

A START IN POULTRY

Large Capital
Not Required

By V. R. McBride
Department of Animal Husbandry
A. & M. College, Stillwater

Large capital is not required to start in the poultry business on a moderate scale.

Poultry raising for profit is especially attractive to men and women of moderate means, on farms, in villages, or in city suburbs.

The question is often asked: "Does it pay to keep pure-breds?" In every case we would answer that it does. Our reasons for this are many.

One advantage of pure-breds is that the offspring are more uniform in size and shape. Uniformity of product, whether of eggs or poultry has a market value. The baryard fowl with a mixed ancestry will usually produce chicks of different shapes, different sizes and different colors of skins and legs, and varying in quality of flesh. The main advantage of the pure-breds is that you get a more uniform product from them than from the mixed fowls. The pure breeds are much more attractive in appearance than the mixed chickens, and any surplus stock may be disposed of at a greater profit than if the common fowls are kept. On the whole for utility as well as for the fancy consideration, the pure-breds have advantages over the mongrel fowl. The thing to be avoided however, is the purchase of chickens just because they are pure-breds, for there are "mongrel" pure-breds so far as vigor and profit-making capacity are concerned. As a rule those contemplating making an investment in pure-bred poultry will correspond with a number of breeders who are advertising the variety of their choice. The prices quoted by the breeders may read as follows: "Good utility stock, from \$2.00 to \$5.00; choice exhibition specimens, \$10.00 to \$25.00 each." To some who are unaccustomed to the prices asked for pure-bred stock these prices may seem unreasonable. The beginner thinking they are all from the same stock and the cheaper ones are likely to produce desirable offspring as those of better quality. It is true the birds may all have come from the same parentage; however there is a reason for some individuals lacking the quality to command the higher price.

If a bird is lacking in constitutional vigor it will not develop in shape or color with the strong, vigorous bird, and is absolutely unfit for the breeding pen.

We would not have it understood from this that strong, vigorous fowls cannot be purchased for the above price, but the purchaser should not expect for the lowest price quoted by a breeder to secure choice prize winning fowls. On the other hand the breeder should call the flock very closely, disposing of all inferior stock as market poultry. The practice of selling the culs for breeding purposes at any price is a serious injury: First, to the one selling them, because they are a very poor advertisement; second, to the one making the purchase, because he is likely to become disgusted with the business when these pure-bred fowls fail to win a premium when placed on exhibition or fail to produce offspring true to standard type or color. Last, and by no means last, the poultry industry receives a serious injury.

Those purchasing pure-bred poultry would be more successful were they to start with a few birds of good quality than to purchase a few dozen of some breeders culs.—V. R. McBride, Department of Animal Husbandry.

KILLING JOHNSON GRASS

What is the best method of killing Johnson grass?—C. C. Featherston, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma.

The best system is to plow your land about four inches deep in August, thus turning up the root system to the hot, drying influences of the sun. Harrow it frequently. When the ground is in good condition, sow a catch crop like winter oats or rye, thus keeping the ground covered and preventing the roots from getting to the light and making any considerable growth during the fall and winter. You may mature these oats or simply use them for winter grass and just as soon as the crop is harvested or too rank for pasture, plow the land again in the spring and fall to a crop like cowpeas, which may be either planted thick or drilled in, and cultivate like you would a crop of sorghum. By this method you not only kill the Johnson grass, by stirring the soil, but you keep it smothered by the use of these other crops. In seasons like the past two years, thousands of acres of Johnson grass have been exterminated by the method described above.

Did you ever take the trouble to tell the editor of this paper whether you appreciate this expert farm advice? Probably he would be glad to know if you appreciate it.

Make the school your children attend so attractive they will take positive pleasure in going there. The building should be attractive; the studies attractive; and the teachers attractive.

The Time to Prune Trees

For years it has been a disputed question among fruit growers as to the best time of year to prune trees. This dispute appears to have come down from the age of mythology. The herbalists of two hundred years ago are very explicit in their directions as to consulting the signs of the zodiac, and the necessity for so doing in order to tell anything about what the result would be from the pruning operation.

