

OUR FARMERS' IMPROVEMENT PAGE

Information Gathered Everywhere that Is of Interest to the Men and Women on the Farm. Good Roads, Dairying, Horticulture, Fine Stock, Hogs, Etc.

CHICKEN FACTS FROM THE O. A. C.

"As the judges of poultry shows award premiums on the appearance of the fowls on judging day," says professor Lunn of the Poultry department of the Oregon Agricultural College, it is necessary that the boy or girl who is going to exhibit poultry at the county and state fairs not only give them the best of care in getting them ready, but also in cooping and shipping them. As the final wind up of the boy and girls' poultry raising contest is at hand, these birds will be shipped to compete for prizes. The appearance of their plumage and vigor upon the home farm will not be a factor. The judge will not consider the care spent upon them nor make allowances for distance travelled.

"Here are a few points which may mean the winning of a premium otherwise lost. Every boy and girl should send for a premium list of the show where the birds are to be exhibited, decide what premiums are to be tried for, then select and prepare the birds accordingly. The more nearly mature the fowls are the better. They should be in good flesh and healthy, showing no signs of disease, especially scaly leg.

"In preparing fowls for the show it is necessary to wash white colored ones about four days before the birds are shipped. Use three tubs. The first should be half full of warm water, the second tub of lukewarm water, and the last tub with water from which the chill has been removed. Put the fowl in the first tub and hold it under water until the plumage is soaked. The head may be held under a moment or two. Place the fowl on a clean table and thoroughly soap with a good white soap. The plumage is now ready to be scrubbed, which is done gently with a small brush, in the direction the feathers grow. The bird is then rinsed in the second tub removing all the soap so that the feathers will web out properly. The legs should be scrubbed and if necessary the dirt under the scales removed with a tooth pick.

"The third tub is used for the final rinsing. If bluing is used in the water there should be not too much of it and it must be thoroughly mixed with the water or it will stain the plumage. The feathers are dried by hand, rubbed with towels, and the bird placed in a well heated room until thoroughly dried. It should then be placed in a clean coop with four or five inches of chaff on the floor so that the feathers will not be soiled. Dark colored birds may have their plumage rubbed with a silk handkerchief and their legs washed as above. Now train them to handling and exhibition coops. Stroke and speak to them as this will make them pose better when the judge is looking them over. If dull, the comb and wattles may be rubbed with an equal mixture of sweet oil and alcohol.

"In shipping, the coops

should be large enough to give the fowl ample room, about thirty inches for the tallest birds, grading down to a foot for the tiniest bantams. The comb should never touch the top of the coop. The width should be such that the plumage will not be cramped. A single coop should be provided for each male, but females may be placed two or three together. A little grain may be sprinkled in the chaff, but it is not best to put drinking water in the coop. A few vegetables or apples will answer the place of water very well and will not soil the plumage. It is not necessary to put grit or other food than grain in the coop."

DON'T BREATHE DUST

Use "Cedarine" sweeping compound for floors and linoleums—it collects the dust. "No Dust" for carpets and linoleum. For sale at Calbreath & Bice.

HORSE ILLS DUE TO IMPROPER FEEDING

Most attacks of horse colic are necessary. They usually come from carelessness or ignorance on the part of the feeder. One man should do all of the horse feeding. Change of feeders may mean change of feed or irregularity in feeding. These things cause colic.

Where feeding is not made the special work of one man, a horse may, by mistake, be fed twice at one meal hour. Sudden changes of feed, irregular feeding, damaged, heated, or green grass or other wet green feed, giving the drinking water after feed, and feeding and watering a horse when hot, tired and sweaty are common causes of one kind of colic or another.

Always give the drinking water before feeding. Always gradually accustom a horse to any change of feed and especially to new oats and new hay. Have the teeth attended to by a veterinarian at least once a year. Spread the grain out thin in a large, shallow feed box to prevent the horse



Photo by Oregon Agricultural college.

No one will dispute the statement that it pays to breed to a good pure bred stallion. But hundreds and thousands of more owners do not follow what they know to be true when they breed to a grade stallion simply because he is handy and the service fee low. We do not have sufficient high class stallions in this country. This is largely the fault of farmers, for if good stallions were generally desired and patronized plenty of men would be ready to supply them. But it is partly the fault of stallion owners who do not advertise their stallions sufficiently and argue hard enough as to their superior value.—National Stockman and Farmer.

The picture shows students of the Oregon Agricultural college judging a stallion.

from eating too fast. Allow plenty of time for the perfect mastication of feed.

