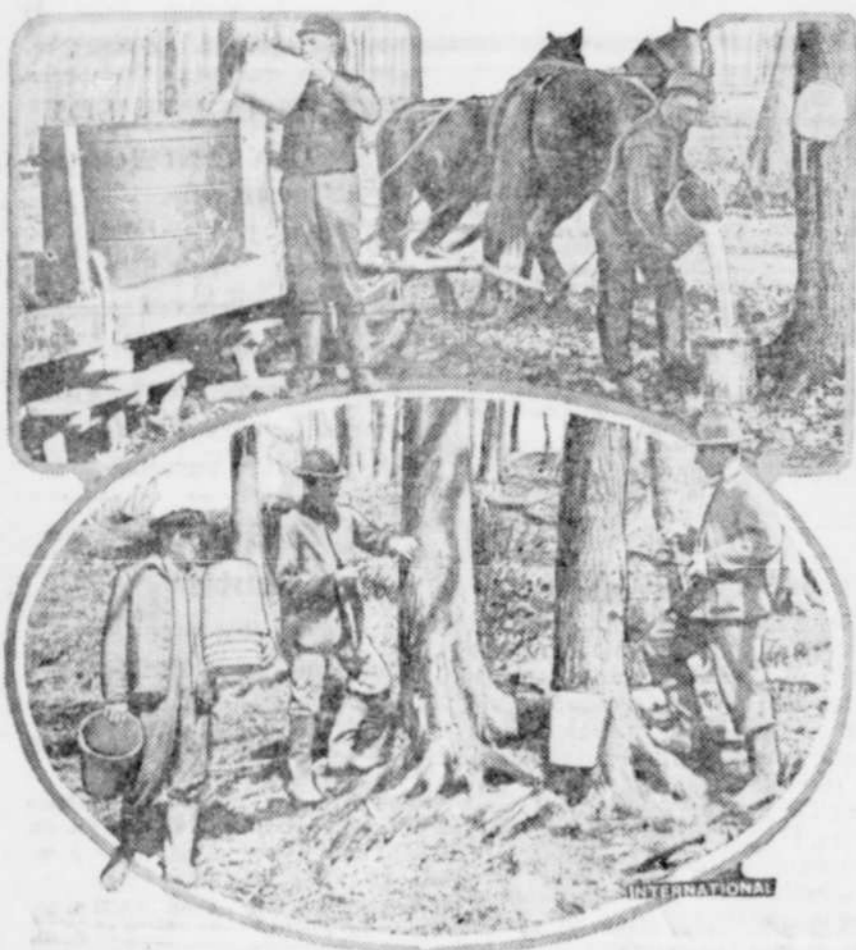


President Visits Wounded World War Veterans



President and Mrs. Harding inspecting Walter Reed hospital in Washington and visiting with the wounded ex-service men.

When Sap Flows in the Sugar Maples



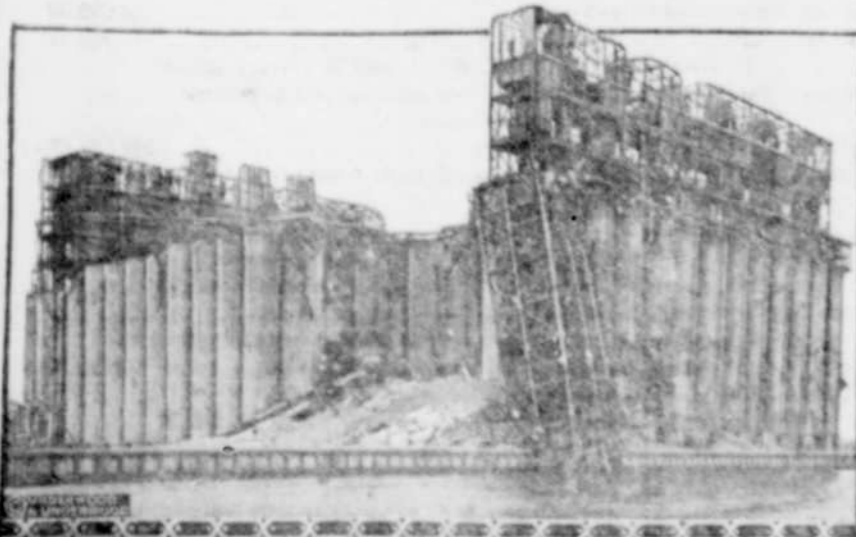
In thousands of sugar maple groves in the United States and Canada scenes like these may be seen. Above—Collecting the sap for the sugar house. Below—Tapping the trees and hanging the sap pails.

