

DAIRY

MAKE BUTTER INTO BLOCKS

Simple Device, Recently Patented, Quickly Transforms Bulky Material Into Individual Cubes.

The simple device shown in the accompanying cut is a recently patented apparatus for quickly transforming a pound of butter or similar material into cubes for individual use. The material to be cut is placed in the trough or chamber between the strips and upon the open cutting frame, and



Butter Made into Cubes.

In this position the hand operated pressing arm is depressed, which causes the material upon the cutting frame from which it is forced and deposits the material in individual blocks or pieces of a certain size, weight and shape. The size and shape of the block can be regulated to suit the circumstances.

GENTLE BULL IS DANGEROUS

Many Breeders House the Animals in Such Manner That Handling Becomes Quite Unnecessary.

The dehorned bull can crush one fatally. He is less dangerous than the horned bull, just as a man with a closed fist is less dangerous than a man whose closed fist holds a sharp knife. Dehorn the bull by all means and put a ring in his nose. Lead him with a staff having a snap-hook to catch into the nose ring and in addition always have a rope or cap attached to the halter ring, if he wears a halter, or to the nose ring. If the bull pulls the staff out of one's hand he can still hang on to the strap if the nose ring breaks out, or breaks the strap or rope to the halter ring may help. Many dairymen now house their herd bulls in such a way that handling becomes unnecessary. The bullhouse has a gate door which holds with a rope and pulley, letting the bull into an alley connecting with a yard of small size and with a high, tight fence. A cow may be let into the same yard by a different gate and the bull turned in with her.

SUGAR BEETS AS SOLE DIET

When Such Feeding Is Long Continued Animals May Scour—Milk Flow Is Materially Reduced.

Sugar beets or sugar beet tops fed excessively as a sole diet to milk cows will reduce the flow of milk and increase the live weight because they contain fat rather than milk-forming material. If such feeding is long continued the animals may scour and do poorly. A good feed of beets for an ordinary cow is 30 to 40 pounds per day in two feeds along with a small amount of grain and all the alfalfa or clover hay she will eat. Sugar beet tops should be fed carefully and never as a sole diet.

DAIRY NOTES

The milker's hands must be not only clean but also dry.

A trade mark can be made very valuable by a good dairyman.

When selling butter it pays to put it up in neat, attractive cartons.

A fall calf becomes a producer when milk and butter are most valuable.

A poor milker is one of the surest means of diminishing the milk flow.

Remember that the income from the dairy is an all-the-year-round proposition.

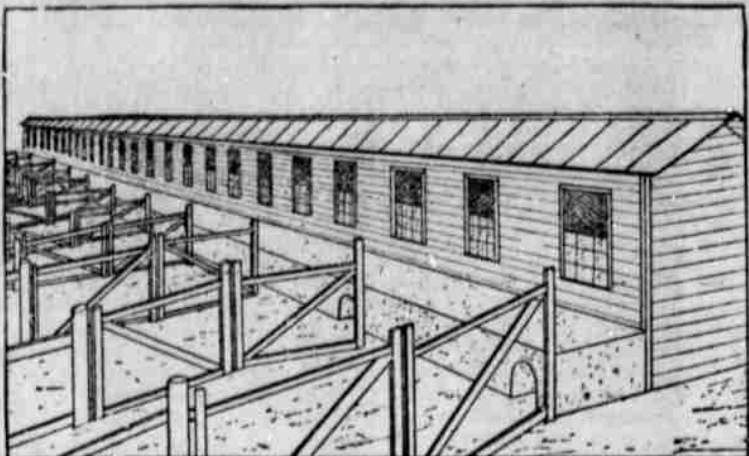
One way to improve dairy quality is to have better and more sanitary barns.

The success of a dairy depends largely on the careful rearing of the best heifer calves.

The milk of a cow affected with anthrax cannot be safely used, or should not be used.

If there is a drip, drip from the roof of the dairy barn you may just expect a drop, drop, drop in the milk production.

POULTRY MADE PROFITABLE ON ALL FARMS



Long Houses Necessitate Narrow Yards, Which Restrict Range and Yard Cultivation.

