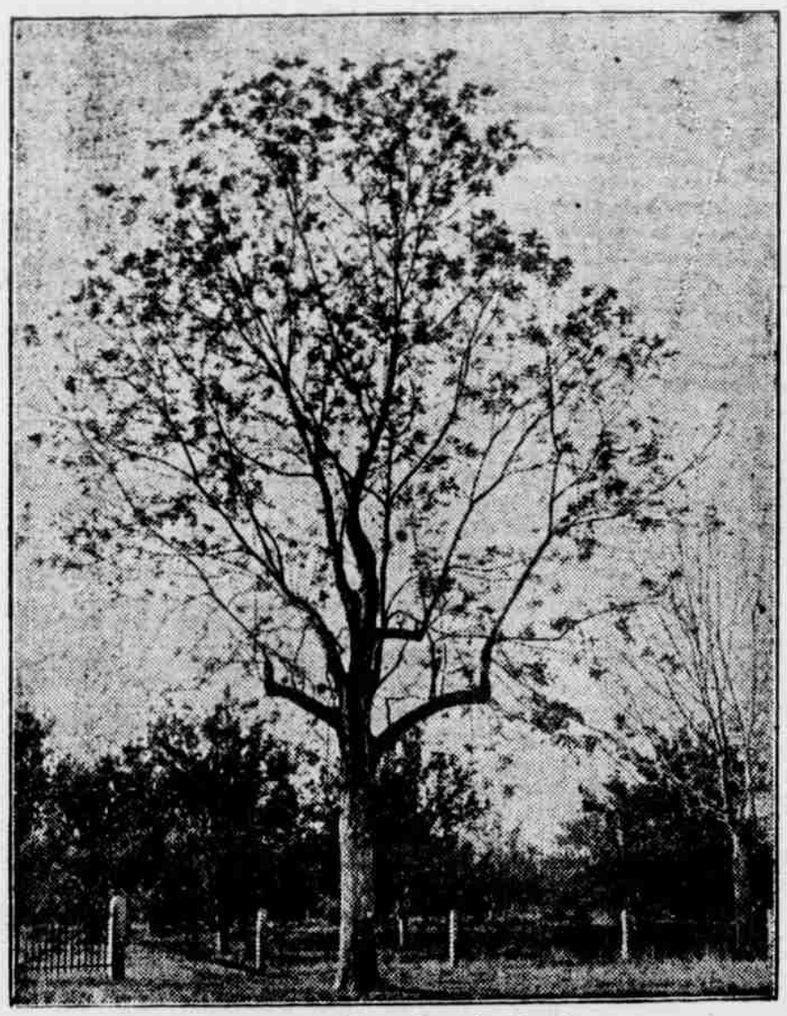
WORST ENEMIES OF YOUNG PECAN TREES



Well-Shaped Pecan Tree in Georgia.

The pecan girdler can be effectively controlled by clean culture. The adults lay eggs in the twigs before girdling. These twigs fall to the ground and the young live in the twigs during the larval stage. According to J. R. Watson of the University of Florida experiment station the girdlers are much more numerous this year than for several years. This indicates that there will be a large crop next year if precautions are not take against them.

Concerning the insect, Professor Watson remarks: "The insect is one of the worst enemies of young pecan trees. The adult female lays eggs in the leaf scars of the twigs a year old or younger, usually in those about the size of a lead pencil. Below the last egg she gnaws a trench around the twig which leaves it joined to the tree for a short time by a thin neck of wood. If the girdlers are abundant they will seriously interfere with the growth of the tree.

"The twig soon falls, and supplies the dead wood necessary for the larvae which hatch from the eggs. Larvae live for several months in the twigs. They become full grown during spring or early summer and during the latter part of the summer emerge as adults.

"Girdlers are easily and effectively controlled if one will rake and burn the fallen twigs during winter. This kills the larvae and reduces the number which would have become adults the following summer.

"Besides the pecan, the girdler occasionally works on persimmon, but its wild host is the hickory. Practically all the pecan insects breed on hickory. For this reason all worthless hickories and wild persimmons near the grove should be cut. If one does not wish to cut the trees the fallen twigs should be collected and destroyed. Tent caterpillars and pecan defoliators can be partially controled by cutting the hickories. Basket worms, pecan bud worms, and girdlers attack the Javanese varnish tree. The fallen twigs of this tree should be destroyed."

