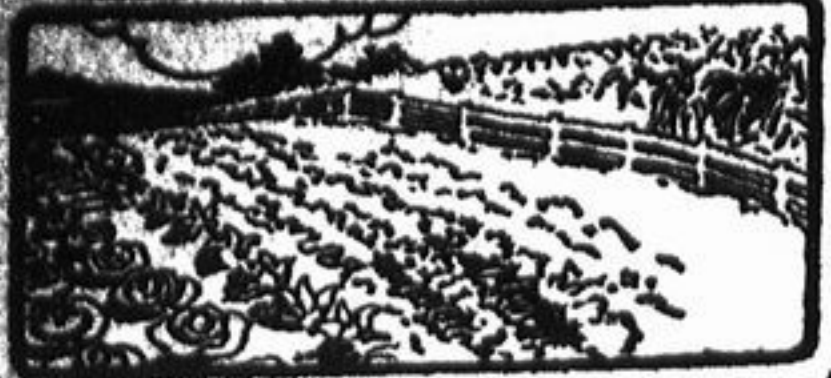


FARM GARDEN



TOAD IS GARDENER'S FRIEND

Nearly Every Element of Its Food is Made Up of Insects Which Are Pests in the Fields.

The common toad has been the subject of ridicule, contempt and superstition for centuries past. Nature has denied beauty and attractiveness to this little creature. To many people it is more repulsive than its relatives, the reptiles. We should learn to protect the toad and respect him for the good he does to us all. Some observing gardeners have said that a toad is easily worth \$10 in a garden. The point of the matter is that practically all of the toad's diet is of animal origin. Nearly every element of its food is made up of insects which are pests in fields and gardens.



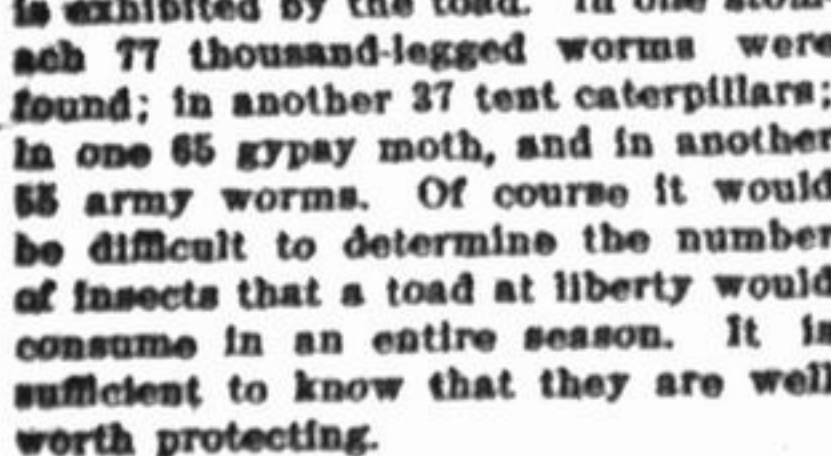
The Garden Toad.

We have heard much of the value of birds and of the necessity of protecting them. It is time we began to care for the toad, as well, for their capacity for insect meat is truly astonishing, writes F. B. Swingle in the Northwestern Agriculturist. Examination of 149 toads' stomachs proved that 98 per cent. of their food was of the sort indicated above. Cutworms, ants, bugs and beetles, spiders, potato bugs, thousand-legged worms, weevils, tent caterpillars and grasshoppers were eaten by thousands. Wire worms and army worms, crickets and cucumber bugs, rose bugs and plum curculio were relished just as well. The gypsy moth, the cabbage moth and grape caterpillars constitute his favorite food in certain localities. And it is remarkable what storage capacity is exhibited by the toad. In one stomach 77 thousand-legged worms were found; in another 37 tent caterpillars; in one 65 gypsy moth, and in another 55 army worms. Of course it would be difficult to determine the number of insects that a toad at liberty would consume in an entire season. It is sufficient to know that they are well worth protecting.

