

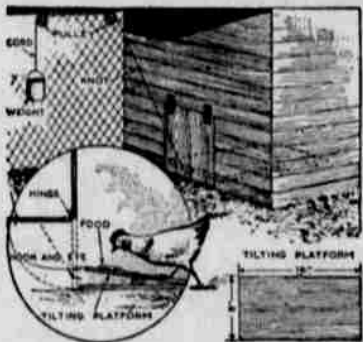
POULTRY FACTS



FOWLS OPEN DOOR OF HOUSE

Tilting Platform Arranged So That Hens May Liberate Themselves by Stepping on It.

The following is one of the simplest methods of enabling hens to open the henhouse door in the morning, thereby relieving their owner of the necessity of rising at daybreak to let them out. The door of the henhouse is hinged at the top, so that it opens outward, and the lower edge catches against the floor, so that it cannot swing inward. Near the lower edge on the outside a cord is attached, which passes upward over two small pulleys hanging from a beam. The other end of the cord supports a tin can weighted with stones, so as to be just heavy enough to pull the door open and keep it so. On the floor of the henhouse, right in front of the door, is a tilting platform, with a hook in the front edge, which fits an eye screwed into the door. The door can therefore be locked at night by catching the hook in the eye, and the pull of the cord against the door on the outside has the effect of making the hook hold securely. When the owner has locked the door in the evening, after the hens have gone to roost, he sprinkles a few grains of feed on the outward end of the tilting platform, which is now in a horizontal position, and leaves the henhouse by the large door, which he locks behind him. On the following morning, the first hen which jumps upon the platform to pick at the feed lifts the platform, releasing the hook from the eye; and the weighted can on the outside pulls



Hens Unlock Poultry House Door by Stepping on Tilting Platform.

the door open. A knot in the cord, made to catch in the pulley, will prevent wrenching at the hinges.—L. Hussakof, Brooklyn, N. Y., in Popular Mechanics Magazine.

POULTRY IN PUREBRED CLASS

Entry of Peafowls Received From South Dakota Farmer—Also Turkeys, Ducks and Geese.

The first peafowls have been entered in the "Better Sires—Better Stock" crusade of the agricultural colleges, the United States department of agriculture, and co-operating agencies. The entry comes from Butte county, S. D., and the owner is J. L. Jones. He is using purebred sires in breeding horses, cattle, swine and poultry. Among his poultry he records a peacock and two peahens, also a liberal number of turkeys, geese and ducks. The campaign already is giving valuable facts and figures regarding the classes of live stock most commonly kept together on farms.

COLONY HOUSES BENEFICIAL

Poultryman Enabled to Place Growing Stock on Clean Ground Reducing Disease Dangers.

Colony houses permit the poultryman to place his growing stock on clean ground each year and this reduces the danger of disease which is present when young stock is raised on the same soil over which the old birds have been ranging for many years.

ARRANGE TO PRESERVE EGGS

Those Gathered in April and May May Be Put in Waterglass and Saved for Winter.

Save eggs during April and May for winter use by preserving in waterglass. Mix nine quarts of water, boiled and cooled, with one quart of waterglass. Place the solution in a five-gallon jar. Will preserve 15 dozen eggs. Store in cool place for winter use.

FEED SUPPLY FOR CHICKENS

Grow Oats, Vetch and Rape for Summer Use—Cabbage and Mangel Beets Good for Winter.

Green feed is excellent for poultry and can be substituted for a considerable amount of the grain ration. Grow oats, vetch and rape for summer use; cabbage and mangel beets for winter. Store cabbage and beets in a dry room or bury in a pit and cover with straw and earth.

FARM STOCK

SHEEP SCABIES ERADICATED

More Than Ten Million Dippings Made by Employees of the Department of Agriculture.

In the work of eradicating sheep scabies from the United States employees of the United States department of agriculture made more than 22 million inspections and supervised more than ten million dippings during the last fiscal year. The work was conducted in co-operation with state officials. No cases of sheep scabies are now known to exist in Montana or North Dakota, in addition to numerous other states where the disease had previously been eradicated. In Idaho a spread of the in-



Dipping Sheep for Scabies.

fection during the previous year has been brought under control. Sheep scabies is a disease that has been prevalent chiefly in the western part of the United States.

KEEPING CATTLE AND SWINE

It Remains to Be Determined What Are Most Common and Best-Paying Propositions.

