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THE WATER VESSEL.

Chickens are certainly on the water wagon and then some. This is because water figures so in their comfort, health and growth. They must have it to soak their food. It is such a large constituent of eggs and flesh, so that the wise poultryman will always keep a sufficient quantity of fresh, pure water before his fowls.

A water vessel should be inexpensive, hold at least a day's supply.

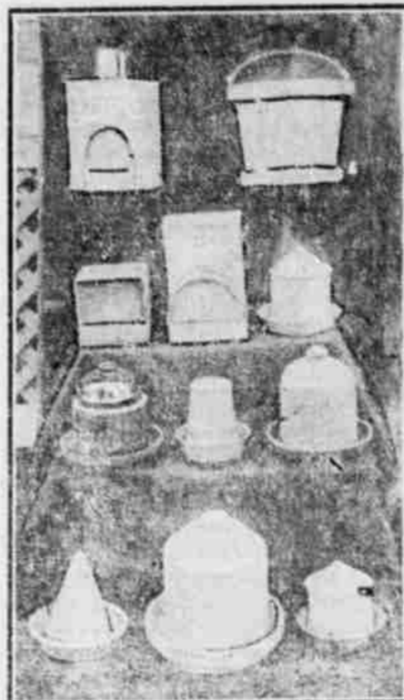


Photo by C. M. Barnitz.
TYPES OF WATER VESSELS.

should protect water from dust and sun, be covered so chicks cannot get into it and fowls cannot dip their combs and wattles into the water and should be made so it may be easily carried, filled and cleaned. It is not necessary to heat the water in winter, and with lamps connected to water vessels there is always more or less danger. Warm water freezes easier than cold. The hens prefer the latter, and

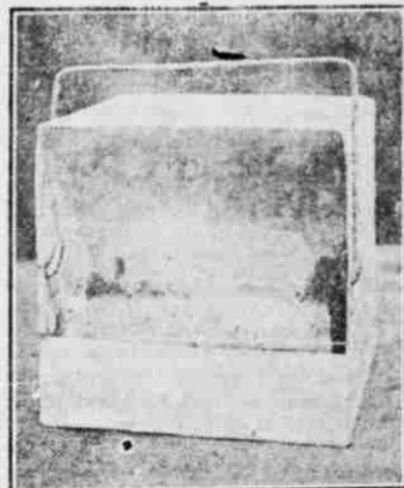


Photo by C. M. Barnitz.
A GOOD SQUARE VESSEL.

it is better for their digestion. We present styles of water vessels for old and young fowls.

On hot days water should be shaded and should be changed occasionally, as stale, warm drink brings intestinal trouble to young and old stock. Place the vessel so dirt and litter cannot be scratched into it, and make the duck water vessels so deep that when they drink they may dip in over the eyes, or sore eyes and heads will result.

DON'TS.

Don't forget that prevention is better than cure. If this old adage was followed to the letter, men, hens and fowls would all be better, and diseases and deaths would become so few that the doctors and undertakers would hoo-hoo adieu.

Don't mix salt and mash dry. Dissolve salt in hot water, and with this moisten the mash.

Don't feed ducks the same quantity as chickens. Ducks grow faster and need more grub.

Don't put all fiddlers in the cheat class because you occasionally meet a slick one.

Don't try to squeeze blood out of a turnip. Sell a good article at a fair profit and be satisfied.

Don't bleach white fowls with peroxide. It does not remove brassiness, but rots the feathers, and the judge will catch you.

Don't show fowls with stubs or feathers on their shanks, toes and webs, when the standard calls for those varieties to be clean shanked and shod.

Don't pull feathers and stubs and fill up the holes with beeswax with the idea that the judge will not see the trick and not disqualify the faked specimen.

Corn is worth from 45 to 50 cents per bushel, depending somewhat upon quality of corn and location of producer. If this same corn is put into beef it will fetch a return of \$1.25 per bushel. This is the main reason why growing beef is a better proposition than growing corn and selling it in the raw.