Heretofore the customary way to sharpen a lawn mower was to take a whetstone and rub it back and forth along the blades. A Pennsylvania man has invented an apparatus for sharpening mowers which should prove less troublesome and quite as effective. A base has standards to receive the shaft of the rotary blade of a lawn mower and a cogged wheel, with a handle, to engage the wheel on the shaft and turn the latter. An inclined wall of abrading material is arranged so that it can be fixed to meet the revolving blades, and as they pass over its rough surface they are

SHARPENS THE LAWN MOWER

sharpened quickly and well, with no further trouble to the gardener than the turning of the handle that causes the shaft to revolve.



Lawn Mower Sharpener.

Sharpened quickly and well, with no further trouble to the gardener than the turning of the handle that causes the shaft to revolve.

gardening with a wheel hoe. The real pleasure of gardening remains unknown to a person who has never used a wheel hoe. This modern invention stimulates good gardening by its use a person can cultivate his whole garden before breakfast, and that is the accomplishment of a lifetime. An experienced gardener will use it and the boy who has the soil of his garden in the best condition.

GARDEN and FARM NOTES

Manure hauling is in season any month of the year.

A stone silo, if properly built, will give good satisfaction.

The bad road tax is the heaviest tax the farmer has to meet.

Soil improvement clubs are being extensively organized these days.

Peas, beans and onions were first known in Egypt many centuries ago.

Buy chicken wire to use in the garden instead of stakes wherever possible.

The silo helps solve the problem of making a profit from \$100 an acre land.

Low ground drained can be cultivated earlier than high ground not drained.

Decaying organic matter in the soil adds to the warmth and stimulates plant life.

Do not let manure accumulate in the barn lots. The place for it is in the fields.

Bushes and small trees too large for the plot to root out should be cut with an ax.

Plan your farm to reduce the necessity of buying additional feed to the lowest point.

VALUABLE FARM BY-PRODUCT

Many Farmers Neglect to Care for Manure and Spend Their Money for Commercial Fertilizer.

(By W. H. KELSEY.)
In spite of all that has been written telling of the value of stable manure there are many farmers who still neglect to care for this valuable by-product of the farm and spend their money for commercial fertilizer. I do not wish to discourage the use of commercial fertilizer, but it should never be used until the stable manure is first taken care of and applied to the soil, if there is not sufficient manure to meet the demands of the farm crops the deficiency should be supplied by using commercial fertilizer.

It is rather difficult to estimate the value of stable manure in dollars and cents as commercial fertilizers are valued, since the stable manure adds much valuable humus to the soil as well as direct plant food and the commercial fertilizer is valued for the direct plant food alone.

Dr. Alkman says that the humus of the stable manure is worth quite as much to the soil as the direct plant food. Valuing the phosphoric acid at five cents per pound, the potash at five cents per pound and the nitrogen at 15 cents per pound a fair average value of the stable manure may be estimated as follows:

10 pounds nitrogen at 15 cents.....	\$1.50
10 pounds potash at 5 cents.....	50
8 pounds phosphoric acid at 5 cents.....	25
	\$2.25

Then if we add the value of the humus, commission charged by agents and freight on commercial fertilizers we may still be conservative when we double the commercial value of the manure and count a ton of well-cared for stable manure worth \$450 to the farm.

Its value is not appreciated because it is a by-product and because farmers have fallen into the habit of neglecting to properly care for the manure and apply it judiciously.

The manure when allowed to accumulate about the stables is in the way and is a repulsive, bad-smelling product, but when drawn to the field and distributed over the soil by means of spreaders it is out of the way and is also preparing the soil to grow a large crop.

PRACTICAL HOME-MADE ANVIL

Handy Farm Implement Can Be Constructed Out of 4-Foot Piece of Old Railroad Iron.

This anvil can be constructed from a four-foot piece of railroad iron on a trestle, as shown in the illustration.



Home-Made Anvil.

says the Practical Farmer. This will stand heavy pounding, and comes in handy. The rail is just the right shape to make an anvil. Take oak or any hard wood for the legs.

Ashes for Onions. Ashes are good for the onion bed, as they are for most vegetables, if properly used, possibly being better for the grape vines and strawberries, as these plants require large amounts of potash.

