

UNCLE SAM TO AID CHICKEN FARMERS

Suggests Poultry Clubs For Boys and Girls.

PRIZES FOR THE BEST WORK

Value of Chickens For Farmers and Others Pointed Out by Expert—Frequently Entire Family is Clothed From Income Derived From Henhouse—Program Laid Out For Clubs.

Washington.—In order to teach the value and importance of the poultry industry, the marketing of products and the caring for poultry and eggs, the animal husbandry division of the bureau of animal industry of the agricultural department advocates the forming of boys' and girls' poultry clubs. The plan is advanced by Harry M. Lamson, senior animal husbandman in poultry investigations, and the department has promised to co-operate with the clubs and send speakers to the meetings.

Ever since the price of eggs went soaring with the cost of living the department has given scientific attention to the subject of eggs and poultry. For instance, it has been discovered that the loss due to the improper handling of eggs is enormous, extending into many millions of dollars annually. It is also an established fact that if the farmer, who is the largest producer of eggs, would take more care in selecting, grading and in marketing his produce he would receive a higher price than the average market price for eggs.

On many farms throughout the country the money derived from the sale of poultry and eggs buys the groceries and clothing for the entire family. The money from this source may be substantially increased by establishing a private trade in eggs of good quality with hotels and restaurants.

Mr. Lamson has outlined the organization of clubs. It is proposed that any boy or girl between ten and eighteen years old can become a club member by signing the roll and agreeing to set at least one setting of thirteen eggs during the hatching season. Members are not to pay dues or assessments.

"Throughout the year," says Mr. Lamson, "meetings should be held to discuss the different problems of poultry management. Whenever possible the department will have one of its specialists present to assist in such problems as may arise and to give information or demonstration in the selection of stock and candling. He will also assist in obtaining first class markets for the sale of poultry and eggs. Each country club should hold an exhibition at least once a year, preferably in connection with the country fair, at which a pair of the best chickens grown by each member should be placed on exhibition. These should compete for the regular prizes offered by the fair association. There should also be a special prize offered by the members of the poultry clubs. An exhibit of the best dozen eggs should also be made. It is also, in my opinion, imperative that each boy and girl shall agree to study the instructions of the department of agriculture."

The program laid out is a sort of progressive one for the first four years of a club's existence, it being evidently figured that at the end of the four years the older members will have reached the age limit of membership and will be graduates par excellence in poultry raising and egg grading and handling. It is planned for the first year of membership that each member shall set at least three settings of eggs from pure bred stock and shall raise seven pullets and one cockerel. All hatchings must be completed by May 15. A composition on poultry management must be submitted to the agent in charge of club work. All meetings must be attended and accurate records kept and sent to the agent.

During the second year each member shall be required to raise at least fifteen pure bred pullets and two cockerels. All hatchings must be completed by May 10. A pair of birds and one dozen eggs from this stock shall be exhibited at the county or state fair. A composition upon some phase of the work must also be submitted to the agent in charge of club work.

Twenty-five pure bred pullets and two cockerels must be raised in the third year, a composition must also be written and submitted and the same sized exhibit sent to the fair as during the second year. In this year May 1 must see the end of the hatching.

In the fourth year each member is required to raise at least thirty pure bred pullets and three cockerels. The hatching and rearing of chickens, the condition of stock and cleanliness of coops and poultry buildings, the cost of producing eggs, accuracy and neatness of records, attendance at meetings, exhibits at fairs, and the written articles shall all be considered in the rating of members and awarding of prizes.

Happens on Pot of Gold. Oroville, Cal.—After having prospected for years along the Yuba river, with little return for his patient work, Frank Davidson has finally made a strike—in an old iron pot. He was walking on a sandbar when his foot struck the pot, which was half buried in gravel. With the impact a few grains of gold rolled out. Davidson scraped the pot and found dust worth \$300.

Farm and Garden

BUDDING A WALNUT TREE.

New Method Developed by Student of Oregon Agricultural College.

A new method of budding walnuts has been developed by E. J. Kraus of the Oregon agricultural experiment station. Buds one year old are used, those found just below the current year's growth. Only plump buds that have remained dormant are employed.

It is also possible to use buds from scion wood cut during the winter or very early spring, when it is in a perfectly dormant condition. If such scions are placed in moist sand for a couple of weeks before the budding is done the buds may be removed quite easily.

In making the hinge bud a transverse incision about half an inch long is made about one inch above the surface of the soil and a similar one about three-fourths of an inch above the other. The two are then connected with a longitudinal incision which forms the completed "T" cut on the stock.

