

FARM POULTRY

FIND FEWER HENS
LAID MORE EGGS

Heavy Production Attributed to the Open Winter.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)—WNU Service.

Egg production per farm flock the first three months of this year increased markedly over the corresponding period a year ago, in spite of a sharp reduction in the number of hens and pullets of laying age, according to the bureau of agricultural economics, United States Department of Agriculture.

The heavy layings this year are attributed to the open winter, but the bureau believes that the reaction to be expected later to a lower seasonal rate of layings per hen, accentuated by the smaller number of layers, will tend to reduce layings per flock to below the level of recent years. The bureau's figures cover reports from 22,000 crop correspondents, excluding flocks numbering 400 or more hens and pullets of laying age on January 1, this year.

The figures show that on March 1 this year, the number of hens and pullets of laying age in farm flocks of crop reporters averaged 83.6 per farm, compared with 88 a year ago, and a five-year average of 85.9 on that date. The reduction since January has been six birds per flock, compared with a five-year average reduction of 1.8 birds in this period.

Layings per farm flock on March 1 averaged 35.7 eggs compared with 38.6 eggs last March 1, and 32 for the five-year average. The aggregate of the layings per flock on January 1, February 1, and March 1 combined is 75.3 eggs this year compared with 71.5 in 1930, and 64.9 in the five years, 1925-29.

Chopped Alfalfa Found Desirable as Protein

Chopped alfalfa not only makes a desirable protein supplement for pork production as shown by a recent experiment at the South Dakota experiment station but is also a splendid feed for laying hens particularly where a high percentage of hatchable eggs are desired. This provides a satisfactory substitute for more expensive green feeds which are often difficult to secure according to both the Ohio and Missouri experiment stations. The chopping or coarse grinding of good quality alfalfa, clover or soybean hay makes it possible to conveniently feed in wire racks, hoppers or troughs. Choice quality hay may also be finely ground to make up 15 per cent of a desirable mash ration according to these stations. This is especially recommended to make up the vitamin deficiency in rations where yellow corn is lacking. Egg producers with legume hay available will rejoice in knowing that they can take this opportunity of reducing their costs in order to maintain a profit with their flock.

Poultry Facts

Watch for the early molters and cull them out as poor layers.

In chick rations the only mineral additions that are ever likely to be necessary are calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate and sodium chloride, which is common salt.

Laying hens need careful attention at this season to prevent their going into a molt. This means that they should have a liberal supply of feed, especially plenty of mash.

Clean shavings or a mixture of shavings and coarse sawdust would make a very fine litter for a chicken house. There is no more danger in the use of this litter than in any other.

Cutting the pullet flock in two, in order to get rid of all the late pullets will pay not only in feed but will allow room for the remainder of the flock and get increased production.

There is nothing which will improve quality of summer eggs more than the production of infertile eggs.

Round worms cause young chickens to have an unthrifty appearance and are found in the intestines of unthrifty chickens that have been raised on contaminated soil.

A male is not required in the flock to obtain a high egg production. Most high-class eggs come from farms that never carry males. They produce infertile eggs the entire year.

The DAIRY

PASTURES DAIRY
COWS ON ALFALFA

Success of Nebraska Farmer Due to Feed Plan.

Carl Tisthammer, Boone county, Nebraska, says that for three years he has had his herd of milking short-horns out on alfalfa pasture from early in the spring until late in the fall without the loss of a single one due to bloat, writes Fred A. Olson in Capper's Farmer.

He attributes his success to the plan he uses of giving each cow at least a half gallon of grain night and morning, and always leaving the gates open so the cows have free access to the alfalfa field. In this way they are never exceedingly hungry and consequently will not rush out to the pasture and stuff themselves full of green alfalfa, as they would if they did not have the opportunity of going to the pasture whenever they want to.

