BUILDING ACTIVITY IN EASTERN CONNECTICUT

Contractors Pushing Along Work

Progress Shown on Dwellings and Factory Buildings—Alterations and Additions Being Made to Structures in City and Vicinity.

The outside work on the house of I. E. Browning on the New London turnpike in Norwich Town is nearly completed. The house is of wood construction and is two stories high. It will have eight rooms and it is expected that the work will be finished before snow flies. Contractor W. C. Young is doing the work.

Raising Roof on Baltic Building.

W. C. Young has a force of men at work raising the roof on the building owned by Nolan Brothers in Baltic. The building is about 30x30 feet. The roof is to be raised three feet. When the roof is raised there will be three rooms and a bath added to the second floor.

Erecting Large House on Fishers Island.

Contractor W. C. Young has had a force of from 12 to 18 men working on the large new house of Captain Dean Tilford on Fishers Island. The outside work on the house has been finished and the men are now doing the inside work. The building is expected to be completed in about two weeks.

Alterations to Main Street Block Completed.

Contractor P. J. Sweeney has completed the alterations to the second story of the Bushnell block on Main street. The petitions have been torn down making a larger room. The Main street front has been cut through and several large plate glass windows put in.

Shingling Lafayette Street House.

The workmen are now shingling the house of F. J. Langenbach on Lafayette street. The structure has been boarded up and the lathing has been completed. Contractor Kinney is doing the work.

Seven New Boxes in Post Office Lobby

During the past week seven new boxes have been placed in the lobby of the post office. Three of the boxes are 13 by 22 inches, just double the size of the largest box used before. The other boxes measure 13 by 10 inches. The old size boxes were not large enough to accommodate the increased mail of some of the patrons.

Window Frames Set in West Side Building.

The window frames for the addition to the Blue Star Overall company on West Main street have been put in place and the walls have been raised several feet above the ground. Contractor Ambrose Sullivan is doing the work.

Garage Nearly Finished.

The roof for the garage of Dr. Thomas A. Crowley on Williams street was put on Wednesday. The garage will be finished in about a week.

Laying Taftville Storehouse Roof.

The brick sides for the Ponemah Mill storehouse in Taftville have been raised and the beams for the roof have been placed in position. The workmen are now laying the roof. Contractor Torrance is doing the work.

Repairs to Ponemah Mill Barn.

Workmen from the Ponemah Mill have been engaged for the past week in repairing the company barn on South Front street. Concrete floors have been placed in the stalls and new stanchions have been put in position.

BUILDING AND BUSINESS.

Decrease In Bank Clearings—Little New Building.

The clearings of the Hartford banks for the past week in comparison with the same week of last year show a decrease of 13.6 per cent. and those of New Haven for the same period a gain of 10.5 per cent.

Sales of real estate for the past week, as shown by the number of warranty deeds filed in the cities of the state reported in The Commercial Record numbered 491, as compared with 514 in the same week of last year. Mortgage loans for the week totaled $979,500, comparing with $1,501,311 in this week a year ago.

Petitions in bankruptcy last week numbered three with assets of $1,411 and liabilities of $4,940. A year ago in the same week eight petitions, having total assets of $14 673 and liabilities of $109,996, were filed in Connecticut.

New companies were formed during the past week to the number of nine, as against six in the last week of October last year. The capital stock of the concerns for the past week amounts to $176,500, while last year the total capitalization amounted to $585,000.

Building permits have been issued in the past week in the cities of New Haven, Bridgeport, Hartford, Waterbury, New Britain and Stamford to the number of 132, for new construction work to cost $252 582. Last year in the same cities during the corresponding week, 200 permits were issued for new construction work to cost $504,826.

Contracts awarded last week include one and two-family houses in New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury, Stamford, Ansonia and New London; power house and several government buildings in New London, residence work in Greenwich and Waterbury, factory additions in Hartford and Waterbury; several frame houses, public garage and smaller work in Springfield; factory addition, public garages and a number of contracts for frame houses in New Haven and smaller work in various parts of the state.

Listed among the new projects of the past week are schoolhouses in Milford, brick church in West Haven, factory additions in Stamford, residence work in Greenwich; garages, brick business block and many frame houses in Waterbury; three schoolhouses in Hartford, factory construction in New Britain, residence work in New Haven, addition to grain elevator in Norwalk and the usual run of smaller work in various parts of the state.