The development of the science of plant physiology during the last hundred years has generally brought this and all other horticultural operations on to a more logical basis. The science of plant growth, as we know it today indicates very plainly that any pruning operations, however, indicates what time during the winter gives the best results for this purpose. Many growers favor the early part of winter, others with apparently as good reasons prefer to do the work in early spring. In the larger commercial plantings, which have come into existence in the more favored orchard sections, it is customary to begin pruning as soon as the leaves have fallen and keep it up on all days when the weather permits throughout the entire winter. It is with them, however, a question of getting it done at all. If they waited for any particular time, spring would find them with a large part of their pruning undone. I have asked many persons who had orchards of some size in their charge whether they found any difference in results of the pruning done at different times during the winter. Their opinions are divided. The more reliable apparently, think there is no difference that is due to the time of winter alone.

Most growers of peaches prefer to prune late in the winter, after the danger of winter injury is past. The reason for this is because the pruning will be modified according to the number of fruit buds killed. This, however, has nothing to do with the general question of whether there is any advantage attached to one portion of the winter over all others.

The handling of the limbs while the wood is frozen appears to do injury but the amount of this injury is a matter of much dispute. Most orchardists of experience will not prune trees at any time when the thermometer registers below freezing. It is very doubtful if these rules in regard to freezing apply unless the gloved hands come in contact with the branches.—N. O. Booth, Dept. of Horticulture and Botany.

SWEET CLOVER

I would very much like to try some sweet clover here on my farm, but before doing so I would like to know if you have any information concerning this plant and its adaptability to our climate and soil.—R. S. Steele, Kay County, Oklahoma.

Sweet clover is a very coarse plant rather closely related to alfalfa, but not possessing the good qualities of alfalfa for hay or pasture. Owing to its hardy nature and its ability to grow on poor soil and under unfavorable conditions, it is grown where alfalfa and other hay crops do not succeed. No one thinks of growing it when other crops can be grown. It is highly recommended for soils with a hardpan or for soil so poor in fertility that they do not produce other crops as well as they should.

Sweet clover would make a hay so coarse and unpalatable that it would be impossible to get stock to eat it. If stock were turned on in the spring when the plants are very young and there is enough animals to keep it pastured close all of the time, sweet clover gives fair results. It will grow all right in any part of the state. Chemical analysis shows that the feeding value is very high, but palatability is just as important as the chemical composition. We would not recommend it where other crops are successful.—O. O. Churchill, Dept. of Agronomy.

RAISING BROOM CORN

I have been talking to some of the farmers here about the broom corn industry and not a few are interested and have asked me to write you for such information as you can furnish us relative to the kind of soil most suitable and the time of planting, etc.—M. H. Spangle, Marshall County, Oklahoma.

I am of the opinion that the greatest difficulty with which you will have to contend is that of curing the crop. The rainfall which you have there will in all probability necessitate the construction of curing sheds. To produce the best quality of straw it is necessary to have sheds in any section. In the western section of the state, however, the broom corn is field cured. This considerably reduces the cost and perhaps more than offsets the decrease in price received. I am sending under separate cover some published information on this subject which I trust will be of value to you.—A. H. Wright, Department of Agronomy, Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater.

What Fear Did

A wealthy man in New York committed suicide when his doctor told him he had appendicitis. A post mortem revealed that he did not have it. His fear of evil was worse than the evil itself. (Prov. 1: 33.)

Gossip Well Defined.

Gossip is a sort of smoke that comes from the dirty tobacco pipes of those who diffuse it; it proves nothing but the bad taste of the smoker.—George Eliot.

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"Marry in haste and repent at leisure," you know.
"Yes; but my fiancée is rich enough, so I'll have the leisure all right."

Where the Fruit Grows.

Michael Casey, a politician in San Francisco, who has been in office and on the city payroll for many years, was addressing a meeting of his fellow-citizens. It was a labor meeting. "You men must know," spouted Casey, "that you are the great body politic in this city. You are the roots and trunks of our great municipal tree, while we who represent you in office are merely the branches on that magnificent tree."
"True for you, Mike," piped a man in the back of the hall, "but did ye ever notice all the fruit grows on the branches?"—Saturday Evening Post.

No Jury.