Washington Home of the Denbys



Secretary of the Navy Edwin Denby has purchased a home near Sheridan Circle at 2224 R street. The house is in a quiet, exclusive neighborhood, several congressmen living in the same block, including Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock of Nebraska, Senator James D. Phelan of California and Representative Ira D. Copley of Illinois.

Explosion Wrecks Greatest Elevator



An explosion which tore sections of the greatest grain elevator in the world into fragments, shook Chicago, threw glass and fragments over an area of five miles and was heard as far as Benton Harbor, Mich. Six persons are believed to be dead and the property loss will total to six to ten million dollars. It is on the Calumet river and is operated by the Armour company. Grain dust probably caused the explosion.

WIDESPREAD WAR ON NATIVE FARM WEEDS

Survey Set on Foot by Department of Agriculture.

New Varieties Constantly Arriving in Foreign Seed and Through Other Sources—Entire Farms Abandoned to Pests.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The United States Department of Agriculture has set on foot what is intended to be the most comprehensive weed survey ever undertaken. Up to date comparatively little is known of American farm weeds. They are classified in botanies and herbariums, but there are no definite data in regard to their spread; the prevalence of any particular weed in any locality; the amount of annual damage; new weeds, increase of old species; or local methods of eradication.

To supply the need for such data the section of weed investigations has sent a questionnaire to all the more than 2,000 county agents of the department. This questionnaire asks the names of five worst weeds in each county, in order of their importance; the methods, if any, used by farmers to combat these weeds; and what weed problems are especially serious in any particular county.

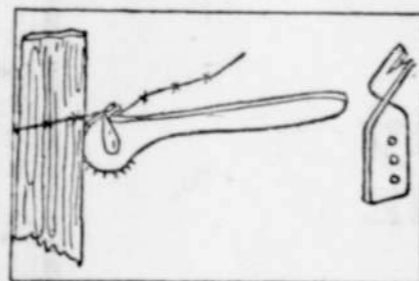
Comparatively few native American weeds have given farmers serious trouble, but new varieties are constantly arriving in foreign seed and through other sources. Some of these have become such pests that entire farms have been abandoned to them. A canvass of 200 representative eastern farmers showed that an average of 22 days a year is spent at the busiest season in trying to get rid of weeds. Investigations by the bureau of plant industry over a number of years are taken to indicate that cultivation after the seedbed is prepared has no other use than to destroy weeds. If this theory proves correct, it will add more heavily still to the annual expense chargeable to weeds.

It is the purpose of the department to use the projected survey as a basis of operation in directing a widespread war on the weeds now here, or the importation of any new ones, and to seek any local eradication methods which may be worth general dissemination.

STRETCHER IS QUITE HANDY

Particularly Convenient in Repairing Wire Fences and is Easy to Put Together.

For a common wire stretcher which is especially handy in repairing fence take a piece of hardwood cut as shown in the drawing. Then drive small nails into the edge at the large



Stretcher for Repairs.

end, and cut off the heads, filing them to a point. This keeps the stretcher from slipping on the post while in use. Then make a hook from a heavy piece of strap iron as shown in the drawing and bolt to the stick with small bolts.

PRODUCTION OF GOATS' MILK

Result of Experiments Conducted at Government Experimental Farm at Beltsville.

Milk-goat experiments in grading up from native and grade Toggenburg and Saanen does with purebred Swiss bucks, begun in 1911, were continued last year by the United States Department of Agriculture, at the government farm at Beltsville, Md. The flock comprises 26 does and 8 kids of one-half, three-fourths, seven-eighths, and fifteen-sixteenths blood. The average daily milk yield per doe in 1919 was 3.92 pounds, an increase of 2.42 pounds over the yield of the ten selected native does which formed the foundation stock of the herd. The highest milk yield for an individual doe in one day is 8.0 pounds. For 1919 the flock showed an average of 3.7 per cent butterfat.

WORMS OF DIFFERENT KINDS

Fowls Affected Are Likely to Be Extremely Thin in Cases of Long Standing.