Mr. Tisthammer does not know just how the small amount of grain that he feeds prevents bloat, but it seems to be necessary. Last spring he was a little short on grain and decided to try pasturing alfalfa without feeding grain. He knew just about what to expect, therefore he put a trocar in his pocket, and followed the cows to the alfalfa field. In a short time five were bloated. The trocar had to be used to save the life of one of them. He drove the cows home, started to feed grain and turned them out again. They have not been kept off since, regardless of dew or rain.

The advantage that Mr. Tisthammer sees for pasturing alfalfa is that a given number of acres will pasture more cattle than almost any kind of pasture mixture. It will carry many times the number of cows that the same amount of native or bluegrass pasture will carry. It never dries up in dry weather as bluegrass and most other pastures do. His cows do not drop off in production during the late summer as they always did when he depended on bluegrass pasture. Pasturing alfalfa also saves a lot of labor that would be necessary if the hay was harvested. And besides, Mr. Tisthammer says, the minerals and valuable proteins in the succulent green alfalfa go a long way in supplying those needed elements required for maximum milk flow. The fact that grain has to be fed is an advantage, he says, as all high producing cows need grain to keep up the milk flow. If it were not necessary to feed grain there would be a tendency to quit feeding it at times.

Mr. Tisthammer feeds his dry cows grain also. He says that while the cow is dry is the time to feed well if you expect to have her stand up under the strain of a heavy milking period and if you want her to drop a good, strong calf.

Alfalfa Is Valuable Crop for Dairymen to Cultivate

Nearly all farmers know that alfalfa is a valuable crop for the dairyman to grow, but it is doubtful whether the majority of them fully appreciate its worth as a crop that will materially reduce the cost of milk production. There are several reasons why alfalfa is such an important factor in the nutrition of the dairy cow and other live stock. First, it is rich in protein, carrying over 11 per cent of digestible protein and sometimes as high as 12 per cent; second, it is also rich in mineral matter, of which the dairy cow requires a relatively large daily supply. It also contains a number of vitamins that are needed for the proper functioning of the digestion and assimilating processes of the cow.

Dairy Facts

At no time has the poor cow been so great a luxury as today.

While dairy cattle are more susceptible to low temperatures than most farm live stock, they can be kept comfortable in quite cool barns if dry and protected from drafts.

Don't forget the freshening cow feed lightly at first. Leave a little milk in udder at first milking. Massage the udder gently with warm grease, but do not bruise.

Dairy cattle values are closely associated with milk producing ability and type. Both of these characteristics are largely matters of inheritance. Good sires provide the cheapest and surest means of improvement.

FARM STOCK

TUBERCULIN TEST
FOUND RELIABLE

It Has No Detrimental Effect on Animals Tested.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)—WNU Service.

Meat-inspection records show a marked decline in tuberculosis of cattle and hogs slaughtered in federally inspected plants since systematic eradication work was begun, according to Miscellaneous Publication 59-M, The Reliability of the Tuberculin Test, just issued in revised form by the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. The history and nature of tuberculosis and definite proof that it has no detrimental effect on animals tested are some of the many points discussed in the publication.

It describes in detail experiments which furnish evidence that the milk of cows is not affected in any way by the application of the tuberculin test. Other experimental work showed that the proper application of the test bears no relation to the occurrence of infectious abortion or other disease in animals. The bulletin also points out that tuberculin, which is a clear sterile product, can have no harmful effect on healthy animals.

The great majority of animals that react to the test, the publication explains, show plainly visible lesions of tuberculosis on post-mortem examination. In a smaller number of cases the early stages of development of the disease are disclosed while only in about two animals in each 1,000 tested are visible signs of tuberculosis lacking. Copies of Miscellaneous Publication 59-M may be obtained on application to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

More Veterinarians Are Needed in Large Field

One type of professional man at least, the veterinarian, is not finding his field overcrowded today. In the opinion of Dr. J. R. Mohler, chief of the bureau of animal industry, United States Department of Agriculture, Doctor Mohler says the field is not likely to be overcrowded for some time because there are fewer students in veterinary colleges than formerly and because the field is expanding. One of the most promising opportunities for the veterinarian is in the field of parasitology. Parasites, he says, are present in most animals almost everywhere at all times. Thus the veterinary parasitologist has a broad field when he treats only our common domestic animals and fowls, but his future field will be very much broader than this.