Norwich had nine sales of real estate last week to six for the corresponding week last year. The mortgage loans for the respective weeks were $7,900 and $18 525.

In New London there were six sales for the past week compared with 17 a year ago. Mortgage loans last week amounted to $28 575 and a year ago the amount was $53,625.

NEW LONDON.

Waldo Street House.

The contract has been given to Percy R. White for the erection of a house on Waldo street for Louis Loving. It will be of frame construction, 25x32 feet, arranged for two families, with five rooms for each.

Division Street House.

Joseph Williams is doing the rough plumbing in the new house which Jos. V. Sousa is building for himself on Division street. The house will be 26x42 feet arranged for two families, with six rooms for each, and provided with all improvements.

Improving Gardner Street House.

James Fowler is doing the mason work, Murray & Maher the plumbing and the Hopson & Chapin Co. the heating in connection with the extensive improvements which the Woodworth & Jenney Co. are making in the residence of W. K. Sheffield on Gardner street.

SUBMARINE BASE.

Building for the Government.

Excavations are being made at the submarine base for the group of buildings to be erected by the U. S. Government, for which the R. H. Arnold Co. of Washington, D. C., has the contract. The buildings will consist of barracks machine shop, officers' quarters, storehouse and ordinance buildings, all of brick and wood, and costing about $800,000. The buildings will be heated individually by steam.

New Power House.

Bigelow & Nichols, 45 East 42nd St., New York, were the lowest bidders for the proposed power house and machine shop to be built at the submarine base for the navy department. The building will be 95x250 feet, two stories high, and the cost will be about $200,000.

MIDDLETOWN.

Mylchreest Bros. have completed the brick work in connection with the addition to the office building of the Frisbie Motor Co. on College street. It is about 50x30 feet, the present building being raised an additional story. The foundation has been completed by H. S. Moore for a brick addition in the rear of the building which will be 64x50 feet.

H. S. Moore has the contract for the mason work for two frame cottages which are being erected in Cromwell for A. N. Pierson. T. H. Sellew of Cromwell is the contractor. They are now nearly ready for plastering.

BUILDING OPERATIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

Statistics of building and engineering operations in New England as compiled by The F. W. Dodge Company follow:

Contracts to Oct 24, 1917..	$165,226,000
Contracts to Oct 24, 1916..	172,662,000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1915..	145,263,000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1914..	139,295 000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1913..	139,413,000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1912..	150,722,000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1911..	146,817,000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1910..	133,682 000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1909..	135 271,000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1908..	89,521,000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1907..	111,517,000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1906..	100,432,000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1905..	90,792,000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1904..	78 816,000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1903..	87,893,000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1902..	101,746,000
Contracts to Oct. 24, 1901..	97,123,000

NOTICE

Owing to the continued increase in the cost of production, we are compelled to advance our Electric Power rates.

Commencing December 1, 1917, our interim Electric Power rates will be as follows:

First 500 kw.	6 cents per kw.
Next 1,500 kw.	3½ cents per kw.
All over 2,000 kw.	2½ cents per kw.

These rates are for electric energy used in any one month.

Minimum charge per month $2.00 for the first horsepower connected and $1.00 for each additional horsepower connected.

THE BOARD OF GAS & ELECTRICAL COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, CONN.

BARRED ROCKS FINISH FIRST AT STORRS

Carry Off First Honors in Sixth Annual Egg Laying Contest.

The sixth international egg laying contest at Storrs was formally closed with the laying of the last egg late Tuesday afternoon by Rhode Island Red hen No. 322, from Attleboro, Mass. A pen of Barred Rocks that plodded along in second place for more than fifty weeks finally finished first. White Leghorns were in second and third places for the year. Barred Rocks fourth and Rhode Island Reds fifth. All five previous contests were won by either White Leghorns or White Wyandottes. Twice the honors went to England, then to a Pennsylvania pen of Leghorns, Connecticut and Rhode Island had their turn and now New Hampshire stands at the head of the list as can be seen from the summary below. These New Hampshire Barred Rocks entered by Applecock Farm of Fitzwilliam not only won in the contest just ended, but they have set a new high record for Plymouth Rocks as no pen of this breed has been able to equal their record in any previous competition.

