

AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS

CLOSE OF SEASON GOOD TIME TO MAKE FARM INVENTORY
 With another season of farm work fast drawing to a close, the United States department of agriculture is urging that an annual property list or inventory be made by every farmer. It is the only means department specialists say, whereby farmers may know accurately their net financial worth, what progress they are making from year to year, and how their investment in farm property is being distributed. Property lists, with a plan outlined in the office of farm management, United States department of agriculture, are not difficult to make and are of great value to any farmer who is striving to better his condition, overcome obstacles to success, and place his business affairs on a secure foundation. The drift along year after year, not knowing whether toward success or failure, is not the practice of business men. Specialists of the department are prepared to give complete directions for making a farm inventory that will put the farm on a business basis.

TAKING CARE OF THE WOODLOT
 In general, there are two types of woodlots, and each of them requires a different method of handling. The first type is characterized by the presence of old trees which dominate the stand. The second type is made up of a nearly even-aged stand of second growth.

In the first type the trees may almost exclude the younger growth or they may exist as a few scattered individuals throughout the stand. Such material is very likely to be losing value. The way to check the loss is to cut the old trees which have attained a mature growth and make room for a new stand of seedlings. A mature tree should be cut for the same reason that one cuts a crop of wheat when it is thoroughly ripe. No dead or diseased timber should be allowed to stand.

A woodlot composed entirely of mature trees should not be cleared at one cutting. The work should be carried on in stages with sufficient interval between the cuttings to allow a new crop to come up. If this method is followed carefully, the farmer will always have a crop of wood ready for harvest in his woodlot. When the mature timber is removed in two or three cuttings, the first cutting should be so managed as to open up the crown canopy somewhat, so that the leaves on the forest floor may decompose more rapidly and the germination of the seed be made more certain. The remaining trees become more whittled and, as a result of their crowns receiving more sunlight, they produce more seed. When the forest floor is in a good condition the second cutting in a mature woodlot can be made during the winter following a heavy seed year. Neither the first nor second cutting should be so severe as to allow a hundred per cent of sunlight to reach the forest floor. Some sunlight stimulates the growth of weeds and other trees. When the seedlings are well established and are strong enough to shift for themselves without further protection the third cutting may be made.

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valuable species like white ash or tulip poplar. Sprosses sometimes arise 100 thickly from the stump of trees recently cut, or the reproduction of a good species is too dense. In any of these cases some of the trees should be removed. This process is nothing more than the weeding out of the poorer individuals where they interfere with the better ones. In some cases the same manner, a thinning out is used when, in from 15 to 20 years, the young stands reach a dense condition. The principal is exactly the same as that applied by the truck gardener who thins out his plants to secure the best development of a portion rather than a poor development of the whole. Crowding at the beginning of the trees' growth means a high commercial quality of timber, provided the crowding is not allowed to continue after the lower branches die. The thinning process is productive of cordwood, post material and poles.

GREEN FEED FOR YOUNG CHICKS
 If the best results are to be obtained with poultry, they must be furnished with a plentiful supply of green feed. Where fowls have unlimited range on a farm they will secure green feed during the spring and summer, but during the winter it must be supplied for them.

The question of how to supply the best feed at the least cost is one that poultry keepers must decide largely for themselves. It will probably make but little difference what kind of green feed is supplied provided it is relished by the fowls. Cabbage, turnips, beets, potatoes, etc., are suitable for this purpose. The larger roots and the cabbages may be suspended by means of a wire or string or they may be placed on the floor, in which case dirt would be well to split the turnips or beets lengthwise with a large knife. Potatoes and turnips should be fed cooked. The manure is an excellent root for feed raw. Cut clover, soaked in boiling water, fed alone or with the mash, is good, say poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. Clover meal and ground alfalfa make very good feeds for this purpose. Where the fowls are yarded and not enough green feed is furnished by the yards, a small patch of clover, alfalfa or rape may be sown. Any one of these, if frequently mowed, will furnish a great quantity of green feed in a form relished by the fowls. Canada field peas may also be sown for this purpose, and when fed in a tender, crisp condition are eaten readily. Rye is a good crop for late fall and early winter for it will germinate and grow in very cold weather. As a general thing, fowls should have once a day about all the green feed they will eat.

PROPER FEEDING BRINGS TOP PRICES FOR SOUTHERN HOGS

Information secured by the bureau of markets, United States department of agriculture, indicates that southern hogs will command prices as high as those paid for hogs from other sections if they are properly fed and handled. Nearly 6,000 hogs from a single owner in Mississippi have been received at the National Stock Yards, Illinois, within the past few months and all were from finished portions, which sold well in line with the best that came from other sections of the country. A representative of the Bureau of Markets made some inquiries into the manner in which these hogs were fed. He discovered that the same owner has feeding pens in Iowa as well as in Mississippi, and that he bought his young pigs and fed them a mixed grain ration in connection with corn and tankage. All the animals showed intensive feeding and weighed 250 pounds or over when they arrived at the market. It would be especially advantageous to the southern farmer to study the use of well-balanced grain rations and the complementary adoption of peanuts and velvet beans, which can be grown so abundantly in that section. Twelve carloads of hogs were received

from a single Tennessee owner at the same stockyard. These animals were of a distinctly southern type, says the Bureau of Markets representative, but they were well finished on corn, and sold readily at the top of the market, despite the fact that they came from the so-called "doubtful territory." The owner received a check for \$7,417, the hogs ever paid to a patron of that market for a single shipment.

