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RURAL TOPICS

THE POPULARITY OF BACON.

Prof. Snyder, of the Minnesota Station, gives the following reasons why bacon has become so popular and desirable. In reference to tests made at the station, he says it was cut in thin slices and baked or broiled in the oven until crisp and brown.

All the fat which was cooked out was saved and eaten with bread and other foods which made up the daily fare. On an average about ninety-four per cent. of the protein and ninety-six per cent. of the fat of the ration containing bacon were digested, and about eighty-eight per cent. of the energy was available. Calculated values for bacon alone showed over ninety per cent. protein and 4 and 5 pound digestible fat, which is about two-thirds as much as is found in butter.

"Lean bacon," says the professor, "contains about twice as much digestible fat as other meats, making it at the same time, and even at a higher price per pound, a cheaper food than other meats. Bacon fat is easily digestible, and when combined with other foods it appears to exert a favorable mechanical action upon digestion."

As the value of bacon becomes more generally appreciated those breeds which will produce the greatest proportion of this meat when compared with whole weight of carcass will become more popular. It will then be a common thing to find Tamworths and Yorkshires on every farm, especially outside the "corn belt."

The Durocs are not far behind these in bacon production, though in some localities they partake of the characteristics of the lard hogs. For the benefit of those who still wish to be loyal to the old breeds it may be said that feeding so as to develop bone and muscle, that is feeding plentifully of food containing abundant proteins, like the different legumes, mixed wheat bran and shorts, tankage, etc., will tend to develop a growthy animal with long and deep body that will make a fine quality of bacon. If this method of feeding is carried on for a few years and a wise selection of breeding animals is made, it will not be a difficult matter to partly eliminate the characteristics of a breed whose staple diet has been corn, and in place of the lard hog we shall find the one producing bacon.

POULTRY NOTES.

It is not always the fat hen that becomes broody.

The scratching hen gives her chicks much exercise.

Pullets hatched now will come in for late summer layers.

Give the whole wheat to the hen and soft feed to the chicks.

Drive the young under shelter during sudden showers of rain.

Try a campher ball for lice. Place one in each nest as you set the hen. Whole corn, grit and fresh water are the best fare for the sitting hen.

The fact that the hen is laying is no sign that she wants to leave her young.

Keep food constantly before the sitting hen so she can help herself at will.

Thirteen eggs in early spring and fifteen during late spring and summer are large enough sittings.

Whitewash the interior of your coops and sprinkle carbolic lime on the floor. This disinfection drives away lice.

A few raw eggs mixed with the food about once a week will check any tendency to looseness of the bowels.

Covered runs are a protection from hawks, cats or dogs. They should be moved to fresh plots of grass each week.

Brahmas and Cochins are good hatchers, but their clumsiness breaks a good many eggs and kills quite a number of chicks.

Bowel trouble that carries off many chicks when one or two weeks old may be often corrected by taking away their drinking water and giving scaled milk instead.

Scatter the floor of the pen with straw cut in lengths not over an inch so that the hen can teach her young how to exercise for the grain.

ONE BREED BEST.

Whether your stock is Jersey, Holstein, Guernsey, Brown Swiss, or any other class of cattle, stick to your text, and once having made up your mind what you want, keep on in that line with a pure bred herd of some kind, and as a general proposition a better grade of milkers than to jump from one breed to another each succeeding season.

You get a reputation in a short time of having a herd of Jerseys, Holsteins, Swisses, or some other breed of cattle, even if you never had a pure bred female on the place, providing you have a sire of the same breed for two or three succeeding generations.

Even with the greatest care that can be used in selecting calves there will be disappointments. Occasionally a calf that you expected the greatest things from proves a disappointment. The best sires are often sacrificed before their real worth is known. On several occasions we would have given many times what a comparatively good bull could be bought for if we could get back some animal that had been sent to the butcher before his real worth as a breeder was known. Of course this is an unfortunate condition that only time and close observation on the part of the breeder can obviate.—W. E. Jones, before Illinois Dairymen's Association.

CORN AND COB MEAL.

In careful feeding tests it has been found that 100 pounds of corn and cob meal, when ground fine, is equal to 100 pounds of corn meal in fattening hogs. This shows the value of the cobs in the feeding problem when ground. While the nutrition in cobs is not equal in per cent. of

their weight in a bushel of corn, the difference is made up in the greater economy of digestion when ground and fed with the corn. In other words, the ground cob with the corn aids in digestion and enables the hog to assimilate the nutrition in the grain meal the better. This has been shown by repeated experiments in hog feeding. In these times of high priced corn, when we come to consider the weight of cobs in a bushel of ear corn, the matter becomes an interesting one to hog feeders, especially so if they have their feed mills with power to run them, aside from which there is very little expense.—Rural Life.

