

A Weekly Page of Poultry Hints to You

Here Is a Department Full of Bright Ideas for Readers of the Home and Farm Magazine Section.

THE object of the United States Department of Agriculture in forming boys' and girls' poultry clubs is to give better knowledge of the value and importance of the poultry industry and the marketing of a first-class, uniform product, to teach better methods of caring for the poultry and eggs, and to show the increased revenue to be derived from well bred poultry where proper methods of management are pursued.

Statistics show that the loss due to the improper handling of eggs throughout the country is enormous, extending into many millions of dollars annually. It is an equally established fact that strictly fresh eggs command a higher price than those commonly designated as store eggs, and if the farmer who is the largest producer of this well known perishable commodity, would take more care in selecting, grading and marketing this product he would receive a price higher than the average market one for his eggs.

Paying the Grocery Bill.

On many farms throughout the country the money derived from the sale of poultry and eggs buys the groceries and clothing for the entire family. The money from this source may be substantially increased by establishing a private trade in eggs of good quality with hotels, restaurants, etc., in towns and cities.

The department has issued the following suggestions to the organizers of poultry clubs:

Throughout the year meetings should be held to discuss the different problems of poultry management, and at such meetings the animal husbandry division of the bureau of animal industry, will have in attendance, whenever possible, one of its specialists on poultry to assist in solving such questions or problems as might arise and to give whatever help and information he can to the members on such subjects as selection of stock, candling demonstrations, etc. He will also assist in securing first class markets for the sale of the poultry and eggs.

Should Hold Exhibitions.

Each county club should hold an exhibition once a year, preferably in connection with the county fair, at which place a pair of the best chickens grown by each member should be placed on exhibition and entered to compete in the regular classes for premiums offered by the fair association, as well as for the special prizes offered for members of the poultry clubs. An exhibit of the best dozen of eggs should also be made.

It will be well to have a president, one or more vice presidents, and a secretary.

It is advisable for the teacher in charge to be honorary president of the club.

A simple constitution and by-laws should be adopted. It will be found profitable to subdivide the county organization by townships, schools or school districts, and have local meetings at school houses or at different members' homes occasionally. Each club should adopt the following general regulations:

1. Boys or girls joining the club must be between ten and eighteen years of age on January 1 of any given year. Special classes may be organized for older girls.
2. No boy or girl shall be eligible to receive a prize unless he or she becomes a member of the club, and sets at least one sitting of 13 eggs.
3. Each member of the club must agree to study the instructions of the United States department of agriculture.
4. Each boy or girl must plan to do his or her own work and keep strict account of all expenses, such as feed, labor (for which ten cents an hour should be charged), sale of stock, etc. The department suggests a four year course for poultry clubs.

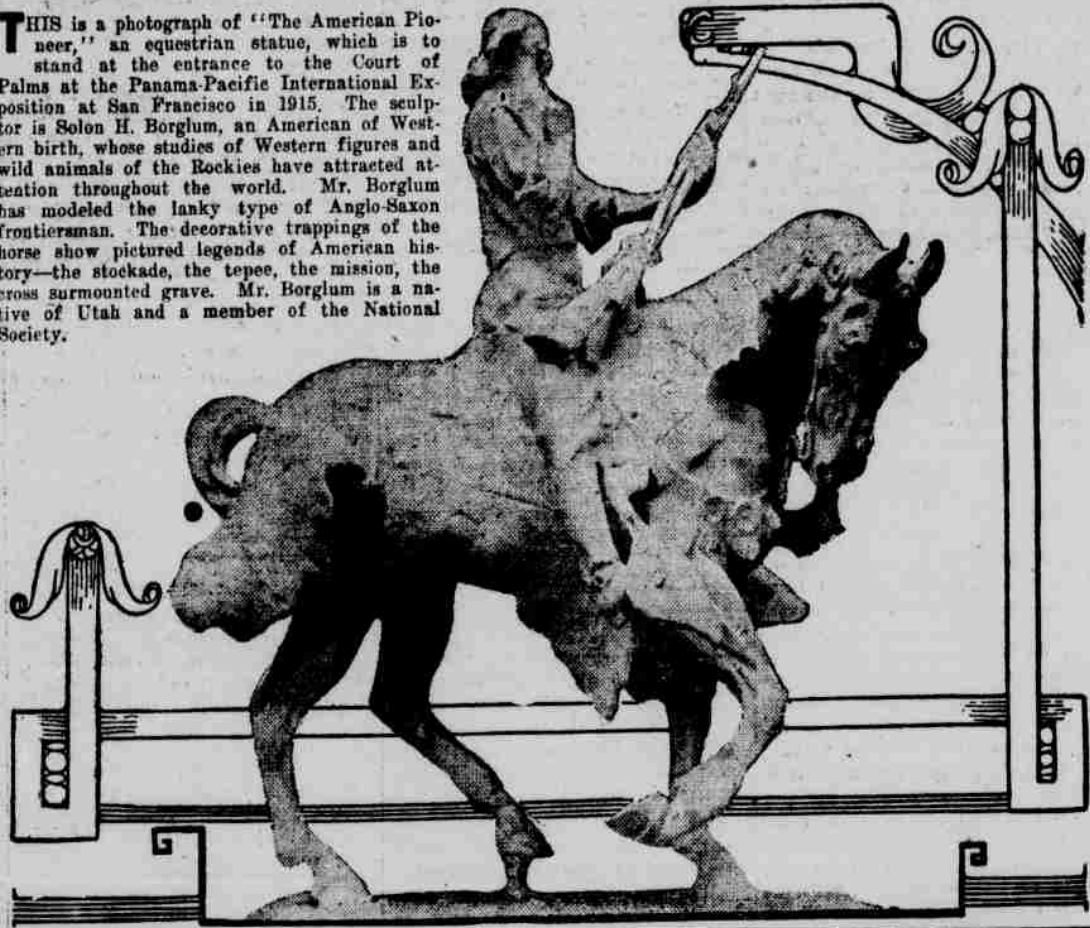
The Four-Years' Course.