The 1,000 birds in the contest were of nine different breeds and varities and represented sixteen states and two allied countries The combined weight of all the hens was less than two and a half tons and yet they laid over ten tons of eggs. In other words, the average yield of 163 eggs for each hen was more than four times her own weight. The grand total for all pens was 163,387 eggs which is the largest number of eggs ever collected at Storrs from the same number of hens. This record is 1,000 eggs ahead of last year's contest and more than 11,000 ahead of the contest two years ago.

The subjoined table shows the number of birds in each breed, the average annual individual egg yield, and the average for all varieties engaged in the contest.

90 Barred Rocks	169.2
160 White Wyandottes	163.6
210 Rhode Island Reds	158.4
430 White Leghorns	167.4
110 Miscellaneous	152.1
1000 Average for all breeds	163.4

Barred Rocks also won highest individual honors. Hen No. 9, owned by Merritt M. Clark of Brookfield Center, Conn., laid more eggs than any other one hen in the contest. Her record for the year is 277 eggs, the best bird of the breed ever trapnested at Storrs. Tom Barron's White Wyandotte, No. 268, from Catforth, England, was the best in her class with the score of 263 eggs. A. Allan's Rhode Island Red No. 463 from Newport, R. I., was high in her group with a total for the year of 249 eggs. Hilltop Poultry Yards' White Leghorn, No. 796 from Suffield, Conn., was at the top in the Leghorn division with a yield of 246 eggs. Over 165 individual birds, including Barred, White and Buff Rocks, White and Buff Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, Leghorns and Orpingtons laid more than 200 eggs each during the year.

The following list shows the twenty best pens in the order of their production, also their records for the year:

6	Applecock Farm, Fitzwilliam, N. H., Barred Plymouth Rocks	2119
73	A. P. Robinson, Calverton, N. Y., White Leghorns	2090
91	Windsweep Farm, Redding Ridge, Conn., White Leghorns	2022
1	Merrit M. Clark, Brookfield Center, Conn., Barred Plymouth Rocks	1991
47	A. Allan, Jr., Newport, R. I., Rhode Island Reds	1990
60	J. O. LeFevre, New Paltz, N. Y., White Leghorns	1967
80	Hilltop Poultry Yards, Suffield, Conn., White Leghorns	1950
31	Cloyes & Sullivan, Hartford, Conn., Buff Wyandottes	1936
78	E. A. Ballard, Chestnut Hill, Penn., White Leghorns	1921
57	Braeside Poultry Farm, Stroudsburg, Penn., White Leghorns	1917
66	F. M. Peasley, Cheshire, Conn., White Leghorns	1902
82	Clifford I. Stoddard, Woodbridge, Conn., White Leghorns	1897
92	Windsweep Farm, Redding Ridge, Conn. White Leghorns	1890
56	A. B. Hall, Wallingford, Conn., White Leghorns	1889
75	Frank R. Hancock, Jacksonville, Vt., White Leghorns	1881
20	Obed G. Knight, Brighton, R. I., White Wyandottes	1855
88	George A. Standard, Ottawa, Kans., White Leghorns	1845
43	Pequot Poultry Farm, Southport, Conn., Rhode Island Reds	1833
2	Agricultural College, East Lansing, Mich., Barred Plymouth Rocks	1830
69	Will Barron, Bartle, England, White Leghorns	1826

DANGER OF GARDEN REFUSE.

Should Not Be Allowed to Rot on Ground Nor Edges of Garden.

One of the worst sources of disease and insect trouble is the refuse which accumulates around the edges of gardens. A great many of our sucking insects, such as thrips and sucking beetles of all types winter in the grass and weed hedges which are bound to occur on the edges of the garden. Worse than this is the source of infection caused by allowing disease infected cabbage, roots, celery tops asparagus tops, potato and beet tops etc., to be plowed under in the fall or left on the garden.

Expert opinion more and more comes to the belief that humus in the soil can be kept up by better methods than that of utilizing the garden refuse where it was growing. All such refuse should be raked off from the garden and either burned or put where it will not be a source of infection. The humus content of the soil can be kept up by using cover crops, and will be done more scientifically with less danger to next year's crops.

A very common and easy way of adding humus to the soil during October is to take all the leaves from the lawn and dump them on the garden. Shade tree leaves have absolutely no method of injuring the soil and they very seldom carry infections which will be harmful to garden products the next year. Pine needles are the only leaves which should be avoided as a source of humus for the garden. The odor of burning leaves is all right in the city where there is no use for them, but it should be condemned as a sign of waste in suburban parts of the city or in the country, where such clean wholesome things as autumn leaves can be utilized for beding or the covering of perennials in the garden.