FOR THE INDIVIDUAL DAIRYMAN

Every individual dairyman appoints himself an investigator and executive committee of one to discover the things that make for an unhealthy quality of milk, and then set about to adjust his conditions to the point where he is able to produce a first class article.

The condition of market milk, especially that shipped over long distances, has grown to be so insufferable that the consumers rebel against it.

Under no circumstances should anything be added to milk to prevent it souring. Such things violate the laws of both God and man. The chemicals which are used for this purpose are slow poisons. Cleanliness and cold are the only preservatives needed.

Keep healthy cows. Promptly remove suspected animals. In particular, add no cows to the herd unless it is certain that they are free from tuberculosis.—Holstein-Friesian Register.

HOLSTEIN-JERSEY CROSS.

A dairyman, Salamanca, N. Y., wants to know what we think of the Holstein-Jersey cross for a good milk and butter cow.

We will say frankly that we believe it would be about the most foolish thing a man could think of. Why cross the breeds, and thereby obliterate those blood lines that have been developed through years of continuous breeding. You have nothing to gain. The most valuable quality of the male—prepotency—is lost. The offspring of such a cross will be an unknown quantity. If you want a cow that comes nearer to your ideal; a cow that gives more milk than the Jersey and richer milk than the Holstein, why not sell your Jerseys and Holsteins and buy Guernseys. Don't mix the breeds.—J. D. W., Wellsville, N. Y. Rural Life.

FAVORS FEEDING WHOLE GRAIN.

Among all our experimenters and investigators, we have probably no more practical one than Dr. Voorhes, of New Jersey. He says: "Nature has provided in the whole grain good proportions of the pure nutrients, usually associated with the crude fiber in such a way as to make it a difficult matter to cause injury even from careless methods of feeding, while the manufacture, on the other hand, removes more or less of one of these nutrients."—Rural Life.

VENTILATION OF STABLE.

If your stable is ventilated only from above, you are drawing off the warm air, which means loss to the cows in comfort, and loss of the purest air. Foul air must be drawn off on a level with the stable floor, for bad air is much heavier than good air. When the cows lie down and the ventilation is poor, they breathe foul air. It has its effect on the cows as well as on the product.

A COW SHED.

Have you an open shed facing the sunshine for your cows to run under in the warm part of the day? If not wouldn't it be a good plan to build one as soon as you can? The stock will take lots of comfort in it.

CLEAN MILK.

You will need to take extra pains to have your milk clean and free from colors now. But you can do it by taking care to wipe the udders off clean, and by bedding the cows, and carrying them every day. Don't miss any of these things.

MONARCHS AS BALLET DANCERS.

King Edward Graceful and Nimble Footed—Henry VIII's Pride. One is not surprised to learn that Prince Edward of Wales is one of the most promising of all the dancing pupils at the Royal Naval College, Osborne, for skill in dancing seems to run in the royal blood of England.

Kind Edward in his younger days was as graceful and nimble a dancer as you would find in England, as many of his partners, now stately dowagers, love to recall; and so, with scarcely an exception, are all members of his family.

Henry VIII's dancing, from the pavon to "contrato high," was the envy and despair of his courtiers, but he was prouder of his performance in the ballet.

Queen Elizabeth had no rival in the stately pavon unless it was her favorite partner, Sir Christopher Hatton, and Queen Mary's grace and agility in the ballet sent more than one poet into raptures.

Charles II., however, seems to have been the king of royal dancers. He never knew when to stop, for when every one of his courtiers was dropping from fatigue he would call for a round of country dances. "Indeed," says Pepys, "he dances rarely."—Westminster Gazette.

The cultivation of pepper is official-

ly reported to be continually extending in the province of Coors, where it is said to be gradually replacing coffee in abandoned areas.

About one-seventh of the area of Ireland is bog.

HINTS FOR FARMERS.

The following is furnished by the Farm Journal, Philadelphia, Pa.:

THE POULTRY YARD.

Good sour milk is fine for the little chicks—and the big ones, too. Give them some every day.

I find beets far superior to any kind of roots. I hang them up so that the fowls will have to stretch to get them.

Sitting hens are lice breeders. This is one reason why the incubator is to be preferred for hatching chickens.

It is not too late to order a setting of eggs in order to introduce some new blood in your flocks. Better do it right away.

Nests that are set outdoors in barrel nests will not only do better work, but will be less likely to have vermin to contend with.

