THE POULTRY YARD.

POULTRY RAISING FOR POOR PEOPLE.

Marketing Poultry

There is a variation in prices for poultry products, as well as all farm stock. There are some seasons of the year when shipments of prime articles from poultry yards bring their thrifty proprietors a goodly profit. When are these seasons? Ah! that is for one to watch out for. Too often the dwellers in rural districts, or those remote from large cities, send their surplus to market at Thanksgiving or the holiday time, and nearly as often grumble over the returns. I could nearly fill my allotted space for this paper in "don'ts," but instead will offer suggestions I trust will materially aid those who read. Choose seasons of the year when the market is not glutted with a motley array of "good, bad and indifferent" poultry, and let your offerings be choice.

I will consider first what we shall market. Many have been impressed with an idea that it was always the largest fowls that sold best; if it has been so in the past, it is not so at the present time. Quality rather than quantity hold precedent. Discriminating patrons of markets invariably demand a plump, well fattened fowl of deep yellow hue, and a juicy, fine-grained flesh. If you intend catering to a city trade, raise capons; there are seasons of the year when they are in great demand. Here, again, quality is the main object, size and weight being a secondary consideration. Capons grow fully one third larger than the ordinary male bird of the same age and breed. Their flesh is more delicate and they command from thirty to fifty per cent. higher prices than common poultry in a city market.

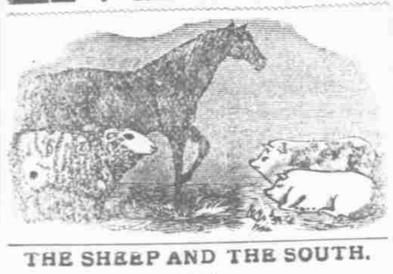
Broilers are another source of profit to the successful poultryman or woman. Broiler raising is something that cannot be learned in a day. I would not like to advise anyone to engage in it, but a person favorably situated for the business, who possesses the patience and perseverance necessary for mastering details, can in this way earn good wages at home. Of course, it requires some capital to start, as incubators and brooders are actual necessaries. Many workingmen, whose employment only covers the summer months, have earned good wages during an otherwise "idle season" by raising broilers. They start their incubators in November, and by the end of March the chicks have all been marketed and their owners' hands are free for the summer occupation. It is said by those in a position to know the facts that broilers have sold above the average price during the winter just past (97 and '98). This was for the best quality, remember!

How shall we market? If alive, in slat crates (I prefer the folding ones; they are safer, nicer in appearance and are returned at one half less rates); do not put too many in a crate, and always ship hens and roosters in separate crates. Hens sell best, therefore do not lower your prices on them by putting in roosters. If the poultry is to be dressed, I have learned from experience that those dry picked command the better prices. Allow the birds to thoroughly cool before packing preparatory to shipping. Do not remove the heads, crops, legs or intestines. I prefer boxes instead of barrels to pack dressed fowls in, also prefer bright rye straw free from dust to use in packing. Bend the head of the fowl toward the breast, lay it in the left hand corner, with the head against the end of the box and the back up; continue in like manner till the row is completed, then begin the second row in the same manner, but let the head of the bird pass up between the rumps of the two adjoining ones, which will render the packing completely solid. In packing the last row reverse the order, packing with the heads against the end of the box, letting the feet pass under each other. Lastly, fill tight with straw, so as to prevent all movement in transportation. Be sure your box is full, the covers securely nailed, the labeling distinct.

To whom shall one ship? To a firm which bears a first class reputation. Avoid a third rate huckster as you would pestilence! Ship only prime fat fowls, or clean, strictly fresh eggs. Never, under any circumstances, deviate from a strict adherence to these rules, or tarnish a good reputation; for, in this industry, as in all walks of life, "honesty is the best policy." If one merits the confidence of dealers, the markets will soon seek for your products, instead of your being obliged to seek a market.—Alma Cole Pickering, in The Housekeeper.

An exchange says: "One often repents of having spoken, but seldom of having kept silence." Yet often silence is most cowardly and should be bitterly repented of.