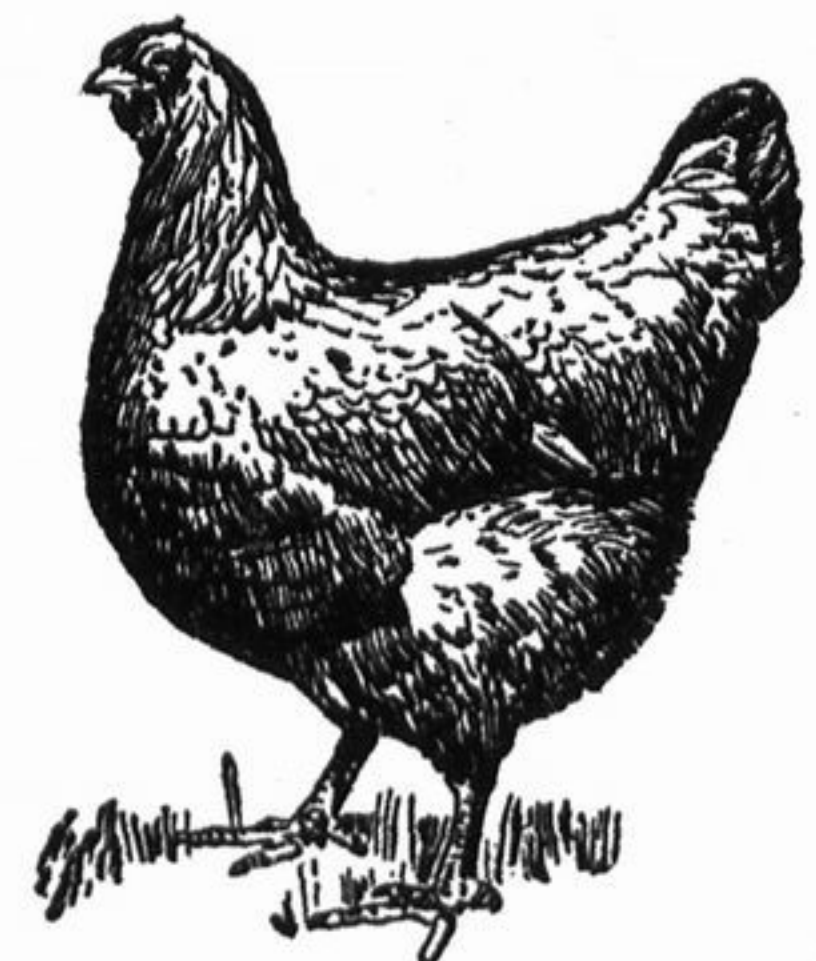
New Ground for Gardens. Many persons never change the location of the garden, but it is a good practice to use new ground at least every three years.

POULTRY

RHODE ISLAND REDS IN LEAD

Hens Owned by Pennsylvania Poultry Raiser Ahead of Eastern Egg-Laying Contest.

The egg-laying contest at the Connecticut Agricultural college, with its 500 pullets from 19 states of the Union, England and Canada, representing 12 distinct breeds and 23 varieties, attracted considerable atten-



Rhode Island Red Hen.

tion at the Connecticut Poultry association meeting held at Hartford recently, as some of the speakers had birds entered in the contest.

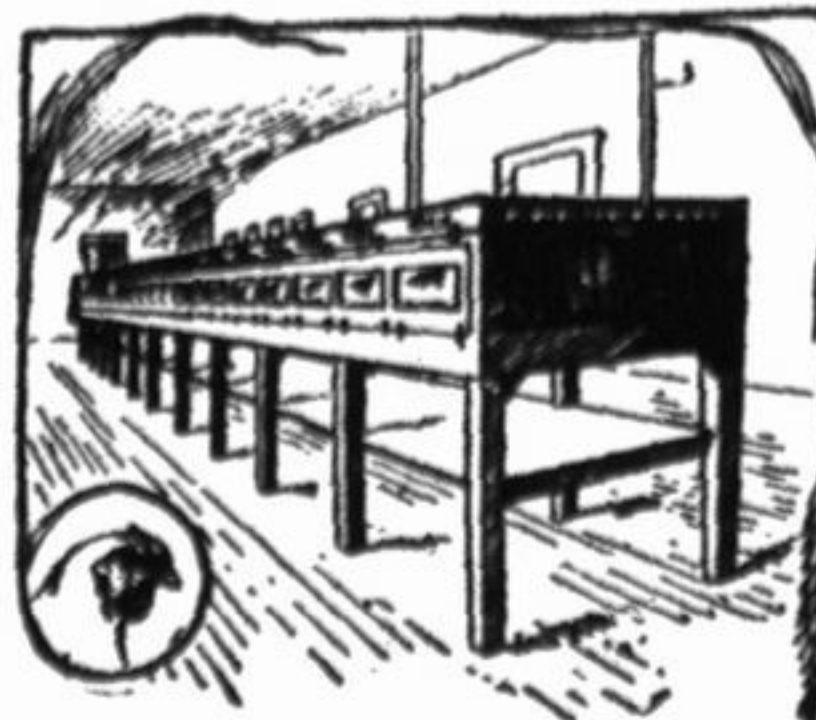
Following is the report of the leading hens for the twelfth week of the contest:

John A. Fretchery of Harrisburg, Pa., single comb Rhode Island Reds, eggs; Howard Steele of Philadelphia, Pa., single comb Rhode Island Reds, 23 eggs, Top Notch farm; Walter Mills of Long Island, barred Plymouth Rocks, 21 eggs; C. S. Scoville of East Haven, single comb Rhode Island Reds, 23 eggs, 7 per cent. Notch farm; Walter Hills of Long Island, N. Y., barred Plymouth Rocks, 21 eggs; C. S. Scoville of East Haven, Conn., rose comb Rhode Island Reds, 20 eggs; Woodside Poultry farm, Philadelphia, Pa., white Wyandottes, 18 eggs; Arnold Francis of Oak, Pa., single comb Rhode Island Reds, 18 eggs; F. G. Yost of Sayre, Pa., single comb White Leghorns, 18 eggs.

ELECTRIC INCUBATOR IS BIG

Machine Built for New Orleans Poultry Raiser Has Capacity of 6,000 Eggs—How Worked.

One of the largest electric incubators in use anywhere in the world was built for a poultry raiser in New Orleans. It is 40 feet long by 5 feet wide, and contains 40 compartments, each having a capacity of 150 eggs, says the Popular Mechanics. Each compartment can be separately con-



Incubator of 6,000 Capacity.

trolled, so that any one, or all of the compartments, can be operated, according to the number of eggs to be hatched. The controlling thermostat used do not completely break the heater circuit, but introduce the comparatively high resistance of a small electric lamp when open, thus avoiding sparking at the contacts.

POULTRY NOTES

Nothing like a few warm days to coax the hens to lay.

Don't let your breeders get too fat or you will be sorry for it.

Young ducks should always have plenty of water and shade and grit.

Green cut bone and meat foods are the worms and bugs in the winter ration.

No condition powder on the market is as good as wholesome food and plenty of exercise.

Turkey gobblers should be mated with the hens as early as possible, certainly by the first of April.

The best layers are those fowls that have been bred particularly with a view to increased egg production.

Inbreeding soon lowers the vitality of a flock. That is why we should get new males or settings of eggs every year.

There is genuine satisfaction in owning thoroughbred stock and they cost no more to feed. Go in for the best.

Have you ever noticed the hens following the plow and did you observe how fast the grubs disappeared? This is good for the hens and the land also. Encourage them.

A bone cutter will surely pay for itself. Green cut bone supplies the hen with ability to produce eggs, nourishes her feathers and keeps her in general good health.

POULTRY

POULTRY HOUSE FOR FARMER

Expensive and Elaborate Structure is Not Necessary, but Dry, Well Ventilated One is.

(By J. W. GRIFFIN.)
The size of our home poultry-building is 16x40 feet, 6 feet at the front eave, and 7 at the rear eave, and 8 feet at the comb. The floor should be the natural earth if the house is located on a well drained place. If not, there should, of course, be a plank floor.