The bud, which is rectangular and of exactly the same length as the distance between the two transverse cuts on the stock, is removed from the bud stick by first making two transverse cuts of the proper distance apart to give the correct length to the bud and then connecting these two by longitudinal cuts about half an inch apart. The bud proper should be approximate-



Photograph by Oregon Agricultural College.

IN THE WALNUT PLOT.

ly in the center of this piece. The bud is then easily removed by inserting the back of the knife blade gently under one corner of the piece of bark and prying up, when it will be found that it will part readily from the bud stick.

As soon as the bud is removed from the bud stick it should be inserted into the stock immediately. This is accomplished readily by first turning back the upper corners of the "T" shaped cut carefully, prying them away from the wood slightly, then inserting the base of the bud into the opening, pushing it down until the top and bottom of the bud are flush with the transverse cuts on the stock and the bud lies smoothly and snugly against it.

PUT BACK THE FERTILITY.

Nature is not an inexhaustible storehouse which may be looted with impunity by every freebooter or who calls himself a farmer. There will be a day of reckoning. Any system of agriculture that doesn't conserve the fertility of the soil on which agriculture depends is all the time drawing on the bank of nature, and in the end the drafts will be dishonored.—Iowa Homestead.

Treating Wounds of Trees.

The Ohio station reports that two steps in pruning wound treatment of trees may be found necessary. One is the sterilization of the surface of a wound by the use of a torch or the application of an antiseptic or spore destroying substance. The other is the application of dressings to prevent the entrance of harmful spores or bacteria. One such dressing is generally sufficient. There are a large number of effective germicides, such as corrosive sublimate, gasoline, kerosene, carbolic acid, petroleum, copper sulphate and formaldehyde. The availability of any depends largely upon the nature of the wound. Protective paints have usually been applied as dressings, but, as a rule, these are very ineffective. Far better are preparations of asphaltum and residual tars.

To Kill the Canada Thistle.

According to an Iowa press bulletin, sodium arsenite is the only chemical that will entirely destroy the Canada thistle. It is applied at the rate of one and one-half pounds to fifty-two gallons of water. It further states that a good method for the eradication of this weed is to plow shallow and cultivate frequently during the summer. After plowing the soil should be dragged and the roots exposed to the sun and removed. It may be found necessary to cut off with a hoe the stray plants.

EXPERIENCE WITH DUAL PURPOSE COWS.

In the beginning of my career as a milkman I thought the dual purpose cow was best suited for the dairyman because she gave large quantities of milk and was ready to be devoured by carnivorous animals of the human family at any time. But my customers began to complain of the lack of cream on the milk. So I purchased a few Jerseys with the expectation of sacrificing quantity for quality. To my surprise the Jerseys gave as much milk in the year as the Shorthorns and Red Polls, writes E. Brown in the National Stockman. The dual purpose cows gave a large quantity of milk in the first six months after freshening, then took a long and much needed rest, while the dairy breeds continue to give full measures of milk and sometimes are hard to get dry at all. Comparing the bunch of single purpose breeds with the dual breeds I came



A. W. Garver of Maryland says of dual purpose cattle: "We have a herd of pure bred Shorthorns which we term dual purpose cattle. The cows give a good amount of milk from nine to ten months a year and raise calves that bring from \$75 to \$125. We leave the calves on the cows from three to six months and then milk them until they go dry. After the cows go dry they take on flesh very fast and are in fine shape when they calve. One of our cows gave forty pounds of milk a day during the fourth month after freshening."

to the conclusion that the former were the more profitable, as they consumed less feed for the amount of milk produced.

Of course "one swallow does not make a summer," neither does my opinion prove the fallacy of dualism. However, when a man is farming a rundown farm and every nickel looks big to him he tries to get at the source of profit.

I have great respect for Professor Shaw and like to read his articles, but I think he is in error on this point, as it has been proved many times that single purpose breeds will produce enough profit so the owners can buy their beef with the extra money over what the beef breeds would yield.

WHEN THE FOALS COME.

Suggestion For the Prevention of Navel Infection.

Cleanliness of stables where pregnant mares are kept must be insisted upon. This is especially necessary where outbreaks of navel ill have been known to exist. Mares in the last stages of gestation should be placed in a box stall which has previously been cleaned and disinfected.

