

Efficient Farming

SUMMER CARE OF BREEDING STOCK

Many poultrymen, as soon as the hatching season is over, begin to neglect the breeding stock. This is a serious mistake. Much of your success the next year depends on the good condition in which the older birds are kept. Often the feed is reduced at this time as well as the variety curtailed. This is also a mistake. Any one feed alone will not keep the breeders in the best of condition. If they are made to forage for a part of their feed, be sure they have a full feed at night consisting of at least two grains, preferably corn and wheat or corn and oats. Corn, if fed alone, is too fattening, and overfat birds are not in good condition and are susceptible to disease.

It is just as important to feed regularly at this time of the year as ever if you wish to get a good egg production during the summer months, especially the forepart before the birds start to molt.

The health of the fowls requires plenty of water during the hot days of summer. Don't overlook cleaning the drinking vessels each day, inside and out, and scald with boiling water once a week.

If during the breeding season the birds have been yarded, it is best to let them out on free range until next breeding season.

Oyster shells and grit are as necessary now as ever. One pound of oyster shells will furnish enough lime for the shells of about eight dozen eggs. In some sections of the country where limestone is present, the grit obtained by the fowls on range is not sufficiently hard to meet their needs and commercial grit must be supplied. Grit composed of quartz or granite is the best. Oyster shell should not be used as a substitute for grit as it is not hard enough.

A constant supply of charcoal in granulated form should be available to the fowls.

Birds on range find enough green feed for their needs until the ground becomes frozen.

As a rule one need not furnish beef scrap or other animal feed in the spring or early summer as the birds can generally secure a sufficient supply of bugs and worms. Late in summer and in fall it is advisable to furnish something in the way of meat feeds. If you have plenty of milk give them all they will drink as it will take the place of beef scrap.

If some of the heavier breeds are kept such as Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes and Rhode Islands, some provision should be made to break up the hens that become broody. Broody hens rarely if ever lay and therefore hens that are being fed for egg production should be broken up as soon as possible. Broody hens should be removed immediately from the laying house and placed in a coop consisting of a slatted bottom, the coop raised off the ground from six inches to a foot so as to allow the air to circulate freely underneath.

Care should be given to rid the poultry houses of mites as they breed freely during warm weather. They will be found in and around the nests, under the dropping boards and on the roosts. An application once a week of kerosene oil or crude petroleum sprayed thoroughly throughout the house will rid it of these pests. Body lice also must be kept down by a good dusting of sodium fluoride. This should be repeated in three weeks so as to kill the lice that have hatched from eggs that were on the fowls. Another method of killing body lice is to grease around the vent with some good lice ointment.

Remove the male birds from the flock after the hatching season is over so as to produce infertile eggs.

Coal oil and lard don't seem to mix any better than do coal oil and water. Where one is the other isn't, at least for long. A neighbor has just put into use a method that seems to have effectively checked the advance guard of this pest.

Some 2x8's were sawed up into 2x4's, these being as long as the roost platform. With an ordinary rabbit plane, grooves were cut a quarter inch deep and a quarter inch wide and in each was laid a thick cord of soft cotton, one end protruding three to four feet from one end. The other end was placed two inches from the end of the groove and the remaining portion of the groove filled with a wooden plug.

Then on top of this, with the cord in place, a strip two inches wide by one inch thick was tacked and the top surface rounded off with a plane.

The roosts were then placed in position, all the cords which had been left extending at one end. At this end a three-gallon tin pail was set on a support nailed to the wall and the free ends of the cords run up over the top and dropped inside. Then the pail was filled half full of coal oil. The surplus from the saturated cords soaked into the wood, forming roosts which were practically louse-proof. About a quart of oil a week was used.

Foot and mouth disease has proved to be one of the most stubborn and elusive contagions that science has ever studied, but in Germany two bacteriologists working in collaboration have succeeded in isolating the organism of the disease and have prepared both liquid and solid cultures from it. The way is now clear for experiments that hitherto have been impossible, and in time a cure for the disease will be found. The discoveries are too late to help either England or the western States in the present epidemic, but will probably save countless cattle in the future.

