

# ALL AROUND THE FARM

Conducted by S. C. Hulz

## SPRING WORK WITH CHICKENS

E. C. Wainright, Illinois.

### WRONG WAY TO PLOW CORN

**H**OW have you been plowing your corn? Throwing the dirt away from the roots at the last plowing? Better change your method and stop cutting off the roots.

A Maryland farmer says that plowing corn, throwing the dirt away from the roots is nothing short of plant murder. And he is right. In Illinois, and in fact in all the corn states, it was the general practice twenty years ago to plow corn the last time very deep, thus cutting off the roots and crippling the plant. Many farmers still continue this practice although it has long been abandoned by all good farmers.

A good farmer in the South says he has taken out corn 25 days after planting that was 14 inches high with roots 30 inches long. No implement other than the improved quadruple cultivator or weeder was used on this ground from the time the corn was put in until it was laid by.

A cultivator of this kind not only destroys weeds, but keeps the ground in most excellent condition. It does not ridge it, and is set so it cannot injure the roots.

Many corn growers set the plow deep and go ripping along between the rows and the breaking and tearing of the corn roots can be plainly heard. Then when the corn does not fill out and yield as big a crop as their neighbors' they wonder what is the matter.

### KEEP PURE WATER FOR COWS

**F**ROM my own tests in a dairy that was producing one hundred and sixteen gallons a day, stopping the water in the automatic basins by the side of the cows, reduced the amount of production eleven gallons a day in less than one week.

This test was made on the same feed and the cows were watered twice a day from the yard tank.

The decrease of eleven gallons per day of fourteen cent milk amounted to more than forty-five dollars a month during the winter months.

The basins at the top of the pipe are fastened at the side of the stall or stanchion and have covers that the cow lifts with her nose when drinking. The water comes in as fast as it is taken out.

The covers keep out all dust and litter and the pipes are securely fastened to the bottom of the manger and are out of the way.

Various makes of automatic basins are adapted to different sizes of pipe and all have some good points in their favor.

Any man who has noticed a cow go from a warm stable and drink a few pails of ice water from a yard tank and return to her stall and shake for an hour or more, should be ready to introduce a better plan of watering in his stable.—J. M. Kelley.

### DAIRY WORK IN WINTER TIME

Some Suggestions for Women on the Farm Who Make Butter

C. S. Carnman, Missouri.

**T**HE pale colored, streaked compound sometimes specked with cheesy particles is not very pleasing to the eye, and its taste not very agreeable to the palate, for usually the flavor is a combination of the odors of the kitchen and the taste of overripe cream or old milk.

This is especially true if the milk is limited in quantity and the setting in open vessels is practiced. Where the milk from lack of better room must be kept in the kitchen or pantry it should be strained and heated so hot that the hand could comfortably bear the temperature and then removed to cool as rapidly as possible.

This heating hastens the rising of the cream and also makes the coming of the butter an easy task. When perfectly cold the milk should be removed to a tight cupboard from which all food is excluded, and which no odors can penetrate when cooking is in progress, there to remain until the cream has risen.

The bitter, old taste of butter can be prevented by skimming before the milk "clabbers," using a perforated skimmer so that all the milk may be rejected and setting the cream jar tightly covered in a moderately warm place where it may sour or ripen quickly.

This ripening process should be hastened by the addition of a little cream kept back from the previous churning and much or little—the cream should be churned twice a week at least.

There is often a temptation when the quantity of cream is small, to save it till a fair sized churning is secured, thus avoiding a little extra work. In doing this one is sure to sacrifice quality in the butter.

The cheesy particles which are so objectionable in butter will not be present if there is no milk in the cream, for they are what they look to be—particles of hardened cheese from the sour milk. The whey from

this sour milk in the cream goes into the butter milk, the rest remains in the butter and besides hurting its looks, it is bad for the keeping of the butter. The only way to prevent this is by careful skimming. The separator does the work perfectly but hand skimming may also be done successfully before the milk is clabbered. This careful skimming entails a little extra trouble perhaps, but the trouble is made up for when it comes to churning, for such cream turns to butter with less labor than that mixed with milk.

The streaks in butter are due to imperfect salting. Salt darkens or makes richer the hue of butter, the unsalted remaining as when churned. If the salt is added while the butter is still in a granulated form it will penetrate to all parts alike and a uniform and pleasing appearance is the result.

The color may be deepened if desired by a judicious use of coloring matter but use nothing unless convinced beyond doubt that it contains nothing deleterious to the health of the consumer.

Many still use the old-fashioned dasher churn and think they must "gather" the butter before salting. This is not necessary. If the churn is a wooden one a hole may be bored near the bottom with a good sized auger and a cork or wooden plug can be used for stopping this hole.

As the granules of butter rise to the top, buttermilk may be drawn off and water poured in to wash the butter. This in turn is drawn off and the operation is repeated until the water is clear and the butter is then ready for salting.

If the churn is an earthen one, then the granulated butter and buttermilk may be poured into a sieve which will hold the butter and let the liquid escape, and the water may be poured through again and again till all traces of buttermilk are removed.