Harrowing and Plowing Done at One Operation

One man following a two-horse walking plow can turn about 1.9 acres in a ten-hour day. If this man uses three horses and a sulky plow, his day's work will net him about 2.4 acres.

The ordinary harrowing of the field, after it is plowed, requires about 1.3 man hours to cover an acre. The cost of this harrowing is about 92 cents an acre. If a section of a harrow is attached to the plow as the work is being done, the harrowing and plowing can both be done at one operation and thus a saving of almost \$20 can be made on a 20-acre field.

Live Stock Hints

In the interest of sanitation it is best not to have hogs on the same ground two consecutive years.

Pregnant sows need mineral mixtures and these may be kept in self-feeders.

Pigs wallow in the mud because they like to be cool on hot summer days. Providing water in a trough will give the comfort-seeking animals a cleaner, better place for the daily plunge.

The horse population of the United States continued to decrease last year. In 1924 it was 17,225,000; in 1929 the number had dropped to 13,364,000, and in 1931 it further declined to 12,803,000.

Mill wool buyers are discriminating against wool that is tied with rough twine fibers which cause costly defects in the manufactured goods. Wool tied with binder twine is subject to a severe price discount.

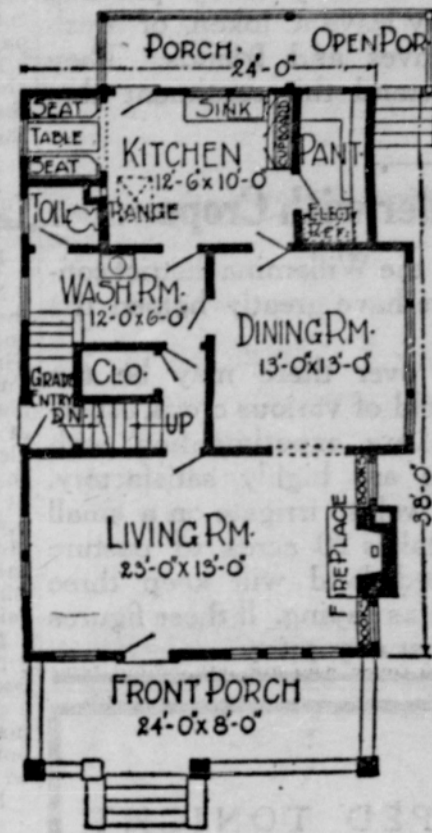
Conveniences for Whole Family Provided in This Bungalow Home



By W. A. RADFORD

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to practical home building, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as editor, author and manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 407 South Dearborn street, Chicago, Ill., and only inclose two-cent stamp for reply.

The bungalow type of home has been adapted to the needs of the family requiring more space by the inclusion of dormers, so that there will be second-floor sleeping rooms, and the addition of the washroom and



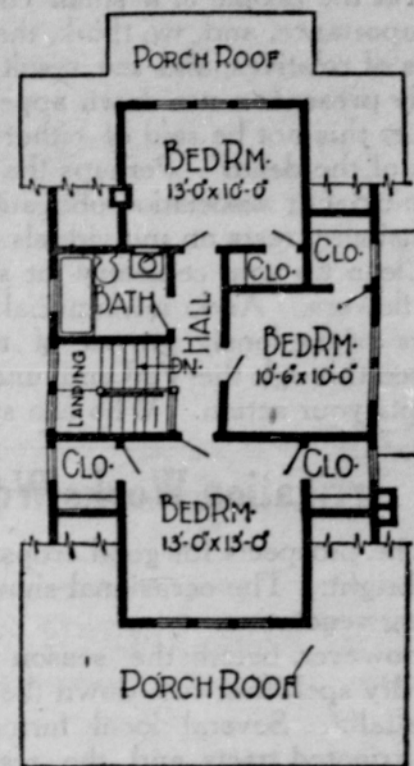
First Floor Plan.

other features that are wanted by the family. Such a type of home is shown in the accompanying design.

