

POULTRY

HEN COMFORT IS MOST PROFITABLE

When the rough days of autumn and winter arrive, the hens begin to hunt about for comfort and protection from winter winds and snow. If the poultry house is cold, dark, and uninviting, it is very unprofitable to the owner. It not only shortens up the egg supply, but next spring the hens go to work with a handicap because they have been poorly wintered.

If we give the hens one-half the attention that we do our other stock they start making things count, says a writer in an exchange. Our poultry house is built for economy and comfort for the hens. We are strong believers in the scratching department, making the hen work a lot. To do this we have all the floor space in the building arranged for bad days, for that is when they must work inside. We put up a gunny-sack curtain in front of the perches, which serves for two purposes. It keeps the hens warm when on the perches at night, and keeps them off the perches in the daytime.

Then we partition off the inside with this cheap burlap which breaks possible drafts, and also divides the flock in their work for the day. We also open the windows, and drop down a burlap curtain on bad days to keep out cold air, storms and beating winds. This burlap is almost indispensable in our poultry equipment, and we use much of it. Our front curtain to the main building is made from it, tacked upon frames so it can be raised or lowered, as needed.

On snowy, rough days the hens work happily away, more contented than if outside. It has always been our custom to set up a windbreak of cornstalks against the lee sides of the fences and the west and north of the houses, and it is wonderful how the hens will take refuge behind this fodder barrage many winter days when the snow is off.

Consistent Layer Will Molt Late in Season

Most hens stop laying when they begin to molt. It is a fact no longer disputed that a hen, in order to make a high yearly record, must be a consistent layer. The early molting hen is not a consistent layer. She takes all the fall months as a vacation for changing her plumage. The consistent layer molts late and grows her new plumage rapidly.

The hen that under normal conditions molts early, will not lay as many winter eggs as the hen that molts late. Neither will she begin egg production earlier in the spring. No definite date can be set as to early molting. As a general rule, however, the first hens in the flock to molt should be sold, and the last to molt should be kept for breeding purposes.

Hens may be thrown into an early molt by starving while laying heavily; by irregular feeding; by roosting in a house that is poorly ventilated; or in any way that tends suddenly to check egg production. Molt from any of these causes should be avoided, as it is likely to result in a lower total egg production. If the pullets are hatched early, they will be laying in the fall and thus the egg production kept up at all seasons.

Poultry Notes

Teach the chicks to roost, as soon as they are old enough to learn.

Man must keep chickens free from lice and mites because the chickens can't.

Good feeding is important so as to maintain the resisting power of the fowls.

Good ventilation is very essential. If all openings are closed the house will become damp and the air vitiated.

Heavy egg production, like heavy milk production, can only be secured by liberal feeding of a well balanced ration.

During the summer months the colony house should be sprayed at regular intervals. A satisfactory spray can be made of three parts of kerosene and one part of crude ca. oil. Coal or tar disinfectants are also satisfactory.

Sodium fluoride, used at the rate of an ounce to a gallon of water, is recommended by specialists for destroying parasites. This should be used on a warm day as a dip, and the birds should be completely immersed in the solution.

Hens should be as well fed when molting as when laying. Growing their new feathers is, if anything, harder on them than producing eggs.

Preventing the parasites by keeping the poultry house clean and by the regular use of dips is much more satisfactory than eradicating them once they have infested the flock. To control mites, the roosts and nests should be painted with carbolineum or some equally effective wood preservative. One treatment each year is usually sufficient.

The DAIRY

SELL CORN HIGH TO DAIRY COWS

It is unusual for a farmer to get \$4.46 a bushel for his corn in North Carolina but there is a way to do it and Tom Morrow of Iredell county has learned the method. Grind it into meal and feed the meal along with other home-grown grains to dairy cattle.

"It takes good cows on a good pasture to pay such returns but the records kept on Mr. Morrow's herd by the tester of the Iredell Cowtesting association show this to be a fact," says John A. Arey, dairy extension specialist at the North Carolina State college. "An individual record is kept of every cow in Mr. Morrow's herd. During May, the eleven cows composing this herd, produced 311.3 pounds of butterfat which sold for 42 cents a pound and brought in \$130.75. The skim milk left on the farm after the cream was sold had a feed value of \$29.57, making the total income amount to \$160.32."

Mr. Arey states that these eleven cows were fed 2,269 pounds of a home-grown grain mixture made by mixing together 200 pounds of corn meal, 100 pounds of cottonseed meal and 100 pounds of crushed oats, which was valued at \$46 a ton or \$52.19 for the amount fed. The animals also consumed oat straw valued at \$0.80 and were grazed on a grass and clover pasture for which a charge of \$2 per head was made. The total feed bill was thus \$80.90, leaving a net income of \$79.33.