Orchard Refuse.

Some of our Connecticut valley orchardists are complaining because the apple maggots are getting worse in their orchards. Recently one orchardist stated that each year a different variety of his apples had become infected with the apple maggot such that now he believes he might as well cut down his orchard as try to go further in the business. The control of the apple maggot is not yet in hand by anyone. It cannot be irradicated, but it can be controlled to some extent. Most of the complaints regarding the spread of apple maggots have come from people who utilized their small apples, cider apples and drops for feeding hens and hogs or simply have left them under the trees.

There is no better way to encourage the prosperity of these pests than to allow the infested aples to remain on the ground. Each orchard should have a pit where all pruning refuse is dumped, as well as brush that has accumulated and dried during the summer months. All the cull apples from the very smallest drop the size of a strawberry to the very largest King should be dumped over the bank and burned. Many times these apples which are harboring the apple maggot are fed to the hens and hogs, and though a great portion of them is eaten, likewise a large portion is left in the manure and this in turn is carried out to the orchard and makes a perfect home for the dormant stages of this insect. This treatment is not a panacea for insect evils, but is a step which is absolutely essential if one wishes to make progress toward perfect apples.

FARMING AND ACCOUNTS.

Extension Service of State College Ready to Give Help.

Farming is fast becoming recognized as a business and in order to realize the best possible returns it is necessary to have absolute knowledge of the business methods which apply to it. Keeping farm accounts and using them affords the greatest single opportunity to secure this knowledge. Farming is no more a royal road to success than any other business and it takes as good judgment to make a success of it. Many farmers have as much or more capital invested than the average merchant besides having a self-supporting home which is intimately associated. The merchant considers the investment in his business from a standpoint of whether it will bring him more money. Therefore he must know what he is making if he is able to tell whether a change is paying or not. For such information he keeps accounts. Just so with the farmer, only where the merchant is forced to close his doors through poor business methods the farmer is able to stay in the farming business a much longer time because of the fact that it continues to furnish himself with food, fuel and shelter.

Successful farmers will tell you that some system of accounts are absolutely essential in carrying on their business and practically all farmers will agree that "accounts" are a good thing, but the farmer who doesn't know, or worse yet, don't care, or won't try to know, is one who has a poor understanding of his affairs. A farmer can work day after day on the farm and fail to detect items which in a record book becomes conspicuous.

Farm accounting is not a difficult matter. In fact it is often the short time required causes it to be overlooked. Most farmers even though they be awake to the necessity of accounts arranze to enter receipts and expenses together and make their distributions and summaries on rainy days.

Simple farm accounting, rightly used, make a valuable part of every farm business.

The extension service of your state agricultural college will help you get started right, if you wish an account book or any other assistance.—B. W. McDonald, Extension Farm Management, Connecticut Agricultural College.

LIME AND FERTILIZERS.

There is every probability that the freight rate will increase very soon. So that all who need lime and fertilizers should order immediately to get the advantage of the lower rates. Recent papers carry the information that the interestate commerce commission has granted a rehearing to the eastern railroads in regard to their request for a 15 per cent freight increase. This increase will undoubtedly be granted, as it is fair to the railroads, in view of their increased operating expenses. This increase of 15 per cent in the case of a car of lime even on the lowest freight rate would amount to $5 per car. There is also bound to be a shortage of cars later on so that the man who wants to be sure of having fertilizer or lime when it is needed for his crops should order at once.

FALL PLOWING.

Time to Get Ready for Next Year's Seeding.

More attention should be given to the practice of fall plowing as a means of developing a system of farming for more efficient use of man and horse labor as well as other natural advantages which such a practice offers. Man labor constitutes one of the hardest problems encountered on the average farm and the situation seems to be growing more serious each year. For this reason farmers should begin now to get ready for next year's seeding in order to help relieve the labor shortage which seems evident to come.

Horse labor costs fully as much as man labor because of the large amount of time that horses do not work. Fall plowing helps to keep the horses busy and so reduce the cost. Farmers who practice fall plowing not only have a better distribution of labor but are able to fit the ground earlier in the spring which is a material advantage considering the lateness of the past planting season. With much of the work of plowing out of the way the extra labor required during certain critical seasons will be reduced. Frosts on the late plowed fields increases the fertility.