The pecan girdler may not be serious now, but growers cannot afford to give it a chance.

PROVIDE SHADE FOR POULTRY

Failure to Arrange Ample Protection From Hot Sun Results in Large Number of Deaths.

(By PROF. H. L. KEMPSTER, Missouri College of Agriculture.)

Failure to provide shade for poultry during the summer months not only results in a large number of deaths, but the flocks are less productive. The importance of summer shade cannot be overestimated. Poultry of all kinds require shade. Ducks and geese very quickly succumb if they are unable to get protection from the sun's rays. It is easy to provide plenty of shade. The Missouri College of Agriculture recommends the following ways of furnishing shade for poultry. Portable houses can be set up on blocks so that the birds may run underneath; orchards, sunflower patches, cornfields, etc., can be so arranged that the young stock or mature hens may run in them. Cornfields make excellent summer range for young stock. They furnish plenty of shade and other conditions for rapid economical growth are ideal. A little planning on the part of the farmer will make poultry-keeping more profitable. By providing shade the losses are reduced, the flock is more productive, and the young stock will make more economical growth.

Weed Out Weaklings.

Weed out the weaklings as fast as they appear in your flock. Put them in a separate brooder until you are sure they are incurable, and then eliminate them.

Cut Out Blight.

Upon the first appearance of blight in fruit trees cut out and burn the injured parts.

Milk-Fed Chicks.

Chicks will grow faster on milk than on any other common protein feed.

MAKE SUCCESS WITH MELONS

Much Depends Upon Preparation of Soil With Muskmelons—Well-Rotted Manure Is Needed.

Success in growing muskmelons depends on the care with which the soil is prepared.

A light sandy soil with an abundance of well-rotted manure worked to a depth of about four inches is an ideal seed bed.

Working the soil before planting time to pulverize it and to improve its condition is necessary.

Plant the seed in hills at a depth of about an inch and a quarter.

ERADICATING TICK IN TEXAS

Infected Cattle Must Not Be Shipped Outside of State—Conditions Must Be Remedied.

The department of agriculture has ordered that no cattle be shipped out of Texas unless free from ticks or intended for immediate slaughter. This will work a temporary hardship on Texas cattlemen, but in the end it will be to their advantage. It is time for all people to know that conditions that tend to disease, whether of man or beast, must be remedied. The tick must go. The sooner it is eradicated the better for Texas.—Houston Post.

ESSENTIALS OF A GOOD SILO

Cost of Different Materials Will Decide Question of Buying or Building of Receptacle.

A well-built silo of any type will keep silage well, so the cost of different materials will in many cases decide whether to buy or build, and what type of silo to select.

In choosing, low first cost, cheap maintenance, durability and smooth, airtight wall should be demanded.

Ordinarily the more permanent silo should be built.

Stimulate the Cows.

Good feed will only stimulate the cows according to their separate breed capabilities.

MEALS IN WARM WEATHER

Cold Dishes May Be Made Just as Appetizing as Hot Ones, and Are More Healthful.

If you arrange to have cold sliced meat three or four times a week, see that the rest of the meal is light. But on the days when you serve vegetable dishes as the principal part of the menu make sure that the rest of the meal provides sufficient nourishment to even up the menu and make it as a whole equal in value to a meat meal.

For instance, you might have on Sunday, let us say, cold roast chicken with mashed potatoes, sliced cucumber salad and watermelon or berries. Monday night you might have a cold chicken jelly soup, made from the chicken carcass, a cold baked macaroni and cheese, with hot peas and potato chips, tomato with mayonnaise salad and a good, nourishing pudding with plenty of eggs and butter. Thus, in the chicken jelly, in the mayonnaise, made of eggs and plenty of olive oil, and in the pudding, you provide enough nutrition to make up for the difference in nutritive values of the meat and the macaroni dish.

Other good substitutes for meat dishes are rice souffle, spaghetti a l'Italienne, cheese and rice baked, etc. You will find that almost every kind of salad will be welcome in the warm weather. When you make the salad dressings do not be sparing with the olive oil, for there is even more nourishment in real olive oil than there is in meat.

If you serve dainty cold meals and keep your table looking attractive, the hot weather will make very little difference in the appetite of your family.