### WORK AMONG STRAWBERRIES

**A**MONG small fruits there is nothing the equal of the strawberry as a money getter. Results in yields that would seem to the uninitiated visionary, are possible where conditions are all favorable.

It is none the less true, also, that yields from strawberry culture will vary with the seasons in greater extremes than any of the other small fruits. Killing frosts, unfavorable weather during the blooming period, or an extremely droughty fruiting season may play havoc with our expectations.

There is not so much money to be made from the bush fruits as from the strawberry; but if given proper culture these fruits will return satisfactory dividends. While the returns are not so great, the fruiting season is lengthened, furnishing profitable employment for a greater length of time.

Then, too, it is not best to have all of one's eggs in a single basket, lest a failure in one crop leaves us with but little or no returns for our labor.

Another advantage in having several fruits under culture is that we furnish a longer term of employment for our pickers. This is of advantage to them and often results in securing better help and service.

It is not every variety of strawberry that is equally at home on all soils and under every condition. The variety that is best adapted to the soil of my farm may not be the best variety for my neighbor's farm. In this respect the strawberry is a particular sort of plant.

The bush fruits do not show the peculiarity to the extent that the strawberry plant does. Any good soil will grow bush fruits. Any good soil, too, will grow strawberries, but we may need to experiment with different varieties to get the best results possible from our particular soil.

### SAYS RAPE IS GOOD FOR SHEEP

**R**APE is a luxuriant plant and requires rich soil for its best growth. It will thrive upon clayey soils, too; and does better than mangels or turnips. Light soils are not rich enough for it and the crop is usually light when an attempt is made to grow it on such soils.

Newly cleared land and old pastures, plowed in the fall and worked early in the spring by cross disking and pulverizing, are especially adapted for producing a successful crop.

There are several varieties of rape, some of which are grown for fodder and others for seed. The seed varieties are annuals and are worthless for fodder. The one variety that is to be recommended in this country for fodder is the Dwarf Essex, a biennial, which seems to show a great adaptability to different soils and climatic conditions and to yield a wonderful crop of luxuriant leaves, valuable for use as a fodder.

The poorest rape grown at the Minnesota station on seven-tenths of an acre of ground maintained sixteen lambs for twenty-five days. In another season one-half acre was eaten by twenty-one wethers in ten weeks with an additional one pound of grain per head daily.

An estimate has been made that one acre of rape with grain will fatten 20 wethers

in two months. Ten hogs will eat about one-third of an acre in two months. The heaviest yield of rape cut from a given area was secured when the crop was cut three times in succession about four inches from the ground. The yield was at the rate of thirty-six tons per acre.

In sowing the rape crop the ground should be well pulverized and in suitable condition for the germination of the small seed. In this country flat culture is preferred to growing the crop on ridges, which has been extensively practiced with this crop in Europe. Sowing the crop on ridges may have the advantage of giving better drainage, and this may be considered the main object in using this culture. The crop may be sown in drills 30 inches apart or sown broadcast.

By sowing it in drills it may be pastured without destroying as much as stock naturally would in having to trample over it where it is sown broadcast. The amount of seed required will vary slightly according to the condition of the soil and the method of sowing it. When sowing in drills from two to two and one-half pounds of seed will give the best results.

When sown broadcast three pounds of seed is necessary. Large and plump seed sown on rich soil may be sown lighter than where the soil is not in good condition, and the seed is of poor quality.

Where too much seed is used and the crop is sown broadcast, the plants will often come up and turn a reddish yellow and brown, which is an indication that a poor crop must necessarily follow.

### DUCK RAISING PAYS WELL

By Miller Purvis.

**I** KEPT a considerable number of ducks at one time, but dropped them more because of lack of room than for any other reason, for I was under the impression that it paid to keep them for their eggs alone.

Last summer I visited several of the greatest duck farms in this country. On one of these farms more than 40,000 ducks were hatched for the New York market, and sold at about ten weeks old.

Another farm hatched and sold 22,000, these being sold at ten weeks, largely to summer resort hotels and in Buffalo, and other small cities.

I was very much interested in these farms and asked a good many questions. I discovered that it costs about 60 cents to raise, dress and market a ten-week-old duckling, and that about \$1 is the price received for it. This is very profitable when ducks are hatched in large numbers.

I also discovered that it costs about 10 cents a month to keep full grown ducks, which makes the profit of keeping them for eggs too small. Ducks do not begin to lay regularly until spring opens, and they sometimes lay as many as 120 eggs each.

As these eggs are produced at a time when eggs are declining in price there is not much room for profit, after paying the expense of keeping them a year before they begin to lay.

Say they cost \$1.20 by the time they begin to lay. It will take them at least five months to produce ten dozen eggs, even if they lay well. This adds 50 cents to the feed cost, not counting labor, and we have paid out \$1.70 to get eggs that are not worth more than \$2.

Where there is a demand for them at a good price the growing of young ducks is profitable, but for egg-production they do not compare with hens in making money.

