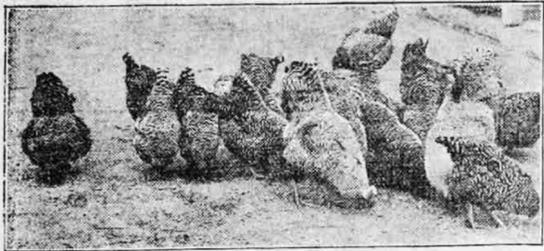


GREEN FEED FOR POULTRY



Good Flock of Plymouth Rocks.

By L. E. CHAPIN.

I regard green feed as absolutely necessary to the welfare of poultry, old and young. Where fowls are kept confined it must be supplied to them, and where they have full liberty it may be fed to them with profit during the months when vegetation is somewhat burned by the heat.

Throw out a lot of fresh lettuce leaves where the hens can get it, and they will eat it up clean. Cabbage stumps thrown out to the hens will be picked clean, even where the hens run at large.

Those who must keep their hens confined will find that a small plot of rape will furnish a large quantity of green feed during the summer.

It will be large enough to begin out-

ting in five or six weeks and as soon as it is cut off will throw up new shoots, thus renewing itself constantly, so the same ground may be cut over time after time.

Lettuce or dandelions make a very good green feed for laying hens or growing chicks. There seems to be some medicinal property about both these vegetables which promotes good health in the fowls.

Both are easily grown and furnish a good supply of feed if the tops are cut off instead of pulling the plants out by the roots when gathering the feed.

Turnips and beet tops, mustard, pea vines and all other tender green stuff will be relished, and save much feed of a more costly kind.

RECLEARING OLD FIELDS

By A. J. LEGG.

There are many old fields that have been thrown out years ago, and have so grown up with scrub timber, green briars and other filth that it looks to be almost an impossible undertaking to reclear them.

If it is undertaken to kill them by grubbing out briars and brush it is indeed a hard job, and the briars will sprout for years, but, if the brush is hacked down and let dry, then burned over, the land can be effectually cleared by pasturing it with cattle and sheep.

A few years ago I had a field overgrown with green briars and pine. There were patches of green brier so dense that it was impossible to get through them, let alone grub them out.

These thickest patches were burned through. The fire killed other briars, then in a few months they, too, would burn, so I made it a rule that whenever I found a patch of green brier dry enough to burn I would set fire to it.

The pines were all cut down, and as soon as they got dry, they, too, were burned.

The briars were kept down by the stock grazing over them.

Whenever a young brier appeared it was ripped up. By the end of the third year the brier roots were all rotted and the pine stumps were pretty well rotted so that the land could be plowed.

KEEP SUMMER CHICKS GROWING FAST

The old notion that chicks must be all out of the way by July has been largely driven out—partly by the incubator, which is willing to work at all seasons; partly by the poultry raiser, who finds that there is less feed to buy when the bugs and worms are most plentiful.

As we have learned better how to raise the flock and keep them growing fast, the old problem of having pullets ready to lay in fall is more easily approximated, even though the chicks do not emerge from the shell during a snowstorm.

Summer chicks must have a little extra care in keeping the feeding board and drinking fountain clean; they must also have plenty of shade; but in several ways they can better

care for themselves than during the spring months.

If they are liberally fed morning and night after they get nicely feathered out they are ready to hunt up the numerous seeds of early autumn grasses which do no good to the farmer, but rather the reverse, though they put plenty of flesh and muscle into the chick.

Crowd them with as much pain as if they were early, and the extra waste grain and insects will help them along amazingly.

You will have little wet weather with which to contend.

Even if they are not quite ready to commence laying in November, they will be among the best workers in the flock during spring and the lessened cost of production will offset the winter eggs that may be lacking.

Let them run in the orchard when little, and give them plenty of fresh water, and they will thrive.

KEEPING UP THE LAWN

Kill weeds on the lawn by either pulling or cutting off the plant below the crown.

Don't mow the lawn too closely during the heated term; but do not allow weeds to go to seed.

Deep working, thorough pulverization, effective fertilization and a thorough raking and rolling down to a smooth level are all necessary to a smooth, level lawn.