On this basis, states Mr. Arey, the cows paid \$9.21 each for their pasture. The cows consumed 23.6 bushels of corn in the form of meal and allowing all charges for the feed-stuffs, the animals paid \$4.46 a bushel for the corn. This does not take into account the manure left on the place.

Therefore, states Mr. Arey, the man who has cows above the average, a good pasture and will grow his hay and grain mixtures at home can make money selling cream. The dairy cow, in his opinion, is one of the very best markets for the surplus feedstuffs produced on the average farm.

Use Cartons for Butter for Sanitary Reasons

The increased use of cartons for sanitary reasons in packing butter for retail sale is considered advisable by health officials in 106 of 117 cities, according to a special survey being made by the bureau of agricultural economics, United States Department of Agriculture.

These officials declared that cartons lessen the likelihood of contamination both in the home and in the retail store, and are a means of checking the absorption of undesirable odors.

The department's inquiry is part of a general survey dealing with the merchandising of farm products by co-operative marketing organizations. Various merchandising methods are being studied with a view to emphasizing practices in the interests of both producers and consumers.

Daily Portion of Skim Milk for Young Calves

The young calf usually will take about six to ten pounds of skim milk daily, which is increased gradually to sixteen to twenty pounds by the time the calf is four months old. In addition, a little grain and some good alfalfa or other legume hay is provided.

During this time, cleanliness of feed and surroundings are of great importance. If it is possible to have each calf tied separately, the amount of feed can be regulated better and the feeder can watch the condition of each calf more easily. The most practical plan is to provide a row of simple stanchions in which the calves may be held at feeding time. At all other times they should be left free to run in their pen or lot.

Dairy Hints

A much larger percentage of dairy farms could use silage economically in their plan of feeding dairy cattle.

Poor producing cows should be eliminated from the dairy herd by careful culling. The best method of doing this is to join a cow-testing association.

Poor, emaciated, hungry, gaunt, antipating cows never produce largely or profitably, no matter how well bred they may be or how well they are cared for otherwise.

Cream is a highly perishable product. Like other similar products it is best when fresh and should therefore be marketed as early as possible. Age will deteriorate cream under any condition.

There are many cases of depraved appetites in cows that are called "bone choppers" on some of our ranges in this country similar to such as reported from South Africa, where, in certain regions, there is a phosphorus deficiency in the soil and, therefore, in the grasses grown on this soil.

Serious Injury to Alfalfa Crop

Bacterial Wilt and Winter Injury Discussed in New Circular.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Bacterial wilt and winter injury have caused, in recent years, serious injury to alfalfa in many alfalfa growing sections of the country. The two injuries are definitely distinct, and either may occur without the other, although winter injury frequently gives rise to conditions which make for the more rapid and destructive development of bacterial wilt.

F. R. Jones and J. L. Weimer of the bureau of plant industry are authors of Circular 39-C, Bacterial Wilt and Winter Injury of Alfalfa, just off the press and available for free distribution by the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington.

Bacterial wilt may cause the plant to wilt during hot weather of spring or summer, and under this condition the plants die immediately, resembling plants whose roots have been severed by gophers. More frequently the plants show a characteristic dwarfed condition with foliage pale green or yellow. After each successive cutting the new stems are shorter and eventually the plant dies. The injury is due to bacteria entering the underground parts of the plant, causing alterations which may be observed readily in the roots.

Winter injury is most evident in the taproot, and is characterized by partial destruction of the root and crown bark and a hollowing and decay of the roots. The destruction of the root bark affords easy access for the wilt bacteria. Winter injury results from the killing of buds and parts of the crown and roots by severe cold.

"The most important method of controlling the wilt disease," say the authors, "is probably the prevention of the conveyance of bacteria by water from old diseased plants to young fields, especially in the spring when many plants have wounds. Care should be taken to avoid carrying the bacteria to new fields in fragments of stems of diseased plants, with uncleaned seed, or with manure. If the disease is present in a field, its distribution by the knives of the mower can probably be avoided to some extent by mowing when the plants are free from surface moisture."

The use of hardy varieties of alfalfa resistant to winter injury does not always prevent damage by bacterial wilt, but the authors believe it may reduce loss from this cause.

Moldy Silage Caused by the Condition of Corn

Condition of the corn at ensiling time and not poor packing is the cause of moldy and inferior quality silage, according to recent experiments conducted by the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment station. To eliminate moldy silage, corn should be ensiled shortly after it is dented.