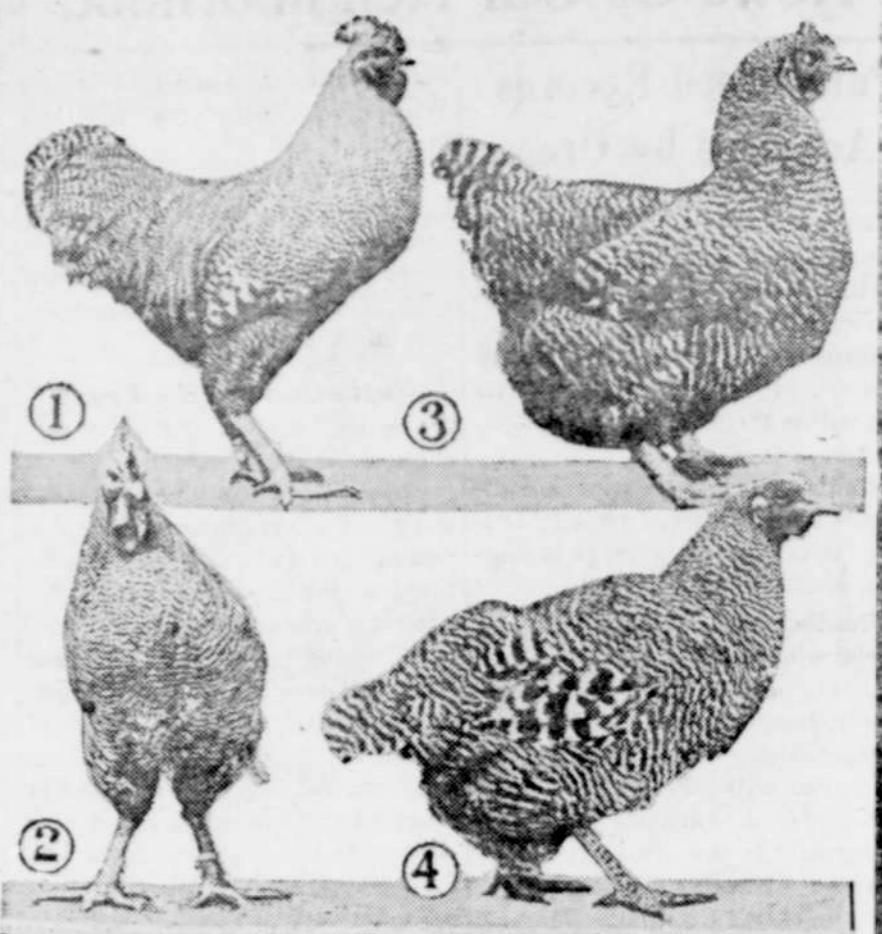
Some chickens have worms of various kinds. The intestines should be slit to find this out. Chickens having worms are likely to be unduly thin, and this loss of weight is extreme in cases of long standing.

GREEN FOOD INJURES FOWLS

Too Much Causes Gall Bladder to Become Swollen and Even Burst—Flesh Is Tinged.

In the case of chickens eating too much green food the gall bladder becomes greatly swollen, or may even burst, and its contents impart a green tinge to the flesh, or even to the skin near the gall bladder.

SPRING IS PROPER TIME TO PUT HEN FLOCK ON PROFITABLE BASIS



(1) Standard-bred Plymouth Rock rooster of good type; (2) poor type with knock-knees; (3) hen possessing good appearance; (4) poor type and weak constitution.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Late in the winter or early in the spring the poultry owner should select and mate his best hens to use for reproducing his flock. To do this he must choose the season's breeding stock with care.

Progress will be made most quickly by selecting and using the best individuals in the flock as breeders rather than by breeding the flock as a whole. Standard-bred roosters of the right type should be used with the selected birds; the chickens then will be of a much higher quality than the birds of last year's flock.

Selecting Healthy Roosters.

The selection of a male should be influenced largely by the character of the females used. Any general weakness in the hens should be offset, so far as possible, by strength in that particular in the male.

Only by continuous selection for health and vigor is it possible to build up a flock that will produce fertile eggs, strong chicks capable of making quick growth, and pullets with sufficient stamina to stand the strain of heavy egg production.

The appearance of a bird is not always a sure indication of its vigor, but appearance and action taken together are a fairly reliable guide, say poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. The comb, face and wattles should be of a good bright color, the eyes bright and fairly prominent, and the head broad and short, having a fairly short well-curved back and showing no tendency to be long, "snaky," or "crowheaded."

The bird should be alert and have a strong, vigorous carriage; the legs set well apart and strongly supporting the body, with no indication of weakness or knock-knees. The bone in the shank should be strong and not too fine for the breed, with the toes strong, straight and not too long. Clean, smooth plumage is desirable, as a lack of condition often accompanies

soiled, roughened plumage. Choose a bird in good flesh, as a very thin bird is usually in poor health. Sick fowls, or those apparently recovered from sickness, ought never to be used for breeding.

