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## PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

### GOOD COUNTRY ROADS

Narrow-Tired Wagon Is Most Destructive Agent.

Highways Also Have Been Ruined by Wrong Method of Working—Different System of Supervision Is Advocated.

Good country roads are ruined in many ways, some of which have been laid at the doors of the officials in charge, and some we can only hold the farmers themselves responsible for. Good roads are ruined by weather, water and wanton neglect. Man is the chief destructive agent and we must pay some attention to him and his ways, says the Western Farmer.

Any good dirt road can be ruined in a short time by hauling heavy loads over it in narrow tired wagons. The common one and three-fourth inch tire does more harm to country roads than any other destructive agent. We wonder why the farmers will continue buying these wheels when a broad tire—say four-inch—will make rather than destroy good roads. The broad tired wagon pulls easier and that should be sufficient reason why the change should be made.

It seems a waste of money to make a dirt road hard and smooth, dragged at the proper time and all that, and then have a lot of men haul big loads of grain, hay, wood or what not over it just after a rain and their narrow tires cutting away in. Of course they all keep in the one track so each succeeding tire cuts a little deeper. If another rain comes before the ruts are dragged full then the whole road goes to pieces. There should be a tax or some legal penalty against the narrow tired wagon. We are not pleading for low wheels, though we believe in them, but we do urge every one to buy a broad tire. The old wheels should be over and wide tires put on at a slight cost.

Roads have been ruined by the mile by the wrong method of working. The old system of working out the road tax under a supervisor or road boss is wrong. It never yet has made a good stretch of road. It never will. The practice of tearing up the road in the fall after harvest, because that's the only time he can get farmers to work—plowing the sodded sides up and scalping the whole conglomeration of sods, stones and clods into the middle of the road is the worst system that ever can be practiced. The season is wrong, the system is wrong and the road is bad all winter and next spring.

### FOR MORE IMPROVED ROADS

Much Valuable Assistance Rendered by Office of Public Roads—Perishable Products Wasted.

Many of the model highway laws in various states have been prepared under the advice of the road experts of the department of agriculture, and all the data and statistics of the office of public roads are at the disposal of the legislatures.

In the last bulletin of the office of public roads it was stated that at the close of 1909, 8.66 per cent. of the roads in the United States were improved. This represents a gain in the total road mileage improved for the five-year period, 1904-1909, of 1.52 per cent., or, in other words, the percentage of improved roads has increased during this period from 7.14 to 8.66 per cent.

In the three years that have elapsed since then, it is roughly estimated that the percentage of improved roads has gone well beyond 9 per cent., and possibly close to 10 per cent. It is estimated that if 20 per cent. of the public highways were improved—each highway being selected and improved with a view to the proportionate traffic upon it—a high degree of efficiency in highway transportation would be reached. It is figured that millions of dollars would be saved annually in the transportation of crops, the wear and tear on horses and vehicles, and in the minimizing of the waste in truck farming. Where roads are bad, the farmers frequently find it impossible to get their products to the shipping points and thus perishable products are wasted, perceptibly increasing the cost of living.

## POULTRY

### ROOST CLOSET FOR POULTRY

Considerable Stress Laid on Curtain in Front of House at Maine Experiment Station.

In the curtain-front type of poultry house used at the Maine experiment station a feature of the original plan on which considerable stress was laid was the canvas curtain in front of the roosts. This curtain, together with the back wall of the house and the droppings board under the roosts, formed a closet in which the birds were shut up at night during cold weather. When the curtain-front house was first devised it was thought essential to provide such a closet to conserve the body heat of the birds during the cold nights when the temperature might go well below zero. Experience has shown, however, that this was a mistake. Actual test shows that the roosting closet is of no advantage, even in such a severe climate as that of Orono. On the contrary, the birds certainly thrive better without the roost curtain than with it. It has been a general observation among users of the curtain front type of house that when the roost curtains are used the birds are particularly susceptible to colds. It is not hard to understand why this should be so. The air in a roosting closet when it is opened in the morning is plainly bad. The fact that it is warm in no way offsets physiologically the evils of its lack of oxygen and excess of carbon dioxide, ammoniacal vapors, and other exhalations from the bodies of the birds.