Scurly legs, a disease which is caused by the presence of a mite that is not distinguishable by the naked eye, may be cured by first washing the legs of the birds affected with soap and warm water and after they are dry applying kerosene. A couple of days later cottonseed oil or vaseline should be applied.

At Santa Maria del Tule, in the province of Oaxaca, Mexico, is a cypress tree said to be the oldest known living thing on the earth. The giant sequoias of California are estimated by John Muir, the naturalist, to be 4,000 years old, but these are considered to be very juvenile in comparison with this Mexican cypress.

There seems to be little question that much of the susceptibility to disease among hogs is due to the all too common practice of using young and immature sows as breeders instead of keeping the old and tried sows. If the loss resulting from this one practice could be figured up for a year there is little question that it would be an enormous figure.

With a heavy reduction in the area devoted to growing potatoes for the whole country reduced by from 30 to 40 per cent, we believe the potato grower will get a generous return for the season's crop. For this reason he should leave nothing undone in the matter of cultivation and spraying for blight and bugs if either of these pests should appear.

A large lawn near where the writer lives is kept mowed by a flock of sheep and lambs which have free range of the place. The lawn is fenced in by woven wire fencing fastened to steel posts driven into the ground. Dandelions and other weeds have been about cleaned out of this lawn, as the sheep nibble these down in preference to the grass.

A short time since the big packers at Chicago, foreseeing a shortage in the supply of beef, arbitrarily raised the price of dressed beef from one-half to 2 cents a pound, but at the same time reduced the price they were paying to shippers of beef cattle from 50 to 75 cents per hundredweight. This is a condition that is calculated to make both the consumer and producer swear.

The petroleum output of the country for 1912 was the largest in the history of the industry, being 222,538,494 barrels. The total value of the oil was \$164,087,342, or a gain of over 22 per cent above the yield of the preceding year. The greatest increase in quantity of output in any state was in California, where there was a production of 86,450,767 barrels, or a gain of 5,514,376 barrels over the yield of the year 1911.

There has lately been put into effect in Wisconsin a law requiring the rigid inspection of all seeds offered for sale in the state as well as the labeling of all parcels of seeds, giving definite information as to their purity and freshness. In the hearings at the time of the passage of this bill the fact was disclosed that the farmers of the state yearly suffer a loss of tens of thousands of dollars through the purchase of seeds that will not grow and hence are entirely worthless.

While washes of one kind and another will kill many young borers if applied at the right time—a few days after the grubs are hatched—one should not rely on this method alone for getting rid of them. In many cases where the borers are in their second year or in the latter part of their first year the only effective way of reaching them is by cutting them out with a sharp knife or at least finding the opening of their "burrow" and prodding them with a peeled pilable twig.

A good many more boys would stay on the old home farm if given a greater financial interest in the returns of their toil and if the work of the farm were so arranged as to call into play in a larger measure both their intellects and their energies. On farms where played out machinery is still used, where scrub animals and poultry are raised and where the father takes little or no interest in improved methods it is little wonder that the average bright and wideawake boy gets the agricultural Jimjams and wants to dig out. The farmer who values his own happiness and that of his boy will take a good deal of pains to see that the conditions referred to are done away with.

A Texas contributor to the Kansas City Weekly Star gives this recipe for making mustard pickles: Take two quarts each of small cucumbers, onions and green tomatoes and cut in chunks celery, cauliflower and a few peppers. For the brine use one pint of salt and enough boiling water to cover the vegetables, which should be scalded well and allowed to stand twenty-four hours. Drain well and have hot one gallon of vinegar containing four tablespoonsful of mustard, two tablespoonfuls of turmeric, three cupfuls of sugar and one cupful of flour. Pour this over the pickle mixture and let stand on the back of the stove until all is well scalded, when the pickles will be ready for use.