To Cook Fresh Fruit.

Cooked fruits are especially good for delicate appetites and digestion. Raw fruits are for those who are stronger and can get all the benefit from them; the benefit is diminished by cooking. The best way of cooking fruit is not by boiling, but by simmering. In cooking very tender fruit bring the sirup to the boiling point, then throw the fruit in the hot sirup, cover tight, remove from the range or fire, and let it stand for half an hour. This applies particularly to berries.

To prepare larger fruit, throw it in boiling sirup, cover tight and leave it five minutes on the range; remove and let it stand half an hour. One pound of sugar to one quart of water, or a pound to a pound, is the usual allowance for the sirup.

Whitefish Turbot.

One three-pound whitefish, one and a quarter teaspoonfuls salt, one-eighth teaspoonful pepper, five cupfuls milk, one cupful flour, one tablespoonful minced parsley, two eggs, one-half cupful butter, three-quarters cupful of dry bread crumbs, one-half tablespoonful grated onion. Steam the dish till tender, remove the flesh from the bone and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Scald one quart of milk and thicken with the flour dissolved in the remaining milk. Season with the onion and parsley, and then pour onto the eggs, beaten; add the butter in bits, whisking it in. Butter a baking dish and put in a layer of fish and then one of sauce, alternating till all is used. Cover with the breadcrumbs and bake 45 minutes in a moderate oven.

Quick Cake.

This recipe is offered with the specific injunction that the ingredients be placed in a bowl all together and beaten rather than added separately, as the success of the cake depends upon this. The cake requires one-third cupful of soft butter, one and one-third cupful of brown sugar, two eggs, one-half cupful of milk, one and one-quarter cupfuls of flour, three teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one-half teaspoonful of cinnamon, one-half teaspoonful of nutmeg and one-half pound of dates, stoned and cut in pieces. Bake in buttered and floured cake pan 30 to 40 minutes.

Orange Ice Cream.

Boil for 20 minutes a cupful of water, the juice of three oranges and a cupful and a half of sugar. Beat the yolks of four eggs until creamy and lemon color, and slowly pour over them, beating all the time, as you would for biscuit tortoni, the hot sirup. Add a pinch of salt and heat over hot water, on the fire, for three minutes. Then remove from the fire and beat until cool. Then add three cupfuls of rich cream, turn into a freezer and freeze.

Hint to Jelly Makers.

When using paraffin melt in an old tea or coffee pot and you will be interested to see how easy it is to pour the contents of the pot into jelly glasses or other receptacles after they have been filled and need to be sealed. No scattering drops will sprinkle the floor.

Saves the Dishes.

It is a good idea to put a heavy Turkish towel on the bottom of the dishpan when washing fine china or glass.

KEEPING HENS IN ORDINARY FARM FLOCK

Ordinary, Mixed Farm Flock.

Experience has convinced many that it pays in the ordinary farm flock to keep hens for three years before turning them off.

The greatest egg yield can be expected during the pullet year, and many poultrymen advocate keeping them only for that length of time. They pay about as good returns for the work and expense given them during the succeeding two years in the average farm flock.

One of the big outlays of both time and capital in the poultry business is the raising of chicks. If the hens drop off laying in September or October and get busy once more early in the year, they can be carried through the period of rest much cheaper than pullets can be raised. So, since poultry is only a very profitable side line with us, many believe the keeping of hens reduces the work of chicken raising without materially reducing the income, says a writer in an exchange.

Most hens generally consider their year's work completed in September or early October. They are as carefully and generously fed during the molting season as when they are laying. An occasional bird begins laying in November, a few more during the next month, and by the first of February you can depend upon a generous basketful. With the Leghorns there seems to be no tendency toward overfatness. The few that become broody as spring advances are "broken up" in a humane manner and are back on the nest with a "red face" in a few days.

They are given a free range and all the care vouchsafed the pullets. Last year our hens made an average of ten dozen per head. Many of these were laid during the months of cheap eggs, but not all by any means. During August they laid as heavily as in April, and August prices are not to be scorned. At that time they picked much of their living about the fields and grain stacks. It was very dry, so we supplied them with all the green food in the way of early cabbage and sprouted oats that they would consume. Abundance of food postponed the molt and kept them "on their job."