"Didn't you give that man a jury trial?"
"Look here," said Eroncho Bob, "there ain't a big lot o' men in this settlement. We couldn't possibly get 12 of 'em together without startin' a fatal argument about somethin' that had nothin' whatever to do with the case."

Thousands of Consumptives die every year. Consumption results from a neglected cold on the lungs. Hamlin's Wizard Oil will cure these colds. Just rub it into the chest and draw out the inflammation.

Even when they have nothing to do some people can't seem to do it gracefully.

The man who hides his light under a bushel is sometimes surprised to find that the sun still shines.

Smokers like Lewis' Single Binder cigar for its rich mellow quality.

There's a difference between being useful and being used.

IN LESS STRENUOUS TIMES

Explanation of the Difference Between Domestic Standards Now and Those of Long Ago.

In the Woman's Home Companion there is an interesting presentation of the difference that exists between the domestic standard of young married women of today and those of the past generation. How did the women of the middle class of a generation or two ago manage when they could not get help? Following is the answer quoted from a Companion editorial: "They lived according to their means; they did not set up impossible standards, and they knew much less about the science of bringing up children. They had no special style to keep up; gave the children a weekly bath; kept the table set between meals; did not serve their meals in courses, but put all the food on the table at once; confined their social affairs to evening calls and parties, and church suppers, at which they wore the same black silk dress for at least two seasons; in short, every woman did only what she could, and her friends made it easier for her by doing likewise."

The Boy—The Girl.

He—Crime seems in a pretty low way. Only last week some woman kidnaped a baby—photographs of it in all the newspapers.

She—What did she take it for?
He—Nothing else to take, I suppose. I should have thought myself that anybody who kidnaped a baby would steal an earthquake or borrow an attack of Asiatic cholera.

She—Babies are not so bad as all that. The only thing I have really got against them is that if you leave them long enough they grow up into human beings.

CREAM OF RYE

For health and energy eat it for breakfast. Reduces cost of living. Free Silver Spoon in every package. Ask your grocer for a package.

Why They Scout.

Mrs. Forward—And so two of your sons are Boy Scouts? Where do they do their reconnoitering?
Mrs. Howard—In our refrigerator. —Life.

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Mrs. Whitlow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c a bottle.

The fellow who shoots off his mouth doesn't always hit the mark.

Tell the dealer you want a Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c cigar.

It is the common lot of man not to get an uncommon lot.

Women's Secrets

There is one man in the United States who has perhaps heard more women's secrets than any other man or woman in the country. These secrets are not secrets of guilt or shame, but the secrets of suffering, and they have been confided to Dr. R. V. Pierce in the hope and expectation of advice and help. That few of these women have been disappointed in their expectations is proved by the fact that ninety-eight per cent. of all women treated by Dr. Pierce have been absolutely and altogether cured. Such a record would be remarkable if the cases treated were numbered by hundreds only. But when that record applies to the treatment of more than half-a-million women, in a practice of over 40 years, it is phenomenal, and entitles Dr. Pierce to the gratitude accorded him by women, as the first of specialists in the treatment of women's diseases.

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Walking for Nerves.

The nerves suffer from want of pure oxygen. They run like a network all through the skin and when they are overwrought the skin is apt to be dry and colorless. Walking is an excellent tonic for the nerves. It gives them strength to control themselves.

If one has means of leisure, there are plenty of other more enjoyable exercises. But few forms are so beneficial as the regular daily jaunt of four or five miles for obtaining a good complexion.

Dissatisfaction.

"So you were given an interest in your employer's business?"
"Yes," replied the industrious youth; "but I made a mistake in accepting it. I had less worry as a regular employee than as a minority stockholder."

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You will notice that the man who is always talking about how hard he had to work when he was young is usually behind with his work now.

Saw No Difference.
"People who seek books from the fiction section make some funny breaks," said a librarian of the Library of Congress. "I have made note of a number of these, but none of them amused me more than the request of a sour-looking spinster."
"She sternly demanded of me a copy of 'The Recollections of a Liar.' I told her that I didn't know it, but that I could give her 'The Recollections of a Married Man.'"
"That will do," said she acidly. "It's practically the same thing."—Lippincott's.

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