Get your lawn seeds of a reliable seedsmen, and ask for the best and the freshest. Don't use old seed left over from last year, but insist on having it fresh and of a good mixture.

The best time to seed a lawn is during the latter part of August or the early part of September. At that season, the heat is over and showers are almost sure to come, and the young grass will have several months of cool, moist weather in which to grow before winter.

As soon as the lambs are weaned the thin ewes should be separated from the flock and given a little grain twice a day until they are in good condition again. They will not be apt to breed this fall unless this precaution is taken to insure their being in thrifty condition.

Why not take the boy into partnership in your farming? The son of a good man and a good farmer should make a desirable partner.

FENCE POSTS MUST NOW BE GROWN

By THOMAS W. CISEL.



Timber Land Needlessly Destroyed.

Farmers of the central and eastern states are now seeing the need of replacing the timber lands that were so needlessly destroyed in order to secure more land for cultivation and as a method of securing money by cutting into lumber and other materials.

Now this same timber is wanted to replace farm buildings and then in the building of fences.

Throughout the central west, good fence posts can only be had from lumber dealers, who sell cypress and cedar posts at prices almost beyond the reach of the small farm owner.

Many are now planting timber for a future supply. In planting, many plant the catalpa. Others are planting Osage orange, but it is a slow growing tree and has the fault of growing crooked, with short trunks and over much top.

The tree that gives the best results with little care after planting is the black locust. It does well on any soil, wet or dry. It is a quick grower and when planted thick say six feet each way, the trees will grow tall with but little top, and will, at the end of five years, be ready for the first thinning out.

At this time all stunted trees should be worked up, and from this time on, ground thus planted will furnish material for posts as each year more thinning must be done.

In 15 years the trees will be large enough to make four posts to the cut and many of them will make three to five post cuts, with some round posts in the top.

The black locust is also a fine tree for planting about the house and barn. When planted in the open it forms a

beautiful tree, having a thick, heavy foliage, retaining its leaves throughout the summer, and in the early spring, has an abundance of sweet-smelling white flowers.

When young, it is well protected by thorns, making it a tree that can be grown in a pasture or stock lot without being damaged by stock.

Next to the black locust for quick returns, is the white mulberry. With this tree on rich soil, only four to five

years are required to grow them large enough for use, but they seldom make over one post length to the tree, and should all be cut at the end of the seventh year, as they will soon replace themselves, from two to five shoots sprouting from the stump.

If left to grow longer than seven years, they will commence putting out limbs near the ground, spoiling the growth already made.

All land owners should plant some kinds of trees. There is always some waste land about the farm, some hillside or swamp that is not cultivated, which if planted to some kind of timber, would soon return a profit and would also improve the looks of the farm.

PUTTING IN TILE DRAINS

By W. M. KELLY.

There has been much discussion in the agricultural press concerning the best investments for farmers. In my opinion there is no better or safer investment for the average farmer, than tile drainage on such parts of the farm as fail to produce maximum crops during wet seasons.

There are many acres of naturally fertile soil that are not paying the owner the cost of working, that could be made the most productive portion of the farm, if a good system of under-draining were put in.

In many cases the first crop will pay the entire cost of drainage. Of course many farmers are so situated that they cannot afford to put in the complete drainage system at one time.

My advice to such men is to have their plans made at one time, and do a little every year. In this way their work will not be haphazard, disconnected efforts, but will fit into a previously worked out system and form a permanent part of it.

A work bench well stocked is a modern farm necessity.



Three-Year-Old Catalpas Grown for Fence Posts on a Farm in Illinois.



FACTS ABOUT DUCK RAISING

By L. M. BENNINGTON.



A Fine Flock of Ducklings.

Change the pens of the ducks and sow the unused ground with rye or barley.

To fatten ducks do not allow them to have access to a swimming pool, as the exercise of swimming keeps them down.

The ground and duck pen should be disinfected every spring and fall by digging up and sowing green crops.

Feed and water ducks at the same time. You will notice that they take a sip of water after every two or three bites of food.

Young ducks are extremely nervous and cannot stand undue excitement.

Keep the dogs and strangers away from them.

A light placed in the roosting quarters will keep the ducks quiet at night.

