

Stock.

Breeding to Climate.

As we continue to import European breeds, and to pass them onwrd, further and still further West, to new grazing lands and new centres of stock breeding, the question how we can best and soonest acclimatize those breeds, or produce from them sub-varieties suited to the climate of the new districts, must repeatedly, and often with heavy emphasis, enforce itself upon our attention.

Some breeds, indeed, seem to own elastic constitutions, and can readily adapt themselves to many different soils and climates. Most breeds of cattle are apparently much less sensitive than the average of sheep to the influences of entire change of climate and food.

Horses, singly able to bear great variations of climate, often manifest the influences of change by some degree of variation in their offspring, and swine are by no means exempt from such influences, although when bred and reared under cover, they do not feel the change so much as animals which find their sustenance mostly out of doors.

Variation of type may be (it is, in fact, not uncommonly found to be) greater in the pure-bred descendants of imported stock than in the cross-bred descendants of the same stock lineally tracing to native dams.

When the newly-introduced breed has, from remote antiquity, a constitution accustomed to one even climate, and unsuited to the very different climate into which it is brought, the breed itself may alter in character before acclimatization can be completed.

Testing Individual Cows. In listening to the remarkable stories afloat of the productions of certain Jerseys, people are apt to forget that a great producer may be found in many herds supposed to be very common.

With a pair of accurate spring scales (which most dairymen have) hung in the stable, the milk of each cow may be hung on and weighed in a moment. A small book is kept with the name or number of each cow in it, against which the weight of the milk is placed.

In a dairy of twenty cows, it has often been found that the profit was all paid by seven or eight cows, three to five being kept at a constant loss, amounting sometimes to the whole profit on two of the best cows.

Spring Care of Breeding Sows

On many farms the breeding sows are, perhaps, the most profitable stock. But the profit is largely dependent upon the safe rearing of good-sized litters. We know so well how much depends upon practical experience in the safe rearing of large litters that we shall not attempt to give minute instructions for the novice in such case.

When she has taken this, the pigs

may be brought to her to suckle, and they will usually commence their work with activity.

The sow must be fed sparingly for a few days, so as not to produce or keep up a feverish condition of the system.

Suppose she has eight pigs to feed, few have considered what a draft this is upon her system. After they are ten to twelve days old, they will drink three pounds of milk each per day. This will require the sow to produce 24 pounds per day—as much as an ordinary cow.

It is well known that good, steady feeding gives an even fibre to the wool, and that poor feeding, even for a few weeks, changes the fibre, and produces what is called a "break" in the wool.

Poor pasture should be counteracted by extra feeding at once. Uniformity in feeding is the most important point in wool growing. All good feeders know the effect of sudden change in feeding on wool, but it would be an interesting point to study the effect of yolk upon the wool during a period of poor feeding.

In speaking of the recent rains, a Yakima exchange says: The rain of the last week has arrived too late to do crops any good and just in time to afford some damage to hay.

Spider Life and Wonders. Of spider life and wonders Professor Wood tells us as follows: The female is larger and much fiercer than the male, who, while paying his addresses, is in constant peril, frequently losing some of his legs.

The spider's thread is made up of innumerable small threads, or fibres, one of these threads being estimated to be one two-millionth of a hair in thickness. Three kinds of thread are spun: One of great strength for the radiating or spoke lines of the web. The cross-lines, or what a sailor might call the rat-lines, are finer, and are tenacious, that is, they have on them little specs or globules of a very sticky gum.

It is said, no doubt truly, that hatched chickens in June, and subsequent warm weather, do not pay well, on account of vermin, the lateness of the season, and the failure of the pullets to lay before the following season.

A farmer while engaged in repairs about his fence caught a large deer tick, raised a small splinter and put the tick under it, where it was held in place, but vigorously clawed away in a fruitless effort to extricate itself.

There are large profits from poultry intelligently cared for, but the greatest profits in poultry-keeping arise from three or four essentials—knowledge, experience, adaptation and especially market facilities.

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Poultry.

The Egg and the Chick.

Of the many millions who daily use eggs, how few know anything of their formation or structure, and yet, small as it is, its mechanism is wonderful. As everyone knows, says an exchange, it is composed of yolk and white in a thin membrane, all enclosed in a shell very brittle and of various colors.

The yolk, or ova grow in a cluster on the spine and pass through a tuft of soft skin between the lungs and the kidneys, one being formed every twenty-four or thirty-six hours while the hen is laying, which is encased in a very thin skin. On the maturing of the yolk this skin breaks letting it drop into the mouth from fifteen to twenty inches, consisting of three divisions, the terminus of each being an elbow.

The chick is formed entirely from the white, and here we see the use of the three revolutions, in the first division. The first layer forms the bone and sinew, the second the flesh, the third the skin and feathers.

Gapes in chickens, as probably most persons do know, and everybody should, is caused by the presence of threadlike parasite worms in the windpipe, which by irritating the inner membrane, cause the spasmodic action called gapes.

"How is it," asked Mr. Hayseed, "that so many writers in the newspapers are called Edward?" "Don't know," replied the reporter, "Why do you ask?"

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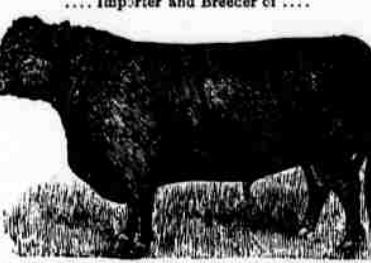
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