POULTRY

POULTRY FOR THE FARMER

Farming may be divided into two classes: The specialist and the general. The specialist may consist of a single crop or it may be two, these the farmer devotes his entire time and energy to. We have the fruit, berry, alfalfa, cattle, truck, poultry farmer. each of these being specialized by the different farmers.

The general farmer has variety for his crop. It may consist of grain, fruit, hogs, a few cows, a few hives of bees and some poultry.

On the farm of the "specialist" as well as on the farm of the "general farmer" is to be found flocks of poultry, ranging in numbers of from a dozen to several hundred head.

The 1910 census tell us that the average egg yield per hen found on both classes of farmers is 80 eggs.

But on the farmer that makes egg farming his specialty the average yield is 110 per year per fowl.

Here we have a difference of two and one-half dozen eggs in favor of the egg farmer. There must be a reason for this difference and there are several.

First the egg farmer keeps better stock; second, he feeds better; third, he houses and cares for better, and also he obtains a higher price for his products by giving the marketing end some care that the other class of farmers pay but little attention to.

There is one happy thought through it all, however, that as we travel mile after mile through the farming districts, we can easily see that all classes of farmers are giving the matter of poultry more thought than did they a few years ago. Better stock and better houses are to be seen now on most all farms. As the farmer visits his agricultural fair and poultry show each year he easily becomes interested, as he gazes upon the fine specimens of the different breeds of poultry he finds on exhibition at these places. And as he goes back to his home and looks over his own flock, deep down in his own heart he soon realizes that a flock of mongrels of all colors, sizes and ages are a disgusting sight to behold, and it is then and there that the seed of discontent is sown which ripens into the gradual selling off of the mongrel flock and replacing them with fowls of quality and of one breed. From his farm papers in the part devoted to poultry does he learn much that he applies to better feeding, housing, care and marketing of his products. While successful poultry raising has become an exact science, there are no hidden secrets. The love of the beautiful and the application of common sense is all there is to it.

Any farmer that will devote a little common sense to his poultry can clear a silver dollar from each layer per year, providing he has a liking to some extent for poultry. On most farms it is quite possible to grow either an acre of alfalfa or clover. If this acre be handled right it will support 500 laying hens and never destroy the green food grown upon it. This acre will return $500 then. In this short article the writer will not attempt to tell how this $500 can be made, but it can be made on most all farms and is being made right now by quite a few. There can hardly be found a crop that will give the large returns at as little labor required as poultry will providing conditions are made correct in the start and then all future details attended to as they should be. There are some that will doubt this statement, giving as their reason that if this large a return could be obtained from a single acre the poultry business would soon be overdone. Let me say in conclusion that all farmers do not like poultry and that all farmers are not successes as farmers, but $500 net can be made from a single acre from poultry by those that will.

EGG LOSSES DURING HOT WEATHER

Statistics show that during the summer months from one-fourth to over one-half of the eggs produced are a total or partial loss, reports the Missouri Station.

Heat is directly or indirectly responsible for a loss in that state of two and one-half million dollars worth of eggs annually. Heat causes germ growth, embryo and mould development, increases evaporation and causes eggs to become bad in a very short time.

Nearly all of the loss in eggs due to heat can be avoided by the ordinary conveniences that the average farm provides. If farmers would take the same care of eggs that they do of butter before and during the time it is taken to market, there would be practically no loss from heat. Any temperature above 70 degrees is too warm.

Eggs should be collected daily and should be cooled as quickly as possible. A sweet, fresh basement which is cool makes a satisfactory place to store eggs. They may also be kept cool by placing them in a bucket lowered into a well. Avoid storing them in musty basements and keep them away from flies.

HAND VS. ENGINE POWER.

Conditions at the present time are such that no man, no matter how good he may be physically, can afford to pit himself against a gas engine or other form of economical motor in doing any work that can be done by the engine. If there is surplus human energy to be dissipated it certainly can be used to better advantage when directed to the accomplishment of some purpose requiring the co-operation of brain with muscular force, rather than to be expended on such labor as turning a crank or working a pump handle. It may be interesting to look at some costs for hand labor as compared with any standard internal combustion engine.

The easiest example to use for this comparison is the pumping of water and the example which is probably most interesting is the average well pump for farm and household purpose.

Using a single acting cylinder three inches in diameter with seven-inch stroke and lifting water against a total head of 60 feet and operating at 40 up strokes per minute, the work would be such that a husky man would be glad to quit in a very short time.

Under these conditions the water lifted would be 510 gallons per hour or 4080 gallons in eight hours and the horse power in water lifted would be slightly over one-tenth one horse power and the actual power required to drive the pump would be less than one-half horse power. To produce this power a one and one-half horse power engine should use about one-half pint of ordinary engine distillate per hour or one-half gallon in an eight hour run. If the distillate costs 10 cents per gallon at point where it is used, then the cost for pumping 510 gallons would be only about six-tenths of one cent and for pumping 4080 gallons would be five cents. What is eight hours of a man's time worth?

This one example that the writer has chosen as a basis for comparison is less favorable for the engine than almost any other pumping conditions but it is probably sufficient to illustrate the advantages of using an engine for such work as it can do and the saving of human energy for better and more profitable purposes.

FRED LECKENBY,
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