In hot weather allow a little drinking water at noon, then feed a pound or so of hay while the horse is cooling off, then give more drinking water and then the full feed of oats. Avoid the Saturday night bran mash. It is a fertile cause of colic. Better mix bran daily with the oat feed and dampen it at mealtime.

Do not feed ground feed to a horse that has good teeth. Perfect mastication and insalivation of feed are necessary if the horse is to remain healthy. Feeding from the floor leads to an increased flow of saliva. This benefits a horse that suffers from indigestion.

Allow free access to rock salt, and keep the horse free from worms. If a horse has an attack of colic, and fearfully rolls, kicks, paws and then looks around at his sides, then finds relief for a few minutes, this is "spasmodic" or "cramp" colic (colic due to

and tends to subside if simply treated. If there is no let up to the pain and the horse is afraid to lie down and walks around in the box stall he has enteritis (inflammation of the bowels), and it probably will prove fatal.

In "bloat" or "flatulent" colic the body is distended with gas high up in the right flank, and the pain is less severe than in cramp colic, or enteritis. Lapse no time in calling in a qualified veterinarian if enteritis is present. Home treatment will be apt to hasten death.

The veterinarian also is urgently needed if the horse is bloated. Instant "tapping" for removal of gas may save life when medicinal treatment would fail. Do not give "liniment" or "sour milk and soda" or an aloe physic ball or tincture of aconite in colic.

Rectal injections of soapy warm water and glycerin may be given with benefit, and a pint of raw linseed oil containing an ounce each of turpentine and laudanum will prove a safe and beneficial drench in all simple attacks.—Farm and Fireside.

Corn-Silage-Good Cows.
For feeding dairy cows no foodstuff equals the legumes for furnishing protein economically. No dairy farmer who does not make use of these plants in his farming and feeding operations is taking full advantage of the opportunities at his disposal. A combination of corn silage, leguminous hay and good cows is fine.—Kimball's Dairy Farmer.

Bedding For Sheep.
Good clean straw makes the best bedding for sheep. Steer clear of anything that fills the wool full of seeds, bits of sticks or any such thing.

HOG POINTERS.

Nine parts corn and one part tankage balances the ration for growing pigs and causes the cheapest gains.

Few are the hogs that are not troubled with bowel ailments. Several feeds of one part oil meal and four parts shorts or bran, given twice a day in the form of thin slop, will correct most cases. Try it.

The successful hog grower allows his few corn cobs or other litter to accumulate in his feeding pens. He takes this in a heap and burns it, letting the hogs have the ashes or charcoal.

The farmer who now has a rye pasture is fortunate, and the one who did not prepare such a pasture or its equivalent must feed his hogs the most expensive way. It pays to look ahead.

For the hog, shute or pig that drags its hind quarters feed a heaping tablespoonful of sulphur to a gallon of milk once a day for three or four days. Give but little, if any, water or feed besides this. After two days repeat and you will rejoice at the result and remember the remedy.—Kimball's Dairy Farmer.

VALUE OF THE BULL.

He May Be More Than Half the Herd of Beef Cattle.

There is perhaps no other important factor connected with beef production that is as often disregarded as that of the selection of bulls to head the herds of grade cows from which are produced the feeding cattle of the country. It is still true that the "bull is half the herd," and he may be more than half the herd if he is a choice individual backed up by good ancestry.

A brief discussion of the importance of using great discretion in the selection of a sire should tend to a more active demand for the better grades of registered beef bulls. In the first place, the writer wishes to go on record as saying that the breeder of feeding cattle, whether he fattens them himself or sells them to cattle feeders, cannot afford to use a common bull of indeterminate breeding. There can be no doubt about that.

Feeding cattle that are well bred and possess quality enough to weigh a thousand pounds or better at two years old are worth all the way from \$40 to \$50 per head, depending upon their individual quality and condition. Such feeding cattle can be produced from grade beef cows mated with choice beef bulls. Common and inferior feeding cattle that are produced from common cows and grade or scrub bulls frequently attain an age of three or more years before they reach a thousand pounds in weight.

Such feeders at such an age and weight are worth from \$27 to \$30 each. The lesson should be plain that it does not pay to use an inferior bull that stirs the steer that pays the owner but \$9 per year for his keep as against the one that pays \$22 to \$25 per year.

It may be claimed that the fault is not altogether with the bull. We grant that. But suppose the cows are the same in either case, the well bred bull will produce feeding cattle which will grade at least two grades higher than the feeding cattle produced by the mediocre bull.