The floor plans show six rooms, three on the first floor and three on

the second. The latter are made possible by the pitch of the roof and the insertion of dormers both at the front and the rear of the house.

The living room is unusually large, 23 feet long and 13 feet wide, extend-



Second Floor Plan.

ing the width of the house, which is 24 feet by 33 feet deep. Dining room, kitchen and washroom all are conveniently located. Upstairs there are three bedrooms and bath. An attractive and useful feature of the home is the porch, 24 feet long and 8 feet deep.

The use of face brick for the porch pillars, the outside fireplace chimney, and for the foundation wall above the ground level add to the attractiveness of the home.

The floor plans show the room arrangement and the dimensions of each room. A basement, the same size as the house, provides room for the heating plant and storage.

Windows Are Called Eyes of Residence

For many years, probably centuries, windows have been used in residences. In spite of their being so generally used, they have not received the consideration that has been given other items.

When it is considered that windows are the eyes of the home, that they are the means of admitting the sunlight and air, it seems strange that they have been just a part of the house instead of one of the major items which make the house a home.

Casements were the original window. They possessed beautiful lines, were artistic when they were open, so much so that architecture was built around them. The early Americans were among the first to depart from casements, and they took up the double-hung window, or what the French call the "guillotine" window.

Formerly all casements were made of wood, and as time went on the limitations of wood made the casement less serviceable. Wood was subject to weather foibles, and shrunk or stuck, and sooner or later reached a point where the window had to be repaired or replaced.

The natural result was to use steel for these casements, since steel windows had proved so satisfactory in industrial buildings, schools, libraries and banks. This took place within the last five years, and as the acceptance grew, because of the practical qualities of steel casements, the manufacturers were able to place on the market a steel casement within the price range of most any home owner.

The architects have given wide acceptance to steel casements because of their beauty and efficiency. Steel has none of the limitations of other types of windows, and casements made of steel are today the modern window for residential use.

Draperies, shades and screens can be used with far more satisfying results than is possible with double-hung windows, and they are easy to erect.

The fact that movable sections, or ventilators, are integral with the frames insures a more positive result when setting the windows in the wall. The narrow, trim steel lines improve their appearance; their life, under natural performance, is indefinite.

Oak Flooring Requires Attention Twice Yearly

Oak and other hardwood floors require attention and should be gone over and cleaned and touched up at least twice a year.

They should also be polished frequently and wiped off, using a soft cloth. Remove mud stains with soap and water, but do not use the soap too freely. Be careful with gasoline when removing stains, on account of inflammability. Where benzine fails, try oxalic acid.

A floor that is old and has become dark with age, having been oiled, as kitchen floors usually are, should be treated with varnish remover, which will soften up the oil, which in turn must be removed with cloths, washing off with benzine or turpentine.

Then bleaching powder should be applied over the floor and all difficult spots treated with oxalic solution, used strong. If the acid fails to remove discoloration try the bleaching powder also.

When a floor has been cleaned and touched up year after year it will need an overhauling, a cleaning off with steel wool or varnish remover, whichever may appear better adapted for the purpose. Clean off down to the wood and then finish as with new wood.

Cleaned-off floors do not usually wear as well as new floors, owing partly to the use of chemicals in the cleaning process, some of which remain in the wood fiber and injure the subsequent finish. This may be largely obviated by using neutralizing fluids after the removers or other liquids used. Sal soda may be used, followed with vinegar as a neutralizer, and afterward plenty of clear water.