Fall plowing often secures a better crop. Another advantage of breaking up the soil in the late fall is that it exposes to the wintering insects to their natural enemies and to the unfavorable weather which will greatly reduce their numbers.—B. W. McDonald, Extension Farm Management Department, Connecticut Agricultural College.

USE CHEAPER FEEDS—SAVE GRAIN.

The first effect of high-priced grain is to decrease interest in livestock. The competition of two dollar corn and two dollar wheat is driving many a dairy farmer to sacrifice his herd, and many a stock man to sell his corn instead of feeding it on the farm.

Cattle must not be allowed to compete with man for the grain crops. America needs cattle—not to consume the grain on the farm, but to convert grain refuse and roughage into meat and milk.

The United States Department of Agriculture says: "It is time to quit shoveling grain indiscriminately into livestock. Feeding grain to meat animals with a lavish hand is responsible for one of the greatest feed losses on the farms of this country. Hay, fodder, silage, and pasture are the cheapest feeds and will carry animals along with a minimum of grain."

More extensive use of roughage in the cattle ration will release immense quantities of grain for human consumption and still maintain the cattle population of the country.

An Effective Remedy.

You may have observed, as we have done, how intensely loyal to the United States pro-German editors of seditious newspapers become the moment they are placed under arrest. — New Orleans States.

An Explanation.

Possibly the naval operations in the Baltic were caused by the necessity of giving the German fleet something to do besides mutiny.—Chicago Herald.

Danbury.—The Pahquioque club will arrange to open the traps after the bird season closes on Nov. 23, and continue the contests for the Du Pont trophy and the beginners' trophy which were started last summer after the big shoot.

AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS

CULL YOUR PULLETS.

Before They Start on Their Worthless Career.

Why should pullets be put in the laying houses for winter production and fed high priced feed when their present external characteristics indicate that they will at best be only indifferent producers? There are such pullets in every flock. However good the majority may be some are sure to be below the standard.

It has been plainly demonstrated by the poultry department of the Connecticut Agricultural College that the slackers can be culled from a flock of laying hens. The removal of 3,137 slacker hens from flocks totaling 7,556, resulted in a very slight drop in the average egg production from 2130 eggs per day the week before the demonstrations to 2,018 eggs per day the week after the demonstrations. The drop was no more than should normally be expected at this time of year.

Why not cull some of those would-be slackers before they start their worthless career? It is not possible to cull a flock of pullets as closely and accurately as the same flock could be culled at the end of the laying year, but many of the inferior birds can be removed to the decided advantage of the owner.

Methods of selection are similar to those used in culling old hens except that moult and color of shanks, beak and earlobes cannot be considered. Vigor, vitality, maturity, capacity and quality count. Vigor, vitality and maturity can really be considered as one. Birds that are strong, grow rapidly and mature early are the most vigorous. Such birds are usually characterized by a rather short head, bright red comb, prominent eyes, pump body and strong carriage with legs reasonably well apart.

Capacity is absolutely necessary before a pullet can make anything like profitable production. As the pullet nears laying condition, the development of the ovary and oviduct require considerable room in the body cavity. The digestive tract must also expand in both size and length in order to digest and assimilate the additional amount of nourishment required for both maintainance and production. The bones of the body being soft and loose jointed, allow the breast bone to be force downward and forward. The pelvic bones are also forced apart by the contents of the body. A measurement of this capacity may be had by considering the distance between the pelvic bones and the distance across the abdomen between the pelvic bones and the rear end of the breast bone. The exact measurement will vary with different breeds but a pullet ready to lay should show a width of two to three fingers between the pelvic bones and three to four fingers between the pelvic bones and the breast bone.

Quality is that thin soft skin texture and pliable condition of the bones which indicates health. A profitable pullet must be in good condition. A reasonable amount of flesh or reserve energy is necessary to carry a bird through cold weather production. Quality is easily distinguished by the condition of the skin over the breast bone and abdominal cavity. Also the pliableness of the pelvic bones and the prominence and pliableness of the two lateral processes of the breast bone which lie either side of the breast bone and help to suport the abdomen.