LIVE STOCK



THE SHEEP AND THE SOUTH.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

I do wish some intelligent Southerner would explain through The Progressive Farmer why the South does not go into sheep husbandry more extensively. In examining "The Statistical Abstract No. 21, 1898," issued by the U. S. Treasury Department, I am astonished by some statistics. On page 336 "The Wool Clip" for the States is given. North Carolina is credited with 273,890 sheep that sheared an average of five pounds per fleece—shrinkage 43 per cent. Total sheep in the United States 35,671,914 with an average fleece of 6½ pounds and 61 per cent. shrinkage. Oregon and Washington with about two and a half million sheep each, 7 and 8½ pounds per fleece have 71 and 72 per cent. shrinkage. The "Hand Book of North Carolina" credits the State with 48,666 square miles of land—less than six sheep to the square mile!

On page 312 of The Statistical Abstract, the imports, consumption and domestic wool production are given. production for 1898, 266,720,681 pounds for the United States. The imports at 132,795,202 pounds. Deducting exports, consumption was 396,889,915 pounds. In 1897 it exceeded 600,000,000 pounds and has averaged over 400,000,000 pounds per annum for the past ten years. The imports of foreign wool exceed 150,000,000 pounds per year for ten years past.

Here is a great opportunity for the South to step in and secure the money paid to foreign flock masters. The $225,000,000 paid for foreign wools in the past ten years would, is distributed in the South, help all classes to additional "circulation."

To a stranger to your conditions of soil, climate, pasture and people, it looks as though the hilly and mountain region of the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky could be made the ideal home of sheep and produce all the wool now imported. You can pasture on Bermuda grass, winter rye and oats nearly the year round. I have read that fall-sown turnips can be winter fed as in the sheep districts of England. No doubt fall sown rape will give good winter pasture. In Michigan sheep are housed and fed six months of the year, and still make money for their owners.

I will sketch the method of an 80 acre farmer I know. He usually keeps between 30 and 40 ewes. He will have about that number of lambs of his own in the fall. In his sheep barn are four pens for feeding fat lambs, each for 14 lambs. He will buy enough, if not too dear, to fill out the pens. These will go into the barn early in November and remain until shipped in March. The lambs will be graded, "tops" in pen one and so down to the culls in pen four. The "tops" will get four to six quarts of corn and oats twice a day per pen of 14, what they eat up clean; the others less. This is gradually increased until at the finish they are fed all they will eat up readily and cleanly, about ten quarts per pen for the two pens of "tops." They are fed a ration of hay, clover or mixed, morning and night with a ration of hay and straw at noon. What they leave is fed to non-working horses. They are fed four to four and a half months and finish at an average of about 100 pounds each. Buyers scour the country and contract for them sometimes in early winter at a fixed price. Some farmers sell on the market, watching the quotations very critically. Prices range from 4¼ to 6 cents a pound. Fluctuations are often sudden and extreme.

Our 80 acre farmer will get about $200 cash on an average in the spring for his lamb crop. Of course it isn't all profit, but the money is handy at that time of year. The lambs and grain bought will have cost $50 to $75. The lambs, hay and grain of his own raising make the balance. The manure is carefully saved and applied. The ewes are brought to the barn in November, fed straw and a sprinkle of hay in the barn twice daily, housed nights and stormy days, running out in fair weather to the straw stack and picking over corn stalks and manger refuse from other stock. In the morning they get about 12 quarts of mixed corn, oats, bran and cull beans. The last are bought at the beaneries at about 50 cents per 100 lbs. If he raises beans or can buy bean straw in the fall, the ewes are fed all they clean up well one ration per day in latter winter. It sells for about five cents per bushel of the threshed crop—a 100 bushel bean crop will be worth about $5 for the straw if bright and well cured. Now with your long season of pasturage, cow peas, velvet beans, and better climate, it does seem as though you could beat him out of sight on wool and mutton. They are staple as cotton. By the way why aren't cotton seed, hulls and oil cake good sheep feed. To me it does seem as though North Carolina could keep 2,000,000 sheep and sell $2,000,000 worth of wool and $5,000,000 worth of fat lambs annually.

The cotton crop for North Carolina, 1897, is put at a little over $19,000,000. If you get one third as much out of sheep it would help you to be optimists.

I should think darkies—kids—would be ideal shepherds—all in the wool together, you know!

Some one arise and explain why you don't go into sheep raising.

A MICHIGANDER.

THE DAIRY.

Inquiries regarding Dairying cheerfully answered.

OF INTEREST TO DAIRYMEN.