Canadian Dairying

The year 1923 will be looked back upon as a milestone in the progress of Canadian dairying for the season. The systematic grading of all butter and cheese for export was inaugurated in that year. The work has been carried out with less difficulty than was anticipated, and in the light of the past year's experience and with some improvement in the regulations, we have reason to believe," states Commissioner Riddick, "that in future the grading system will run even more smoothly than it has done so far. It is too early yet to talk much about results, and yet evidence can be produced to prove that there has been decided improvement in the quality of the cheese and butter in a great many cases, and that it was due to the grading is freely admitted by those most concerned."

Hoos

"The time to begin feeding a pig is about six months before he is born. That's the way one of our neighbors put it the other day. Meaning, of course, that the mother should be put in condition and kept in condition to farrow and raise a profitable litter. It is asking too much of Nature to keep a sow in a dry lot on a ration of grain and water and expect sizable litters of husky pigs.

Good forage—alfalfa, clover, bluegrass in season, rape, Sudan—a light ration of grain, some tankage, free access to a mineral mixture and plenty of water and a dry bed will solve most of the pig troubles.

The Hired Man's Evening

I finish the chores while he smokes by the grate; Wife walks around him with dishcloth and plate; If his mood is to doze the children must hush, And the hired girl starts his favorite mush.

—Somple.

The Sunday School Lesson

JUNE 22

Reforms Under Ezra and Nehemiah, Ezra, chs. 7 to 10; Nehemiah, chs. 5, 8 and 13. Golden Text—Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts.—Malachi 3: 7.

The reign of Artaxerxes I, king of Persia (Ezra 7:1), began in B.C. 464, more than seventy years after the return of the exiles under Zerubbabel and Joshua, and fifty-two years after the completion of the building of the temple. It was early in this reign, about B.C. 458, that Ezra, a learned and pious man, of one of the old priestly families, came from Babylon to Jerusalem with a large company, Ezra, ch. 8. He had made a special study, in his Babylonian Jewish home, of those books which the exiles had carried with them, and especially of the ancient laws of Israel. "He was a ready scribe in the law of Moses." In the king's decree which authorized his journey he is called "the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven."

Ezra came to Jerusalem on a mission of reform. For he had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments." The king's decree authorized him to appoint magistrates and judges who would enforce the law, Ezra 7:25, 26. To the task of teaching and reform he set himself with prayer and with zeal.

The journey from Babylon was begun with a solemn fast that, he says, "We might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way." He admitted with refreshing frankness that having said to the Persian king, "The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him," he was afterwards ashamed to ask for a military escort on the long and dangerous journey, but God brought his company safely upon its way. He inaugurated his mission in Jerusalem by prayer (Ezra, ch. 9) and his earnestness and deep feeling made a profound impression upon the people.

Neh. 8:1-3. The last verse of the preceding chapter should be read with this chapter. The of this assembly is the seventh month of the twentieth year of Artaxerxes; that is, the year B.C. 444, fourteen years after the coming of Ezra. Nehemiah, a Jew of high official rank in the Persian court, is now governor. Like Ezra, he came to Jerusalem with a sincere purpose to help the people. His first task had been to rebuild the walls of the city, which seem never to have been restored since the destruction of the city by Nebuchadnezzar in B.C. 586, unless the story told in Ezra 4: 7-23 represents an attempt at rebuilding earlier in the reign of Artaxerxes. This gave the people renewed courage and hope. The walls provided security and a means of defence against the attacks of jealous enemies. The governor rendered another great service to the people when he persuaded rich creditors to release the mortgages which they held on the fields of their poorer brethren, to set free those who had been sold into slavery for debt, and no longer to exact usurious interest on loans made to those who were in distress. (See ch. 5.)

The book of the law of Moses was the same, or almost the same, as the Pentateuch. It was a collection of the ancient law codes, together with the history of the beginnings of the Jewish people, revised and adapted to the needs of this later age. Ezra now brought the law before the congregation. He read in the ears of all who could understand, standing in the broad place (Rev. Ver.) or public square, inside the city gate, upon a high platform which had been erected for him.

