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POULTRY NOTES

BY C. M. BARNITZ RIVERSIDE, PA.

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THE HEAD OF THE TURK HAREM

The gobbler sure cuts a figure in turkey success, and here's an instance: A nearby farmer in 1911 raised twenty turkeys of twenty-five hatched and sold them for \$62. The sire was a fine two-year-old thirty pound gobbler, with mates to match. He died in the fall, and his place was taken by an eighteen pound half breed, mated to the same hens. Thirty seven pouts



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

STUDYING GOB'S POINTS.

were hatched and all died inside of six weeks. Our post mortem on seven showed blackhead. That gobbler was a weakling from inbred stock. Many farmers quit turkeys because they head the flock with a poor turkey cock or cockerel.

The most successful turkey raisers mate only adults from two years up and only use a yearling when exceptionally strong, a male to eight hens being the average harem. The standard show weights for turkey cocks are: Bronze, 30 pounds; Bourbon Red and Narragansett, 30; White Holland, 28; Black, Buff and Slate, 27 pounds. Bronze turkey cocks below 20 pounds, Bourbon and Narragansett below 22, Holland and Black below 20, Buff and Slate below 18 pounds are disqualified at shows.

The "biggest" turk wins, a Madison Square prize gobbler reaching 65 pounds, but such heavyweights are pampered, poor breeders and medium size is market call.

The head of the harem should have a big head, bright eye, long strong neck



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

A MODEL—NOTE BREAST AND BACK.

covered with caruncles, big throat wattle, back wide at shoulders, rounded with graceful slope to tail; strong, long wings; breast wide, full, round, deep; body egg shape, with big end front note model; big plump thighs; thick, strong, long shanks; big feet, set wide apart. He should come from unrelated stock, not be related to his mates, and should not be over fat.

Gobblers should be changed each fall, but it is better to change the hens, if a male equal to the present cannot be secured. A wild or half wild gobbler is a paying investment.

DON'TS.

Don't worry about the future. Let the future take care of itself while you take care of the present.

Don't get high perch pride. The hawk always hooks the high perch crower first.

Don't buy what you don't need. If you do you rue.

Don't expect hens that revel in rot to lay eggs sweet as a forgetmenot.

Don't advertise as a last resort. The name of the continuous advertiser is not in the directory of the business graveyard.

Don't knock your best lack. Every man is the architect of his own fortune unless there's a woman in the case.

Don't neglect brain culture. There is always room for improvement.

Scientific Methods

What good does it do to publish tables of the merits of alfalfa as long as the farmers find themselves baffled every time they experiment with it? Chemistry, like the other sciences, is becoming more essential every day to successful farming. The time has gone by when deep-throated exhortation will pass for instruction in agriculture. What is wanted is scientific fact. More than any other man the farmer needs an all-round education. Narrow rule of thumb training proves its uselessness to him in every direction.

The ideal farm paper of these times is one that goes straight down to scientific principles in its articles. Vague prescriptions may have been well enough when it was supposed that the Lord supplied growing crops with all the nature they required. Our numerous failures with alfalfa demonstrate that some other help is needed, at least with that crop. A little time will go farther with it than many sermons.

FOR THE FARMER

Thirty years ago a fellow would have been considered sort of cracked in the upper story who would have predicted that a man would some day travel 100 miles in a flying machine. Yet one day recently a Frenchman, Moulinais, made an uninterrupted flight from Paris to London of 287 miles in 185 minutes, an average of ninety-four miles an hour.

A pedigree is a desirable thing in connection with a dairy cow and particularly if it is desired to sell her offspring at fancy prices, but of even more value from the practical standpoint is her performance. There are a good many cows that have pedigrees that, so far as being able to deliver the goods is concerned, are essentially scrubs and whose pedigrees are not worth the paper they are written on.

Roquefort cheese, one of the most popular products of its kind to be found on the world's markets, is made from the milk of hundreds of thousands of sheep in the province of Roquefort, France. The lambs are allowed to suck their mothers for some two months, at the end of which time they are weaned, and thereafter the sheep are milked and the milk made into this appetizing cheese, for which there is a great demand and which sells at a fancy price.

The tendency which the sow sometimes shows at farrowing time to devour her newborn offspring may be due to porcine cussedness. However, it is more likely to be due to the feeding prior to farrowing time of a ration deficient in protein—the bone and muscle forming element. This is furnished abundantly in high grade tankage and should be balanced with about twelve parts of corn. This depraved appetite may also be due to the bowels being in bad condition, which may be corrected by feeding a little oilmeal in the ration a few days prior to farrowing. Many hog raisers follow the practice of feeding their sows a pound of salt pork each daily for a short time prior to farrowing.

A reader of these notes who brought the writer a twig from his family orchard badly infested with the oyster shell bark louse stated the other day that the pest was spreading and that three of his trees were dead and others sick. He has decided to give his whole orchard a thorough spraying before the buds start with the lime-sulphur solution. This will do the business and will also fix any other scale insects and will put out of business a whole lot of eggs and young of the green lice. It serves as a tonic and cleanser for the bark and is to be recommended from every point of view. In applying the spray every portion of the branches and trunk of every tree should be moistened.

Tests and practical experience without end have demonstrated beyond question that the best results are obtained by planting seed corn that has been grown not far from the place where it is to be planted. Last year, when a good many farmers were put to it to get the seed they needed, they found this truth out to their sorrow. They bought seed from a distance which they supposed was all right, and in some cases the stalks grow and grew, but never eared. The only safe way in buying seed corn is to have it shipped in the ear. If this is done one can determine the type of the corn exactly and decide whether it will mature in one's own locality. If it does not give promise of doing so it would better be fed to the pigs.

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