Making Preparations for the Best Results in the Business.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

We hardly get through with one season's feeding before it is time to commence preparations for another—indeed the wide awake and provident farmer will be constantly on the alert in his calculations and labor for the continued usefulness of his herds and flocks.

Experience is continually teaching us the necessity for making the best possible preparations for the feeding and care of our dairies, if we are to expect the best and most satisfactory results from them.

After having secured the most promising cows, as to individuals or breeds, for our purpose, which is the first step in the way of improvement, then next in order will be the growing of feed for the production of milk and butter or cheese.

In summer with good pastures there is little more to be desired, but this only lasts for a comparatively short time when, if the flow of milk is kept up, as it should be, recourse must be had to soiling crops or grain feeds.

We are beginning to find out that the cow has got enough of the human about her to relish a variety of feeds, as well as to have them in a palatable condition.

With this also comes along, as the results of experience, the fact that if we would have our cows do their best in the production of milk and butter, the feeds or their combination must be such that these results may be better obtained. So the farmer will find enough to keep him busy in the growing season in the production of crops, and during the rest of the year in feeding them out.

Of course the farmer has, or should have, paid particular attention to a liberal seeding of the clovers, of the varieties best adapted to his location, climate and soil; as these should enter largely into the every day rations of cows giving milk during the winter season, as well as of young growing animals.

These when harvested early and properly cured will furnish the most suitable fodder to go along with timothy hay, ensilage, corn stover or cured fodder corn.

CLOVER AND CORN

Wherever possible clover and corn should be extensively grown, as these will furnish the best of feeding material. And I would say that on farms where a large amount of grain is raised especially of oats, that if, instead of allowing them all to ripen to be threshed, leaving a great quantity of straw to be disposed of in some way, a portion of this crop should be harvested at the proper time—when fairly headed out or in bloom—and then made into hay, it will be found of advantage. A feed a day of this to the cows should be eaten up clean, well relished and give good returns. Where peas can be sown with the oats the quality of the fodder will be improved. Such a crop as this can be sown quite late and still produce a fair yield.

Of all the cultivated crops for stock, corn still continues to take the lead. This can be grown in a large portion of the United States, either as a field crop to husk, or especially as a fodder crop to feed green as the pastures begin to fail, or to cure or put in the silo.

BUILD A SILO.

The writer has had a large experience in raising corn as a fodder crop to cure and feed late in the fall and winter, and has found it a most profitable one for the purpose; but last year a silo was built and filled, and after the winter experience with ensilage as compared with the corn, as cured and then fed dry, results show that the crop has been worth nearly TWICE as much as when used in the old way.

It was less work to put the corn into the silo and to feed it out than to cure in the field, haul, pack away, handling over several times necessary, before it could be placed before the cows. We fed along with the ensilage some oat hay while it lasted, mixed clover and timothy hay and grain in a moderate amount.

Never had cows before done nearly as well in a winter dairy, while in the change from the barn to the pasture, instead of there being any shrinkage of milk or butter there has been a gain. The cows did not care for the hay, but would eat the ensilage and grain with a relish, and although the weather has been cold and dry up to date—May 18th—with short pastures, the milk and butter record has been most unusually good. The cows are still having their ensilage as it is not yet quite gone, and I do not know but they would eat it all summer.

I think that farmers keeping a winter dairy, at least, will find it much more profitable and satisfactory to build a silo, fill it with a properly grown crop of corn, raise as much as possible of clover and oat hay, etc., than to undertake to get along in the old way. There is less loss with the corn crop thus treated, it is in a much more convenient form for feeding and should most certainly—as it has with us—produce very satisfactory results, as this is what we are after.

E. R. TOWLE.

Concord Times: An interesting meeting will be held at the court house in this city on the 27th and 28th of this month, when the State Dairymen's Association will convene. Every section of the State will have representation and the farmers in general are expected to participate in the meetings and receive information beneficial to them. Everybody will be welcome. In the afternoon of each day a meeting of the Swine Breeder's Association will be held and subjects pertaining to the raising of cattle and swine will be freely discussed. Late machinery for the testing of milk, butter, etc., will be displayed and manipulated for the benefit of all interested.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, } ss.
LUCAS COUNTY.

FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A.D. 1886.

{SEAL.} A. W. GLEASON, *Notary Public.*

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Schedule in Effect August 16, 1898.

SOUTHBOUND.