(By H. L. KEMPSTER)

The secret of success in raising poultry is to provide conditions as nearly natural as possible. Such conditions the farmer-poultryman is in position to provide. With unlimited range at his disposal there is no need for him to crowd his poultry into small yards. Limited range, encumbered with large numbers of division fences, makes it impossible to give the poultry yards proper cultivation. This causes them to become filthy and unsanitary, a condition which is responsible for most poultry diseases. The success of poultry enterprises is usually measured by the extent of range provided for the purpose. Commercial plants which depend upon small yards are usually short-lived. Better sanitary conditions would yield the farmer more satisfactory results.

The most common mistake in locating the farm poultry house is that of placing it so close to other farm buildings that hens overrun the latter. The usual plan of locating the poultry house between the barns and the dwelling house, is especially disagreeable since it encourages the hens to not only overrun the barns, but the back porch of the house as well. This habit is encouraged by throwing the crumbs, table scraps, etc., out from the kitchen door. Under such conditions poultry keeping is not only unpleasant but impractical and the reader is urged to consider these points in selecting a satisfactory site.

A low spot is unsuitable for a poultry house, because surface water is apt to accumulate and damp air always settles in such a place. Land which is naturally wet, either because of the nature of the soil or because of springy conditions, should be properly drained. Muddy quarters cause fowls to consume large amounts of filth. This in addition to the dampness of such a location results in unhealthy flocks. There is also the probability of the eggs becoming dirty, resulting in an inferior product, even if thoroughly cleaned. A windbreak should be provided which will not only afford protection from disagreeable winds but furnish an abundance of shade.

If possible the poultry house should

be located upon a south or east slope. This is not so important, however, as convenience to other farm buildings. The location of a poultry house in an orchard is ideal if the trees do not shade the runs so that they remain damp. The trees furnish necessary summer shade.

Poultry raising has resolved itself into two systems: the intensive system, involving houses of considerable size, or many houses, and a large amount of stock upon a small area; and the extensive or colony house system, in which small houses are scattered over large areas. The former has advantages in that the labor resulting from the care of the flock, especially during the winter, is reduced to a minimum. In general the expense of housing is less than where fowls are kept in small flocks. It has the disadvantage of increasing the amount of yard care on account of the limited yard space. The intensive system, with many small houses, as usually practiced in city lots, involves an enormous amount of detail work, unpleasant in bad weather, and too expensive as a system to be practical except where more favorable conditions are impossible.

The extensive or colony house system necessitates more labor in the care of the flocks during stormy weather when the birds are confined. It has the advantage, however, of unlimited yard space and yard fencing can be quite largely eliminated. Often the poultry can be permitted the range of fields after the crops are started, without appreciable injury to the crop, utilizing to good advantage the droppings which would otherwise go to waste. In some localities worthless land has been brought to a high state of fertility by this practice.

The most healthful and economical method of raising the young chickens is the portable house system. The houses are moved about the farm in such places as orchards, farm lanes, cornfields, wheat and barley fields after the grain has been removed. The shade, green food, bugs, worms, grasshoppers, etc., are much more conducive to a rapid, healthful growth than are the conditions usually found around the dooryard.

WINTER EXERCISE FOR HENS

Thick Hedge Around Poultry House Makes Excellent Windbreak—Sheltered Nooks Afforded Outside.

A windbreak of some sort makes a poultry house warmer on the inside and gives the fowls a sheltered place for outdoor exercise, says a writer in Successful Farming. The owner of a chicken house built under the shelter of a number of evergreen trees says drinking water hardly ever freezes inside. And I noticed at the time I was visiting this place in the winter that the snow lodged on the trees and the ground underneath was bare. And everywhere around the ground was covered with snow.

Hens like to get outside the chicken house for a little while when the weather will permit, but they don't like to wade in snow. Hens roosting in trees when a snowstorm comes will stay in the trees until they get hungry rather than fly down in the snow to get something to eat.

A thick hedge around the poultry house and yard makes a good windbreak. We have found a tall board fence on the north and west of the house and yards quite a good deal of protection to the hens in winter, besides giving a sheltered location for the early chicks. The little fellows get close to this board fence on a raw day and don't feel the wind much that would otherwise soon chill the life out of them. We made this fence out of old boards.

Often the henhouse or brooder house can be located where other buildings will break the force of the wind. It seems to me this subject is not given the attention it deserves. In locating houses or yards in a cold climate advantage should be taken of everything that will give protection and afford fowls, old and young, sheltered nooks outside. It will save in the cost of food alone in winter, for sheltered fowls need less food than those exposed.

