

Stock.

It Never Pays

To starve young horses. To overload young teams. To whip a horse when it balks. To put light horses to heavy work. To get excited because a horse does. To work a horse when it is not well. To breed scrub mares to inferior horses. To hurry the teams in the heat of the day. To work a weak horse beside a strong one. To make draft horses out of trotting bred stock. To feed heating food during extremely hot weather. To use harsh and sharp language when handling horses. To try to make a fast trotter out of a poorly bred horse. To put heavy harness on horses for ordinary farm work. To work a slow, lazy horse beside a quick spirited animal.—National Stockman.

Sheep Folding.

An English paper furnishes some points on sheep husbandry which will be new to nearly all of our readers: Sheep are folded all the year round on light land, alike on the downs, the green crops, the artificial grasses, the roots, and the irrigated meadows. When grazed upon the open sheep-walk or scantily-pastured downs the ewes are driven to the folds on the arable fields at night, where they are crowded, often two thousand sheep upon an acre, in daily shifted folds, in winter and spring enriching the ground for barley and turnips, and in summer and autumn manuring it in this way for wheat. Sometimes it is a portion of the plowed wheat stubble which is under this treatment; sometimes the folding is upon straw carted to spread upon the land early in winter, and then plowed in to lie till spring as a preparation for the turnip crop. The same process is also adopted by some farmers for wheat. The sheep are not only employed as manure carriers and dressers of the land, but are also worked for the purpose of firming the seed-bed directly after the wheat is put in, either drilled or hand-sown upon the seam-pressed furrows. A flock of several hundreds are driven in close order to and fro over the ground, solidifying it by their treading; this being done in early morning for about three hours each day, and plots of eight or ten acres daily treated in turn, until the whole has been gone over.

United States as a Meat Producer.

Although our wheat crop is much larger than that of last year—indeed our winter wheat was exceptionally good—yet the fact remains that we are never likely to sell as much grain to foreign nations as we did from 1877 to 1884. For one thing, we consume more grain for ourselves, for there are 10,000,000 more of us now than there was in 1880, when the last census was taken. But while we export less grain, we shall send abroad very much larger quantities of beef, mutton, pork and lard. This will be an advantage to us, for the cropping of grain robs the soil of its fertility, while the raising of cattle not only enriches the land but returns us a larger profit. Since 1860 we have developed prodigiously what may be called our beef, hog and fish crops. In 1870 we had 23,820,000 head of cattle. In 1885 we had 45,000,000. At the present rate of increase, we shall have 70,000,000 in 1905 and 140,000,000 in 1925. Then the great corn crops we have had since 1870 have enormously increased the number of hogs for our own use and exportation. For the last two years our corn crops were unusually large, while it is very promising this year, and this means that hog products of all kinds will be plentiful and cheap for two years to come. Wheat can be raised in many quarters of the globe, but the only available cattle ranches outside the United States are in Australia and South America, but we have the decided advantage of being nearer the meat-consuming nations. Then, within ten years there has been a wonderful development of fish food, due to the artificial hatching of fish ova by the National and State Fish Commission. There are probably twenty pounds of fish to-day available for food where there was one ten years ago, and the process of stocking our streams is still going on; and, then there will be immense additions to our poultry and dairy products. So far as physical necessities are concerned we are the most favored nation on earth. We have a practical monopoly of corn. We

grow more grain than we can consume, while our animal food products are so abundant that we could feed half the world and have enough for ourselves besides.—Demorest's Monthly.

Weaning Lambs.

Weaning lambs is no trifling affair. Too much care cannot be given a lamb when the time comes for it to set up living for itself. This comes at the season of the year most trying to the system. Unless special preparation is made by providing a reserve pasture with extra feed, the process is a hazardous one, and often disastrous. The young thing may never have taken a mouthful of grain feed in its life, particularly if it be a late lamb; it has no idea of food, other than its mother's milk; the supply of that has been lessened by dry weather and short feed, until at the very door of starvation suddenly it is separated from its mother, and the alternative of eat or die is forced upon it.