		No. 403.	No. 41.
Ar. Raleigh,	"	*2 16 am	*3 40 pm
Ar. Sanford,	"	3 33 am	5 05 pm
Ar Southern Pines,	"	4 23 am	5 58 pm
Ar. Hamlet,	"	5 07 am	6 50 pm
Ar. Wadesboro,	"	5 53 am	8 11 pm
Ar. Monroe,	"	6 43 am	9 16 pm
Ar. Wilmington,	"	.....	*12 05 pm
Ar. Charlotte,	"	*7 50 am	*10 25 pm
Ar. Chester,	"	*8 03 am	*10 56 pm
Lv. Columbia, C. N. & L. R. R.		.....	*3 00 pm
Ar. Clinton,	S. A. L.	*9 45 am	*12 14 am
Ar. Greenwood,	"	10 35 am	1 07 am
Ar. Abbeville,	"	11 03 am	1 35 am
Ar. Elberton,	"	12 07 pm	2 43 am
Ar. Athens,	"	1 13 pm	3 45 am
Ar. Winder,	"	1 56 pm	4 28 am
Ar. Atlanta, (Central time)		2 50 pm	5 20 am
Ar. RALEIGH,		*2.16 am	*3.34 pm.

NORTHBOUND.

(Central time)		No. 402.	No. 38.
Lv. Raleigh,	"	*2 16 am	11 25 am
Ar. Henderson,	"	3 28 am	*12 5 pm
Lv. "	"	3 28 am	1 05 pm
Ar. Durham,	"	+7 32 am	+4 16 pm
Lv. Durham,	"	+7 00 pm	+10 19 am
Ar. Weldon,	"	*4 55 am	*2 55 pm
Ar. Richmond,	A. C. L.	8 20 am	7 35 pm
Ar. Washington,	Penn. R. R.	12 31 pm	11 30 pm
Ar. Baltimore,	"	1 46 pm	1 08 am
Ar Philadelphia,	"	3 50 pm	3 50 am
Ar. New York,	"	*6 23 pm	*6 53 am
Ar. Portsmouth,	S. A. L.	7 25 am	5 20 pm
Ar. Norfolk,	"	*7 35 am	*5 35 pm

*Daily. +Daily Ex. Sunday.

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CLUB RATES.

That we may be more enlightened as to what is going on in the different parts of our great country, we ought to diversify our reading. More Western and Northern papers ought to be read in the South and more Southern papers should be read in the West and North. Believing this the best thing to do to everlastingly obliterate the prejudices of the past, we have arranged a list of papers to offer with THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. The price in the parenthesis is the regular subscription price of the paper and the other figures are what we charge for the paper with THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for one year. Renewals for the other papers cannot be taken at the club rates, but all new subscribers can. You can renew for our paper and get the club rates:

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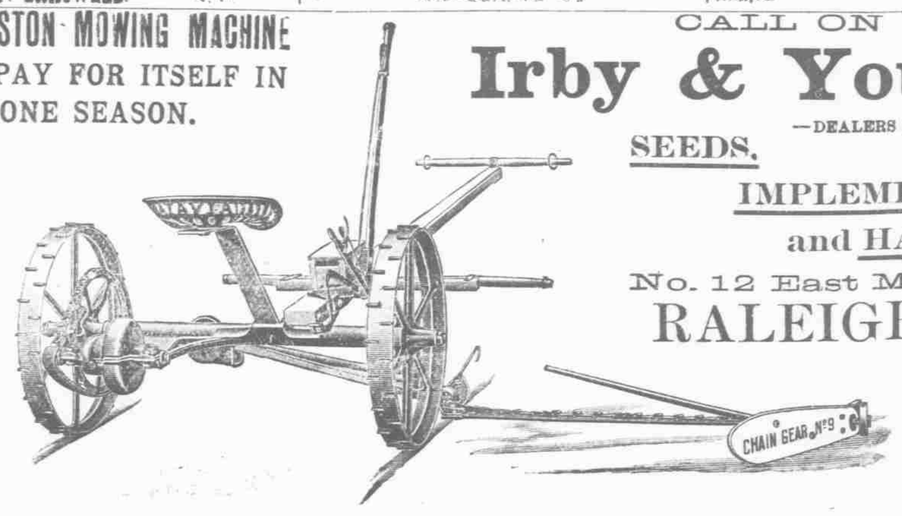

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