

The Business Farmer's Page

LABOR SAVING DEVICES

Making the Farm Work Interesting.

GEORGE H. DACY.

I knew a progressive orchardist who developed a very good direct fruit trade in a region where formerly all the fruit that was purchased came from California, and he did this entirely by the use of his automobile. He removed the tonneau and used a body fitted with racks for the baskets. His local roads were very good, and he was able to pick the fruit when the dew of early morning was on it and to deliver it to his consumers in three neighboring towns in a radius of fifteen miles by midmorning.

Leading dairy farms that formerly wasted horse and man labor in conveying their dairy products to the railroad are today profitably operating motor trucks. The motor has vitally increased the efficiency of man, and with the machine maintained under good conditions its operator can perform as much work as three ordinary teams and drivers formerly did. The automobile's "peelt," the motorcycle, should particularly recommend itself to the agricultural public, for on every farm the most modern machinery always finds flattering appreciation and ready application.

Power Machinery Interests the Boy.

I have frequently talked with many farmers' sons who ascribe their keen interest in the old homestead to the fact that power machinery, including the automobile, motor truck, motorcycle, gasoline engine and farm lighting or watering system, has been placed in their charge. Farmers the country over who utilize the automobile for both pleasure and business purposes are of the staple, conservative type.

A Wisconsin farm boy uses a rack attached to the rear frame of his motorcycle, in which he is able to carry two milk cans and several bags of feed or seed. The motorcycle is of inestimable value in running errands, in getting repairs quickly done when a machine of any sort breaks down or as a means of calling the doctor in case of sickness where telephonic facilities are unavailable.

As the motor truck and its smaller brethren deserve much commendable consideration out of doors, so the electric washing machine, the electric flat-iron and toaster merit as much attention within the country home. A Minnesota suburbanite is sponsor for a homestead refrigerator that fittingly could be duplicated in every country home. By the use of a series of coiled pipes that permeate his ice chest he is able to maintain a constant flow of water through the refrigerator from his artesian well.

FEEDING GROWING STOCK

The Mash Plays a Leading Role in Feeding.

J. W. KELLER.

It's a puzzling question to many what to feed and how to feed after the critical period—the first month of a chick's life—is safely passed. The foundation is laid. What will we build on it? Parent stock, housing, range, sanitary arrangements—these and a host of other conditions each play their own important part in the answer, but the keystone of all is proper feeding.

The mash plays the leading role in most present day feeding, and rightly so, for we can secure in this form feed that is most accurately balanced and easily digested, offering a greater variety, greater economy, quicker results and the highest percentage of digestibility. For the growing chick, having been gradually weaned from its baby chick food, the following will make an excellent mash:

	Pounds
Wheat	20
Barley	10
Ground oats	10
Best scrap	10
Bone meal	1
Shell meal	1
Charcoal	1

To this mash one can also add with value a pinch of salt and a proper amount of a reliable regulator or tonic. The above will be found a valuable mash for use during the second, third and fourth months of a chick's life, representing as it does the feeding system of one of America's most successful plants, and should be fed at least twice a day.

When to Feed the Grain.

For a scratch grain we must resort first to the three great staple grains of the poultryman—corn, wheat and oats—and these should be mixed in equal quantities (by weight) for chicks having free range. For those which are confined, however, a small amount of a variety of other grains, such as millet, sunflower seed, barley, etc., may be added, and this should be fed about the middle of the morning, scattered on the ground or among the litter, and again in the later afternoon. These five grains are chiefly valuable as inducing exercise and affording slow nourishment.

It is almost unnecessary to state that a plentiful supply of good, fresh, cool water must be before the chicks at all times, and in addition if they are not on free range greens and grit must be provided.

The above system of feeding, provided other conditions are fairly normal, will grow chicks which will have the health, vitality and energy that will mean much future profit.

LITTLE SPRING PIGS

Profitable and Easy to Grow.

A sow with several little pigs can be conveniently and profitably maintained by the average suburban householder. The sow and her brood cannot only be kept by the surplus waste from the kitchen, but the pigs in November or December will prove a good source of supply for fresh meat; then, too, some of the pigs may be sold at a profit.

