

The American Farm Page

DAIRY POULTRY STOCK RAISING FARMING

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FARM POULTRY

REMOVE BIRD WHEN OUT OF CONDITION

May Check Spread of Coccidiosis in Flock.

Chronic coccidiosis in adult fowls cannot be distinguished by external symptoms from other wasting diseases, and only by the use of the microscope after death, says a writer in the Rural New-Worker. Unlike the acute form occurring in chickens, the ceca do not display the evidences of the infection, which are to be found in the intestinal contents or in scrapings from the intestinal walls.

Either in chronic coccidiosis or other diseases showing the loss of appetite, dirty plumage, gradual loss of flesh, paleness of comb and wattles and perhaps paralysis of the legs found in such disorders, all affected birds should be removed from the flock and watch kept for new cases. The quarters used should be placed in good sanitary condition and the old birds discarded.

The parasites causing coccidiosis and other infections of like incurability by infest ground that has been used for a considerable length of time by poultry flocks, and healthy birds must be kept from such ground if avoidance of infection is to be expected. Chronic coccidiosis spreads slowly in an adult flock and removal of sick birds with sanitary precautions to prevent infection of the healthy members should be observed.

No Raiser Can Report Profit From Dead Hens

Dead hens make the largest item of flock depreciation, and this depreciation is the third largest item, next to feed and labor, or about one-fifth, of the total expense of the laying flock, says Prof. E. G. Misner of the New York State College of Agriculture, after a study of ninety-two New York State flocks in 1930.

The percentage of mortality varied from 3 to 73 per cent of the average number of laying birds. The mortality averaged 23 per cent, with no difference between large or small flocks. When hens are valued at \$1 each at the beginning of the laying season and are worth 75 cents at the end of the year, a mortality of 10 per cent makes the depreciation 34 cents to the hen. If the mortality were 40 per cent, the depreciation to the bird would be 60 cents. Professor Misner warns poultrymen to give close attention to disease and parasite control.

Use Judgment in Mating

It is poor policy to mate up any fowls, least of all male birds, that have previously shown any signs of disease or weakness. It is unwise to mate up undersized females to oversized coarse males, or vice versa. The mating seldom "clicks," and it is almost impossible to secure medium sized, normal healthy progeny. Bred poultry breeders know by intuition just how many males a certain flock of females will need to get best results.

As a general rule, in flock matings, not more than eight or ten lightweight males are required to 100 females. With heavyweight varieties, ten males are about right, providing there is little fighting among males. Otherwise it were best to make smaller flock matings.

Birds Carry Diseases

Birds such as the English sparrows should be fenced out of poultry houses, says the Idaho Farmer. These pests travel far and wide and visit everybody's poultry yard in a community, and if possible, carry diseases from the insanitary yards of one poultryman to clean yards of another. Careful poultrymen also make it a point to keep promiscuous human visitors away from their poultry houses and runs, as they, too, readily carry troubles from one poultry yard to another. When visitors are allowed in the well-kept poultry yard they should be provided a box of litter or sawdust, thoroughly disinfected, into which to step before entering the premises.

Don't Cut Down on Feed

This is no time to cut down on the flock's feed even though egg prices are low. In fact, low egg prices make it all the more necessary that birds be fed generously and thus be kept at the height of their ability to produce. The laying flock should have a mash before it all the time during the summer months. In addition it should be given some grain. The only feeding change should be the cutting down and finally the elimination of the morning feeding of scratch grain.—Exchange.

Insects Cut Profits of Vegetable Patch

Gardeners Pay Big Toll to These Enemies.

A tax of four or five million dollars is collected annually in Illinois by insects that damage vegetable crops, according to a circular which the college of agriculture, University of Illinois, has issued as a means of helping gardeners and truck growers save these losses.

Truck growers and gardeners are paying more attention to losses caused by insects than they did a few years ago and they will have to fight these pests even harder in the future if the growing of vegetables is to be profitable, according to the circular. No vegetable crop is without its pests. Damage ranges from 10 per cent or less on some crops to 50 per cent or more on others. Occasionally an entire crop is lost.

Both spraying and dusting systems and cultural methods that have been found most effective in combating the more common insect pests of truck and garden crops are described in the circular. Important points in the life history, together with a brief description of each insect, are given in order that the grower may apply control measures more intelligently. Each insect is considered in the order of its importance under the crop upon which it is usually most abundant and destructive.

Oats as Starting Feed Said to Prevent Bloat

Oats as a starting feed for beef cattle prevents bloat, according to information obtained by Louis Vinke, Montana State college. Trials were conducted with several fattening grains and alfalfa. The greatest number of bloat cases occurred in the group fed barley and alfalfa. In most cases the critical period occurred when the cattle were receiving from five to seven pounds of grain a day. Few cases occurred after this period had passed. Oats as a starting feed proved 100 per cent effective in preventing bloat at Havre and Bozeman during two years. Similar experiments at the Colorado experiment station confirmed these tests.