The pullets which lay first may be picked out by the general development described above and by the width and color of the vent. The vent color begins to fade out white before any other part of the body and a few days productions will make a considerable change.

Given a flock of pullets all the same age and reared under favorable conditions it is easy to pick out the best and eliminate the slackers. Flocks of different ages with no way of distinguishing each lot are rather hard to cull but careful study will tell you whether immature pullets are young, or older ones stunted. Any individual that is out of condition or backward in growth will be just as backward in paying board bills this winter. Keep only good stock but learn to pick out the good birds and keep all of them. They will pay you well.—R. E. Jones, Extension Poultryman, Connecticut Agricultural College.

CLEARING THE PASTURE.

Time to Remove Brush In Order to Give Cows Better Chance.

Sheep and goats can live on brush and shrubs. A good dairy cow can not. Only moss and lichens can live on stones. Good cows and good pasture is a combination difficult to beat. Now is the time to think of removing the brush from the pasture lot, gathering in piles and burning it. With the high price of coal some of the larger stuff can be trimmed out and used in the house stove.

In clearing up that stone pile or those loose stones in the pasture, don't haul them to some out of the way corner on the farm, but pile along the road ready for crushing when the new town road is built. A hundred rods or a half mile to the road is no farther than a hundred rods or a half mile to some rarely visited back lot, and there is the double advantage of cheapening the cost of road construction and offering an inducement, however slight, for better roads in that neighborhood.

Then with the land cleared and room for grass to grow, use lime (2 000 lbs.) and possibly a little acid phosphate (100 to 200 lbs.) and make the poor grass good and the good grass better. Such treatment will last five or six years.

Lastly, with less brush and stones, and more grass, do not overgraze. As Governor Hoard has said, "If you have pasture enough for ten cows keep twenty. You will get almost as much milk and have more cows."—M. F. Abell, Connecticut Agricultural College.

STORING POTATOES IN LIME.

Many people are storing potatoes this year who have never stored potatoes in any quantity before. As a result there is much uncertainty on the proposition and many questions arising. One of these is whether or not air slacked lime should be used either to sprinkle over the potatoes or to pack them in.

There is no need for using lime at all. Potatoes properly stored will ordinarily keep and if for any reason they tend to spoil the air slacked lime will not prevent the loss.

Other people have asked whether or not there is any special wood that should be used to make the bins seeming to have the idea that certain wood will cause unpleasant flavors. No fears need be entertained however. Any wood that is available may be used without fear of contaminating the potatoes.

The essentials for potato storage are ventilation, darkness, and a temperature between 34 and 50 degrees.

BRIDGEPORT MARKET PLAN A SUCCESS.

Reports from the fruit and vegetable growers of Bridgeport indicate that the plan of employing a market specialist to report daily on market conditions is, with them, a decided success. This is the result of two months of experience and represents a thorough trial of this method of conducting their business. There are at least three other associations in the state which have expressed a desire to put in this service. It represents one of the most important steps taken to improve marketing conditions.—Guy C. Smith.

TO HAVE HEALTHY HOGS.

Cholera, parasites, and pneumonia are some of the worst troubles hog raisers have to fight in the fall and winter. The parasites, or worms as they are commonly called, are always with the hogs more or less. Pneumonia may be prevented by keeping the hogs from taking cold.

Hogs are kept for years on the same lot—generation after generation—until the soil becomes saturated with the different parasites and their eggs. With such surroundings a hog is certain to be affected. The animals look scrawny, and cholera is blamed for their condition.

Sanitation is the foundation of successful hog-raising. A hog lot should be plowed frequently, and thoroughly disinfected. Every two or three years the lot should be changed to a new location. A hog is not dirty in its habits. If given half a chance it will keep clean.

One thing few persons know about a hog: it requires twice the breathing space for its weight as a horse or a cow. A hog can stand only half the exposure. Its fat may seem like a blanket, but the blood is the heat of all animals. A hog gets chilled easily because of the poor surface circulation, contracts pneumonia, dies, and cholera is credited with another victim.

A simple remedy for worms is a mixture of wood ashes, salt, and air-slaked lime, mixed about equal parts. It will not do the hogs any injury if allowed to eat all they wish. This mixture will also help to tone the system.

ALFALFA FOR SHEEP.