BREEDING DAIRY COWS IRREGULARLY

There exist two dangers of allowing a milk cow to remain open for an indefinite period, writes a correspondent of the Rural New Yorker. In the first place she is less apt to conceive when mated, and in the second place she is apt to go dry for a long period after the mating is finally made in case she does settle. It is customary in large dairies, where the calves are not an important item of value, to permit the cows to freshen once in fifteen or sixteen months.

Ordinarily, however, for dairy farm practices it is much more desirable to mate them so that they will freshen



Lindenwood Hope, the Holstein-Friesian cow herewith shown, is an animal of surpassing merit. She produced when four and one-half years old in seven days 15.7 pounds of butter in thirty days 157.3 pounds of butter and in 35 days 1,164.31 pounds. Her milk yield for the year was 23,494.6 pounds, testing 4.56 per cent of fat. Her butter record is the world's greatest for her class. During the test she carried a calf for seven months of the year, and here is the best record ever made under the conditions. Lindenwood Hope is owned by G. W. Rising, Fayette, O.

once each year. This practice stimulates the milk flow, and unless a cow is particularly a persistent milker she is less apt to give as much milk if irregularly bred and not permitted to freshen at frequent intervals. The animal will keep in good condition physically if not bred. In fact, she is very apt to put on an excessive amount of flesh, and this is one of the reasons why she is less apt to conceive when mated.

Instances are frequent where cows have been used for family purposes and not bred for intervals of two years or more, but it is the exception rather than the rule to have such animals give milk enough to pay adequately for the care involved in their maintenance. If desired to carry a cow over from spring freshening to fall freshening or if necessary to avoid calving during fly time the practice is justified.

SILAGE FOR HORSES.

Handled With Care It Makes an Excellent Winter Feed.

The value of silage for horses is greatest as a means to carry them through the winter season cheaply or to supplement pasture during drought. To cheapen the ration of brood mares in winter no feed has more value than good corn silage. If grain goes into the silo with the stover no additional grain is needed for brood mares, hay being the only supplemental feed necessary. If there is little grain on the farm the silage should be supplemented with one pound of old process linseed oil meal or cottonseed meal daily per thousand pounds live weight, sprinkled over the silage.

Horses to be wintered on a silage and hay ration should be started on about five pounds of silage daily per thousand pounds live weight, the grain and hay ration being gradually decreased as the silage is increased until the ration is twenty pounds silage and ten pounds of hay daily per thousand pounds live weight. It will require about a month to reach the full feed of silage, but the period may be decreased somewhat, depending on the judgment and skill of the feeder.

Mares fed in this manner will be in splendid condition for foaling, and, so far as the writer's experience goes, the foals will be fully as vigorous, with just as much size and bone, as if the mares were fed the conventional grain and hay ration.—U. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin.

Weed Seeds in Silage Killed.

That the seeds of the common field weeds when silaged with corn, peas or any other forage used as silage will not retain sufficient vitality to germinate in the spring when returned to the land mixed with manure is the belief of experiment station men. While there are not experiments on record with regard to the combined chemical action of silage and manure on the germination of seeds, it is quite likely that there is little danger of seeding valuable fields with noxious weeds in this manner.—Kansas Farmer.

Watch Straw Fed Horses.

Horses' mouths should be examined regularly once a week when feeding on wheat straw. The beards from the grain ball up in the horse's mouth and penetrate the gums, sometimes causing the animal to have a very sore mouth, and it refuses to eat. The hard clots are easily removed. A change of feed occasionally for a day helps to keep the horses' mouths free from cankers.

Rich Strippings.

When the farmer understands that the last strippings of a dairy cow are over 500 per cent richer in cream than the first few pulls he may be a little more thorough in his work during the milking hour.

THE SWINEHERD.

Keep the pigs warm. They will grow all winter if conditions are right, says the Farm Journal.

With bacon at 25 or 30 cents a pound, it pays to keep pigs and keep them right.

If the hogs are warm and comfortable it takes less food to keep them thrifty.