The plan which seems most effective among several tried is to start the steers on two pounds of oats a head a day. As the appetite develops the amount of oats is increased until the critical period is past. Then the fattening grains are gradually substituted for oats. This change requires about two weeks.—Capper's Farmer

Taking Care of Wool

Wool growers are again urged to exercise care in preparing the clip for sale. One of the first steps is to keep the fleece as clean as possible before it is taken from the sheep; keep the animals away from straw stacks and out of burry weed patches as much as possible.

Shear only when the wool is dry and in a clean place. Clip off the tags and stained wool and keep out dirt and chaff. Roll the fleece with the fresh side out, taking care to keep it in one piece. Tie each fleece separately with paper twine. Never use binder twine or string. Pack the dead, gray, seedy, burry wool and tags separately.—Exchange.

Sudan Emergency Crop

Sudan grass is a good pasture and hay crop for emergencies. Since it is a hot weather crop, it should not be planted until after the corn is in. Sudan can be drilled in rows or broadcast and will provide an abundance of feed. Some farmers cut two crops of hay from sudan by taking off the first crop as soon as the first heads appear.

The sudan is more resistant to insect damage than some other crops. Caution must be taken not to turn live stock onto it too early or the yield will be seriously reduced. Sudan seed should be used at the rate of 20 to 30 pounds per acre.—Prairie Farmer.

Agricultural Notes

Clean up the farm woodlot during spare hours.

The best silage is made from corn that is grazed before the corn is cut.

For best success with orchards and small fruits, protection must be provided. A good shelter belt of trees is an asset to any farm.

Use bacterial cultures sold for inoculating legumes while they are still fresh urges the New York experiment station.

Illinois has 56 herds of cattle accredited as being free from Bang disease. More than 750 herds are now enrolled in a cleanup project under the supervision of the University of Illinois department of agriculture.

DAIRY FACTS

FEWER AND BETTER ANIMALS IN HERD

Illinois Specialist's Advice to Dairymen.

Approximately \$20,000,000 could be added to the annual income of Illinois farmers keeping dairy cattle, and no more milk would be put on the market, if the 1,000,000 cows in the state were replaced by 654,239 cows as good as the average cow in the dairy herd improvement associations, according to Prof. C. S. Rhode, dairy extension specialist of the college of agriculture, University of Illinois.

Fifty-five of these associations organized in 73 counties by the college extension service are helping herd owners increase their net returns. The associations supply dairymen at low cost with production and feed records and give them help on feeding and management problems.

A cow has to give about 250 pounds of butterfat a year before she returns enough to pay for her feed, and an equal amount to cover other expenses, according to records which Professor Rhode has tabulated on 12,694 of the association cows. As it is, the average cow in the state produces about 180 pounds.

"This is evidence enough that under present low prices higher efficiency in production and improved feeding practices are essential for satisfactory returns.

"Cows with a production of approximately 400 pounds of fat return \$149 above cost of feed. A 50-pound increase in production was good for an additional income of \$20 above cost of feed."

New Production Record Set by Holstein Herd

The purebred Holstein herd owned by the Cherokee State hospital at Cherokee, Iowa, has set a new national production record for a herd of 50 or more cows. According to the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, this herd completed its year in the herd improvement registry test with an average of 15,721 pounds of milk containing 556 pounds of fat. There were 50 cows in the herd and 13 were class A cows, milked four times a day and 37 class B cows, milked three times a day. In the United States there have been 417 herds tested located in 41 states and the Cherokee herd exceeds the national average of all tested herds by 188 pounds of fat and also exceeds the average of all herds milked three or four times a day by 157 pounds of fat.

Milking Thrice Daily

At the Canadian national exhibition our representative had a chat with George Innes, the member of the famous firm of J. W. Innes and Sons, who manages the big farm where the prize-winning Jersey herd is kept. He mentioned the manner in which the men were rotated to take care of the three-times-a-day milking. "Do you milk three times a day to get higher records or to increase the commercial production?" he was asked. "Principally to make a better showing in R. O. P. I guess," was the answer. "Aside from records altogether, do you think it would pay to milk three times daily?" "Yes, I believe it would," replied George after a little thought. The same answer has often come from other men of experience.—Montreal Family Herald.