Alfalfa, if carefully fed and pastured, is one of the best roughages for sheep. The rapid increase in the production of alfalfa in the United States during recent years has resulted in a more careful study of its possibilities as a food for all classes of live stock. Formerly it was used primarily as a cattle feed, but now it is used as a feed for horses, swine, and sheep.

When alfalfa is pastured, great care should be taken to prevent bloat. If the alfalfa has become woody or is mixed with other grasses the danger is somewhat lessened. Before turning the sheep on alfalfa they should be filled up on hay, fodder, or other roughage, and turn out only when the alfalfa is free from moisture of any kind.

Sheep should never be allowed to pasture more than a short time the first day. The length of time should be increased a little from day to day until the sheep are accustomed to the feed. Flockmasters have found that it is never safe to give sheep free access to an alfalfa pasture.

The amount of alfalfa fed will always depend on the price and the amount available. When it is cheap and plentiful and other roughages are scarce, alfalfa could compose the entire ration of the flock. On the other hand, when hay is scarce and high in price, the ration could be made up of straw, fodder and like roughages.

In experimental trials, averaging 100 days each, alfalfa was compared to timothy and prairie hay. The lots fed alfalfa made greater gains and required less feed per 100 pounds than did those fed prairie and timothy hay.

DOUBLE USE OF HOTBEDS.

I always make it a practice to try to have the pits for the hotbeds dug before the ground freezes. The pits can then be roofed with refuse lumber, poles, or brush, and a covering of straw or corn stover placed over all to bar out frost and snow. Then in February or March, it is an easy job to fill the pits with manure and place the frames and sash in position. The frames can be constructed and the sash got ready under cover during leisure winter days.

These same hotbed pits, I find, make excellent storage for cabbage, celery, and other vegetables and even for apples and tomatoes, provided first-class drainage is arranged for the pits. If you have never made use of hotbeds, try one or more as an experiment and enjoy early green stuff a month or more before the gardening season opens.

The help of having an abundance of early plants for the garden that can be started and rooted in the hotbeds is alone worth the trouble of preparing for the hotbeds.—S. Thorne in Farm and Fireside.

PREPARE FOR ASPARAGUS NOW.

No farm and farmer worthy of the name will now continue to be without an asparagus bed for home use at least. The plants for the new bed should be set just as early in the spring as the soil can be worked without injury. For that reason the plowing or spading should be done at least a foot deep before the ground freezes this fall. The soil cannot be made too rich to grow the best asparagus, so do not be afraid to spread a very heavy covering of good stable manure all over the plot early in the winter. As soon as the soil is fit to cultivate next spring, work in the manure thoroughly and deeply.

For growing green asparagus shoots, which are now being generally preferred, set strong one-year-old plants of some good variety like Palmetto, 3 x 4 feet apart. Do every part of the work well, give clean culture, and continue to fertilize heavily, for a good stand of asparagus means eight to ten annual crops without resetting. Cut only very lightly the year after setting; the second year, moderately; then full cuttings in following years. No garden can now be considered complete without a thrifty supply of asparagus.

WILLIAM C. YOUNG
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RAISE POULTRY—PRODUCE EGGS

By P. G. HOLDEN.

THE high price of feed and the high price of poultry have combined in causing farmers to greatly reduce their flocks and as a result we are facing a serious shortage in poultry and eggs at a time when they are badly needed to help feed the world.

We must not forget that while feed is high and while poultry brings good prices, nothing else costs so little to raise on a farm as chickens, and that eggs are bringing such high prices we cannot afford to shut off the source of their supply.

Large flocks of poultry are needed on every farm, and every farmer should keep his young pullets, which will soon be his best layers. Get rid of the roosters. Avoid wasteful methods in handling poultry and in marketing eggs.

Enormous Waste in Eggs.

The waste in eggs in the United States every year amounts to nearly $50,000,000. It is estimated that 17 per cent of all the eggs produced in this country become unfit for human food before reaching the consumer because of careless methods of handling.

We should help to prevent this loss by producing infertile eggs, by not letting hens nest on the damp ground, by keeping the nests clean, by not washing the eggs, by being careful not to crack them while handling, by gathering eggs daily, by storing them in a cool, dry place and by marketing them at least once a week—twice a week if possible.

Few people understand that eggs are almost as perishable as meat or milk. They belong to the same class of food, but because they are enclosed in a hard shell, many of us think they will stand any kind of treatment.

We will need poultry and eggs. We must produce and conserve them.