I feed my chickens on boards that are kept clean by scrubbing, and since doing so have not lost a chicken with the gapes.

The secret in growing May-hatched chickens is to feed well, provide some shade in the runs, and see that the chicks get some green food.

The first thing that should be done after removing the pretty, downy chicks and their mother from the nest, is to destroy with fire the old billing in that nest.

If the chicks are not growing, something is sure to be wrong with the management. Keep them housed from cold winds and dampness. Chilling lowers their vitality.

The first of May is a good time to set the turkey eggs, as the weather is warmer and there is less danger of the cold, rainy spells that so tell on the April-hatched turkey.

A red rag hung to the top of a four-foot stick in the ground near the coop will give the hawks and the crows a pointer that they had better keep away; they are likely to mind it, too.

Never fuss with the sitting hen; let her alone. See that she is constantly provided with water and food, so that she can help herself at will, and then allow her to do the rest. She knows her business.

OUT OF THE GINGER JAR.

Let the merchant advertise. The farmer fertilize. The minister spiritualize. And the lawyer talk.

The best remedy for cold ears is to rub them together.

The cup that really cheers is the coconut shell at a cool spring along a dusty road.

Is there such another, pray, Wonder-making month as May? Farmers are the most generous of men. After butchering they always give a hog a weigh.

Do not buy all the machinery for yourself; remember your wife's burdens might be lessened also.

To the growing boy who is mainly made up of appetite, it seems miles from the field to the dinner table.

Prompt and regular settlements are commendable from every point of view. Even the weather settles every few days.

This is the season when farmers are obliged to make everybody and everything bustle. They even work the butter.

The middleman is all right in his place. It is when he reaches out and tries to overlap both ends that he becomes offensive.

A Tennessee farmer keeps two bird dogs, three hounds for a fox hunt, a shepherd for cattle, a terrier for rats, and a thoroughbred bulldog for agents and tramps.

There is nothing mean or narrow about the American hen. She cackles for all, and last year she supplied Cuba with a million dollars' worth of prime eggs, to say nothing of the enormous quantities sent to England and other countries.

MAYTIME COMES.

The long willow-tips, yellow and slender. Dip where the dark water shines: The note of the wood-dove, low and tender.

Sounds from the sentinel pines. Two and two, go the birds together. Cooing a spring song sweet: In the perfumed dusk of sweet May weather.

The thrushes the evening greet.

THE PLOWBOY.

A rattle of chains and a trample. Out in the stable I hear. The plowboy and horses, so gentle. Then out in the barnyard appear. He snaps them and straps them together.

He smiles and his ruddy face glows: He speaks and they quickly obey him: Then off o'er the green field he goes.

All day long in the furrow He sings and he whistles, or dreams: Perhaps all the day he is planning His future and working his schemes. Few are the sorrows that find him. Life to him but a charm: What can be purer and better Than the life of the boy on the farm?

BUSINESS ECONOMY.

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In the little mountain republic of Switzerland dairy farming approaches nearest to perfection. One of the queer things noticed in that land is that the maids always sing while milking. A cow likes to hear the human voice in song, and the better the singing the more milk she gives. This is no joke, but an authenticated fact. The Swiss maid who can milk and make good butter and is possessed of a musical voice is assured of a good dairy position.—Grit.

If you would retain your friends don't make them envy you.

Landseekers' Excursions The Big Horn Basin and Yellowstone Valley

On the first and third Tuesdays of each month, May to November inclusive, I will personally conduct Landseekers' Excursions to the Big Horn Basin, Wyo., and Yellowstone Valley, Montana. The earlier in the season you go, the better. Train Leaves Omaha 4:30 P. M., Chicago 8:15 A. M., St. Louis 8:02 A. M. These sections are rapidly increasing in population and the new towns are growing fast. Opportunities to acquire land, stated briefly, as follows: 14,000 acres of homestead land near Garland, Wyo., irrigated by the Government, now ready for settlers. 16,000 acres of homestead land, irrigated by the Government, and 15,000 acres under the Carey Act, ready for settlers in the vicinity of Ballantine, Huntley and Billings, Mont. 5,000 acres under the Carey Act ready for settlers May 12th, near Cody, Wyo. 60,000 acres under the Carey Act now ready for settlers in the vicinity of Worland, Basin, Greybull and Lovell, Wyo.

Our newholder with large map, giving full and complete particulars regarding these lands will be sent free upon request. Address: D. CLEM DEAYER, General Agent, LANDSEEKERS' INFORMATION BUREAU, 1004 Farnam St. Omaha, Neb.

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