The feeding and care of the pigs is as important as the breeding in producing a good hog. Plenty of feed and good care may make a good hog out of a runt, but the lack of it will always make a runt out of a good pig. Young pigs must have a dry bed and plenty of sunshine. Begin feeding them as soon as they will eat and keep them well fed until they are mature. Always keep plenty of clean, fresh water where the pigs may drink at any time. The more milk a sow will give the faster her pigs will grow.

Hog lots should be built where the sun will shine in some portion of them at all hours of the day. Sunshine is one of the greatest factors for destroying germs and keeping down diseases. A supply of clean, fresh water at all times is essential. The trough should always be kept clean and not so much feed given at one time that it would be left in the trough to become sour and filthy. The troughs should be frequently washed and placed where the sun will shine in them. This is especially true of those used for feeding small pigs. Clean, dry straw should be placed in every house for bedding, as it is essential that the sow have a warm, dry bed when she farrows. Many young pigs are lost each year from cold and exposure at farrowing time. The young pigs must be kept warm, dry and should have plenty of sunshine until they are several weeks old.

The Proper Shelter.

A good shelter for little pigs during the summer months may be made by setting four poles into the ground and securely nailing 2 by 6 inch material around these about three feet from the ground, and upon these a few light poles may be put crosswise and straw or coarse hay piled on top.

If the pigs show indications of scouring keep a mixture of charcoal (one bushel), hardwood ashes (one bushel), salt (eight pounds), air slaked lime (eight pounds), sulphur (four pounds) and pulverized copperas (two pounds) where the hogs can eat it at will. This is not only a good remedy for scours, but is one of the best preventives for worms.

It is also well to remember that pork is more in demand than either beef or mutton, and the danger of overstocking the market is remote.

THE VELVET LAWN

How to Make and Keep It.

JOHN ASHLEY.

The lawn is nature's summer carpet and, like other carpets, may add greatly or detract from the harmony of any surroundings. Four things, however, are essential in the making of a perfect lawn—good soil, the best of seed, continual rolling and an abundance of water. The first, of course, is not always obtainable, but we may improve a poor soil by plowing in a liberal supply of well-rotted barnyard manure, with emphasis on "well-rotted," and harrowing repeatedly until the whole is fine and mellow.

In sowing the seed use a lawn seeder and sow about three to three and one-half bushels to the acre (208.71 square feet), raking it in with a sharp iron rake, water, then roll, using the heaviest weight roller that can be conveniently handled. The modern water weighted rollers enable one to use any weight up to 600 pounds, and, being ball bearing, they are very easy to pull.

The Value of Rolling.

Just here the urgent need of the roller should be fully explained. During the spring and winter the alternate freezing and thawing of the ground produces a loosening and heaving effect on the soil, as seen in the perennial garden, where the plants are sometimes forced up and the roots destroyed by this action of the frost. A lawn, which is only a collection of thousands of tiny plants, suffers in the same way as the larger plants, and it is only by heavy rolling that proper conditions can be restored to the soil. But rolling, while very necessary in early spring, is equally necessary throughout the entire growing season. Its use during this time insures an even surface, discourages the action of worms, ants, grubs and moles, and by packing down the earth makes it possible for the grass roots to utilize every drop of water.

The lawn once made, fertility may be supplied in the form of specially prepared commercial fertilizers or sheep manure applied in the early spring. To water the lawn thoroughly, and that's the only way to water it, lay the hose on the ground and let the water run slowly from it for hours at a time that it may sink down into the ground and revive the thirsty roots. Finally a word as to weeds. Do not tolerate them, but wage a continuous warfare on these destructive little pests. Pull them out by the roots, fill the holes with loam, sprinkle grass seed over the bare spots, cover them lightly and roll persistently. Continuous effort along these lines will result in a lawn which will give pleasure not only to the maker, but to all the surrounding neighborhood.

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33x4	14.50	3.50	2.45
34x4	16.80	3.60	2.60
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