For some time past it has been felt that the roosting closet was at least unnecessary, if not in fact a positive evil. Consequently the time of beginning to close the roost curtain in the fall has been each year longer delayed. Finally, in the fall of 1910, it was decided not to use these curtains at all during the winter. Consequently they were taken out of the house, or spilled to the roof, as the case might be. The winter of 1910-11 was a severe one. On several occasions the temperature dropped to 20 degrees below zero. Yet during this winter the mortality was exceptional.

The experience of the station has decided to discontinue the use of the roost curtain. It would seem to be generally undesirable or at least unnecessary.

### FOR SHIPPING EGGS SAFELY

Holder Made of Corrugated Strawboard Provided With Small Hole at Each End.

This egg holder is made from corrugated strawboard, the egg being inserted by opening an overlapping joint at the side. The container is provided with a small hole at each end so that



Safety Egg Holder.

It may be opened and closed without tearing it, says the Popular Mechanic. The holder is adapted for sending eggs safely by parcel post, or carrying them with the least possibility of breakage.

## POULTRY NOTES

Eggs shipped by express are often queered by baggage smashers. The well-fed and well-cared-for fowl is the one that brings the profit. When the old hen begins to lay and whip her chicks it's time to wean them.

Fall chickens find a good market as roasters during January, February and March. The poultry industry is growing beyond the hopes of its most radical friends.

Egg shells may be utilized a second time if crushed and turned over to the chickens. The brooder has not, as yet, reached the stage of perfection that the incubator has. Lack of moisture in the incubator means tough shells and dead chicks at hatching time.

To successfully use eggs in the artificial hatches one must, if possible, secure eggs of the highest vitality. An egg laid in November and December will bring twice as much money as the one laid in March or April.

While heavy laying is as a rule desirable, phenomenal egg records are not a guarantee of strong, rugged offspring.



## LIVE STOCK

### GOAT IS PROFITABLE

Animal Is Less Liable to Tuberculosis Than the Cow. Togenburg and Saanen Are Most Popular, Although There Are Great Varieties of Breeds—Need Protection Against Rains.

The goat because of its hardy nature is less liable to tuberculosis than the cow. It utilizes food better and gives more milk considering its body weight. They prefer hilly ground and do not do so well on low swampy ground. They need protection against cold rains and should be well housed. Goat's milk is thicker, richer and sweeter than cow's milk and makes an excellent food for invalids and babies, being more like mother's milk than any other.

Although butter is made from the milk it takes longer to make it than from cow's milk because the fat globules are smaller and will not rise quickly. It makes excellent cheese. The best known goat's milk cheese is the Roquefort. The odor which is so often found in goat's milk is mostly due to outside causes as the milk absorbs flavors quickly, more so even than cow's milk. A goat should give two quarts of milk a day to be profitable, but the average is three quarts a day. They keep this up for six or seven months. A good milk goat should be milked three times a day.

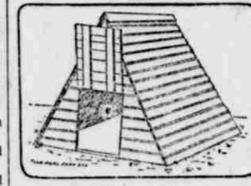
The two most popular goats are the Togenburg and Saanen, although there are a great variety of breeds. The Togenburg is the best milker. The color of its hair is brown, with a white stripe down each side with white spots on the Saanen is white. Occasionally horns are found on some. When first beginning the business it is best to buy goats four or five years old as they will know how to take care of their kids and will also be broken to milk after their first kid but do not attain their greatest milk capacity until their third year. Beginners usually breed their goats too young which not only stunts them but reduces their flow of milk. It is best to breed a goat when she is about a year old. They produce offspring twice a year, but unless one is breeding kids for market it is best to breed but once a year. Goats need plenty of exercise in some place where they can climb. A fence four feet high will keep goats inside an inclosure which is a better way than staking them out. They can be kept on the pasture much as our dairy cows are kept.

### PORTABLE HOUSE FOR SWINE

Building Is Cheap and Often Old Material May Be Used in Erection—Easily Moved.

The Colorado experiment station describes the house shown in the illustration as follows:

It is eight feet wide, eight-foot long, and the roof is eight feet in length, making the building seven feet high. The door in front is 2 1/2 feet wide, three feet high, and another at the back, near the top, is 1 1/2 x 18 inches, heavy muslin, admitting air and light without draught. The frame is made



A Colorado Hoghouse.

of 2x4's and is covered with dressed siding. No floor is used. When it is desired to move the building, it may be tipped over onto a low wheel or stone base. This is the house recommended for beginners. It is cheap and often old material can be used in building it. It is easily moved and easily disinfected and can be cleaned so frequently that it may be kept clean, free from disease. When a sow farrows in company with a lantern hung to the roof will keep the building sufficiently warm.

