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FARM AND GARDEN

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Fields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.

O early vegetable crops are looked for more eagerly than ever before. A lot of early crops are now being raised. A lot of early crops are now being raised. A lot of early crops are now being raised.

Wm. Ballantine in Interstate Poultry.—Wm. Ballantine after winter was a good deal like an army after a battle. They can only learn the dead and missing and they call the roll. This is the way to ascertain the extent of their losses. Bees men are to carefully examine every hive and ascertain if the queens are all right. This is easily learned by opening the hives and looking for brood and eggs. If these are found, although the queen herself is not seen, she is all right. To beginners it is somewhat difficult for them to see the tiny eggs at the bottom of each cell. The egg is a small white cylinder, less than the sixteenth of an inch long when first laid, standing on its end at the bottom of the cell. In a few days it will appear as a small worm coiled in the cell, surrounded with liquid bee food. It will continue to grow until it nearly fills the cell, when it will be ready to hatch. When the queen is ready to lay, she will lay a fresh egg and develop into a perfect bee. Now the bee man, on opening the hive, will find, if his bees are right, brood in all stages, from the egg recently laid to the sealed grub. If, however, the roots of various plants, especially those of the strawberry. The grubs are usually more numerous in old dry pastures or meadows. If the ground is thoroughly cultivated for a few years previous to planting it to strawberries, the grubs are not likely to be troublesome. They may be killed in the night and may be taken by a light placed over a tub of water. Birds and domestic fowls are the strawberry grower's most efficient helpers in destroying these insects. The strawberry leaf-roller, the larva of a small reddish brown moth, is a small worm which feeds the leaves of the strawberry and causes them to roll up. There are two broods during the year, the first in June, the second in September. The remedy is to cut and burn the vines after harvest. There are many other insects which attack the strawberry, but if the vines are always burned after harvest and the rotation of crops is practiced, diseases and insects will seldom become very injurious.—A. M. Ten Eyck.

Bromus Inermis.—The annual report of the Colorado Agricultural College says: This grass has been growing on the station land since 1891. Spring sowings each year have been made. One plot, where the snow was blown away, yielded 211 pounds of seed and 3,000 pounds of hay per acre; another plot, upon which the snow was left, yielded 2,000 pounds of seed and 2,000 pounds of hay per acre, of excellent hay. The latter plot is the oldest one on the grounds. Still another plot has been pastured two seasons. In an exposed position, this plot has shown that bromus inermis grass can be pastured on the ground. This grass grows from four to six inches the first year, producing very few seed stalks. At the end of the first season each seed will make a stool from two to six inches square. One seed produced a plant that covered an area of between 70 and 800 square inches of surface. This grass is of high value for cow feeding, as but little grain is used in connection with it.

Separate Troughs.—It is not a great undertaking to provide small troughs in connection with the corner where they eat their soaked corn and milk unmolested by older stock. They learn at an early age to visit their sideboard and their appreciation of its contents increases daily. As time goes on they will become more dependent upon their side ration, until, as you go the round with the feed buckets, you are reminded that they have another regular lot on your feed mill. By the time they are ten or twelve months old you can separate the young from the old by a simple arrangement of troughs. They have become so attached to their feed trough that they miss their mother but little, and the sow will have reduced in the flow of milk, making weaning a very simple matter.—Pacific Rural Press.

Chicago as a Wool Market.—Chicago lies 1,000 miles from the seaports and the freight on foreign wools from those points to Chicago is 5c per pound. Were it not for this Western wool market, factors would also work largely on foreign wool; consequently wool consigned to this market from the central states and western territories will net more to the shipper than by sending it to the far east, where it will come in direct competition with wool from all over the world, to be sold at very low prices, often requiring one year, and in some instances to our knowledge two years to get returns.—Ex.

Painting to Keep Borers.—Insects are so largely guided by the sense of smell that anything which disguises the odor of the wood is an effective remedy for depositing eggs is likely to serve as protection by throwing them off the track. Painting with white paint in which a little carbolic acid has been used is an effective remedy for the attack of the peach tree borer. The trunk should be painted to a height of two feet or more, and the earth should be scraped away so as to paint several inches below the surface. This earth should be replaced after the paint has dried. The odor of carbolic acid in paint remains a long time, and one painting a year will probably be sufficient protection. It is possible, however, that a borer finding the peach tree trunk painted with carbolic acid will take to laying eggs up higher. It might be even necessary to paint the trunk in that case as far as where the limbs branch out.—Ex.

Iowa Swine Breeders.—The annual meeting of the Iowa Swine Breeders' association and natural expert judges of swine will be held at Des Moines, Iowa, June 20 and 21. Headquarters will be at the Savary Hotel. Wednesday will be devoted to scoring. For this a large tent has been secured, to be comfortably seated and especially arranged for the occasion. Parties having swine to show will be invited to the secretary's program on that day. Prospects are encouraging for reduced railroad rates. George S. Prime, Secretary, Okaloosa, Iowa.

Value of Drainage.—Through draining with tile will often cost less than the present work of the land, but when the work is once properly done, it is a large saving. The annual drainage has increased their annual yield fifty per cent as a result of the work, and such drains will be found profitable investment on all soils which remain wet until late in the spring on account of their compact subsoil, or which are rendered heavy and "sour" by continuous seepage from surrounding hills.

Extreme Tendencies.—The tendency in recent years has been to grow beef cattle and mutton sheep rather than dairy and wool breeds in many parts of the country. Those who purchase middle or opposite course are apt to find an increasing demand. One extreme is usually followed by its opposite.—Ex.