In selecting stock for mating, the purpose of the breeding must be kept clearly in mind. To produce table fowls, select a breed that has a standard type, or a body shape suitable for carrying an abundance of meat. This type has a broad, deep body, good length of back and keel, and especially a broad breast well covered with meat.

To breed for eggs, choose birds, as far as possible, that are good producers or are the offspring of such birds and that conform to the standard requirements of the breed. The best layers in the hens should have been banded or marked in some way in the fall, at which time their production is fairly well indicated by their appearance. The earliest maturing pullets should be banded when they start to lay in the fall and early winter, as these early maturing birds usually make the best producers and may be used for breeding this year if desired.

When to Mate the Birds.

Mating should be made at least two weeks before beginning to save the eggs for hatching. It is often desirable to mate even further ahead, so that a few eggs can be incubated for five or six days to see whether they are fertile. If they are not fertile, there is still time to change the male bird.

The breed of birds influences the size of the matings. If the fowls are confined to a yard, it is usually desirable to run from 12 to 15 females of a small breed with one male, while the females of the heavier breeds, only eight to ten are mated usually with one male. When the fowls have free range and the male is strong and vigorous, it is often possible to obtain fertile eggs with a much greater number of females to each male.

POINTS CONSIDERED IN STANDARD-BREDS

Size, Shape and Color Are Outstanding Factors.

Desirable Uniformity of Excellence Can Be Maintained in Every Practical Quality by Careful Selection of Breeders.

Standard-bred poultry, as the phrase is commonly used in America, is poultry bred to the standards established by the American Poultry Association. The principal points considered are size, shape and color, say poultry specialists in the United States Department of Agriculture.

Size and shape are breed characteristics and largely determine practical values of poultry. Many standard breeds are divided into varieties differing in color, but identical in every other respect. Color is not a primary utility point, but as a secondary point often comes in for special consideration. For example, a white variety and a black variety of the same breed are actually identical in table quality, but because some black birds do not dress for the market as clean and nice looking as white ones, it often happens that they are not as salable.

When a flock of fowls is kept for egg production only, uniformity in color is much less important than approximate uniformity in size and type, yet the more attractive appearance of a flock of birds of the same color justifies selection for color as far as it can be followed without sacrificing any material point.

When a poultry keeper grows his own stock year after year, he should by all means use stock of a well-established popular standard breed. By doing so and by selecting as breeders

only as many of the best specimens of the flock as are needed to produce the chickens reared each year there is maintained a highly desirable uniformity of excellence in every practical quality and a pleasing uniformity in color.

HOT WATER AIDS TREE SEEDS

Sprouting Can Be Hastened by Soaking in Water Heated Nearly to Boiling Point.

Seed coats of certain hardwood trees which are almost impermeable to water often cause delay in sprouting. Fall sowing or the cold moist storage of the seed over winter gives a long period for absorbing moisture, say specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. The seed then usually sprouts promptly the following spring or summer. Sprouting sometimes is hastened by soaking the seed for several days in cold water. If stored dry and intended for sowing in the spring, the hony-coated seed of black locust, honey locust and Kentucky coffee tree should be placed in water heated nearly to the boiling point just before planting. After the seed has swollen it should be removed and sown at once. The operation should be repeated when the seed does not swell at the first immersion.

MAKING PLANS FOR GARDENS

Well to Remember That Quick-Growing Salad Plants Will Not Thrive in Poor Soils.

When laying off the garden it is well to remember that lettuce, radishes, turnips, onions, beets, cabbage and all of the quick-growing salad plants will not grow satisfactorily unless planted in rich soil. Quick growth is necessary to avoid their being tough and unpalatable. But tomatoes, beans, sweet corn and pole and lima beans will grow well on any fairly fertile new soil.

COL. J. M. WAINWRIGHT



Col. J. Mayhew Wainwright of New York, who will be assistant secretary of war. He is a New York National Guard officer and during the war served as inspector general on the staff of Major General O'Ryan of the Twenty-seventh division.

DR. C. L. ALSBERG



Dr. C. L. Alsberg, chief of the bureau of chemistry of the department of agriculture has received the appointment as director of the food research institute established at Leland Stanford university by the Carnegie corporation.

DR. WILBUR F. CRAFTS



Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts, superintendent of the international reform bureau, who has agreed to halt his campaign for a federal motion picture censorship law on the promise of the motion picture producers to eliminate all improper, salacious and degrading matters in their productions. The National Association of Motion Picture Producers has promised to aid in the movement for clean motion pictures.