The breeding sows should have a combination of foods and very little corn.

They must have some succulent foods—roots, vegetables, etc., and clover hay.

The brood sows must have exercise to be healthy. Bad luck with them can always be traced to ignorant or careless handling by the owner.

Separate the breeding sows as they begin to grow heavy.

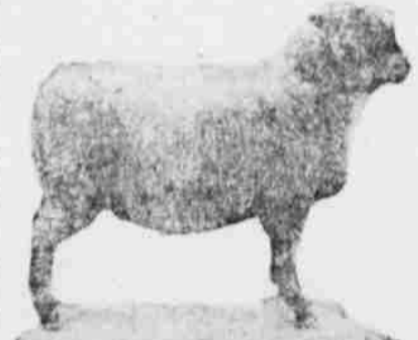
A jam from a boss sow may cause the loss of the pigs and the sow too.

SHEEP ON SMALL FARMS.

Economical Meat Producers and Valuable as Weed Destroyers.

In discussing the future meat supply in a recent government bulletin one of the writers said: "Sheep are not generally profitable to the farmer. Their numbers are slowly decreasing nearly everywhere except on the ranges, and the latter are so fully stocked that not much increase is to be looked for in that direction. There is no probability of any considerable future increase in the number of these animals."

It would seem that this writer is overlooking the possibilities along the line of sheep growing on a small farm industry, says the Kansas Farmer. Properly handled there is no more profitable farm animal. Another writer in this same bulletin seems to give the sheep more consideration as a meat producing animal. This writer takes up in detail the various ways in which the average farm can get into the meat production business. One of the possibilities he mentions is: "By raising sheep more extensively in the corn belt and in the eastern states. The importance of the wool industry causes farmers to overlook the value of sheep for mutton and as weed destroyers. A small flock of sheep of one of the mutton breeds should be kept on every farm to graze the roadways, the stub-



The Oxford Down sheep is very popular with those farmers who desire an animal that will produce a good mutton carcass and at the same time give a good account of itself in wool. It is a ready fattening sheep and is seen at its best when crossed with another Down breed. Admirers of the Oxford say that it combines size, weight of flesh and the thickness of flesh of the Cornwell with the compactness and form of the Hampshire, from which it originally descended.

ble fields after grain is cut and the cornfield after the corn is full grown. Both wool and lambs are salable."

Many a farm would be a more profitable enterprise as a whole if a small flock of sheep was added to the live stock equipment. Sheep reproduce more rapidly than cattle and come to maturity at an early age, rivaling swine in this respect. Being ruminants they handle the same class of feeds as cattle and are far more useful than cattle as gleaners of waste. The meat is very plentiful and, as the carcass is small, furnishes possibilities in fresh meat, which would be most acceptable on most farms, especially during the summer season. This alone should give a few sheep a place on every farm. On some farms chicken is the only fresh meat available during the summer season. Even fried chicken becomes monotonous when it is the only fresh meat appearing on the table for days at a stretch.

Tying the Herd Bull.

There are various ways of tying the herd bull. It is not an uncommon practice to keep him in a stallion, and some tie him to a low manger with one rope around the horns and another tied to the ring in his nose. We have always felt that it is a better practice to keep the herd bull in a box stall open at the sides, arranged so he can see the herd. This makes him feel that he is part of the herd. A stall of this character gives the bull an opportunity to move about, which we believe is to his advantage.—Hoard's Dairyman.

Ringworm in Calves.

Ringworm is very common in calves at this time of the year. Scrub and scrape the spot perfectly free from scales and scabs and then rub in some iodine ointment. Repeat the application each other day and the trouble will soon subside. Isolate the calf, as the disease is contagious. Clean up, disinfect, whitewash, perfectly ventilate and sunlight the stable, as ringworm is due to a vegetable parasite (Trichophyton tonsurans) which lives on damp walls and woodwork in insanitary stables as well as on animals.