Vs. 8-12. "They read in the book," the scene as described was an impressive one. When Ezra opened the book all the people stood up. When they all answered "Amen," lifting up their hands and bowing their heads in worship. Then Ezra and his associates read and explained to the people the meaning of what they read. They probably divided the people into companies, which, after listening to Ezra, assembled in different parts of the square with their respective instructors. They "gave the sense, so that they understood the reading."

Much of the language of the ancient law was probably strange and unintelligible to these people. The language was slowly changing. Old terms had become obsolete, old customs had passed away, and old laws were retained, but with a new interpretation to fit the present need. Ezra and his fellow teachers thus did a great educative work, and rendered a service both to religion and good citizenship.

The governor, who is called by his Persian title *Tirshatha*, associated himself with Ezra in this important task, and joined with him and his Levites in proclaiming this day a holy day, and a day of rejoicing. The people had wept when they heard the great and inspiring story of the wilderness of Sinai and the wilderness of the day, and when they realized how they had departed from the law of their God. But the infirmity of their leaders was "Neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

There is something very instructive and inspiring in the narrative of the lesson passage—"the children of Israel," gathered together as one community to listen to the exposition of the Law, under the guidance of Nehemiah and Ezra. These were "red letters" days surely (read chs. 8, 9 and 10), and at the close came the signing of the solemn league and covenant to be faithful to the Law. We see here the value of a common religious impulse. Princes, Levites, priests and the people generally, were all moved by the desire to ascertain the divine will and conform to it. A mass movement of this kind is of incalculable value. For example, the organization of the early church began after the

WAYSIDE DELICATESSEN

Something out of the ordinary can be tried out with success, if you are anxious to get the very top price for the produce you have on the farm. Every one is familiar with the "stands" along the country roads where you can buy fresh vegetables or fruit, eggs and poultry, but it is only recently that I came across two farm girls who are trying out something new.

They explained that they overheard a man who was in the ice cream business and who was about to sell out, tell the percentage of profit in every gallon of ice cream which he sold. "Well it is the same thing with any made-up product," he added, "you make up your eggs into salad dressing and put the finished product out for sale and see what your eggs will bring you."

"It gave me the idea for a wayside delicatessen," said the girls. "What time of day do the most people drive past here? What are the cooked commodities that people want mostly in the summer? What would our farm supply us with most continuously? What quantities should we prepare? These were some of the questions.

"We found that the greatest number of people passed betw. the hours of four and eight in the late afternoon, so decided to keep open at that time. We advertised our location, which was a mile and a half from town and on a gravelled road, and advertised a few made-up dishes such as salad dressing, apple pie, cakes, potato chips and crullers, as well as fresh tomatoes, etc.

"We placed a question box at our gateway and people were asked to write their wants, and suggestions as how we could fill them, and then place their requests in the box. "Our trade commenced. We were careful to study store prices on cooked foods, and kept in touch with market prices on garden stuff, butter and eggs. We counted the time used in making cake, salad dressing, or apple pie, besides the actual cost of materials used. We also figured on our 'overhead' of advertising, service in selling, and the price of cartons and containers used in putting our materials up for sale.

"Figure out, if you can, how much you will receive from a bushel of potatoes if you sell them in the form of potato chips. Or count up the price of a peck of apples if sold in pie. Deduct, too, the time it would take in getting these to market and the waste you might have if you were just selling to a town store.

"We began to develop new ideas as soon as our trade began. 'Can't you put up individual picnic lunches?' asked a girl who often went with a crowd of young people to the grove a mile farther on. 'Yes,' we told her. 'If the order is given the day before. Thus we built up a picnic trade. We also learned that pie sold in sections brings even more than a whole pie. But we kept our service hours strictly from four to eight, for we could not afford to take time from preparing our 'dishes' to wait on trade which came at any time.

"Then our signs are effective. Our house is the centre of our front

Does Your Child Get His Rights?

BY HELEN JOHNSON KEYES.

This Age of the Child is making people think. Wise men and women are studying him, writing books about him, making laws for his protection. The world is determined that children, the men and women of the near future, shall be given their rights.

By this, however, is not meant a training which will allow them to do as they please—to run wild. Such an education would not ensure their rights, but destroy them. Their rights are not acts of license, but a thorough training for life.