Cream Farming

It would be a good thing for dairy farming if more of the folks engaged in it were selling cream instead of whole milk. For several reasons: The dairyman selling cream keeps on the farm a considerable amount of fertility (in the skim milk). The cream dairyman has lower hauling and shipping charges, has fewer health troubles, can arrange his chores to better advantage, and at present enjoys a little better income for his product. Surplus milk at present prices is not very profitable.—Farm Journal.

Pays to Test Cows

The only way to tell how much a cow is worth is to test her with scales and the Babcock test, states Cow Tester Martin Svedberg of the Woodford County (Ill.) Dairy Herd Improvement association. He pointed out that two of the cows in his association freshed within three days of each other. At the end of nine months milking one of the cows had returned a profit over feed costs of \$61.20 more than the other, although the profitable cow did not look the part and would have been the one selected for sale had the test not been used.—Prairie Farmer.

Fertilizers Show Nitrogen Content

Change in Labeling Regulations Affects North-eastern States.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture—WNU Service.)

An important change in regulations for labeling fertilizers which will affect farmers of twelve northeastern states is the transfer from ammonia content to nitrogen as the basis for labeling. This change became effective January 1 in the New England states and in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, says Dr. Oswald Schreiner, chief of the division of soil fertility, bureau of chemistry and soils, United States Department of Agriculture.

Doctor Schreiner believes the change is desirable from most points of view. He points out that nitrogen in the ammonia form is present in only a few of the fertilizer materials which are commonly used, although nitrogen is present in several different forms in such fertilizer materials as sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, calcium cyanamide, calcium nitrate, potassium nitrate, ammonium phosphate, tankage, fish meal, cottonseed meal, and other animal and plant by-products. It is thus desirable that the name of the element nitrogen, and not the equivalent in one of the particular forms in which it occurs, should appear on fertilizer labels. The fact that 1 per cent of nitrogen is the equivalent of 1.22 per cent of ammonia has also led to some confusion because of the indiscriminate use of the two terms as applied to fertilizer content, says Doctor Schreiner.

The new regulations require that the percentages of plant food be stated in whole numbers and not in fractions for all mixed fertilizers. There will be printed on the bag a simplified statement of the guarantee showing only the net weight and brand name, including the analysis, guaranteed percentage of nitrogen, of available phosphoric acid, and of potash, and the name and address of the manufacturer.

Measures of Determining Value of Corn Silage

An Iowa reader writes as follows: "What is a fair price per ton for corn silage, when timothy is selling for \$10 to \$15 and alfalfa for \$22 per ton?"

There are several methods for arriving at a satisfactory price. A ton of average corn belt silage usually is worth six bushels of corn and 900 pounds of loose hay. However, it is often figured that silage from a normal corn crop is worth one-third the price of good quality legume hay per ton, even though this places a slightly higher value on the silage than its actual amount of food nutrients would indicate.

This latter measurement is used for silage to be fed to cows in milk. Where the corn was rather low yielding, some allowance will have to be made in the charge, although it must be remembered that stalks usually have a higher feeding value when the ears are not fully developed.—Wallace's Farmer.

Oats and Peas

The following varieties of Canada field peas are good to sow with oats: Chang, Cloverland, Golden Vine and Alberta White. The common rate of seeding is two bushels of oats and one bushel of peas to the acre. Any soil that will grow good oats will give good results. On land lacking in fertility or on sandy soil, the amount of peas is sometimes reduced to half a bushel and a peck of vetch seed substituted for the peas. Sometimes the vetch is added without reducing the amount of peas; sometimes winter vetch is used, sometimes half winter vetch and half spring vetch. Unless the field has successfully grown peas or vetch it is a good idea to inoculate the seed before planting. The same inoculation can be used for both peas and vetch.—American Agriculturist.

Salt on Asparagus

Asparagus will stand salt applications heavy enough to kill many weeds. Enough to make the ground white as with a heavy frost would be needed to have much permanent effect on weeds. The better plan is to have the plants far enough apart so that it is possible to get around each one with a hoe, and hand-pull the weeds in the clump.

There has been wide difference of opinion about the use of salt on asparagus. At one time salting it was common practice, the idea being that it was good for the asparagus. New few do this. With suitable soil and plenty of plant food, good asparagus can be grown with or without salt.—Rural New-Yorker.

Variation of Dutch Colonial Type Brings Most Interesting Results



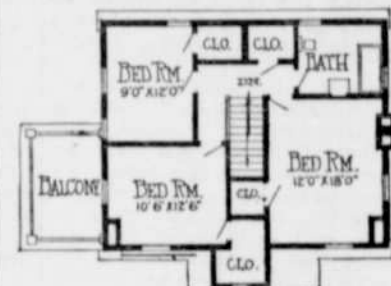
Six good large rooms and a large sun parlor are shown on the floor plan of this frame home. The center entrance leading into the hall and a living room that extends across the side and a good-sized sun parlor are features. The house is 24 feet wide and 30 feet long.