Corn that is over-ripe, wilted or frozen when put into the silo carries large amounts of air. Several days elapse before the oxygen is exhausted in the silage process and it is during this period that molds make rapid growth.

In testing out their theories, the men working on the problem buried three empty crates in silage at varying depths at the time the silo was filled. In late winter or spring, when the crates were dug out as the silage was fed, no signs of spoilage were found around the crates.

Millet Hay Too Low in Protein for Cow Feed

Millet hay is too low in protein content to make good feed for cows unless supplemented with high protein feeds. Hence, millet hay does not give good nourishment to cows when fed alone, and this may cause several kinds of troubles in a herd. Millet hay, when cut at proper stage of maturity, is a fairly good hay if supplemented, but if allowed to ripen seed the threshed straw has little value as feed for cows, though it may be used in a maintenance ration for horses. For good quality of seed it should be allowed to stand until about fully ripe, but the straw does not have any high value for feed.

Agricultural Squibs

Next to milk, meat scraps or tankage are the most accessible and efficient source of animal protein.

Hog men who do not raise alfalfa for summer, as well as for winter use, are not living up to their opportunities.

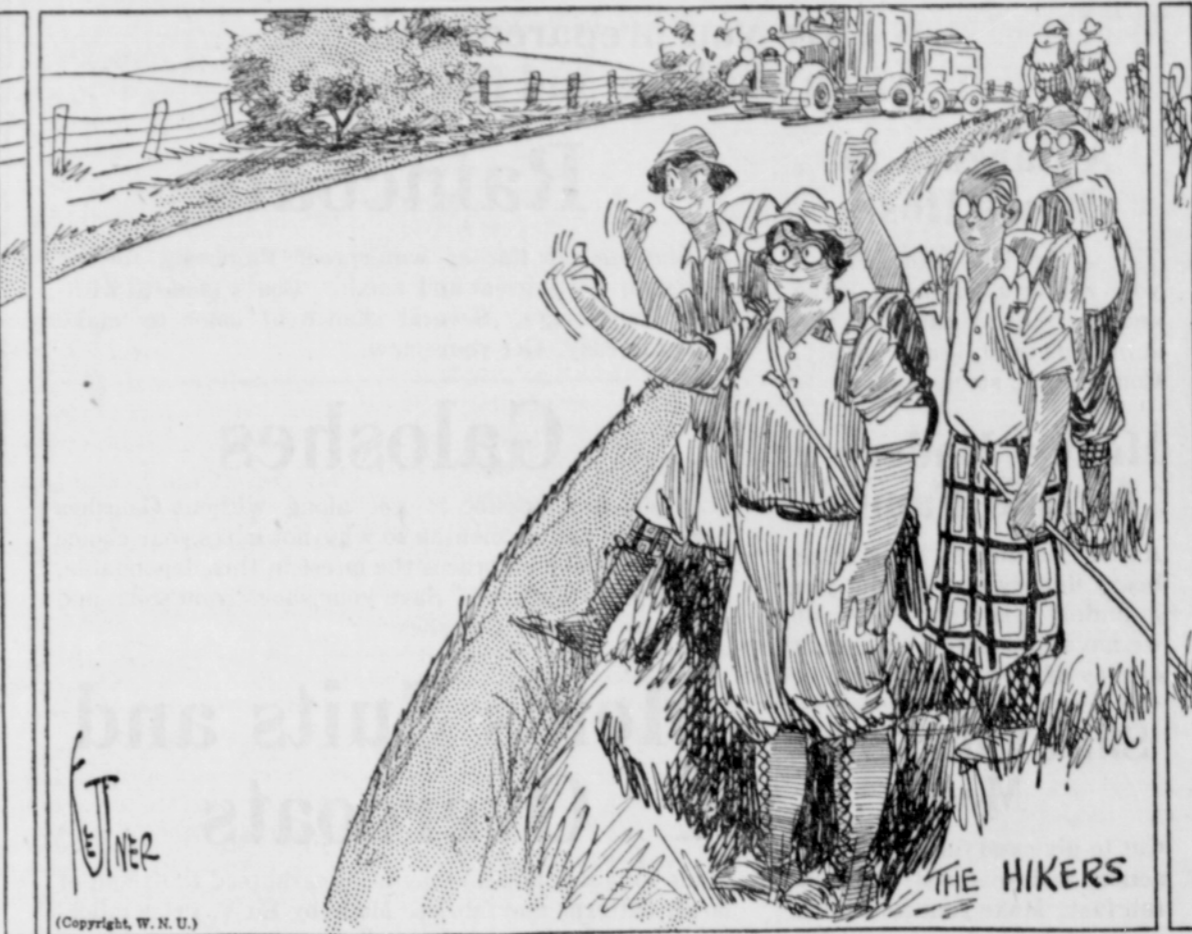
In order to insure a good lamb crop the ewes should be turned on fresh pasture a few weeks before breeding, and should be given a little grain.

