minute that you can make a success of cross-breeding. It requires an expert to do this. Neither put too much stress on what others tell you about the best breed; it is wise to learn the characteristics of the different breeds. But when it comes to selecting the best breeds, you will find advice varies almost as much as the number of breeds.

Every one has a favorite; and the fowl which is best for your neighbor will not be best for you unless you like it best. Personal taste must guide largely in this matter.



Summer Roosting House—Usually Very Comfortable During Hot Weather, the Front Being Arranged in Such Manner as to Keep Out the Wet.

GOOD DOSE FOR BLACKHEAD

Mixture of Castor Oil and Turpentine Will Prevent Dread Disease—Separate Ailing Birds.

If the young turkeys, or poults, most people speak of them, begin to droop and die, and before death show up with a yellow, watery discharge, the first thing to be done is to change the ration entirely, as it might merely be indigestion. Then, for fear that it isn't, separate the sick from the well, and open one of the dead poults. If you find the liver badly spotted, and the blind intestines (the two short ones) decidedly showing inflammation, then the matter is serious and the poults have the blackhead, and recovery is doubtful. However, one can try. Get the well fowls to themselves, feed light bread and milk, in which is a good sprinkling of pepper for each meal. Give each poult a half teaspoonful of castor oil in which is placed four or five drops of turpentine. Each day after, don't miss the dosage of turpentine once a day—from two drops to five or six for the younger poults. This dosage is for the well. As for the sick, it would not hurt to try it, though once sick with this, it usually means death.

HIGH ROOSTS FOR CHICKENS

Much to Blame for Mortality Among Young Fowls is Laid to Overcrowding in Small Coops.

Because overcrowding in small coops placed near the ground tends to injure the health of young chickens, it is advisable to teach them to use perch roosts as early as possible and practicable. This is the opinion of James G. Halpin, in charge of the poultry department of the University of Wisconsin's college of agriculture. Halpin also lays much of the blame for mortality among young chickens from roup and similar diseases during the early winter months to neglect on the part of their owners in seeing that they are placed on roosts early in the season.

When chickens are left out on cold nights in an improvised shelter they are sure to huddle closely together. In this way the bodily temperature is raised above normal, and they become easily subject to colds, which often lead to fatal diseases.

Common Poultry Disease. Blackhead is a disease very common in young and old turkeys, and also in young chickens.

NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM



Hens relish skim-milk. Keep the tools in a shed. Keep a small flock of sheep. Only level floors for separators.

A good farmer is a good fighter—the weeds.

Cow-peas are also a fine supplementary pasture for pigs.

Don't forget shade and cool, clean water during warm days.

During the first two days of a chick's life it should rest and be kept warm.

Grade and pack your product so that you can afford to put some kind of a guarantee on it.

It pays in hard cash to keep the sows healthy and hearty, both before and after farrowing.

Arsenate of lead is replacing paris green in spraying potatoes because it adheres to the foliage better.

The early hatched pullet is the one that begins to lay early in the fall when eggs are high in price.

Fresh, clean, cool water for hens and chicks and all other kinds of poultry is very essential in hot weather.

Never put a horse up dirty or muddy for the night. At least brush his legs and belly, and straighten his hair.

It is important to have lettuce, spinach, peas, snap beans and the like reach the market in a clean, fresh condition.

Good sheep require more care to maintain their excellence. Poor sheep are always a burden upon the rest of the flock.

Give the hogs salt and ashes, especially hard coal ashes, and an occasional dose of copperas and sulphur in the slop.

Sun-scaud is death to trees. Valuable young trees can be protected by a cylinder of heavy paper; not much trouble and it pays.

Anybody living near a good-sized town can do a fine business in sweet corn by delivering it fresh every morning to customers direct.

A small sewing outfit to place in the traveling bag when going visiting will be a great comfort and convenience. It can be made of linen or silk.

In all soils the gases and acids produced by the decay of vegetable matter are the chief agents in setting free the plantfood locked up in the soil.

Spraying vegetables should be commenced the very moment the insects are seen. Every day thereafter makes the work of observing them more difficult.

Above all things, don't change the collars of the horses from one animal to another. How would you like to wear some one else's shoes if they did not fit?

In hot weather, and in all weather if the horse is hot, sponge his eyes, nose, dock, the harness marks, and the inside of his hind-quarters, when he first comes in.

When pasturing rape employ hurdles, giving hogs a small strip at a time to feed on. This plan means less waste and aids in obtaining a second growth of the plants.

Keep the tools sharp. Don't let your team work with any machine that needs sharpening. Dull tools dull the work, and if anything will make a slave of a man it is working with dull tools.

Do not forget that in the composition of egg there is a great proportion of water, and the laying hen cannot produce eggs unless she has all the water she wants, and at the time she wants it.

Raise your own teams and one occasionally for your neighbor. So long as men use improved implements they will continue to use good teams. And the best way to have an efficient team on your own farm is to raise colts for this purpose.

Where there is no danger from skunks or foxes or other animals digging under, coops without floors are healthful and are cleaned by simply moving them to a fresh location every day. It is necessary, of course, to keep them on dry ground.