At the end of their third laying year they are sold at once. After that age hens seem more susceptible to disease, and we consider it a risk to keep them longer. The secret of getting old hens to lay seems to rest in keeping them busy, giving them free range, plenty of good food, an abundance of green stuff.

TREATMENT FOR BROODY HEN

Practical and Humane Way Is to Isolate Her in Open, Airy Coop in Sight of Others.

The sensible way to treat a broody hen is to treat her as a laying hen. She has temporarily stopped laying, and with proper treatment can soon be brought to laying again. The practical and humane way is to confine her in an open, airy coop in sight of the outside hens, and provide roost for her at night. While confined, give the same, or better, care in the way of food, drink and comfort as the hens outside receive.

Confining a broody hen for a day or longer in a tub of water where she must stand up continuously, or hanging her up in a sack for three days without food or water are methods that are neither humane nor economical.

Moving Sitting Hen.

Sitting hens should be moved at night.

TO MAKE COMB STAND ERECT

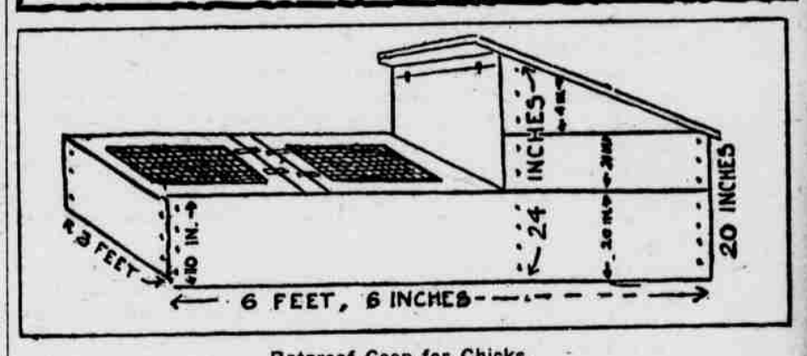
Many Cockerels of Mediterranean Class Discarded Because Caruncle Tends to Lop Over.

Many cockerels of the Mediterranean class, especially Minorcas, are discarded because their combs lop over while they are young. If a big-combed bird is a little out of condition, his comb will at once drop. After he comes into good condition again, the comb generally stands erect, especially if the base of it is thick and strong. If cockerels of this class are forced too much, especially if given a lot of soft food, their combs lose firmness. When a comb falls the bird should be given cod-liver oil at night, and fed entirely on grain. In some cases, a cockerel's comb is so weak at the base that nothing will make it stand.

Place Brood Coops in Shade.

Brood coops and roosting coops should be placed in the shade so that they will not be uncomfortably warm for the stock.

HOW TO MAKE A RATPROOF CHICKEN COOP



Ratproof Coop for Chicks.

The accompanying illustration shows one of the best coops for either incubator chicks or hen with chicks that we have ever used, says a writer in Farm Progress. The coop is composed of brood chamber and run, being in total length 6 feet 6 inches and 3 feet wide. The brood chamber is 2 feet by 3 feet, inside measurement, by 20 inches high in the rear and 24 inches high in front.

The run is 10 inches high, being constructed of planed boards 10 inches wide, which extend in one piece the full length of the coop. Pine lumber is used throughout.

For handling the chicks and cleaning out the brood chamber this compartment is provided in front with a hinged door. From a center board running across the middle of the run at the top two cover doors for the run are hinged. These doors are simply light, wooden frames covered with small-meshed poultry netting to let in sun and air and to keep out poultry enemies. They are easily raised and lowered in feeding and caring for the chicks.

The roof of the brood chamber and the floor of the same are of matched pine flooring, very heavily painted with the best white lead and oil paint. The underside of the floor and all wooden parts resting on the ground are heavily painted for preservation. The entire coop is heavily painted inside and outside to seal small cracks against disease and insects.

The floor is on two-inch crosspieces two inches above the ground to insure dryness of brooder floor. Heavy wooden strips are nailed vertically in all corners for added strength. About 50 feet of lumber was used in the construction, which costs $1.25. The cost of the paint was 75 cents, or a total of $2 for the finished coop for material. I did the work myself.

The special value of a coop of this kind is that it is a good protection against cold spring winds, while being well ventilated and sunny inside. It is easily moved about, safe and durable.