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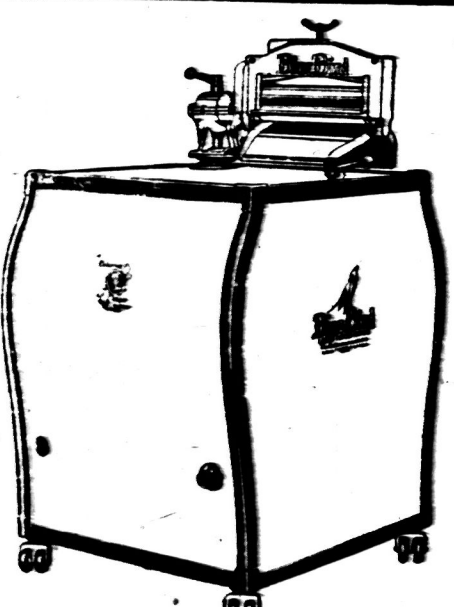
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MENS AND EGG LAYING

A Message About the Handling of Runyard Poultry

How to Tell the Layers—Conditions Necessary for Production—High Egg-Yielding—Distribution of Eggs—More Poultry Points.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

Can you tell which hens are laying without the use of trap nests? This is easy to determine if one will go to the trouble of handling each bird suspected of being a loafer. When a hen commences to lay, conditions in the organs concerned in reproduction are quite different from conditions observed during the period of idleness. When the ovary is dormant and no eggs are being produced the distance between the pelvic bones is small. The vent is dry, small, puckered, and, in yellow fleshed chickens, has a band of yellow pigment around the inside. When laying commences the pelvic bones become pliable and spread apart to permit the passage of the egg. The vent becomes large and moist and the ring of yellow pigment disappears. A visit to the poultry house on an early winter evening, and a half hour spent in going over the hens will be profitable.

Conditions Necessary for Production.
The experience of the Ontario Agricultural College Poultry department has been that a hen will not lay if not in good condition. She should be healthy, free from any disease, and show plenty of vigor and activity. The first pullets to lay in the fall have been the early maturing ones. The pullets that have developed slowly in body and feather have been just as slow in starting to lay. The results of liberal feeding and general good care have always been reflected in the pullet flock and a full egg basket during the period of early winter high prices.

High Egg Production.
The requirements for high egg production are clean, dry, comfortable houses, that are free from direct draughts over the birds, and that are well lighted. The feeding consists of a variety of grains, green feed, animal feed, grit and shell, which is clean, sweet and wholesome, and is given to the birds regularly, and in such quantities that they have all they want to eat before going to roost at night; that the supply of drinking material is clean and abundant; that the attendant is regular in his or her work, and is interested in the same; that the birds are bred from good laying ancestors, and that they are hatched at the proper season and well reared, and are free from disease.

Distribution of Eggs.
A study of the distribution of the egg production is interesting and important from the point of the annual returns from the birds. Egg prices rise and fall with the seasons, and usually the greatest profit is made where producing eggs at a season or seasons of the year when prices are high. Pullets are the chief source of egg supply. As stated previously, they require usually from six to seven months in which to mature. It is, therefore, possible to regulate their production in the fall months at least to some extent by regulating the time they will hatch in the spring.—Dept. of Extension, G. A. College, Guelph.

More Poultry Pointers.
Crows are likely to steal the eggs from the late turkey nests if the nests are made at some distance from the buildings.

Be sure that the young growing chicks are well fed to promote growth and that they are given liberal range where there is abundance of green feed and also animal feed in the form of insects, worms, etc.

It is poor economy to keep more cockerels than will be needed for next year's breeding operations. If they are sold as soon as they are of broiler or fryer size a loss will be stopped and the pullets will do better without them.

Cold, damp, poorly lighted and ventilated poultry quarters favor the spread of such diseases as roup. Such contagious diseases as these are difficult and sometimes impossible to control unless given attention in the early stages. Wherever preventive measures fail, separate sick birds from the flock as soon as there is evidence of disease and then obtain expert advice to effect a cure.