Be regular in milking. Raise your own horses. Soy-beans gather nitrogen. Water the horse before feeding. Keep hogs away from other stock. Encourage the birds to stay with you.

Stake the trees blown crooked by the winter winds. Breeding from immature stock always lessens stamina.

Most state experiment stations will test seeds for germination free of cost. Skim-milk with ground corn and a little bright hay will make calves hump.

The army worm is a clumsy caterpillar and has trouble in climbing up a straight wall. Get your rye, or whatever catch crop you use, started as soon after harvest as you can.

The best fertilizers cannot exert their full effect on soils that are too wet, too hard or too porous. The condition of the soil depends largely upon the amount of decaying vegetable matter it contains.

It costs a little more to fence the hog lot with woven wire fence, but it is the thing to do. Get the best. In transplanting your trees set them the same depth, or a trifle deeper than they stood in the nursery row.

Green beans and peas may be had all through the summer and fall if seed is sown at different intervals. Thick-neck onions are usually seen during such seasons as have wet weather at the usual time of ripening.

A clean coop and freedom from lice and mites will assist the chicks to grow fast and the fowls to molt properly. Orville Scott of Bealsville, Pa., owns a duck which she declares laid two eggs a day, something never known before.

Full grown green tomatoes may be kept about two months by wrapping them in paper and storing them in a cool place. Sweet potatoes should be "laid by" before the vines cross the rows, otherwise there will be a back-breaking job of turning them.

Nothing is more delicious than a dish of plump, red strawberries, fresh from the vines, served with rich cream and sugar. Some of the shrewdest bankers in the country note their client's credit by their ability to turn off a good bunch of hogs each year.

If there is typhoid in the neighborhood, fix up the fly screens. Flies are known to carry disease more than half a mile on their filthy feet. Skim-milk calves, although thinner at weaning time, are sometimes sold as baby beef if well fed until sixteen or eighteen months of age.

Each pig should be looked after individually; a general look will not do; each animal has its individual needs, and these needs should be studied. It is always the hen that lays the most eggs that produces the most chicks. In breeders high fertility is more to be desired than high production.

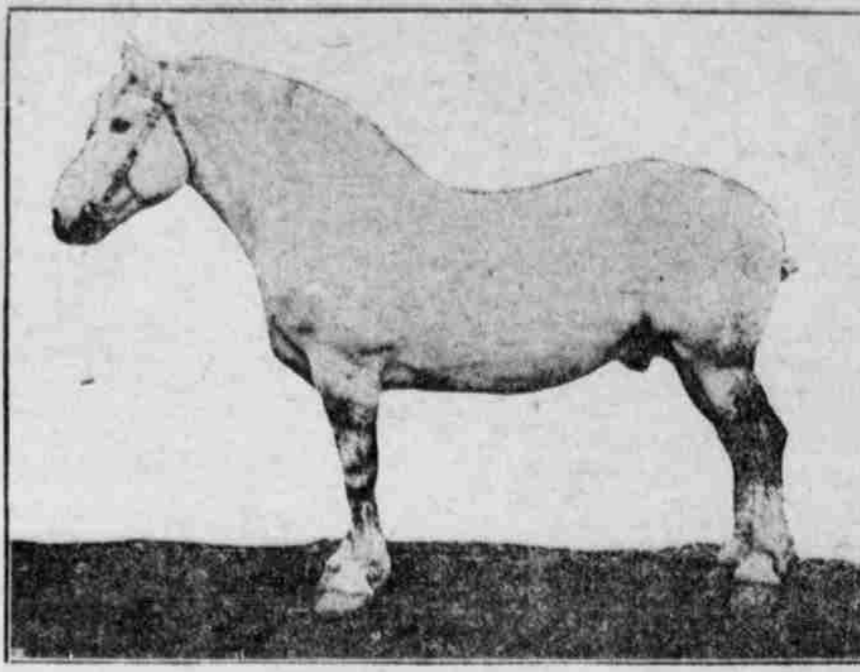
Pole beans and peas should be staked and the ground around them loosened with a hoe. Draw the loosened earth toward the rows, hilling them up. A garden of one-third to one-half acre should be large enough to supply the average family with all the vegetables required and with some small fruit as well.

Gardeners use 400 and as high as 800 pounds of fertilizer to the acre. It is applied in small quantities and at different stages of growth and not all at one time. A few boxes fitted up for bird nests or houses and places in trees where cats cannot get at them often help to keep very desirable feathered neighbors in the neighborhood.

To prevent scratches, dry the horse's fetlocks and heels when he comes in, especially in winter; and rub on a little glycerine or vaseline before he goes out in snow or mud. In all the leading milk producing farms of the Eastern states, great attention is now given to the importance of having the stables scrupulously clean and the cows kept in comfort. It is found by actual test to be profitable to do so.

It is all right to cultivate some low growing crops between young trees. Early potatoes and early cabbage would do well for this sort of work. When these are out of the way sow clover as a cover crop for winter and turn it under in the spring.