Of course, at all times good parents have sought to prepare their boys and girls for usefulness in the world; but there is a decided difference in the way we do it and the way it used to be done. This difference, I believe, is a good one. It lies in the fact that we try to create favorable conditions in which a child may grow naturally, whereas, of old, people did not think much about conditions, but attempted to shape and mold the child himself by constant instruction, punishment and rewards.

Our idea now is to make the soil—that is, the home life—as rich and fertile as possible for our youngsters. Like the farmer who, when he has cultivated, watered, and drained his garden, feels confident of a good crop, so we, when we have made home what it should be, feel pretty sure that the characters which we have planned will grow into sturdy men and women.

If, however, we are careless of the home garden and let our children grow up in shallow or unsympathetic surroundings, not all the teaching, preaching, and punishing in the world will make them strong and fine, any more than water and sunshine given to ripe vegetables after they lie in the pan ready for cooking will make them large and of a delicious flavor if they have been grown in uncultivated soil.

By children's rights, then, we mean a thorough training for life, and they must receive this training in good homes—homes which are good for them.

What does the home which is good for children have? It has a spirit of partnership, for this gives children the training in helpfulness and in the power to cooperate which is their right. All children older than three or four years can perform certain daily tasks of real usefulness. Mothers should study the powers of their children and give them to do that of which they are capable. It is at this tender age that little people are most anxious to help, but because their efforts are slow and blundering it is natural to check them and perform the labor one's self. Then they grow up with the habit of not doing, and when they are older we blame them for selfishness. There ought to be a family council in which are discussed the best color for the new barn and the best fencing for the fields. The children must express their views and be shown the reasons which guide their elders. Thus they will feel that the home is theirs and worth making sacrifices for. The home which is good for children allows the young people to own and develop property, for so are cultivated a sense of responsibility, a perception of the manner in which we reap what we sow, and a respect for contracts, age

One Cause of Missing

Sometimes the engine of the farm truck or car will miss intermittently. It will run all right for a period and then suddenly develop a spell of missing. Often we go to the trouble and expense of having the valves reground, new spark plugs installed, or having the carburetor readjusted, only to discover later that the trouble is in the ignition. However, when trouble of this kind occurs there is a simple and effective method of determining whether it is in the ignition or not.

When one of the missing spells begins, remove the high tension wire from any one spark plug and with the engine running hold the end of this wire one-sixteenth of an inch away from the end of the porcelain to which it is normally attached, so that in addition to the spark gap inside the cylinder the spark will also have to jump a one-sixteenth inch gap in the outside air. If the spark continues to jump regularly the ignition is all right in that cylinder at least. On the other hand, if the spark jumps eight or ten times and then misses once, only to jump regularly for six or seven times and then miss again, it is a positive indication that ignition is at fault.

Those Oily Rags May Start a Fire

Cotton rags which are moist with linseed oil and turpentine, and especially if damp with water, if left overnight in a wad are ideal for causing spontaneous combustion. When you are doing painting or having painters at work, rags or waste are used, and very often the paint is mixed in the cellar. Some of the waste or cotton rags are likely to be left around.

It is best to burn these rags when the day's work is done. Springtime generally brings a lot of cleaning and painting—remember about those rags. In fact, any oily rag is likely to cause a fire, especially if left in a bundle. Oil mops ought to be kept in tin cans, and away from paper and other combustible material.

I Sort Them Up

I have marketed some vegetable crops and other products. I found that common stuff put up in the common way, such as is popular with most farmers, will sell slowly when good products assorted to a uniformity will sell much better. They told me my tomatoes would not sell, but when they were assorted into even sizes and color, each specimen looking like its neighbor, they appeared and sold. Apples assorted to size and color will bring more than the same apples mixed. I always put up my radishes, asparagus, or onions in bunches of as like appearance as I could, and it paid.—A. H.

Some men never find the key to success because they don't look in the right place—inside their own minds.

FORTY

Turret N suit o

A despot says—Through the door of Thursday, a drill ground shell in one ret No. 2, according to given out. Steamship N vision Four Nearly a by the flare-ric charge gon instead

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DICK CAN NOW

They kept it up, as I have said, for quite a while, did Jim and Ed; And it appears, unless I'm wrong, That both their dads' were pretty strong.