

MOUNTAIN AGRICULTURE

Conducted by Mr. Robert F. Spence, Farm Demonstrator and Special Investigator

COUNTY AGENT'S NOTES Robert F. Spence

County had an income of \$100,000 last year from poultry.

LOVE STAR WORKERS HAVE SPLENDID MEETING

On Monday afternoon, March 27, The Love Star Workers Club, of Middletown, held their regular meeting. A fine program was rendered by the members, with nearly all present. At the close of the program Mr. Campbell, Club Leader, gave an inspiring little talk to the members and visitors.

In the business meeting a first and second Judging Team for Livestock was selected and also a Girls Demonstration Team was appointed. Arrangements were made for a club baseball team and are ready to schedule games with any other club. We are planning for this year to be the biggest in the history of the club.

Theodore Strunk, Pres.

DOCK AND CASTRATE YOUR LAMBS

By Richard C. Miller

Mr. Miller, the writer of the following article, is well known by the County Agent. The County Agent is anxious for the farmers to try out some of the suggestions. Read it and think it over.

The reasons for docking and castrating lambs are rather well known; yet it is very evident that many farmers fail to practice what their better judgment tells them is the right thing to do. This failure on the part of the farmers uniformly to dock and castrate their lambs means an annual loss to the State of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Docked and castrated lambs usually bring more per pound than the untrimmed lambs.

The weather lambs go to market fatter and heavier than the bucks. The buck lambs furnish the big percentage of seconds and culls. The great difference in prices prevailing during the past few years at the stockyards between top lambs and seconds should be enough to convince the most skeptical that docking and castrating lambs means dollars in the farmer's pocket. On several occasions at the stockyards last year most of the seconds and culls were bucks.

In many cases during the late summer and fall as high as ninety per cent of the seconds on the yards were buck lambs. Aside from this the ram lambs annoy the flock, keep them restless and prevent other lambs from developing as they should. Docking is likewise important. It gives the flock a more uniform appearance which attracts the attention of the buyer. The docked lambs are cleaner and not so subject to maggots in moist hot weather. Then, too, long tails interfere with breeding the ewes. No farmer wants a bunch of long tailed nondescript ewes to advertise his tastes as a stockman. Uniform flocks of docked ewes with bob-tailed lambs at their sides are a far more beautiful sight.

What Armour and Company Say: "Really, the so-called 'whims' of the markets are not whims at all but a direct expression from the public as to what the public wants and will pay the best price for when it goes shopping. It may seem a bit irrelevant to the purchaser of a lamb chop whether that lamb was docked or castrated previous to slaughter, but the fact that it does make a difference is expressed in the price the market will pay for the properly trimmed lamb. The castrated lamb fat

Confidence That We Are Past Worst Phases of the Agricultural Crisis

By PRESIDENT HARDING, Letter to Minnesota Farmers.



I am glad to say that my utmost anticipations of useful results from the recent national agricultural conference in Washington were more than realized. I believe it has set a new mark in the aspirations not only of the agricultural community, but, indeed, of the entire country in behalf of a better understanding of our agricultural problem and of more effective measures for dealing with it.

The fine spirit of co-operation among the farmers, and the disposition on their part to unite their efforts in every possible way with those of the government, augurs particularly well for our hope of accomplishment. The conference gave serious and thorough consideration to the problems before it, and presented practicable proposals for doing practical and worthwhile things. It avoided all extremism and adopted the wise course of making no excessive demands for special favors or class treatment. I am very sure that the wisdom of this course will be demonstrated hereafter.

In the general industrial and business situation there is much to justify confidence that we are well past the worst phases of the agricultural crisis, that improvement is well begun, and that it will continue steadily from this time forward. This is not only a source of satisfaction to every friend of the farmer, but also to whoever is interested in any phase of American business, for we have all come to recognize the interdependence of all departments of the national industrial establishment.

No one of them can prosper permanently if any other great branch of national activity is depressed. Therefore, in expressing my conviction, based on a wide array of information, that the worst is past as concerns agriculture, I am recording my firm belief that an era of better business and more prosperous times, for the entire commercial establishment of the country, lies just ahead of us. I feel, therefore, that we are entitled to look with much satisfaction upon what we have accomplished in the last year, and with all confidence to the future.