Sunshine is one of the best disinfectants. Be sure all live stock is getting plenty of this free nature's tonic, especially the young growing animals.

Many people do a lot of flouting to show the increased profit that would come by breeding birds that are heavier producers but they fail to make any additional charge for feed.

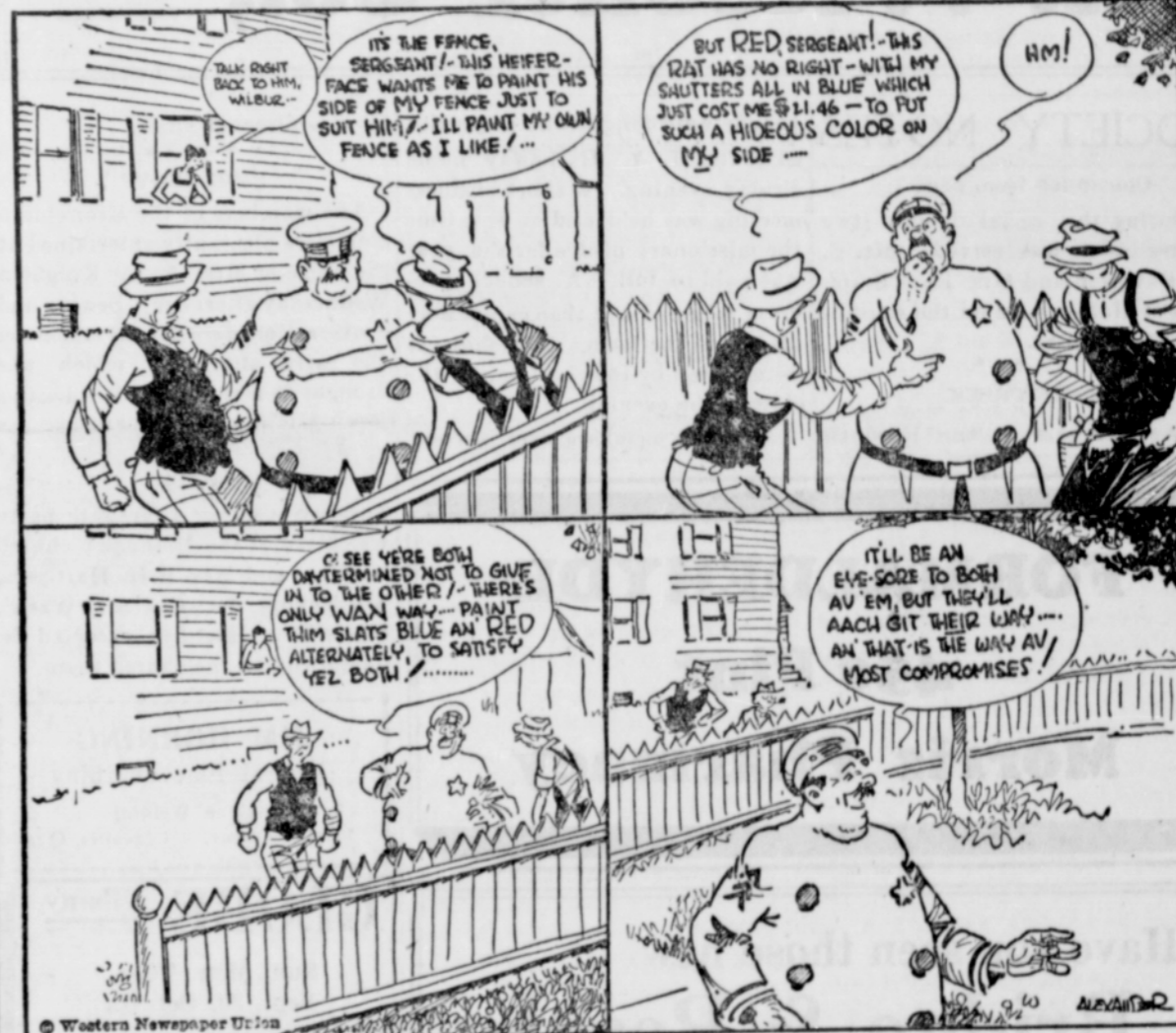
OUR COMIC SECTION

Along the Concrete



FINNEY OF THE FORCE

A Solution



THE FEATHERHEADS

Definitions