### BUY BEST BREEDS OF SHEEP

**M**UCH is often said about the quality of the mutton that sells best in the market. The demand seems to be for certain qualities that are not usually at a premium.

Breeders often ponder on the matter to determine what they shall do. It is with them just to breed and then to feed. When sheep of low grade are placed upon the market, the buyers scold because they are not furnished with something better. When something better is sent them, they scold because it is too good.

A butcher in London, England, declared he dared not sell prime Southdown mutton for fear he could not always supply it, and then he would be practically ruined. The starting point in obtaining quality, is the sheep itself. The idea that a sheep is a sheep has long prevailed, and some breeders failing to get any farther than this idea, have failed as a schoolboy fails in following his copy in his copy book.

The copy set him seems almost perfect. He attempts to copy as best he can, but misses it. The next line is a little worse than the first, and when he reaches the bottom of the page, he has produced something that bears little or no resemblance to the original copy.

No breeder should be content with the last effort as a standard. He should aim high, and always keep in mind his ideal, or copy, and not some subsequent, distant approach to it. In securing quality the first step is the breed, and then the feed, and these two go hand in hand in producing good mutton.

**W**HY do you eat beef at 30 cents per pound, when you can eat ducks, turkeys and chickens, which can be served in all kinds of style for much less than the above?

The spring time is here; the little chicks are a chirping; look for the lice, as much trouble is had with them.

The pure breeds always pay best and only cost a few dollars to begin with, but the results will pay a percentage of 50 cents on each dollar invested.

When cleaning your heneries, be sure to place plenty of lime on the walls and ashes on the floor.

I am often surprised at the space taken up in some poultry journals for cats, mice and rats. Nothing should appear in a poultry journal but poultry lectures, goose culture, turkey, quail and Belgian hare culture.

Cats and rats should fight their way in this country as the poultry industry did. It is best not to feed fowl too much. Always keep them busy as work helps produce the eggs.

Lime should never be fed to fowls. They can secure a sufficient amount of such material from oyster shells or shore gravel. Many breeders say that their hens are well and lay a large number of eggs, but one side of the eggs is hard and the other half soft.

The cause of this trouble is that the organs that help form the shells are out of order or the hen is too fat; reduce the grains and the trouble will stop.

On many farms there can be found a large number of birds that have been prize winners in an early period of life, but why can't a market be found for them among the various fanciers today? The answer is, they are too old.

A few years ago I had a Barred Plymouth Rock hen that carried first prize in a show held at New York in 1894. She was kept on my plant as a breeder until 1903, when I entered her at a show held at Philadelphia, where she came in second. What about this? Is she too old also? If the blood is there it will stay until death comes.

One of the main reasons, for which all poultry men engage in the business is, the egg production. The egg market is the only object for the eastern fanciers say, eggs are used when the cash can't be secured.

The world's egg record layers were fed the following for one year: Do not know the amount, but it was mixed as follows: Five parts wheat, five parts oatmeal, three parts millet seed, one part beef scraps, three parts cracked corn. Try your fowls on the above and see if your egg basket does not grow larger.

This is very well but the cost is very high at the present prices of such feed. If they will feed about one-fourth grain and the other roots, the expenses will be reduced and more eggs will be had.

It will always be found impossible to have a flock in a good laying condition, being fed on grain. The following roots are highly recommended as an egg producer: Cooked and mashed turnips, carrots and potatoes.

April is the first month of the beginning of lice and vermin. White-washing is a very good thing to do at this season or should have been done before now, but it is never too late to have it done for it is one of the most important things in the business, to have the houses clean and sweet at all times. A small amount of carbolic acid should be put into the pail of white-wash used.

### LITTLE NUBBINS OF FARM NEWS

At the Iowa Experiment farm 110 bushels of corn per acre was produced on ten plots, not less than 85 bushels per acre was harvested.

A negro agricultural fair was lately held at Cane Fisher, Okla. About 200 Indians on horse back and in wagons came from all parts of the country from within a distance of 200 miles.

There are 5,000,000 Irish emigrants in the United States, to say nothing of their children. One fourth of these are in the 12 principle agricultural states and one-half of them are farmers.

The immense corn crop has made a lively demand for huskers. There is no doubt that the scarcity of farm labor will stimulate inventive genius to produce a machine to take the place of man in this work.

Many farmers in Ohio who cut their corn too green find that much of it is mouldy and unfit for use.

Peach blight has gained a stronghold in California and the state agricultural station has taken hold of the matter. Experts will aid the farmer in combating this disease.

Michigan celery growers have formed a trust and a small group of capitalists will establish a 500 acre farm near Minneapolis, Minn., in competition.

The friends of William Osborne, a farmer of Keota, Iowa, who was stricken with paralysis swooped down upon his farm one morning and before two o'clock in the afternoon had husked and cribbed 2,000 bushels of corn. It is the greatest husking bee the West has ever seen. The Davenport Democrat is responsible for this story.

One hundred million pounds of prunes are grown in the United States every year and they are nearly all eaten in this country.

One of the best decorative and at the same time useful plants is the Trellis Tomato. See advertisement, page 10.