The keeping of cattle and of swine appear to be almost inseparable operations. This fact is being brought out in the returns of the "Better Sires—Better Stock" crusade of the agricultural colleges, the United States department of agriculture and co-operating agencies. This general practice has long been known, but much more definite information is being gathered, and the purpose is to extend it to such an extent as to determine the relationships among all meat animals.

If nearly every man who keeps cattle also keeps hogs, and if nearly every man who keeps hogs also keeps cattle, the inevitable conclusion is that the combination pays, especially when purebred sires are used. But it remains to be determined what are the most common and the best-paying proportions. The same thing applies also to combinations of cattle and sheep, or swine and sheep, or cattle and sheep and swine. One benefit of the work will be that it will enable the man of small personal experience to avail himself of the wide experience of a great number of men in working out the combinations of meat animals that he will carry on his farm.

ECONOMICAL FEED FOR BEEF

As Silage Becomes Better Known Feeders Will Better Appreciate Its Feeding Value.

There is no doubt but that silage is an economical feed in the beef-cattle ration and as its value becomes better known feeders will better appreciate its merits. In spite of the fact that it is an unbalanced feed itself, it can be fed with one of the highly concentrated feeds, such as oil meal or cottonseed meal, and makes a ration which is surely hard to beat in fattening cattle.

CARE OF EWE IS IMPORTANT

Machine Through Which Lamb Will Obtain Qualities to Enable It to Top Market.

What is done for the lamb is not so important as the care and liberal feeding of the ewe. The ewe must be regarded as the machine through which the lamb will obtain the qualities that will enable it to top the markets.

LIVE STOCK NOTES

It is very essential that ewes should be properly fed.

A self-feeder can be used to excellent advantage for fattening hogs and pigs.

Better live stock aids the breeder both in direct returns and by giving a locality a favorable reputation.

In the cold months many farmers fail to give the stock enough salt. Salt is a vital part of each animal's ration.

ROAD BUILDING

RAILROADS AND GOOD ROADS

Solution of Future Transportation Problems Seen in Hard-Surfaced Highways of Country.

Any student of the railroad situation must reach the conclusion that railroad operation in America has reached the height of its efficiency and hereafter it will remain stationary or decrease.

It is always possible that some revolutionary process will be discovered, but the long years without marked improvement of process indicate that railroad mechanics have about reached their maximum while bureaucratic and political control now assured will be as deadening to all mechanical improvement as they will be to effective management.

Progress in transportation, therefore, must be in other lines. Navigation has been heralded for some years as a solution, but in spite of heavy government assistance, water traffic, even on the Great Lakes, has steadily declined. The remedy does not appear to rest there, at least for the present.

There remain the highroads. In their salvation lies, says Chicago Tribune. The war, which proved the utter incapacity of the French government-owned railways to rise to the emergency, established the motor truck in its full majesty. What the French railroads could not do the motor trucks on fine French highways did. What the highroads are in France they must be made in America.

Fortunately, we have an excellent little beginning in the middle West. The principle of hard roads has been accepted and timid beginnings have been made in a number of states, chief among them Illinois. Let us understand, and immediately, that what has been done and what has been legislated for is merely the thin entering wedge of our highroad program. The narrow ribbons of concrete roads laid out by legislation will no more carry the forthcoming auto truck traffic than the old narrow gauge single track railroads were able to carry the railroad traffic which they caused to develop.

It is fortunate that we have many agencies building roads. The nation will do something for the most backward. The states, however, should



Asphalt Binder Road.

treble or quadruple all national allowances. In the beginning, and until the principles of highroad traffic are generally understood, it will probably be necessary for counties and even cities to provide the wide thoroughfares necessary at the points where traffic centers.

To illustrate, the 18-foot roads which are perhaps adequate a hundred miles in the country are even now more congested ten miles out from the city limits than are our most crowded city streets.

BILLION DOLLARS FOR ROADS

Immense Amount to Be Spent in 1920 for Construction and Proper Maintenance.

More than \$1,000,000,000 will be spent this year in construction and maintenance of roads and streets throughout the United States, F. L. Powers, secretary of the American Road Builders' association, estimated.

HINDER SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Suspension of Travel Caused by Poor Condition of Highways in Rural Communities.

Bad roads are often a handicap to social intercourse. Under the worst road conditions all travel may be completely suspended. It is not difficult to see such conditions, but what is more difficult is to comprehend the general improved social atmosphere which adequately improved road conditions cause in rural communities.

Horticultural News

BIG PRODUCTION OF PEACHES

Of 29,000,000 Bushels Grown in 1919 California Leads With 9,669,000 Bushels.