Have Supply of Insecticide.

Every one interested in poultry should have a good insecticide on hand for the prompt annihilation of lice.

Dry Picking Best.

Fowls that are dry picked present a much better appearance than those that are scalded.

CAUSE OF EGG EATING HABIT

Hens That Learn Trick Communicate It to Others—Many Different Cures are Advocated.

Egg eating is caused by lack of nests, overcrowding, want of opportunity to exercise, or lack of litter to exercise in, and nests that are located low down in the light where the chickens are tempted to scratch in the nest boxes, thus rolling out the eggs. Once the trick is learned, no eggs are safe, and the birds that first learn this bad habit communicate it to others. To prevent, give plenty of room in the hen house, and have a suitable place for the chickens to scratch in. Put the nests in a secluded corner, as dark as is practicable, and furnish enough of them. Give the chickens plenty of green food.

Different cures are advocated. Some say that a quantity of china eggs scattered over the chicken house floor will discourage the practice; others that a bushel or less of egg shells fed liberally will satisfy the hens' craving for lime, and break up the habit; others that old plaster and plenty of grit is a help; occasionally someone will claim that eggs doctored with red pepper puts a stop to it. The best cure is prevention.

Backyard Poultry.

Backyard poultry raising is no longer an experiment. Its success has been demonstrated time and again; in fact, it is carried on in many climates and under various conditions, and its popularity has just fairly started.

Ducks Ready for Market.

Properly fed ducks should be ready for market when ten weeks old and will weigh twice as much as chickens of the same age and pay a better profit.

Small Flock Is Best.

On the farm especially it costs more to keep a flock that cannot secure a large proportion of its food, while the smaller flock will require less time and attention.

Hen Qualifications.

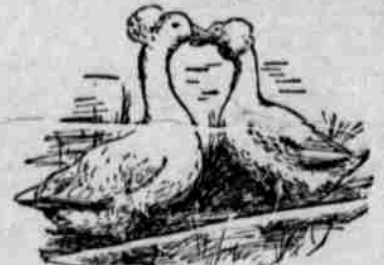
Important qualifications in a hen are that she shall be a good feeder, bright, clear-eyed, quick in action, clean and not scary.

POULTRY FACTS

JUST AN ORNAMENTAL DUCK

White Crested Variety Have No Special Value to Farmer—Not Bred to Any Great Extent.

(By G. HOWARD.)
The crested white duck may be called an ornamental duck, much the same as Polish chickens. They are not bred to any great extent in this country, and they are seldom seen except in the show rooms. They have no special value to the farmer, as more easily bred and more profitable



Pair of Crested White Ducks.

birds are to be found for commercial purposes.

These ducks have a medium sized head and bill; a large, well-balanced crest upon the crown of the head; a rather long neck; a medium length back; breast round and full; body of medium length; wings that fold smoothly; hard, stiff tail feathers, with well-curved feathers in the tail of the drake. Their eyes are large and bright and of a blue color. The shanks, toes, and webs are of a light orange color. The standard weight of the adult drake is seven pounds; adult duck, six pounds; young drake, six pounds, and young duck, five pounds.

VALUABLE FEED FOR FOWLS

In Repeated Tests Hens Given Skim Milk Make Much Better Record Than Those Given Water.

To test the value of skim milk for laying hens, sixty pullets were put in two pens, equally divided, of one variety and all as near of an age as possible. They were fed exactly alike, keeping strict account of their feed, but given different drinks. One pen had sweet skim milk, while the other had only plenty of fresh water.

This test was begun on November 1 and accounts were balanced with both pens on May 1 following. The hens that drank the water had but a little over half as much credit for eggs laid, while their feed had cost nearly a third more than the hens which were fed skim milk. Some days in the very coldest weather the thirty milk-fed pullets laid twenty-eight eggs, and their average for January was twenty-four eggs daily. The skim-milk-fed hens not only produced many more eggs, but they did not consume as much food as those in the other pen.

Since then these tests have been repeatedly tried with different breeds and with the same results.

POULTRY NOTES

Pigeons sometimes live to be eight years old.

Clean eggs bring better prices than dirty ones.

The smaller the poultry quarters, the cleaner they must be kept.

The "was sick but well again" hen is not the one that fills the egg basket.