By W. A. RADFORD

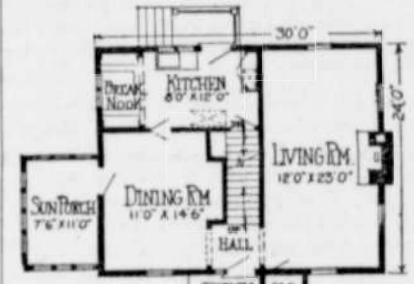
Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to practical home building, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as editor, author and manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 407, South Dearborn street, Chicago, Ill., and only inclose two-cent stamp for reply.

Variations of the different types of some building designs are always interesting for they demonstrate that individuality of treatment brings most happy results. This is shown in the same reproduced herewith. This is a variation of the Dutch colonial type of architecture. But by the design of the roof over the porch and extending it up to the eaves, the architect has taken away the plain effect of the Dutch colonial and substituted a graceful break in the otherwise straight

rooms and a large sun parlor. How these rooms are arranged and their sizes are shown on the floor plans. But it is the exterior of the home which will have its greatest appeal to those who want the unusual in the design of their home but who have not a large sum of money to invest to achieve this result. The entrance door design, already discussed, the sun



Second Floor Plan.



First Floor Plan.

This home contains six good large rooms and a large sun parlor. The interior arrangement is along colonial lines in that there is a central hall with the living room to the right extending the depth of the house and the dining room, sun porch and kitchen with breakfast nook adjoining the latter room, on the other side. The stairway running out of the hall leads to the central hall on the second floor off of which open three bedrooms and a bathroom.

Find Unlimited Use for Basement Wasted Spaces

When a person thinks of all the space that has been left over to no purpose in the cellar he marvels that it is not put to use.

The basement is usually the warmest spot in the house and is an ideal location for a playroom for children or a recreation-room for adults. Clever householders are found taking to the cellars, even when there is no danger of cyclones or thunderstorms. Architects who are designing new houses are reckoning with the room built below stairs, and those who are making over old houses are devising means whereby they may evolve at least one attractive basement room besides the laundry.

It is quite possible to decorate the necessary beams and supports, and it is also within a possibility to have small windows fixed attractively, and then there may be any number of electric light plugs. Often the chimney is such as to make a fireplace an accomplished fact, and that is a great asset, especially a room fixed downstairs for billiards.

The house entrance may be the one that many basements have, but it may be beautified by having an iron handrail, and it is also a good plan to cover each step with a protector to avoid accidents by icy weather. The floor covering may be just plain (what is called granite) linoleum, or it may be of tile laid in mortar, or the cement floor itself may do with a few furnishings. Carpets of many inexpensive varieties may be used. The expert contractor knows many tricks that can be used in finishing the floor. If the floor is wood and expense is an item, use the floor as it is. If you have any old carpets or ancient clothes that are too badly worn for use by you or the Salvation Army, have rugs made from them. The cost is small and the covering will be ideal.

There is much wear and tear saved on all parts of the upper quarters and stories when the basement is turned into livable quarters, and with the installation of modern heating apparatus, even in the oldest houses much dirt is eliminated.

Concrete or stone walls in the base-

ment may be whitewashed or painted a light color and wall lights with glass reflectors add much charm and cheer. Hickory furniture that does duty outside in summer may take a new lease on life.

It may do winter service.

Healthful Fad Saves Makers of Home Doors

Door manufacturing, an industry seemingly threatened by an architectural fad, has been saved by a health fad, according to H. Y. Stillwell, executive secretary of the National Door Manufacturing association.

"When they started building these new-fangled homes and apartments without any interior doors we thought the door industry was going to be seriously harmed," Stillwell said. "Spanish arches, oriental arches, French arches, the architects went arch-crazy."

Mr. Stillwell admitted that he liked arches personally, but he cried them as a menace to the door industry.

"But we have been saved," he continued. "Just as this arch fad was beginning to be felt throughout the industry, the sunshine for health fad saved us. Almost overnight home owners demanded more sunshine. Sunshine demands windows, sun parlors and walls of glass.

"Fortunately the door manufacturers also make windows. Houses may be built without interior doors, but as long as the demand for windows, solariums and French doors has been increased the manufacturers of doors—and windows—are content."

Wash First

Planning on some repaint jobs around your house this spring? Don't forget that the price estimate should include a thorough washing, for paint won't hold on a greasy surface or make a good appearance on top of dirt.

Plant for View

A few wisteria vines, two or three box bushes and a clump or so of tall flowering spring shrubs, to be seen from the house rather than against it, are much more attractive than quantity planting in the nurseryman's style.