USE SUNSHINE TO CUT HOG CHOLERA BILL

A few days' work in the pig pens and yards scraping, disinfecting and cleaning is a pretty good hog-cholera insurance. Strict sanitation is the best aid the farmer can give to the work of the hog-cholera serum. It is unwise and uneconomical to depend entirely upon the serum to protect the swine from this costly disease. In 1918 the farmers paid a serum bill of over \$5,000,000 and they still lost \$60,000,000 worth of pigs. There can be no doubt as to the effectiveness of the serum treatment, but the sensible farmer will do what he can with shovel, hoe and disinfectant to remove the cause of the trouble. The threat of cholera is always present so long as there are ungrained cesspools and wallows. Straw stocks should never be left from one year to the next if they are where the hogs can reach them. Shelters and pens should be so constructed that they may be easily cleaned and exposed to the sunlight. A few days devoted to work of this sort in the fall when the hogs have been taken from the pens will do much to protect the herds of another year.

RHODE ISLAND REDS COME TO THE FRONT

In the eighth week of the laying contest at Storrs, Rhode Island Reds occupied the front of the stage. A pen owned by Charles H. Lane, Southboro, Mass., was an easy first with the splendid production of 44 eggs, a yield of nearly 75 per cent for all pens. F. S. Chapin's pen of Reds from Longmeadow, Mass., was second with a yield for the week of 47 eggs. Deer Brook Poultry Farm's pen of the same breed from Storrs Falls, N. H., were a close third with a score of 45 eggs. Fourth and fifth places go to two New York pens. W. H. Kent's Barred Rocks from Canaanville had 42 eggs for the week and F. S. Robinson's from Calverton finished with forty. The total yield for all pens was 1743 eggs or a yield of 25 per cent. This is a gain of a seven ten dozen over last week's production. All poultry flocks are now expected to gain in egg yield more or less steadily and more or less rapidly from this time on to the month of production which comes along in May. The weekly gain in the laying content has not, however, been

as rapid as in some years. On the other hand the management has been somewhat different in that the incoming pullets were not forced for egg production from the very start. At one time this method was generally accepted as the best scheme, but lately it has come to be believed that in the long run more eggs can be obtained from any given stock of hens, not by forcing them too early but waiting until the pullets have reached full size and have thus become more physically fit. All this is accomplished by feeding grain liberally for the first few weeks instead of forcing the birds to eat a lot of mash. During the month of November the pullets in the contest consumed an average of four pounds of grain for each bird but only a little more than two pounds of mash, whereas it is a virtual certainty that next May when in heavy production these figures will be reversed and they read two to three pounds of grain and four or five pounds of mash.

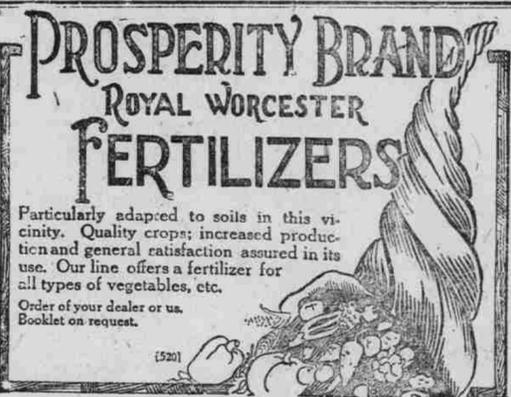
The four leading pens in each of the principal varieties are as follows:

- Plymouth Rocks**
 W. H. B. Kent (Barred), Canaanville, N. Y. 233
 Rock Rose Farm (Barred), Katonah, N. Y. 138
 R. L. Pember (White), Kingston, N. Y. 134
 Ernest W. Fisher (Barred), Glen Ridge, N. J. 130
- Rhode Island Reds**
 Old Town Farm, Peterboro, N. H. 301
 H. S. Bickford, Grosvenor, N. H. 247
 F. S. Chapin, Longmeadow, Mass. 242
 F. S. Sampson, Springfield, Mass. 233
- White Leghorns**
 Lion Head Poultry Farm, Dover, N. H. 222
 L. E. Ingoldsby, Cooperstown, N. Y. 219
 E. A. Ballard, Chestnut Hill, Pa. 212
 Max Axlerod, Westfield, Mass. 212
- Other Varieties**
 Obed G. Knight (White Wyandotte) 204
 Bridgton, R. I. 204
 Clarence J. Diemand (White Wyandotte), New Britain, Conn. 151
 H. P. Cloyes (Buff Wyandotte), Silver Lane, Conn. 133
 Harry D. Emmons (Wh. Wyandotte), Plymouth, Conn. 91

BOATMEN'S THREAT OF STRIKE CALLED AN "OUTLAW AFFAIR"

New York, Dec. 28.—The harbor strike, involving members of the Boatmen's Union and the Master's Mates and Pilots' union which has been called for January 1, was termed an "outlaw affair" by Frederick A. Russell, president of the Boat Owners' Association, in an ultimatum to union leaders tonight. "We are through with them for good."

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Coats	formerly up to \$49.50	\$27.50
Coats	formerly up to \$95.00	\$45.00

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 Exceptionally well tailored Suits, of newest make, fur trimmed, lined with silk and warmly interlined.

\$25.00	\$35.00
\$45.00	
formerly up to \$135.00	

Dresses	formerly up to \$35.00	\$14.50
Dresses	values up to \$45.00	\$22.50

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