There is usually about 35 cents per hundredweight difference in price between one grade of feeding cattle and the next higher grade. If the well bred bull raises the grade of his offspring two grades he adds to the value of each animal he sires 70 cents per hundredweight, or to the thousand pound steer \$7.

Properly cared for, a bull should sire from forty to fifty calves per year. For sake of argument, suppose we say he sires forty. If he should increase the value of each of his offspring but \$5, a very conservative estimate, he earns at the least \$200 with his first crop of calves. It is no exaggeration to say that as compared

with the use of an inferior bull the registered beef bull pays for himself the first year.—Herbert W. Mumford, Chief Division of Animal Husbandry, University of Illinois.

EASY TO SPOIL COW AS A GIVER OF MILK

An agricultural exchange in giving advice on fattening veal calves states that with heavy milking cows the calf, if allowed to suck for two or three weeks, will not take all the milk the cow gives. We should say not, nor for several months, says Herd's Dairyman. A good cow will give at least thirty pounds of milk a day. Yet it would take a calf several months old, and a lusty one at that, to drink thirty pounds of milk a day. Right here are involved several problems. It is well known that if the calf sucks the mother continually she dries off very rapidly. Why? Because the



In Aucuna's Pride II, we have a young Guernsey cow that has shown remarkable capacity as a producer, says the Guernsey Breeder's Journal. With her first calf at two and a half years old, she began her advanced register career and attracted no little attention by her steady work at the pail. Throughout her year, with the exception of February (a short month), she did not vary 100 pounds of milk or six pounds of butter fat in any two months from start to finish. In her thirteenth month from calving she gave 61.47 pounds of butter fat, or over two pounds per day. Her second year's work, as a four year old, began in March, 1915, a much more unfavorable time of the year to begin. It being generally conceded that a cow freshening in the fall will give much larger returns than one freshening in the spring. Despite this disadvantage, she finished her year giving nearly 130 pounds of milk and over sixty pounds of butter fat in the worst month of the year. Aucuna's Pride II is owned by O. W. Post, Ensenore, N. Y.

surplus milk is not taken as fast as manufactured and nature shrinks the milk flow to the demand of the calf and to prevent injury to the mother. We all know that if the cow is expected to produce milk to her full capacity she must be milked clean and at regular intervals. That is something the calf does not do. We further know that a poor milker will dry off the cow the same as a calf. Leaving milk in the udder is a sure way to dry the cow off. All these are old and well settled principles.

The efficiency of the cow is due to two things—first, her born capacity that we try to provide for by wise and proper breeding, particularly in giving her a sire that will impart that capacity to her second; by intelligent management of the cow during her milking period.

Both are supremely essential. You cannot make a good cow out of one that has no born capacity for milk giving, no matter how well you manage. You can spoil a cow of the highest born capacity, especially a heifer in her first milking period, by careless and ignorant management.

CULL OUT THE OLD EWES.

They Do Not Pay In Wool, Flesh or Lambs For Their Keep.

Usually by the time that a ewe has reached the age of seven years she has spent most of her usefulness as a breeder and mother. Good shepherds do not hesitate to cull out these old grandmothers before they go down hill. They usually pick up in flesh shortly after weaning time and can be best marketed just as they come from pasture without fattening.

Old ewes "break in the mouth," so to speak, and cannot eat. Naturally they keep going down in flesh, waste much of their food, and frequently their mouths get so sore they will not take sufficient food to fatten them. The wool becomes shorter and shorter with advancing age, says the Farm Press, and lacks several pounds of the weights they shear in their prime. Lambs from old ewes are never as satisfactory. The milk supply falls short, and the lamb is dwarfed and stunted so that it never makes a thrifty feeder.

Their presence in the flock detracts from its appearance and value. One or two old ewes in a flock of prime breeders will often hurt the sale value as much as a dollar a head. For these reasons, then, cull closely and keep only the best prime breeding ewes. With the price of mutton and wool so low as it is the grower cannot afford to keep other than those from which the best returns can be expected.

Kind of Silage For Horses.

At the outset a good quality of silage, absolutely free of mold, is required. Some farmers have fed silage to brood mares and horses at rest during the winter with good results. On the other hand, some have lost horses on account of the molds which silage sometimes contains. If fed to horses of this kind, five to ten pounds per day, with grain and other roughage, is all that should be fed until more data are at hand.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Farm and Garden

DO YOU GROW SWEET CORN?

No Crop Responds Better to Good Treatment Than This One. Every truck farmer knows that the first early sweet corn in the market

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pays as great a profit as any crop grown.