Young ducks should be ready for market at ten weeks old. No profit in feeding them after that.

Never set duck eggs under a duck—they are poor mothers. Put them under a large hen.

Provide plenty of shelter for the youngsters to which they can run during sudden storms.

The water troughs should be deep

enough to allow the ducks to plunge their heads entirely beneath the surface.

If there is any difference, the duck runs should be kept cleaner than the chicken yards.

Round up the young ducklings before the storms. Sometimes they will sit on the ground with their bills open wide, pointing upward, during heavy storms and drown.

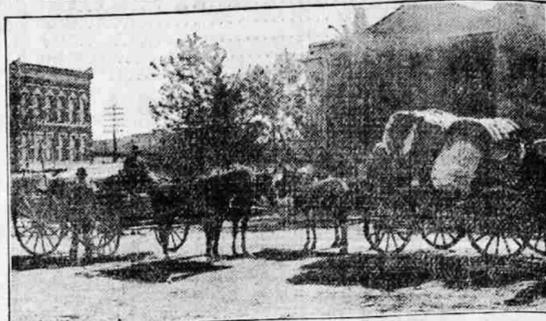
It is claimed by those who have tried it that a cross of Muscovy drake on Pekin ducks will produce sterile progeny.

RECIPE FOR YEAST CAKES

Boil a large handful of hops in two quarts of water, then strain, scald two cups of flour with the water, stirring constantly to keep it from forming lumps. Add a large handful of salt, same of sugar, tablespoon of ginger. Let cool until milk warm, then stir in two yeast cakes, dissolved in water. Let rise over night, early the next day stir thick with corn meal and let rise once more. Put on a board, knead in more meal if needed, roll to less than a half-inch, cut in pieces as large as two yeast cakes side by side. Put on a board; dry in the shade, as the sun will sour it. Turn often, put in a sack and hang up to keep.

Plant evergreens to induce the birds to come early and stay late. Trees of this class form the best protection from the storm.

BAD ROADS EXPENSIVE



Good Roads Help in Every Way—Being Able to Haul Over Roads Reduces the Cost of Delivery.

Bad roads are an extravagance that no farming community can afford. Just what they cost in unnecessary expense it takes but a moment to determine.

A team and driver is reasonably worth \$3 a day, and by the use of these it is possible to deliver to market, from your home, 100 bushels of corn. Hauling over good roads, the cost of delivery is three cents per bushel. But, if in consequence of bad roads but 50 bushels can be delivered,

the cost is doubled and the difference is what the impassable roads cost you.

Continue this calculation, applying it to the hauling of all of your crops and it quickly becomes apparent that it amounts to a very burdensome tax.

Good roads help in every way; they promote sociability by making friends and relatives accessible, and by means of them it is easier to reach the schools and churches, and to generally do and enjoy those things which make life really worth living.—C. M. S.

BATTLING WITH INSECTS

By BESSIE L. PUTNAM.

The currant-worm, working with equal relish upon either currant or gooseberry bush, always works upward.

As soon as the first lower leaves are attacked, sprinkle the bushes with white hellebore when they are wet with dew and the pest will soon be routed.

While the antidote is poison, there is no danger, as the fruit is small at this time and it will be washed by many rains before the fruit is ripe. You can give it an additional rinsing when preparing for use to destroy all prejudice against the drug.

There are two or three broods during the summer. Be sure that you are ready to receive each colony in the proper manner.

When cats or dogs are kept, the flea is a source of annoyance. Unlike many insects they thrive in cleanliness rather than filth, and the more the pet is washed the more the flea will annoy.

An entomologist of India states that the best method found in that country, notorious as a hothouse for fleas, is an emulsion of crude petroleum, using it in the proportion of 80 per cent petroleum with 20 per cent whale oil soap. Dilute with water for general use to about three per cent. A ten per cent solution is warranted to destroy fleas effectually.

The invasions of the gipsy moth can be kept in check by a parasite upon the larvae of the insect. It is a sort of ichneumon fly discovered by a missionary in Japan, who first noticed that while the gipsy moth is a resi-

dent of that kingdom it seems to do comparatively little harm.

It is said that if the birds were wiped out of existence, in ten years time the insects would master the earth, converting it into a leafless tract.