The farm production of peaches in 1918 was 34,000,000 bushels and, according to estimates, in 1919 was 50,000,000 bushels. The commercial crop, in distinction from the farm production, for each of the past three years was as follows: In 1917, 29,000,000 bushels; in 1918, 21,000,000 bushels; in 1919, 29,000,000 bushels. These figures are taken from a compilation recently made for representatives of the bureau of plant industry, United States department of agriculture, in connection with a comprehensive study of the peach industry in the United States and the production of various districts.

It was found that 34 states have an annual average production of more than 100,000 bushels each. Idaho's crop being the smallest of the 34, and California's crop the largest. The lat-



Peach Trees Which Are 14 Years Old.

ter's average annual production of peaches for the five-year period 1912-1916, inclusive, was 9,669,000 bushels. Georgia ranked second with 4,550,000 bushels, Arkansas third with 3,503,000 bushels, Texas fourth with 2,877,000 bushels, and Missouri fifth with 2,670,000 bushels. While California far exceeds Georgia in yield, a large part of the former's peach crop is used for drying and canning, and in shipments of fresh fruit Georgia normally leads all other states in seasons of a good crop.

WHY SOME TREES DON'T BEAR

Various Reasons Assigned for Lack of Fruit—Weather Interferes With Pollination.

There are many reasons why trees do not bear fruit. Some trees like the Jonathan produce fruit in five years while it takes seven years for other varieties such as the Northern Spy. Some trees blossom, but do not bear. Spray injury and lack of vigor of the trees may be the causes of no fruit. High winds, cold dashing rains and cold weather often interfere with the proper pollination and no fruit is the result.

ARRANGE TO SPRAY ORCHARD

Boost Can Be Given 1920 Crops If Farmer Will Work Ahead—Spraying Will Pay Big.

The old orchard can be placed upon a paying basis and a boost can be given the 1920 crop yields if the farmer works on his orchard. Plans should be made to have the trees sprayed. At a cost of 60 to 70 cents each tree can be sprayed four times. Sprayed orchards of good varieties will pay an owner 8 to 20 per cent on a \$1,000 acre valuation, while unsprayed orchards as a rule do not make good hog pastures.

CARE REQUIRED IN ORCHARD

Trees Will Not Simply Grow Up After Having Been Planted—Must Be Looked After.

The good home or commercial orchard will not just simply grow up of its own accord after the trees have been planted. Care, painstaking and intelligent care are required to bring fruit trees to maturity and then keep them at their best.



A place is made more attractive, more profitable, and more homelike by fruit trees about it.

The orchard soil should be fertile and well drained. The best location is on a slope or hilltop.

Peach trees that had brown rot last year are more susceptible to rot next year. It depends on weather conditions.

As soon as the trees are set out, cut back the tops. Peaches and plums should be headed 18 inches from the ground, and apples and pears 30 inches.

USE OF GOOD CLOVER SEED IS PROFITABLE

Farmer Should Consider Advantage of Crop Over Others.

Has High Food Value as Digestible Protein and Tonnage Yield of Hay Per Acre Is Considerably More Than Timothy.

Good clover seed is a profitable investment even at present high prices, according to the New Jersey state agricultural college, provided it is to be used on soils known to produce clover. If farmers feel that they cannot afford to buy clover seed at present costs, they should consider the advantages of clover over substitute crops.

Clover hay has a high food value. Based on the amount of digestible protein furnished, one ton of clover hay is worth \$17.20 more than a ton of timothy at the present prices of protein stock feeds. Also, the tonnage yield of clover per acre should



Turning Under Red Clover to Maintain Soil Fertility and Supply Necessary Nitrogen.

be considerably more than of timothy. Timothy yields but one crop a year, while clover often makes two. There is enough difference to pay for the clover seed several times over.

Clover is of great value also in maintaining the fertility and nitrogen supply of the soil. Without clover or other legume sods at frequent intervals the producing power of the land would rapidly deteriorate unless manure and expensive nitrogen fertilizers were used in amounts practically impossible in general farming.

Where the soil has been well limed and where inoculation has been attended to, alfalfa may be substituted for more or less of the clover in spring seeding, but it would not be safe to depend entirely on alfalfa sown in this way on very many farms. Soy-bean seed and cow-pea seed are expensive, and these crops require expensive preparation of the soil and give much more trouble in curing. Alaska clover seed, being only about half as large as red clover, will go about twice as far and may be substituted for it wholly or in part as a measure of economy, though red clover is preferable where it succeeds.