Fresh buttermilk is recommended for diarrhea in chicks, some saying it will cure bad cases.

The poultry yard is a good place for the boy to begin a real partnership in his father's farm.

Never ship a chicken to a customer that you would not want sent to you for the same amount of money.

Look out for the drafts in the chicken house. Fix all suspicious open places. Roup in the henhouse means no money in the pocket.

Water in fresh and constant supply is a thing that must be supplied if chicks do well, or if eggs are furnished as they should be.

A good way to feed skim milk is to use it with soaked ground corn or other grain, but even then it should be fed sparingly at the start.

Those farmers who give their turkeys plenty of range and secure new breeding stock frequently, are making good money growing turkeys.

Do not simply throw the water out of the drinking vessels and put in fresh water, but wash the vessels thoroughly every time you change the water.

A cheap thing so many times scantily furnished or not furnished at all is sharp grit. It would seem that a thing so easily provided would be in constant supply, but quite often there are the very things left undone.

NEW WAYS WITH EGGS

RECIPES HAVING THE DISTINCTION OF NOVELTY.

Omelet With Herring Is Excellent—Baked Stuffed Eggs—Dish That the Children Will Be Sure to Appreciate.

The season of eggs is always, but now when fresh eggs are becoming less and less plentiful they assume a value always given to the thing that is scarce. Here are some ways of cooking eggs in very interesting methods, methods that emphasize that the egg is an object to which consideration is due.

Omelet With Herring.—Cut off head and tail of a nice fat smoked herring. Split in two through the back, remove spinal bone and skin and finally cut into small square pieces. Place on a plate with enough milk to cover. After allowing it to stand for an hour remove from milk and drain pieces on a cloth. Heat one and a half teaspoonful of butter in a frying pan, add fish and fry for five minutes, tossing once in a while. Crack eight fresh eggs in a bowl, add two tablespoonfuls of milk, half a teaspoonful of salt, three salt spoonfuls of pepper, and sharply beat with a fork for two minutes. Drop eggs in the fish pan, mix with fork for two minutes and allow to stand for half a minute. Fold up opposite sides to meet in center, allow to rest for a minute and serve hot.

Baked Stuffed Eggs.—Boil some eggs hard and throw them into cold water. Then shell them and cut them crosswise in two. Remove the yolks and cream them with a wooden spoon, and to each yolk add a tablespoonful of fine breadcrumbs soaked in milk and butter and pepper and salt to taste. Cut a bit of the end of each white off and stuff the whites. Stand the halves in a buttered baking dish, the bottom of which is thinly sprinkled with bread crumbs. Over all sprinkle a little bit of finely-minced parsley. Bake five minutes.

Stuffed With Ham.—Boil half a dozen eggs hard. Remove the shells and cut the eggs crosswise in two. Slice off a piece from each end to make them stand firmly. Remove the yolks and mix with them a little chopped ham. Fill the whites with this mixture, heating it up in cone shape. Put the stuffed halves on a flat dish and pour over them this dressing: Beat two egg yolks with half a teaspoonful of mustard, half a teaspoonful of salad oil added slowly. Thin as it is necessary with wine vinegar.

For Children.—Beat the whites of eggs stiff and cook in spoonfuls in milk. Remove, and into the milk stir the yolks, beaten slightly, and stir constantly to form a custard. Add a bit of salt and put the whites on the custard. This is a very good dish for children, served with wafers. If sugar is liked, it can be slightly sweetened for dessert.

Eggs With Pea Purée.—Drop eggs on a buttered dish and put them in the oven. When they are just set slide them onto a puree of peas, made by putting canned or fresh peas through a vegetable presser and mixing them lightly with melted butter and heated cream.

Au Gratin.—Butter a flat earthenware dish and sprinkle it with bread crumbs, and on the crumbs break eggs. Over them sprinkle grated cheese, salt, pepper and bits of butter, with just a little cream. Put in a hot oven until the eggs are set.

When Flatirons Stick.

An ironing day trouble is the iron that sticks. The ordinary flatiron is likely to become gummy, rough and perhaps dirty from the uncooked starch that sticks to it, or perhaps it may be soiled from grease or blacking from the stove. Such an iron may be cleaned by crumpling a piece of paper, dipping it in ashes or some scratchy cleanser, and rubbing the paper over the iron until all foreign substance is removed. The iron may be washed in hot, soapy water, wiped dry, warmed, waxed and set away ready for use. If the iron becomes soiled in the process of ironing, it may be waxed and rubbed with either salt or the scratchy cleanser used above which has been spread on a paper. In the absence of these, fine emery paper may be used.