The birds will, if we permit, maintain the balance in our favor. But many of them thrive in spite of rather than with our co-operation.

The vast majority of our summer residents are insect destroyers, some even picking our potato bugs if we do not allow.

If the tent caterpillar pitches his home in your orchard, remember that his flock is gathered together in the home at night, the members going forth by day to look for food. A torch applied to the home evenings or early mornings catches the worm in quantities.

If in midsummer you find a bunch of brown worms with red markings clustered on the trunk of a walnut or apple tree, do not be alarmed, but get busy.

Like the swarm of bees they will not hang there many hours, for they are only molting. By the next day the old skins alone will be left to tell the story, while the larvae, each in a bright new coat, will be scattered over the tree, rapidly denuding it of its leaves.

This is the hand-maid moth, easily kept in check by taking advantage of its peculiar habits.

There are various ways of routing that universal pest, the cabbage worm. Road dust, wood ashes or four sprinkled lightly over the cabbage heads when wet with dew will interfere with the workings of the insect. Soap-suds sprinkled over the plants has also the desired effect.

NOTES OF THE HOG LOT

Pigs should be sorted as to size and each lot kept by itself. This is not much trouble and will enable the little fellows to stand a better show at the feeding trough.

Many small pigs are stunted in their early growth because they cannot hold their own against their larger and more quarrelsome brothers.

The man who raises pigs ought to have a field of peas into which they can be turned just before the peas become hard.

There is no better way to harvest peas than by turning the hogs into them at this stage.

Many farmers in the corn belt hog off their corn by turning the animals into the fields and allowing them to ride down the stalks and help themselves.

This is a labor-saving plan, but it is wasteful beyond measure.

As soon as a pig is discovered to be droopy or falling behind the rest of the herd it should be taken out and put in an enclosure by itself.

A pig is nothing more than a money-making machine and should be fed all he will eat cleanly from the time he is able to nibble, then keep him going until he goes to the block.

Keep a pair of nippers handy to snip off the sharp points of a sucking pig's teeth.

Sometimes they are as sharp as needles and hurt the sow so much that she will not permit them to suckle.

Sun stall is very often mistaken for mange. Never turn very young pigs into the field in hot weather for more than an hour or two a day until the skin becomes toughened.

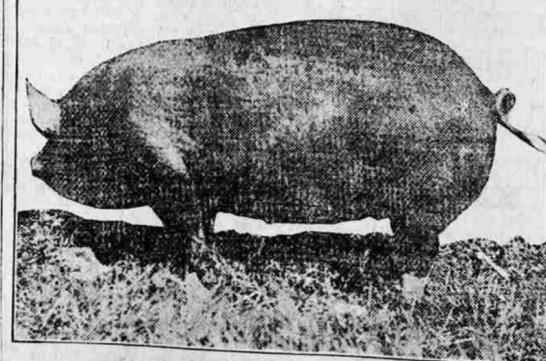
It is a great mistake to fatten sows if breeding depends upon the spring gilts for a next year's crop, as this plan will in time result in inferior stock.

If a sow proves a good breeder there is no reason why she should not be kept as long as she produces strong pigs.

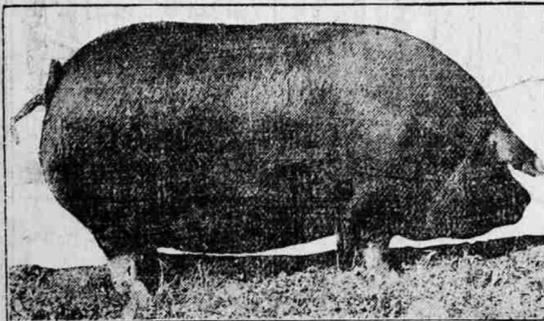
The most common mistake made by many farmers is to allow the boar to run with the herd continually. He should be kept in a roomy enclosure by himself.

Cement floors are best for feeding purposes, but it is our belief that a hog should always sleep on a board floor with plenty of clean bedding.

A drove of hogs of all colors and sizes never brings as much money as a drove of the same breed and color and size.—A. C.



Champion Berkshire Sow.



Poland China Hog.