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BETTER FARM EGG METHODS NEEDED.

What a jolly stunt for town boys to hunt the eggs in the haystack, the barn entry and the haymow, and what a shout when that big bunch is found in the nest under the hay! That haymow egg has gained an international reputation.

A rot and spot authority declares that haymow nest responsible for \$25,000,000 loss in eggs, while another declares the farmer's careless methods with eggs result in a total loss of \$75,000,000 per year.

Of course most of these statistics come from the cold storage people, who



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

BIDDY IN THE FEED BOX.

must blame somebody else to bolster up their rotten side of the egg case.

The fact remains that better nesting and handling methods on some farms would save much loss in the quality and quantity of eggs. Our picture tells its story.

Old Fan has shoved some hay over the manager into the feed box in the entry, and black Biddy was appropriated it for a nest. Chances are that the busy farmer will hurry in at noon and throw egg and all over into the manger.

An egg thus laid in any old place is often lost or broken or often found when it is good for nothing but rank political roughhouse.

While a boy was found a half bushel of eggs under a huppen, where hens had been laying and sitting since the



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

A GOOD FARM EGG HOUSE.

first ages of man. We found a haymow nest containing 144 uninfertile eggs, and how often the hen stole into the wheatfield to be cut into chicken salad and scrambled with her eggs when the reaper went around! A hen loves to lay in one place. She will wait and wait to get on a certain nest, and if she drops her eggs just anywhere it is because she got the habit from her careless owner. Thousands of eggs are lost, thousands are spoiled because of age, dirt and heat, when a little forethought and outlay would prevent it.

Fowls should have a comfortable house with scratch floor, good nests, roosts, dropping board and a roony grass yard where they may be confined when necessary.

The barn should be shut against the wasters. The stables should be screened against flies, and the flock should be kept away from the manure piles.

There are farms where hens pay but little because little attention is paid to the hens.

DON'TS.

Don't expect success without system. Make out a program of each day's work, and don't shirk nor jerk.

Don't forget that a poultry show is a liberal education. It's a sample room of the poultry industry and certainly an emporium of cock alarm.

THE BOSS OF THE BARNYARD.

That old red rooster on the stack is not so much for style. But when he crows his cheerful crow it sounds about a mile.

It wakes the farmer from his snore. This cock alarm clock. He tumbles quickly out of bed and runs to feed the stock.

It bids defiance to that cock far on the other farm. And says to that hawk in the air: "Come down! I'll make it warm!"

It sounds far out across the fields where hens roam after corn. The chickens all come home to roost because they hear his horn.

That old red rooster on the stack is not so much for style. But he has all the roosters licked around him for a mile.

That old red crower scratching there may not get much to eat. But for real grit and gumption you bet he can't be beat.

Off with your hats, you optimists. For a bona fide booster! Come learn a lesson at first hand from this old barnyard rooster. C. M. BARNITZ.

HINTS ON DISINFECTION.

It does little good to disinfect the coop where part of the brood has died of a contagious intestinal trouble when you do not disinfect the old hen, for the microbial discharge is bound to get on her feathers and make her a disease transmitter to the well chicks. Just her with a germicide insecticide and kill the microbes and crawlers at one shot.

Spraying poultry runs with sulphuric acid is a poor way to reach germs under a rotten surface. The way to sweeten such ground is to cover it with fresh slaked lime and to plow the rot down deep and to sow it to a quick growing crop.

Grass yards used alternately keep green and stay clean.

A poultry house may be perfectly disinfected, but that will not ward off disease if the hens track in from a yard that is a microbial mess, for the whole place thus becomes lighthouse. Hens running into a nice clean house from a rank manure pile do the same dirty trick.

In renewing an earthen poultry house floor remove the affected surface and cover floor with slaked lime. On this place fresh loamy soil to the required depth. This should be done spring and fall to prevent disease and bad odors. Fresh hot lime wash, strong with crude carbolic acid and sprayed well into every crevice, is a ne plus ultra disinfectant and bug killer, but care should be taken to get prime acid, as it runs from 10 to 30 per cent in strength, and some dealers hand out a cheap acid lemon for the real thing.

FEATHERS AND EGGSHELLS.

English fanciers are boasting that they have Americans licked on producing colors and fancy feathering, but that we are ahead on shape. If you grant for sake of argument that they are ahead on color and fancy feathers what is there left of a fowl anyhow when the shape's gone?