Shipping breeding pigs is a sure and safe side—the better side to be on the safe side—the better what train the pig is shipped so that he will be looking for him and get him home and unscathed properly.

Pigs that are shipped come chilled when they are crated and allowed to sit around a cold stove when out on the platform for some time.

## IMPROVING HEN FLOCK

Great Deal Depends on Selection of Setting Eggs.

Should Be Those From Year Old Birds, as Chicks Will Be Larger and Stronger Than Those From Pullets.

By A. J. WILDER. Care should be taken to save for settings only the eggs from the best hens. A very great difference can be made in a flock in a few seasons by the selection of the eggs for hatching.

By choosing the largest eggs the fowls will be much larger in size, but there is a great probability that they will not be good layers. The hen that lays an unusually large egg is quite likely to lay only every other day. By setting her eggs and again the next season setting the largest eggs, you will develop a strain of large fowls that will lay very large eggs, but will lay only every other day, or even less.

On the other hand, if you set the eggs from the hens, that as pullets laid during their first fall and winter, and continue to set eggs from such hens, you will develop a strain of early winter layers. The eggs for settings should be from year old hens, as the chicks will be larger and stronger than those from pullet eggs. It is best to mate



Every Poultry Home Should Have Some of These, as They Lay Big Eggs.

cockerels instead of old rooks with these hens, as the eggs are more apt to be fertile and there will be a larger percentage of pullets. Choose the medium sized, well shaped eggs and be sure the shell is firm and strong. A weak shell is sure to be broken, and, besides the loss of the egg itself, will likely ruin several of the other eggs in the nest and may even teach the hen to break and eat them.

Feed the hens a little air slacked lime in the mash to give the eggs a good strong shell. Be sure the lime is well slacked and give two tablespoonfuls to 100 hens every day.

Do not force the breeding stock for egg production. Feed them mostly whole grain, wheat, oats, corn and barley. Let the mash be a light feed and give them fresh sweet meat scraps twice a week.

Feed plenty of green food, unless the fowls have range where they can find it for themselves. Keep them supplied with pure, clean drinking water and have charcoal, grit, oyster shell and dry bone always before them.

Don't forget a little salt in the mash. It should always be salted as much as the same quantity of food would be for the table.

The hens must be made to exercise by scratching for their grain in the litter. They must be healthy and in good condition if you are to raise strong, healthy chicks.

A diseased condition of the hen is transmitted to the egg and will appear in the chick when hatched.

Protection for Trees. Some orchardists have been successful in protecting their trees by covering the trunks near the ground with mixtures which are distasteful to rabbits. For this purpose white-wash, a mixture of glue and copperas, solution of quassa chips and blood, or grease, have been used. Mechanical protection by means of some wrapping is more permanent and effective than any form of wash.

Effect of Animal Husbandry. Live stock make it necessary to diversify crops and grow more crops upon which there is a wider margin of profit. Animals also distribute labor, furnish employment in time of bad weather, or when field work is not possible. Animal husbandry is the logical way to insure soil improvement, as the increased fertility from manure is often sufficient to justify raising animals.

Converted Wagon. From the standpoint of convenience, the farm wagon that has been made over into a low-down vehicle with wide steel tires has a strong appeal. It is easily loaded, and overcomes all the objections to high wagons of the old type.

Hearty Eaters. All cows that are hearty eaters are not profitable producers, but all profitable producers are usually hearty eaters.

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## STOMACH TROUBLE FOR FIVE YEARS

Majority of Friends Thought Mr. Hughes Would Die, But One Helped Him to Recovery.  
Pomeroyton, Ky.—In interesting advices from this place, Mr. A. J. Hughes writes as follows: "I was down with stomach trouble for five (5) years, and would have sick headache so bad, at times, that I thought surely I would die. I tried different treatments, but they did not seem to do me any good. I got so bad, I could not eat or sleep, and all my friends, except one, thought I would die. He advised me to try Theodor's Black-Draught, and quit taking other medicines. I decided to take his advice, although I did not have any confidence in it. I have now been taking Black-Draught for three months, and it has cured me—haven't had those awful sick headaches since I began using it. I am so thankful for what Black-Draught has done for me!"  
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