The proper way is to remove the ewes from the pasture where the lambs have run all summer, and in which they are acquainted, for a couple of weeks, to allow the grass to make a fresh growth. With an old ewe or two for company, put the lambs in this, putting the ewe flock as far away as possible for three or four days. In a trough in which the lambs have been accustomed to find salt now let them find some bran and oats at first; afterwards add a little corn. Begin very slowly, as there is danger of overfeeding at first. Once let them learn to eat enough without scouring, and the future is easy. Some put the lambs right into the barn and give close attention to feeding and watering for a few days.

In the West, where the lamb flock amounts to hundreds, very nice attention is given on a separate ranch that has been held in reserve for their especial use. Some clean, sweet grain for weaning lambs on is quite indispensable. The greatest danger is scouring, and one which flockmasters dread, not alone as difficult to cure, but one so hard to keep from becoming epidemic in the flock.

No prettier sight can be seen than a bunch of well-bred, well-weaned, healthy, growing, full-fed lambs.—R. M. Bell, in Farm and Fireside.

Kindness is profitable. Kindness to farm animals puts money in the pocket. Harsh treatment excites the animals, and nervous excitement consumes the fat of the body very rapidly. "Laugh and grow fat," is a true proverb. It has been often demonstrated that excitement will cause a cow to secrete milk almost devoid of cream. It follows that a steer cannot deposit fat when its nervous system is disturbed. On the other hand, the quiet, undisturbed animal makes a good use of its surplus food in laying on flesh and fat. It is apparent that the feeder should rear all his animals with kindness, using no roughness when among them. This leads us to another point: If cattle are properly treated, home-grown cattle are more profitable than those purchased; for cattle brought to a strange place require several months to get over the nervous excitement caused by the change, and during the time they will not make so much flesh and fat from their food as if they were quiet.—Western Plowman.

Earth in the Stable.

Nothing will purify and keep a stable so free from odors as the free use of dry earth, and every one keeping horses or cattle will find it pays to keep a heap of it on hand, to be used daily. A few shovelfuls of earth scattered over the floor after cleaning will render the air of the apartments pure and wholesome. The value of the season's manure pile may be largely increased by the free use of such absorbents. The strength of the gases and liquids absorbed is retained, and is the very essence of good manure.

The Farm Journal has discovered that the grand requisite of success, without which the celebrated breeders would be little distinguished above their neighboring farmer, is feeding. It is food and management that make a beautiful specimen of any strain of blood. A skillful feeder may often grow a more perfect individual animal out of a three-quarter blood than an indifferent feeder will out of the longest and most fashionable pedigree animal.

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Poultry.

POULTRY NOTES.

One most important thing in the feeding of chickens is a supply of green food. If they are being reared on a nice piece of juicy grass they can do without anything else, but even then a supply of fresh lettuce will be to their benefit. Should there not be good grass, the lettuces become indispensable.

Young turkeys, although the most hardy of fowls when mature, are the most sensitive when young. It will be well to keep them at first confined in a dry shed or in some place where they can have room for exercise, and they must be kept free from rain and dampness, as this will be sure-death to them.

It is a mistake to place the roosting poles at different heights rising from the front, because all will strive to get on the highest one, and the weaker ones are crowded off and frequently fall to the ground only to repeat the process, or, if injured, to remain on the ground all night. Place all the poles at the same elevation.

If you do not possess that desirable breed of hens that lay all winter, now is the time to begin to pack eggs for the winter supply. Gather them every day, and pack none that you are not absolutely sure are perfectly fresh. We have found salt the best packing material, and the eggs should be "laid down" the day they are gathered. Keep the egg box in a dry, cool place, where the salt will not gather dampness.

Setting hens should not be fed while on the nest. They need all the exercise they are likely to get. Too constant setting makes them of bad disposition, and difficult to manage when they come off with the brood. Eggs will stand a wide range of temperature without injury.

It is the young geese that should be marketed this fall, as they bring a better price than the old ones, and are more in demand. In fact, the old geese are not salable at all, unless by deception, as they are tough and not easily cooked. Keep the old ones for breeders. What we wish to state is that before you send geese to market get them as fat as can be, for they will be more attractive, but a very fat goose is not as nice as one in moderate condition.