If the chickens must be confined on account of bad weather, provide a good straw litter to which their grain feed may be scattered. This will give them exercise and keep them interested and healthy. When chickens that have been accustomed to free range are closely confined this frequently checks their development for the time being unless they are made contented in their new quarters. Provide green feed for them also.

Indian Runner ducks seem to have gone out of fashion, which is a pity, as they are excellent layers, and stand at the head as table fowls. They are easily raised, do not make the disagreeable noises that other ducks do, and eat less than any other breed of ducks. They thrive on coarse feed, and can be raised cheaply and safely, as a duck hatched usually means one raised to maturity.

When We Plant a Tree.
What do we plant when we plant the tree?

We plant the houses for you and me. We plant the rafters, the shingles, the floors, the doors, the studding, the laths, the beams and siding; all parts that be; We plant the house when we plant the tree.

A clean, disinfected stall is the surest preventive of joint ill in colts.

AGRICULTURE IN ONTARIO

The Genesis of Agricultural Societies in Ontario

The First Association in Upper Canada—Birth of the Provincial Fair—Growth of the Department of Agriculture—Later Extension of Work.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The honor of holding the first Agricultural Fair in Canada falls to Windsor, N.S., in 1765, about 160 years ago, and soon other Agricultural Societies fell into line in Nova Scotia, including one at Halifax in 1789 and another in King's County. This latter is the only one of the old societies in the Maritime Provinces that has survived to the present day. The prizes offered at Windsor were in good and medals. To the persons bringing the greatest number of cattle were awarded three yards of English blue superfine broadcloth and a silver medal. For horses, a saddle, bridle, whip, spurs and a medal were the rewards, and a churn for the best cow, while for the best twelve pounds of butter or cheese the prize was six yards of ribbon and a medal. The progress of organizing Agricultural Societies in a newly settled country was naturally slow at first; but it is worthy of mention that the first Province to introduce imported stock was New Brunswick, which brought over, in 1826, four Shorthorn bulls, which were recorded in the first volume of the English Herd Book. A provincial exhibition was held in Fredericton, N.H., in October, 1862. An Agricultural Society was organized in Montreal in 1788 and another in Quebec in 1789.

The First Society in Upper Canada.
Settlement in Ontario commenced in 1793, and in 1791 had progressed sufficiently along the Niagara river and peninsula to justify the formation of an Agricultural Society on October 23 of that year. This pioneer Ontario society had its headquarters at Niagara-on-the-Lake, then known as Newark. Governor Simcoe took a great interest in it and was its first president. The first efforts of its members were directed to the holding of monthly meetings to discuss agricultural questions, and an agricultural library was also established. The holding of an exhibition naturally followed.

Agricultural Societies gradually became organized all over Ontario, as settlement in the province progressed. In 1830, the Legislature passed regulations governing same and set apart grants. Eight hundred dollars was apportioned to each District Society to enable it to hold an exhibition in addition to the work it had previously undertaken.

An Agricultural Society for the County of York was organized in 1830. Seeds and implements were procured from the Old County for members. A progressive member was sent to New York State who purchased four bulls for the use of the Society. Soon after an exhibition was held, and prizes were awarded for essays on agricultural subjects.

Birth of the Provincial Fair.
In 1845 a Provincial Association was formed, and in 1846 the first Provincial Fair was held in Toronto, out of which have grown the world-wide-known Canadian National Exhibition, the Western Fair and the Central Canada Exhibition.

The Provincial Association gradually became better organized and developed into the Agriculture and Arts Association, which did so much for the improvement of agriculture in the province in the earlier days. Among the many useful lines of work inaugurated were the establishment of the Veterinary College, the registering of pure bred stock, the awarding of prizes for the best kept farms and buildings and well cultivated fields, and, indirectly, the Agricultural College at Guelph.

Creation of Department of Agriculture.

Agriculture soon became such an important feature in Ontario that a Commissioner of Agriculture was appointed; and eventually the Provincial Government created a Department of Agriculture, thus recognizing this basic industry as of equal importance with those which came under the supervision of the other departments of the Government. Thus out of that little society organized in 1791 in old Niagara-on-the-Lake, with a score or less of competitors, and a modest prize list of a few pounds, have developed not only the three great exhibitions in the province, but also the important Department of Agriculture with its numerous branches and with local representatives in every county and district, bringing information and assistance to farmers desirous of making use of it.