First year. Each member shall set at least three sittings of eggs from pure-bred stock, and raise seven pullets and one cockerel. All hatching must be completed by May 15. A composition on poultry management must be submitted to the agent in charge of club work. Accurate records are also

"The American Pioneer" Equestrian Statue, depicts Frontiersman

Panama-Pacific International Exposition Will Display Figure Depicting Stage in American History of Interest to All in West.

THIS is a photograph of "The American Pioneer," an equestrian statue, which is to stand at the entrance to the Court of Palms at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition at San Francisco in 1915. The sculptor is Solon H. Borglum, an American of western birth, whose studies of Western figures and wild animals of the Rockies have attracted attention throughout the world. Mr. Borglum has modeled the lanky type of Anglo-Saxon frontiersman. The decorative trappings of the horse show pictured legends of American history—the stockade, the tepee, the mission, the cross surmounted grave. Mr. Borglum is a native of Utah and a member of the National Society.



to be kept and sent to the above-mentioned official, and all meetings of the poultry club must be attended.

Second year. Each member shall raise at least 15 pure-bred pullets and two cockerels. All hatching must be completed by May 10. A pair of birds and one dozen eggs from this stock shall be exhibited at the county or state fair. A composition on some phase of poultry work shall be submitted to the agent in charge of club work. Accurate records are also to be kept and sent to the above-mentioned officials, and all meetings of the poultry club must be attended.

Third year. Each member shall raise at least 25 pure-bred pullets and two cockerels. All hatching must be completed by May 1. A pair of birds and one dozen eggs from this stock shall be exhibited at the county or state fair. A composition on some phase of poultry work shall be submitted to the agent in charge of club work. Accurate records are also to be kept and sent to the above-mentioned official, and all meetings of the poultry club must be attended.

Fourth year. Each member shall raise at least 30 pure-bred pullets and three cockerels. All hatching must be completed by May 1. A pair of birds and one dozen eggs from this stock shall be exhibited at the county or state fair. A composition on some phase of poultry work shall be submitted to the agent in charge of club work. Accurate records are also to be kept and sent to the above-mentioned official, and all meetings of the poultry club must be attended.

The hatching and rearing of the chickens; condition of chickens and cleanliness of coops and poultry buildings; the cost of producing eggs; accuracy and neatness of records; attendance at meetings; exhibits at the fairs, and written articles on poultry work shall be considered in rating members and awarding prizes.

Noiseless Roosters Next.

Cock-a-doodle-do-less roosters, guaranteed absolutely soundless and which will solve the problem of light sleeping city dwellers, annoyed early mornings by the neighbors' loudly-crowning chanticleers, are now the subject of experiments of the agricultural department.

A correspondent, who discovered the process of eliminating the cock's crow, set the experts at work. A simple and

painless operation of cutting one of the rooster's vocal cords does the trick he says. The rooster can fill his lungs and go through all the evolutions which accompany a hearty crow, but can make no sound.

How Summer Eggs Spoil.

Most people believe that an egg must be set under a hen, or put in an incubator before it will start to hatch, says Am. Cultivator. Eggs will start to hatch at less than 90 degrees of heat. Many eggs are submitted to this or higher temperatures for several hours if not days, before reaching the consuming public. When the germ inside the egg commences to develop, edible qualities of the eggs are lessened, or the egg goes off flavor. Eggs may be kept at an incubating temperature for a day, when the chicks will start growing, next day the temperature may be so low that the chick is killed, and from that point decomposition begins, possibly, slowly, but, nevertheless, the egg is gradually going bad.

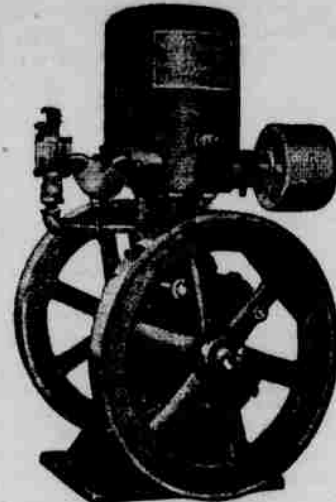
There are almost innumerable ways in which eggs may start hatching during the summer, such as forgetting to gather the eggs daily, and leaving some under broody hens overnight, leaving them exposed to the sun or in warm rooms, stores, cars, etc., or in the kitchen cupboards.

Marketing Eggs.

That farmers can properly grade their eggs, and put upon the market a product of the highest quality, has been demonstrated in various parts of Minnesota during the past five years. Under a pledge or contract, the entire surplus of the farms, in those communities, has been bought and sold at a premium price. These eggs have been put up in cartons, and have been marketed, under a personal guarantee, to an exacting retail trade.

Profits in Eggs From China.

Receipts of eggs from China continue to be heavy. It is said that a wholesale liquor dealer on the coast with a representative in China was the first to grasp the possibilities of the new opening. It is reported that he cleaned up a profit of nearly \$20,000 on shipments of 3000 cases. The eggs cost him at the Chinese port only 72 cents a case; the ocean freight was 25 cents, making a total of \$1.27 a case, or a trifle more than 4 cents a dozen.



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He readily sold these eggs last winter around 24 cents a dozen f. o. b. wharf, so his profit was nearly 20 cents a dozen.