



Profit from Poultry.

Poultrymen estimate that it costs 1 cent apiece to produce an egg. The estimate is based on the fact that the hen lays 120 eggs in the year. In other words, where the fowls are confined to runs, and the feed must be purchased, it costs 10 cents a month or \$1.20 a year to maintain a hen. If the hen is an indifferent layer and gives but sixty eggs in a year, her eggs cost the poultryman 2 cents each.

An experiment conducted by the Cornell experiment station in 1902 showed that the average cost of feed for a dozen eggs was 9.2 cents, or about 1/2 of a cent an egg. The cost for each hen for the year was 90.6 cents. At that time wheat was sold at \$1.45 a hundred pounds, while at the present time it is \$2; bran sold at \$1.35 a hundred pounds and it is now \$1.80; and meat scraps cost \$2.15 a hundred pounds and now we pay \$2.40. So at the present increased price of feed, the cost of feeding the hen is easily 20 cents a year more than it was in 1902.

To make poultry profitable on the farm it is necessary to breed for better laying. This is done by installing trap nests in the henhouses, and each year picking out the best layers and breeding only from such. The farmer must grade up his stock. He must get rid of the mongrel birds; he must drive out the drones, and must encourage the workers. The farm must produce better poultry and more of it.

There are advantages on the farm for poultry raising that the poultryman does not have, and if the latter, in many ways handicapped, can make poultry keeping a successful business, the farmer should at least make the work a valuable adjunct to his income. Properly managed poultry can be made the most profitable crop on the farm—investment, expense and labor considered.

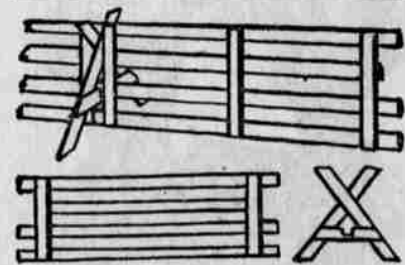
It is argued by some farmers that their hens cost them practically nothing, as they have free range and can gather all the food they need. There is some truth in that, and there also is some truth in the fact that farmers' flocks seldom yield a profit compared with stock in the hands of a regular poultryman.

Feeding Meal, Wet or Dry.

Many of our farmers seem to hold the opinion that feeding meal wet to their cows will bring better results than when fed dry. One old farmer makes the remark, "how can the cow get any goodness out of a pan of dry meal?" yet notwithstanding the fact that so many dairymen hold to the practice of feeding the meal wet, the experiments to date indicate that better results are obtained by feeding it dry. Professor Jordan, of the Maine Experiment Station, fed a bunch of calves corn and cob meal with long hay in dry form, as against hay which was run through a feed cutter, moistened and sprinkled with corn and cob meal. The results were in favor of the dry feeding. The gain was greater, and less feed was required for 100 pounds of gain. Professor Jordan also conducted an experiment with two herds of dairy cows, one herd was fed dry feed, while the feed of the other was moistened. The greater yield of milk was obtained from the herd that received the dry feed.

Temporary Sheep Fence.

One of the best portable fences for use in soiling sheep is made in panels with supports, as shown in the sketch.



MOVABLE FENCE FOR SHEEP AND HOGS.

Panels are 10 feet long, made of 4-inch board solidly nailed together. After this fence is once put up, sheep are not likely to overturn it. A fence 8 1/2 feet high will turn most flocks.—Farm and Home.

Salting Down Meat.

Curing meat for future consumption is one of the annual jobs on the farm. In some sections of the country, says the Journal of Agriculture, the problem of salting down meat is a serious one because of the heat. In sections of the South there are winters when there is very little cold weather and it is not until late that hogs may be slaughtered. Here is a recipe which is said to be a good one: For 1,000 pounds of meat take ten quarts of salt-

peter, a pound of pepper and 2 pounds of yellow sugar. Mix well, put in a tub or some suitable vessel, and then apply the mixture well to the meat. This is said to be the most successful method of salting meat there is, both from a standpoint of purity and flavor.