HORSE GAINS IN NUMBERS AND DEMAND



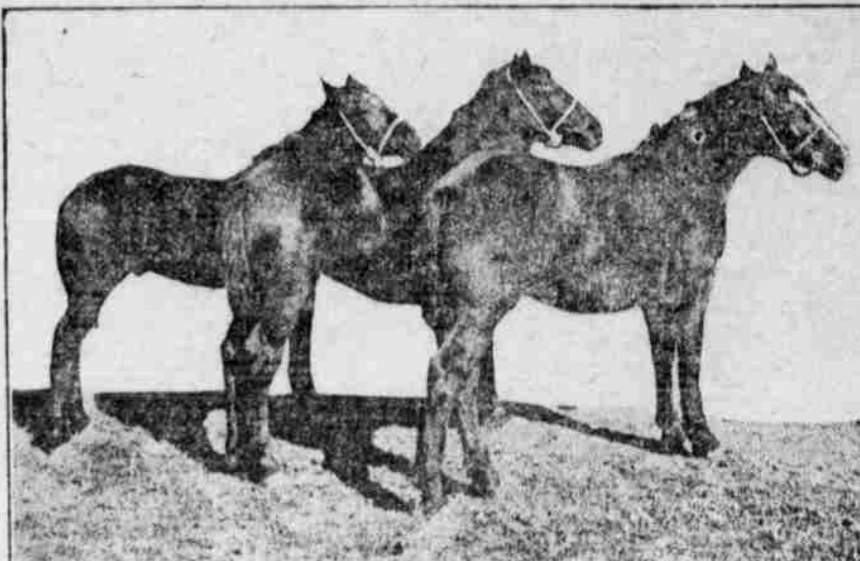
The Most Profitable Type.

The horse's place in the life of the country has been threatened many times, but he has shown that he is never really in danger, and he is in more request now than ever before. When the first railroad was built in New England it was opposed on the ground that it would take the value out of horses. In 1826 a committee from the Massachusetts legislature concluded, after investigation, that the steam locomotive could not be accepted in the United States as a substitute for the horse, as motive power, writes Joseph A. Rickart of Missouri in National Stockman and Farmer. Later the bicycle was counted upon to weaken the position of the horse-drawn vehicle for pleasure, and to some degree for business. The trolley car displaced a certain number of horses and mules, but did not take much from the prestige of the equine race. The motor car and the motor truck were considered the certain doom of the horse, but he remains, gaining in numbers and demand.

The reduction in the average size of farms in the United States, as shown in the 1910 census, makes more farm horses necessary. Experiments have proven that it requires proportionately more horses to work a small farm than it does a larger one, for there are more idle days during the year for horses on a small farm than on a large farm. But it is the demand for good horses from the cities that is responsible for the advancing price. The motor truck has taken the place of draft horses to some extent, and figures are given by interested parties that show the great economy in using motor trucks over horse power.

Various influences, pro and con, are affecting the horse market at this time. On one hand there is an exceptionally good demand from the cities for large expressers and trucks. The government is buying horses, and may buy many more. On the other hand, the open winter permitted farmers to do much plowing, particularly in the central and western states. When spring came, instead of having to work all their horses, and perhaps buy more, some farmers were in a position to sell one or more of their teams. During the Boer war England bought a large number of horses in this country for service in South Africa. Kansas City dealers secured most of the contracts for these horses, and horse and mule receipts at Kansas City jumped from 33,000 head in 1899 to 103,000 head in 1900, and almost as many were received in 1901, a volume of horse and mule business that has never been equaled at that market since.

Prices for work animals cover a wide range, \$75 to \$100 for light-weight, serviceable animals for street driving and light express, medium-weight chunks for city service at \$125 to \$175, farm geldings, \$140 to \$200, farm mares \$150 to \$225, well-shaped horses weighing 1,150 to 1,350 pounds at \$185 to \$275, and \$300 to \$350 for horses weighing around a ton. Fancy drivers and saddlers are not as much used as they were ten or fifteen years ago, and fewer of them are produced, but prices on them remain at substantial figures.



Mare and Her Two Colts.

EXPANSION OF OUR FARMING METHODS

Farmer Must Raise Some Highly Organized Crop That is Adapted to Rotation.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.) In a measure the use of chemical plant foods is the basis of expansive farming. The profits from using these plant foods will depend upon their right purchase and use. Rightly used they enable a man to place more of his land under a remunerative system of crop growing.

We have been farming along too narrow lines. The fertility supply from our farm stock as compared with the size of our farms, never gets far from our barns and feed lots, so that while

a few acres "hold their own" the many suffer for the few.

To expand our farming we must widen our methods and raise some highly organized crop that is adapted to our rotation of crops and our farm and that will pay a profit when grown under intense conditions.

Intense tillage makes the soil more friable, easier to cultivate and teeming with bacterial life, a condition brought about by opening up the pores and giving the air and its decomposing agents an opportunity to start bacterial action. The plant food that is insoluble, thus becomes available.

Poor Setting of Fruit. The poor setting of fruit, which often follows a long rain, is due more to a loss in vitality of the pollen or to some mechanical injury to the pistils; also, in a large measure, to the fact that bees and other insects which promote the beneficial cross pollination between varieties are absent.