Questionable Practice.—Too many farmers have formed the practice of selling their calves for meat. With the present demand for beef and dairy cattle would it not be more profitable to keep the calves and sell them at maturity? The prospect is good for the

DAIRY AND POULTRY

INTERESTING CHAPTERS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

How Successful Farmers Operate This Department of the Farm—A Few Hints as to the Care of Live Stock and Poultry.

Checkers and Turkeys.—For five years I have been engaged in raising poultry. During that time I have handled the Barred Plymouth Rocks, Light Brahmas, and mixed combs. I prefer the Barred Plymouth Rocks to any other, as they are early maturers, good layers, good mothers, and of good size for table use. My second choice is the double banded, with barred paper between the boards. It is, however, not warm enough for this climate, and I intend to build a new house and fill in between the boards with cinders or saw dust. In summer I feed very little as the fowls have plenty of green grass to eat. In winter I feed oats, scattered in a trough, and cut straw, all they will eat. I also feed corn meal or bran mashed with boiled potatoes at noon. We have no market nearer than thirty miles, and prices are very low, as we cannot get our fowls fresh to market early enough. We get scarcely any egg except in the winter. I had four turkeys last year, two of which laid between fifty and sixty eggs each, and the other two laid very little to seventy each. I had only six hen turkeys together that year. This is a splendid place in which to raise turkeys. They are hatched out about the first week in June. It does not cost much to raise them, and you can sell them at Thanksgiving time at \$1 each, or even 10 to 12 cents a pound, if you want to dress them. I am going to try turkeys on a larger scale. The winters are so long and severe here that very few people get any eggs, but you can cause the houses are not warm enough, as our hens are always in splendid health, but you cannot feed them enough to overcome the cold, until we build warmer houses.

Joseph Murphy.
Delta County, Michigan.

Wyandottes and Red Caps.—We have been keeping poultry for eight years. During that time we have had the Wyandottes, Plymouth Rock, Brown Leghorns, Langshans and Black Spanish. For general purposes the Wyandottes are best for laying, the Red Caps. I feed principally corn, wheat and oats. In disposing of our eggs we have always sold to a peddler who pays from 8 to 25 cents per dozen. We obtain most of our eggs during the winter. We have lost a good many birds from disease in winter quarters, in proving animals. When we first began raising broods we had good success but the longer we kept in the business the poorer success we have. We have also tried doctoring fowls and have used from twenty to thirty remedies, but none of them proved any benefit.

White Leghorns and Plymouth Rocks.—I have bred the Plymouth Rocks, White Leghorns, Black Spanish, Brahma and Wyandottes, but I like the White Leghorns and Plymouth Rocks best. For winter quarters the best is a good house, well-boarded, with tarred paper over that and over that siding and then three coats of paint. In the summer they pick up nearly their own living, as they have the range of the whole farm. In the winter they get corn, wheat and oats, and are kept in the fields and crops; the proper curing of fodder and storage. He will become an expert judge of the dairy products; he will study the best methods of breeding, rearing and managing dairy stock, and will find that in the latter there is a greater field for the progressive creamery man than there ever has been or ever will be simply within the creamery. When you can by proper selection and feeding of dairy cows reach the point where you are producing one pound of butter on 4 cents' worth of feed; whereas, under ordinary methods it costs 8 cents, you see what a wonderful opportunity for men and what is the actual condition of farmers.—T. L. Haecker.

Dairy Form.—There seems to be an inclination to scoff at what is called dairy form. But a experience goes to show that dairy form is a sure index of the character of a milk cow. There are two points that stand out prominently and that should not be lost sight of in selecting a dairy cow. The first of these is a big udder; the second is a concave that the latter denotes lack of ability to lay on flesh. The former tells us that the cow is a great eater. Then the rest is plain; is she eats a great deal and does not put it into fat and milk, she must need to turn it into milk. We doubt if this rule ever fails.

Pekin Ducks.—There are the Pekins, a grand breed, pure white, with a plumage that is thick and heavy, but fine in texture, a breed of ducks that is older than the history of civilization, that comes to us from over-populated China, where, doubtless, they are raised in large numbers and they are the people that are made up of floating populations that extend for miles on the water.—Ex.

That Peering Paralyzing Pie!

How good it looks! How good it is! And how it hurts. Why not look into the question of Pile after Pie? Eat your pie and take Ayer's Pills after, and pie will please and not paralyze.

AYER'S Cathartic Pills
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The coolness is refreshing; the roots and herbs invigorating; the two together making a combination in HIRE'S Rootbeer.

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With a better understanding of the many physical ills, which vanish before proper efforts—pleasantly and profitably directed. There is comfort in the knowledge, that so many forms of sickness are not due to any actual disease, but simply to a constipated condition of the system, which the pleasant family laxative, Syrup of Figs, promptly removes. That is why it is the only remedy with millions of families, and is everywhere esteemed so highly by all who value good health. Its beneficial effects are due to the fact, that it is the only remedy which promotes internal cleanliness without debilitating the organs on which it acts. It is therefore an important, in order to get its beneficial effect, to note when you purchase, that you have the genuine article, which is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only and sold by all reputable druggists.

If in the enjoyment of good health, and the system is regular, laxatives or other remedies are then not needed. If afflicted with any actual disease, one may consult with the most skillful physician, but if in need of a laxative, one should have the best, and with the well-informed, every variety. Syrup of Figs stands highest and is used largely by the well-informed, everywhere.

Wm. Busching.

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