A flock of 500 White Leghorns is doing laying stunts on the Ward liner Havana, which piles between New York, Cuba and Mexico. A large Boston hotel is also producing its own hen fruit from a flock on its skyscraper roof, while several western railroads are running egg ranches to supply their dining car service with eggs laid while you wait. Poultry culture bids fair to become the chief industry of this country, and that soon.

A good average sized hen lays about five times her weight in a year, about twenty five pounds. If there's anything else on the farm beats that for results, let us hear from you.

Among our poultry pessimists we have some rich men who put up expensive plants, buy good stock and then spoil it all by placing a hot air theorist or know-not in charge.

Where fowls run on soil that contains much percentage of iron the egg yolks are apt to be dark. This does not affect their eating and keeping quality.

Professor Elford, a Canadian agriculturist, declares poultry pays 230 per cent, cows 65 per cent and fruit 58 per cent. Now is this a doped bait to kidnap us to Canada or not?

Liquor nests should be built library style with slide bottoms. This makes cleaning easy, and vermin cannot hide as where nests are built solid.

When fowls are allowed to hang by the legs after plucking they get that thin and leggy appearance that isn't popular with the buyer. They should be placed on the trough-like shaping board to get that bon ton, compact shape.

The poultry show that opened July 1 on the Million Dollar pier, Atlantic City, was too early for young stock and hit the molt just when the old hens and roosters are wearing abbreviated garments. But that's seashore style, you know.

Green cut bone not only supplies pure protein, the blood and muscle builder, but ash, the bone and egg maker. Its value for eggs is becoming so well known that the butchers are grinding and selling it to ordinary trade, so that fanciers cannot get enough for their mills.

Many young turkeys die from heat prostration. They start out lively in the morning and struggle back at night with drooping wings and diarrhea, and some one nearly always calls it blackhead. The birds are nearly denuded of shade, and the turkeys and cattle are without the protection of grandfather's time, when every field had its majestic oaks and chestnuts, the fence rows and lanes were lined with trees and bushes and every farm had its deep, cool wood.

C. M. Barnitz.

Hedgehogs as Housecleaners.

Maine woodsmen, when in camp during the winter, entertain many strange guests—bluejays, chickadees, wood mice and hedgehogs among them, says a writer in the New York Sun. One woodsmen, it appears, on leaving camp on a Saturday afternoon used to neglect, purposely, to close the door of his shack in order that the hedgehogs might enter and clean his floor. Inasmuch as the principal constituents of the camp menu are pork and beans, bacon and other dishes rich in fat, considerable grease is spilled upon the floor in the course of a week, and a hedgehog will risk his neck at any time for a bit of fat. Just as soon, therefore, as this particular camp was deserted by its occupants, the sphygnotous would hasten in and begin to plane off the surface of the floor with their chisel shaped teeth, eating away all the wood that held a trace of grease. On his return to camp the owner could sweep up and enjoy the comforts of a clean house for another week. The only serious objection to this method of housecleaning lay in the fact that it was necessary to lay a new camp floor rather frequently.

A Lucky Error.

"Printers' errors are usually annoy ing, but a printer's error saved the life of my best friend." The speaker was Cosmo Hamilton, the English writer. He continued:

"Horace Hamfat is an actor. Rich today, he was poor and a failure up to the age of forty. His life up to that age was passed in the provinces on two or three quid a week. A quid, by the way, is \$5. Well, one Saturday in Manchester Horace Hamfat's show went up. The manager fled, and Horace for three days lived on bread and dripping. Then a letter came to him from a London admirer enclosing £10.

"The admirer forwarded also an item from a theatrical page that Horace himself had written—'Horace Hamfat is starring in Manchester.' But the typesetter had made this item read, truly enough:

"'Horace Hamfat is starving in Manchester.'—New York Press.

A Mean Question.

Wedderly—Today is the tenth anniversary of my marriage. Singleton—Well, what do you expect? Wedderly—Which do I expect? Singleton—Yes; congratulations or sympathy?

UNDER THE MISTLETOE



To be on the safe side this young galant carries his mistletoe with him. Then he can hold it over the head of the girl he wants, as he has evidently done in this case.

To do this trick successfully there should be a supply of mistletoe on hand. SHOP EARLY before the stores are all out. There will be a whole lot of people wanting mistletoe, and you may find THE SUPPLY EXHAUSTED OR THE PRICES BOOSTED if you wait. The same is true of all Christmas goods.

TO SHOP EARLY IS THE ONLY SAFE RULE

These little folks are evidently very happy, thank you. Shop early and make every one happy, including yourself.

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