Beef Stew.

Cut into small pieces two pounds of any of the cheaper cuts of beef. Add one small yellow turnip, one carrot, one large onion and a half dozen good-sized potatoes, a little salt and about a quart of cold water. The onion should be sliced and the other vegetables diced. Place the meat in the bottom of the kettle and cover with the vegetables. Pour the water over all and cover closely. When it is boiling briskly set it back where it will simmer for a couple of hours. There should be no more than a cupful of juice when it is ready to serve.—Mother's Magazine.

Bottled Mint Sauce.

This hint is too late for present use, but good to file and remember. Make mint sauce in summer according to your favorite recipe, when there's lots of fresh mint to be had, bottle and seal and you will have delicious mint sauce all winter without the trouble of making it.

To Make Chimneys Shine.

After washing lamp chimneys, polish them with dry salt. This gives the glass a brilliant shine and prevents it from cracking.

LIVE STOCK

FEED MIXER IS CONVENIENT

Barrel Swung on Pivots by Extending Round Wooden Axle Through It—Is Easily Moved.

A farmer who feeds a number of hogs uses several feed mixers, such as shown in the accompanying illustration, says Farm, Stock and Home. A barrel is swung on pivots by either extending a round wooden axle through the barrel, as at B, or by fastening iron trunnions to opposite sides of same with bolts. The barrel is then suspended in the air in the wooden frame, as illustrated. Feed of all kinds that is mixed with water may be quickly mixed in this device, and as quickly emptied in the trough D.



Handy Feed Mixer.

by raising the barrel and tipping the feed out in the trough. The tipping handle is shown at C, and a water pipe with tap at A. Two men can easily move this device.

HARM BY ANIMAL PARASITES

Some of These Insects Create or Manufacture Injurious Toxins—Others Transmit Disease.

(By H. E. EAKIN, Colorado Experiment Station.)

Too little attention has been given in the past to the importance that animal parasites have in relation to the health and well being of our domestic animals.

Very few, if any, animals are ever free from parasites in some form, and many are infested with parasites of a very harmful nature. Parasites are found in many different tissues, as the brain, sinuses of the head, air passages, lungs, liver, stomach, intestines, muscles, blood, etc., and externally on and in the skin, in the ears, etc. Some of these cause mechanical disturbances, others create or manufacture toxins which are injurious to the animal infested, some transmit diseases. Some animals may carry one form of parasite which may later infect other animals of a different species in a different form. Some of these parasites are transformed from animals to man and vice versa.

Animal parasites annually cause great pecuniary loss, and for other reasons briefly enumerated above, more attention should be accorded the domestic animals; and should any suspicion be directed to an animal, competent veterinary advice should be immediately secured.

FEEDING CORN ON THE STALK

Unbusinesslike Method of Turning Pigs Into Field and "Reckon" They Are Doing Well.

More corn on the stalk will probably be fed to hogs this year than ever before. It is not a great deal of satisfaction to see a bunch of shoats doing well in standing corn and not know what price they are paying for the corn. We wouldn't sell corn as a rule to any man on that basis, but a good many of us seem to be willing to "reckon" that the hogs paid a pretty good price for the corn and let it go at that. Handy stock scales are too important a part of the farm equipment to be without, considering their cost and the great educators they are. To be able to state in pounds what crops and live stock produce is just plain business. To be forced to give an estimate in terms of "pretty good," or "poor," or "fair," or others as indefinite says plainly "I am a generation or more behind time."

LIVE STOCK NOTES

A heavy coat of hair is a burden to a road horse.

There is no profit in letting the colts lose their colt flesh.

If the pigs are cold and pinched they can make no gain.

The sheep is a dual purpose animal, producing both wool and mutton.

There is every reason for watering stock before they are full of dry feed.

If pigs could talk they surely would say, "Balance our rations and watch us pay."

Hogs are not provided by nature with hair to protect them from cold and drafts of icy air.

Feed that suits one animal may starve another. Study individual taste among the live stock.

If we could once and for all rid this country of hog cholera what a wealthy nation we would become.