Selection of Turkeys.

Our plan may not find many advocates among the breeders of heavy-weight turkeys, but nine out of every ten old turkey breeders will say we are right in that. We do not strive to get abnormally great size in our breeders, either male or female, and we do this for the very good reason that the eggs of the largest hens are not as large, as a rule, as those from fair to good-sized hens, and it is pretty generally conceded that for active vitality and sure breeding the male must not be too large. It is merely a question of corn and age as far as size and weight is concerned, or largely so, for we have taken the common scrub turkey and made them weigh twenty-five pounds at two years or less of age. With the larger breed of turkeys a goodly weight can be made with very ordinary care and a small amount of food; therein lies the superiority of these good breeds over the common.

But in picking out the hens for next spring's breeding, do not let great weight alone influence you. Good form, fine, short drum sticks and square bodies and breasts are what is wanted. Much the same with the male in buying, look to the same points. We have deemed it necessary to drop these words of caution, seeing that so many appear to think that the extreme weight possible is the main thing to be desired in breeding turkeys.—Enty, in American Poultry Journal.

Ducks.

Ducks are a very pleasant feature of farm yard surroundings. In the last of the winter and early spring they are sociable and busy enough, especially on warm days, and begin to lay very early. The duck almost always lays her egg between six and nine o'clock. So the flock must be shut up until all have laid. We have found ducks to do better if they can be confined at night, in winter, in a shed where the horse manure has been thrown out, than anywhere else. Barley and oats are excellent feed for ducks. If these or any grain are thrown into a shallow tub or trough, they will soak and be all the better relished. Pekin ducks are among the best layers, by far the best in our experience, laying not unfrequently sixty to eighty eggs each, in the spring, and often again in the autumn, if the weather is warm. If ducks are not confined at night they

will nest in some hedge-row or secluded spot difficult to find, and one will become broody after laying sixteen or twenty eggs, or as soon as she has a good clutch. When confined as we suggested, they rarely make nests, but drop their eggs about anywhere. Ducks are very fond of water, and if they have access to the water, and bed at the spring, there will soon be none left for the salad bowl. Wire netting a foot high, will form an effectual barrier.—American Agriculturist.

Parasitic Pests of Poultry.

Fannie Field recommends catching the big lice with a pin from the heads of the chickens. Why not use a louse-trap called a fine comb? It is much quicker and more effectual. I once saw a little chick nigh unto death, the picture of distress, and unable to follow the mother. I picked it up, took a comb and found the top of its head shingled with these tormentors. After removing these, I combed out a nest of them under the bill, from its back and around the vent. After they were removed, I greased the little victim's head and under the bill. When I put it down it ran gaily after the mother, not appearing at all like the miserable object it was a few moments before. It had no doubt been relieved of a great weight. After the hen had gone to roost at night, I took the other chicks and combed one or two from each. Fanny will think I am an unskillful chicken raiser. But I am not in the poultry business; we keep a few hens to lay eggs. This hen stole her nest, and took upon herself the responsibility of rearing a family.

Red Mites.—I had an experience one season with red mites, and that week of terror was enough for a life time. Some of the family came in saying, "I'm all alive with something, and I believe it is chicken lice, for I have just been in the hen house after the eggs." I prescribed a bath and the clothing to be spread upon the gooseberry bushes.

An experiment was carried out in France a few years ago to determine the relative value of hens and ducks as egg producers. Three birds of each sort were selected for the trial, and between the first day of January and the last day of August the three hens laid 257 eggs and the three ducks 402. Moreover in the autumn of the previous year the ducks had produced 215 eggs after the hens had ceased laying altogether. Of course one such experiment does not conclusively decide the relative merits of the hens and ducks, but it shows that the latter are not to be despised as egg-producers, and they are in many ways less troublesome than chickens, and are of great use to destroy slugs and snails in a garden, where they will do no harm if young seedlings are protected by a few thorns.

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