The foal when dropped should be placed on clean bedding. In any event the cord of the foal should be washed in a disinfectant solution and tied at about one and one-half inches from the navel with a band or string which has previously been soaked in a disinfectant solution. The navel cord is then severed about one-half inch below the band with a sharp pair of scissors and again disinfected. The ligature should, however, not be tightened until pulsation of the vessels in the cord has ceased. The stump of the cord is then painted with strong carbolic acid solution, tincture of iodine or a mixture of equal parts of tincture of iodine and glycerin.

The stump should be washed daily with a disinfectant and either painted with iodine mixture or carbolic acid or dusted with some reliable antiseptic healing powder. The parchment like dried stump may be cut off after five days and the navel wound washed with a disinfectant solution and dusted with powder until healed.—United States Department of Agriculture.

The Colt's Feet.

Every colt should in its weanling form be gentled so that all of its feet may be picked up without any fuss. Get the colts up on the barn floor. If the hoofs have grown long, cut away the projecting portions with a chisel and mallet and then rasp the ground contacting surface of the wall level. Keep the toes moderately short and round off the edges with a rasp so that they will not catch on uneven going and splinter the hoof. Let the frog alone and never use the knife.

The Bedding Problem.

The problem of bedding for the farm stock is one that is assuming considerable importance. One way to take care of this is to shred all of the fodder that is not used by the silos and after the cattle have eaten what they will put the balance under them for bedding. It is a good way to get the stalks back on the farm, and at the same time it economizes some of the crops that would otherwise go to waste.

Farm and Garden

WINTER SPRAYING FOR TREES

Dormant Spraying is the Only Method For Destroying Certain Pests.

There is long list of tree pests, enemies of fruit yields and actual destroyers of the trees, that should be vigorously fought in winter, says a writer in Farm Progress. So far the only method discovered for combating them is by winter spraying.

Late winter is the time for "annual housecleaning" in the orchards. The list of enemies that can be checked or entirely wiped out by winter or dormant spraying is rather long and includes the San Jose scale, anthracnose, aphids, woolly aphis, codling moth, brown mite, red spider and powdery mildew.

When you spray, spray thoroughly. Winter spraying is no exception to the rule, and the spray material should be put on with force enough to reach all the lurking enemies. Thorough spraying brings up the question of proper equipment. At least 100 pounds of pressure is necessary, and in some cases I have found 150 to 200 pounds of pressure giving the best results. It must be driven into the bark cracks and crevices.

The man who is just beginning to take up the question of winter spray-



SPRAYING TREES FROM THE ROADWAY.

ing ought to be able to distinguish the different kinds of enemies found on the trees in winter. He ought to buy a good pocket lens, costing about 75 cents, and carefully study all the parasites, scabs and fungi he can find.

In battling with mildew, mites, spiders and moths all infected trees should be pruned and the dead and decaying parts removed. All wounds should be cleaned out and the flaking, scaling bark ought to be scraped away from the trunks. Let this work precede the spraying with lime-sulphur. All rubbish should be burned at once. This will expose all the hibernating pests so the spray will reach them easily. Every part of the tree ought to be bathed in the film of spray even to the tiniest twig. The best time for applying sprays to the pests mentioned is a short time before the buds show signs of swelling.

Bordeaux 6-4-50 is the spray used most in late winter spraying, when the lime-sulphur is deemed inadequate. It is very effective in dealing with anthracnose and incipient cases of peach leaf curl. To be really effective the spray should be put on at a dry time, as a fall of rain will wash off much of the spraying material and lessen its effectiveness.

The one pest that ought to be fought hardest by the winter sprayer is the San Jose scale. Look for the round, grayish and black, button shaped bodies with a pimple-like elevation in the center. This elevation is about the size of a pin head and is often surrounded by a red ring. Lime-sulphur solution properly applied will kill the San Jose scale at any date between the falling of the leaves and the leafing out in spring.

There are three rules that I think every man should apply in going about spraying, whether he is doing the work in winter or in summer. They are:

When you spray, be sure you are doing it at the right time.

If you don't know the reason why you are spraying, don't spray at all.

The only way to know the reasons for spraying is to study up on every insect or fungus that is causing you trouble now or may trouble you in the near future.

Men no longer argue about the value of spraying. That has been settled for all time. The scabious, sound and smooth skinned fruit of the sprayed orchard has settled that question. All that remains for us to know is the when and the how.

Barnyard Manure.

Barnyard manure is indispensable as a fertilizer on thin and sandy land that is to be farmed. It supplies humus as well as nitrogen, and the effect of the humus is often more desirable than the increase of plant food, though both are surely needed if the land be thin.

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