The use of lime on land to be seeded to clover is the best insurance against failure to get a stand. Lime-stone may be drilled on grain in winter with good results where clover is to be sown in spring.

MARKETING BY PARCEL POST

Not All Farm Products Lend Themselves to Practice—Saving Can Be Made With Some.

While it may be attractive to a city dweller to believe that he can have a vegetable garden grown for him 100 miles or 150 miles away, place his orders for the cost of a stamp, and have the produce delivered at his door, it should be remembered the United States department of agriculture points out that not all farm products lend themselves to direct marketing by parcel post. Usually it is impracticable to market such heavy products as potatoes by parcel post, whereas eggs, butter, sausage, poultry, many vegetables, and nut meats may frequently be shipped with profit and at a saving to the purchaser. In general the greater the value per pound the more favorable is the chance for direct marketing.

NATURE SELF-PRUNES TREES

Pruning Is Often Paying Practice in Farm Timber Tracts of Valuable Small Pines.

When trees are properly spaced, nature "self prunes" the lower branches. But in farm timber tracts of small pines and with valuable kinds of trees, pruning is often a paying practice, say forestry specialists of the United States department of agriculture, if it is done during the slack time of winter.

SEED HOUSES ARE RELIABLE

Occasionally Concern Found That Cannot Resist Temptation of Mixing Grades.

The majority of the seed houses are reliable and trustworthy, but occasionally a concern cannot resist the temptation of mixing common, inferior and good seed together and selling it as first-class grade.

ANGORAS CLEAR UP UNDERBRUSH

Success Has Attended Raising of Goats in Ozarks.

VALUABLE IN SEVERAL WAYS

While Growing Mohair and Producing Kids Animals Are Preparing Way for Grass, Cattle and Sheep Flocks.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The success which has attended the raising of Angora goats in the rugged Ozark country of southwestern Missouri has suggested to specialists that it might be equally profitable to place such herds on many other wild tracts, particularly those which have been cut over, because these goats are proving of great help in clearing away underbrush. While growing mohair and producing kids, the Angoras in the Ozarks are also trimming down the brush, manuring the hills, and preparing the way for grass, cattle, and sheep.

Hired to Clean Up Land.

Some owners of brush lands, not wishing to invest in goats, have paid goat owners from 50 to 75 cents per animal per season to clear the land for them. Thus the herd owners, by renting out their goats, have received good returns for their browsing instead of having to pay feed bills.

In addition to the rental income, good Angora nannies, when properly cared for, are returning an average of 3 to 3½ pounds of mohair and are bearing a goodly number of kids. Well-bred, thrifty wethers, bucks and young goats are keeping the average of mohair clip up to about 3½ pounds. With mohair selling from 50 to 75 cents a pound and kids valued at \$3 to \$4 per head, each rented nanny returns from \$5 to \$7 per year, gross.

Time Required to Clean Up.

According to reports secured by a representative of the state college of agriculture in Missouri, the number of Angoras required to clear an acre



Goats Cleaning Out Weed Patch.

of land varies from 2 to 5 depending on the density and size of the brush. Two years of constant browsing with this number of goats results in absolute destruction of practically all underbrush. In some cases the animals have suffered from continuous browsing in dense undergrowth for too long a period and some goat men are finding it advisable to provide a better range where their animals can feed part of the time.

CRACKS IN CONCRETE ROADS

Usually Caused by Insufficient Drainage or Improper Preparation of Subgrade.

Concrete roads sometimes crack. This is usually caused by insufficient drainage or improper preparation of the subgrade. Cracks are no detriment to the road if properly filled with tar and given attention from time to time to keep such filling in place. The cracks act as expansion joints, opening slightly in cool and closing in warm weather. They have no effect upon the wearing qualities of the pavement surface.

GIVE LAYING HENS EXERCISE

Keep Fowls Confined During Inclement Weather and Make Them Scratch for Their Feed.

The laying hens must have exercise. This does not necessarily mean that the hens must have the run of the premises. Exercise can be provided by feeding the grain feed in litter if enough is used. Eight to ten inches of chaff and straw is not too much. This will make it unnecessary for the hens to be out in bad weather.

COWPEA EXTENSIVELY GROWN

Legume Is Utilized for Soil Improvement and Feeding Purposes in Many States.

Probably the most extensively grown bean is called "cowpea," although it is strictly a pod bearer. It is utilized all over the southern and central states for soil improvement and feeding purposes, and no farmer ever was known to plant too many acres in this great legume.