CINCINNATI MARKETS

Hay and Grain

Corn—No. 2 white 62¢@63¢; No. 3 61¢@62¢; No. 4 white 59¢@60¢; No. 2 yellow 62¢@63¢; No. 4 yellow 59¢@60¢; No. 2 mixed 61¢@62¢.

Sound Hay—Timothy per ton \$20.50 21.50; clover \$22@23.

Wheat—No. 2 red \$1.44@1.45; No. 3 \$1.41@1.43; No. 4 \$1.38@1.41.

Oats—No. 2 white 41¢@42¢; No. 3 40¢@41¢; No. 2 mixed 39¢@40¢; No. 3 mixed 38¢@39¢.

Butter, Eggs and Poultry

Butter—Whole milk creamy extras 43¢; centralized extras 41¢; firsts 39¢; fancy dairy 28¢.

Eggs—Extra firsts 21¢@21½¢; firsts 20¢@20½¢; ordinary firsts 19¢@19½¢.

Live Poultry—Fryers 2 lbs. and over 35¢; fowls 4 lbs. and over 25¢; under 4 lbs. 25¢; roosters 16¢.

Live Stock

Cattle—Steers, good to choice \$7.50 @8; fair to good \$6.50@7.50; common to fair \$5@6.50; heifers, good to choice \$6.75@7.75; fair to good \$5.75@6.75; common to fair \$4.50@5.75; cows good to choice \$5@5.75; canners \$2@2.75; stock steers \$2.50@3.50; stock heifers \$1.50@2.50.

Calves—Good to choice \$9.00@10; fair to good \$6.50@9.50; common and large \$4@6.

Sheep—Good to choice \$6@7; fair to good \$4@6; common \$2@3; lambs good to choice \$15.50@16; fair to good \$12.50@15.50.

Hogs—Heavy \$19.25@19.60; choice packers and butchers \$19.00@19.75; medium \$19.00@19.75; common to choice heavy fat sows \$6@8.25; light sows \$10.25; pigs (110 pounds and over) \$7@9.50.

Disclosures regarding the use of impressive limousines for run running purposes, bring to the humble owner of a flivver the consoling reflection that he is safe from suspicion, as there isn't room in one of those darned things for a false bottom.

A dollar is worth 10 cents more at a retail meat market now than it was a year ago, but if you can put it in the bank instead of in the meat market, it will probably be worth more at both places in another year.

It is noted that the announcement that men's clothes this year will be "conservative, but with beautiful lines," does not say that they will follow the lines of the figure, but maybe that is merely an oversight.

The man who uses "want ads" to inveigle young women and girls is a scoundrel, generally too smooth to be caught; but when one is uncovered he should get his deserts on some charge that will stick.

An investigation develops that men seeking wives prefer those who are good-looking. That investigation has not added anything to what the cosmetic manufacturers had in mind.

A New York surgeon isolated the heart of a lion to prove that he could keep it beating, but what he should have isolated was an egg to prove that we can keep beating.

People are said to write fewer than an average of ten letters a year in Spain. There may be more prudence than progress in that.

Husbands getting home late generally come in through the storm door.

tens more rapidly and more uniformly, the meat is of a superior flavor, this animal reaches a higher degree of flesh, and the fat intermingles more intimately with the lean."

W. S. Bell, President of the Bourbon

Live Stock Exchange Says:

"For some reason our farmers neglect docking and castrating. Both operations are simple and easy and will be very remunerative in price and gain in weight. Ewes and wether lambs are attractive to the buyers; they outsell the general market from 50c to \$1.25 per hundred and many days will hold steady when the general market is lower. Castrating is especially essential when the lambs are to be run for some time, then the male lambs will be heavy and bulky and will be thrown out of the tops regardless of quality. Castration results in two very distinct improvements from a packer's standpoint. In the first place, the flavor of the meat is much superior since the secretions of the sex glands, which are normally found in circulation, are no longer present. In the second place the unsexed animal fattens more readily and reaches a higher degree of flesh, and the fat intermingles more intimately with the lean."

George Wilbur Says:

"I have produced more hothouse lambs than any other breeder in America and I never fail to castrate my lambs even though they usually go to market when about ten weeks old."

If you want Kentucky to maintain her lead in the spring lamb market, dock and castrate your lambs now. If you have never done this work get your neighbor to help you. If he does not know, get in touch with your county agent who will arrange for a demonstration. In case you have no county agent write the Extension Division of the College of Agriculture for information.