Nitrogen.

While visiting a practical farmer a few weeks ago he said that where everything was fed out on the farm and the manure returned to the soil it should grow richer instead of poorer and that furthermore there was less connected with the farm when it was conducted on these principles than when the system was varied from year to year.

One thing is certain, the growing and feeding of live stock on the farms compels the growth of crops to feed that are best adapted for the production of flesh and animal products. Prominent among these crops are clover, alfalfa and the other nitrogen gathering plants that possess a high feeding value and are relished by animals on account of their palatability.

We cannot too often repeat the fact that the farmers who follow a short crop rotation, in which a legume is grown every third year, need not worry about maintaining an adequate supply of nitrogen, providing he feeds these crops to live stock and saves the manure, both liquid and solid, and returns it to the soil. When nitrogenous grain foods are purchased and fed to the animals in connection with the home-grown foods the increase in nitrogen is still greater.—Agricultural Epitomist.

Feeding Milk Cows.

Milk contains water, fat, protein (casein and curd), sugar and ash, and these are all made from the constituents of the food. If sufficient protein, fat and carbohydrates are not contained in the food given her, the cow supplies this deficiency for a time by drawing on her own body, and gradually begins to shrink in quantity and quality of milk, or both. The stingy feeder cheats himself as well as the cow. She may suffer from hunger, although she is full of swale and hay, but she also becomes poor and does not yield the milk and butter she should. Her milk glands are a wonderful machine, but they cannot make milk casein (curd) out of the constituents in coarse, unappetizing, indigestible swale hay or sawdust any more than the farmer himself can make butter from skim milk. She must not only have a generous supply of good food, but it must contain sufficient amounts of the nutrients needed for making milk. Until this fact is understood and appreciated, successful, profitable dairying is out of the question. Many forcible illustrations of its truthfulness have been furnished by the agricultural experiment stations.—H. B. Speed.

Helping the Farmer.

In an important interview with Gifford Pinchot, the government forester, and a member of the Country Life Commission, recently appointed by Mr. Roosevelt, given to Edward I. Farrington, the following points are elaborated:

The things which the Country Life Commission desires to do, above all else, is to make the fact plain that there is a tremendous problem before the American farmer to-day.

The things which must be secured for the farmer are better farming materials, better business and a better living. The commission is concerned with the two latter.

Everything which has to do with making farm life efficient and pleasant will receive particular attention, for this is one of the most important of all agricultural problems.

The commission will make no attempt to impose anything on the farmer, to dictate to him, or to carry paternalism to an objectionable degree. The facts are to be assembled in as complete a form as possible and placed before the farmer in logical order.

Preserving Milk.

A German patent specification describes a process for preserving milk by removing all dissolved oxygen by means of the addition of a small quantity of ferrous carbonate. The process is based on the fact that freshly-precipitated ferrous carbonate in the presence of oxygen immediately assimilates oxygen and evolves an equivalent quantity of carbon dioxide. One part of ferrous carbonate is sufficient for 50,000 parts milk, and the properties of the milk are not altered in any way by the addition, which should be made before the milk is boiled.

Work Hours of Farmers.

Professor Boss, of the Minnesota Agricultural College, says that statistics of the actual hours of labor on the farms investigated show that farmers work nine hours a day in summer and between four and five in winter. Professor Bailey, of the Farm Life Commission, tells the story of the schoolman working from 9 to 4 until she married a farmer, and had to work from 4 to 9. Moral, schoolma'ams make good wives for farmers.



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For Example.

"To make a long story short," said Uncle Chinner, "we collected the maple sap, emptied it into a huge iron kettle, and put it over a big wood fire to boil it down—"

"To make your long story short, uncle," interrupted one of the listeners, "suppose you boil that down, too."

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