It is usually sold by the hundred and marketed in sacks containing that number of ears. The fodder remaining after the crop is sold is nearly as valuable as timothy hay. The best profit comes from the earliest sales. Sweet corn cannot be shipped a great distance, as it deteriorates rapidly.



Photograph by Long Island agricultural experiment station.

SWEET CORN AND LIMA BEANS.

therefore the local grower does not have such competition as does the grower of less perishable products.

Sandy or light loam soil, with an open subsoil, is best for this crop. The very best seed of the best and most popular varieties should be provided. Home grown seed, well selected and well cured, will pay big profits on the cost of labor employed for this work. The first plantings must be made early in the season, and seed only of the greatest vitality will withstand the unfavorable weather conditions that are likely to prevail at this season.

The cultivation of this crop should be thorough, and no crop will respond sooner to good treatment.

To succeed in growing sweet corn for the early market a liberal amount of plant food must be provided at the right time and in available form. This means cover crops and an increased use of commercial fertilizers.

TYING UP A FLEECE.

Directions For the Proper Care of the Wool Grower's Crop.

First, all the tag locks must be removed, whether they be dung or grease and dirt, writes W. C. Coffey of the Illinois station, describing the proper way to tie up a fleece; second, the fleece should be carefully rolled up by hand (not in wool box), with no ends or stray locks protruding and with the flesh side out; third, the fleece should be tied with a hard, glazed twine, not larger than one-eighth inch in diameter. In tying the ends of the twine special care should be taken to make a firm, hard knot that will not slip.

Tag locks are not so common that their presence in fleeces from farm flocks is the rule rather than an exception. The total effect of leaving them on fleeces is bad. It puts the wools in bad standing with wool buyers and manufacturers. Long continued, it has led to the only logical result—namely, discrimination in price against our wools.

Careful rolling, with the flesh side out and no ends or stray locks showing, adds greatly to the appearance of the fleece. It also prevents mixing the wool from different fleeces, and, by the way, each fleece should be tied to itself. In the wool warehouse it is a pretty sight to see the heaps of graded wool faced with a tier of carefully rolled and tied fleeces.

Uses of Lime.

Lime is seldom if ever applied to soils by reason of its value as a direct fertilizer. Its chief value lies in its unlocking, unavailable nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. We usually apply it to gardens in one of three forms—rye, quicklime, gypsum or land plaster and wood ashes. We would not advise applying it in any form to soil for lawn purposes. Better far to use it on the grass when it shows need of food. It is very beneficial to Kentucky blue grass.

Climbing Nasturtiums.

Climbing nasturtiums can be combined with those of dwarf habit. Two climbing plants at each of the two corners of the box nearest the window can be trained over a cord or a trellis made of wood which follows the outline of the window frame. It is not well to train any plant on wire, as the wire hurts quickly in hot sun, burns the stems twisted about it and ultimately causes the death of the plant.

R. J. Taylor

Has the Best Real Estate Bargains. Ask him.

TRAIN SCHEDULE

6:30 a. m., I. & M. to Dallas.
7:00 a. m., S. P. leaves for Portland.
7:05 a. m., I. & M. to Airline.
9:00 a. m., Boat for O. E., Portland.
10:10 a. m., Boat for O. E., Eugene.
10:52 a. m., S. P. for Corvallis.
10:55 a. m., I. & M. for Dallas.
1:00 p. m., Boat for O. E., Portland and Eugene.
2:14 p. m., S. P. for Portland.
2:15 p. m., I. & M. for Dallas.
3:15 p. m., Boat for O. E., Portland.
4:30 p. m., S. P. motor car, Salem.
4:30 p. m., I. & M. to Airline.
4:45 p. m., Boat for O. E., Eugene.
6:30 p. m., Boat for O. E., Portland and Salem.

CITY OFFICERS AND CLUBS

Independence, Polk Co., Oregon.

Population 1800, has water, sewer and electric light systems, \$25,000 high school, public school city park, hotel, paved streets, two banks, fine railroad and boat connections, and city hall.

The city officers are:

Mayor, K. C. Eldredge.
Marshal, A. J. Tupper.
Recorder, R. P. Swope.
Treasurer, R. R. DeArmond.
City Councilmen, J. L. Hanna, J. H. Dixon, A. L. Sperling, C. W. Irvine, W. H. Walker, P. H. Drexler.

Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

Independence Commercial Club

Meets First and Third Tuesdays of each month. Membership over 100.
J. S. Cooper, President.
K. C. Eldredge, Treasurer.
J. G. McIntosh, Secretary.

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