WHY ? DOES A MAGNET LIFT THINGS

THE exact principle which causes a magnet to take hold of metals and cling to them with a force which overcomes the principle of gravity is, like electricity, one of the unsolved mysteries of nature. We merely know that a piece of iron which has been electrically treated will attract and hold various other metals. The force which it exerts we call "magnetism" and let it go at that—just as we speak of "electricity," "personality" and "radio-activity," all of which are forces which puzzle science and, up to this time, have defied a clear explanation. The most logical explanation would appear to be that an electrically-treated piece of iron gives off a force analogous to that given off by a piece of radium in that it will affect other pieces of metal without materially lessening its own power.

The name magnet is derived from the mineral "magnete" and this, in turn, is so called because it was first discovered in Magnesia. Magnete is a natural magnet, of which the loadstone is one of the best-known varieties.

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HOME DEPARTMENT

Conducted by the Home Economics Department of Berea College

THE BABY CHICK By E. H. Elam, Associate Professor of Animal Husbandry, Berea Vocational School

The poultry yards will soon be alive with baby chicks; by far too many of them usually die from lack of proper food and care. There is no one best way to care for them, yet a few general principles, if remembered and followed, should help greatly in reducing their death rate.

Feed

When the little chick is hatched, it still contains a part of the undigested yolk of the egg, in its digestive tract. This serves as sufficient food for the chick for the first two days. Its digestive tract is very delicate and if crammed with food at this time may result in a bad effect for the chick. During these first two days all the food they need is clean fresh water and a little sand or grits and crushed charcoal. This will serve to clean out and somewhat toughen the digestive tract and get it ready for the food which is soon to follow.

After the second day finely cracked grain such as steel cut oats and cracked corn and wheat will serve their need very well. A mixture of all these is better than any one of them, cut oats being the best single grain. This should be fed to the chicks several times each day at regular intervals, and they should not have more than they can clean up at each feed. They should be kept hungry enough to want the feed each time it is given to them. If this fine grain is scattered in a clean litter of leaves from clover hay so that from the beginning they have to scratch for it, the exercise will be good for them. Later this litter may be changed to cut straw, if it is more convenient.

When the chicks are a week or ten days old, a dry, finely ground mash may be put before them all the time, in a small feeder or box where they can get it at will. It may be necessary to take it from their sight for a portion of the day, if they seem to eat too much of it. Here the judgment of the feeder can decide. Such a mash may be made by mixing three pounds of wheat bran, three pounds cornmeal, three pounds wheat middlings, three pounds best grade meat scraps and one pound bone meal. This may be fed until the chicks are nearly grown. They are all the time to receive the grain feed, and as they grow larger and older larger grain may be fed.

Bread crumbs may be substituted for a portion of the grain. They may be fed either dry or mixed with

milk. Buttermilk and sour skimmed milk are both very good for them. Sweet skimmed milk is dangerous. Charcoal and grits are to be kept before them all the time.

Care and Management

If the little chicks are with the hen, they need less care than they need in the artificial brooder. The hen supplies the needed warmth to the chick and helps them find the natural food, yet this does not insure that the chicks will always be the most healthy. Additional food must be provided and the premises must be kept clean. As far as possible, they should not be allowed on the damp ground, even with the hen, until they are two or three weeks old. The dread disease of gaps is often caused by tiny little parasites that they get from the earthworms which they find on the ground. Little chicks with hens are more susceptible to lice. A little lard put on the head of each chick when the lice are suspected will help to prevent them.

When artificial brooding is employed and no hen is present, much more care is necessary. A good oil or coal stove brooder should be provided in a warm room free from draught and moisture. Immediately around the brooder the floor should be bedded with fine sand, beyond that the litter should be fine clover leaves or straw as indicated under feeding. The temperature is all important.

It should be kept uniform by all means with no abrupt changes either up or down. Under the cover of the brooder the temperature should remain about 100 degrees. Outside it would be some lower. The chick is said to be its own thermometer and suited to its need, provided that temperature can be found within the brooder house. As they grow older the temperature best suited to them may be a little lower, even as low as 85 degrees, by the time they are four or five weeks old. Too much heat causes their vitality to be lowered, while too much cold will chill them and stunt their growth, if not even causing their death.

If the temperature is kept well regulated, the chicks are well fed and proper care is given to sanitation, the little chicks should do well.

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