Later Extension of Work.

The three hundred and sixty Agricultural Societies in the Province of Ontario have made rapid progress in late years. In 1907 a new departure was inaugurated, and a grant was made by the Ontario Government for the holding of standing Field Crop Competitions, each society selecting the desired kind of grain or other crop grown for seed.

With the exception of ten societies, which devote their energies wholly to the keeping and maintenance of pure-bred male animals for which they receive certain grants, all the societies hold fall fairs and exhibitions. Spring stock and seed shows are also conducted with great success.—J. Lockie Wilson, Supt. of Agricultural Association.

Before you can have real good hogs of any breed you must have a good hog mother and a good hog sire. The idea is to raise big litters that will grow rapidly and large and make the most pork for the least feed.

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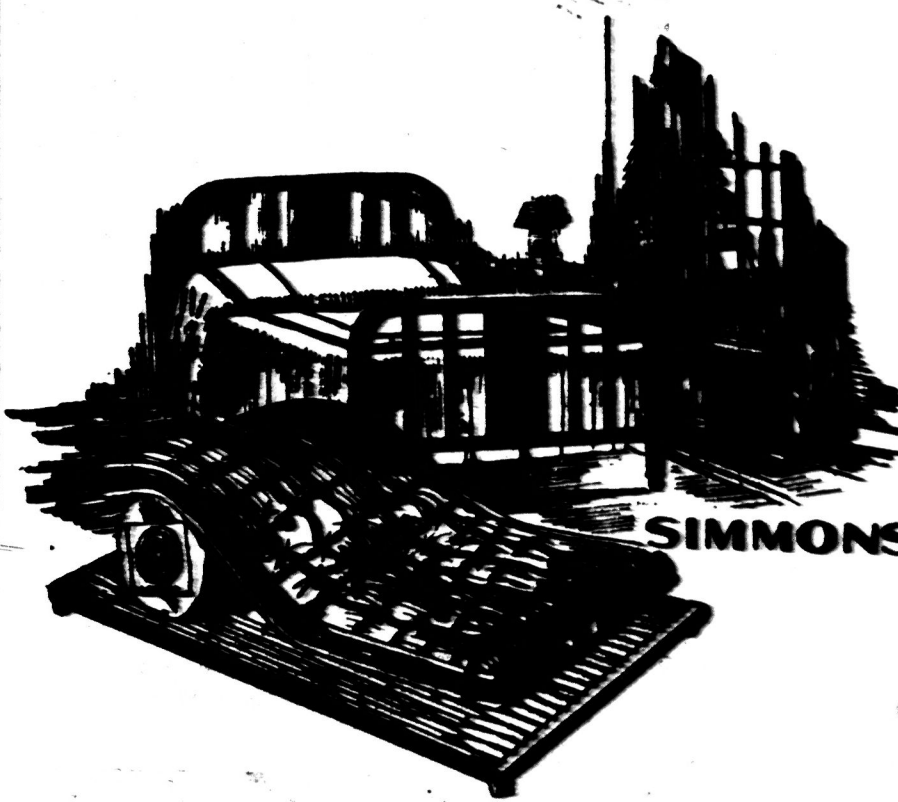
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Rev. J. A. church, acted evening. A community sing

Ethel Marshall and Donald K. young people, ward," was enjoyed

In an excellent Vokes, Superintendent School, emphasizing the importance of

our boys and girls. An interesting program was the watch to the Miss Cora Hen of the Ladies' church, and although the Henning made

Nanticoke, Ontario. Dear Cora: The Ladies' church, Nanticoke, Ontario, opportunity of having so faithful a list of the church thing of what and effort to be and for each of unsparingly your talent as week "ministry of music" than we ordinarily still more as we receive the hour which worship.

That this exhibition may be a form, we ask you gift, which we feel and as regards will and often that the Ladies' gation of the coke, are not has contributed pleasure and

Signed on behalf of a social hour last, but by no on the program enjoying the benefit of the ladies of the Nat a pleasant evening

TO PR

The Christ sent a play "T 25th Hall, Nanticoke, Ont. Proceeds fund.

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