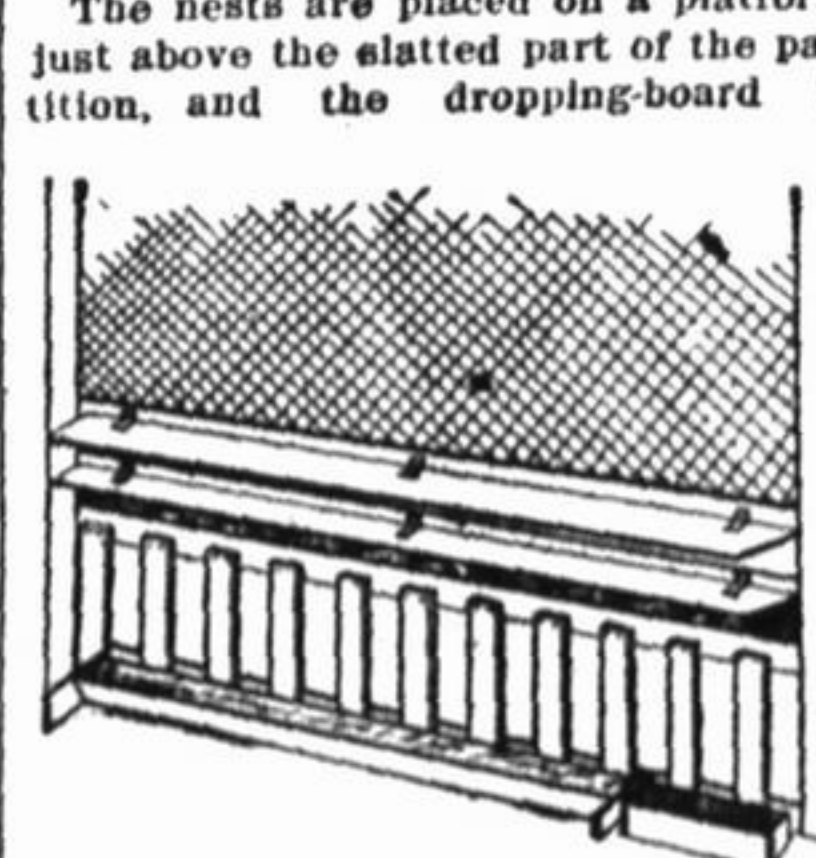
For the convenience of the keeper, the building should be divided into three rooms in the front part; the hallway at the rear should run the entire length of the building. The hallway is 4 feet wide; this will leave the three rooms 12x13 feet.

The partitions between these rooms should be made solid two and one-half feet high. The rest of the partition can be of poultry-wire netting.

The upper part of the partition between the hallway and the rooms is made of wire netting. In the hallway we keep the supply of food for the poultry, and a few barrels of road-dust that we gather up during a dry time in the summer. This is for the dust-boxes during the winter, when the hens should not be out on the cold ground.

The watering and feeding troughs are set along the slatted partition, just inside the hallway; the chickens reach through between the slats for their food and water.

The nests are placed on a platform just above the slatted part of the partition, and the dropping-board is



Hallway in Poultry House.

placed on the nest-boxes, and the perches on the dropping-boards.

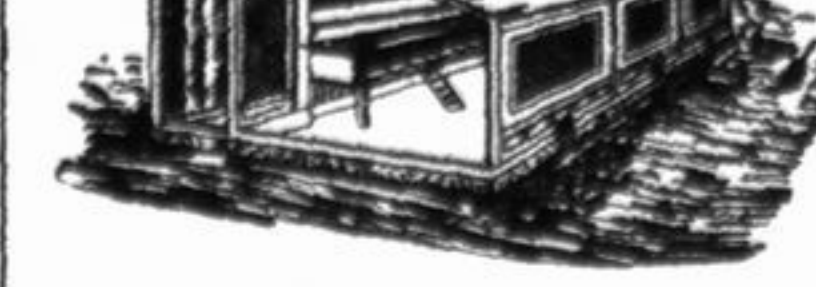
The platform for the nests, the dropping-boards, and the perches are put in in divisions, three of 13 feet each. This facilitates the cleaning as all of the interior arrangements are removed at housecleaning-time, which is twice a year—spring and fall.

This is the general cleaning time; the pens are cleaned each week, and the dropping-boards each day. The manure saved by cleaning the dropping-boards each day from a hundred hens pays handsomely, not only in the value of the manure, but in keeping the house clean. The boxes are each one complete within itself.

The openings of the curtained windows are covered with poultry netting. The house is made perfectly tight except the curtained windows. There is a ventilator in each end at the gable for summer ventilation.

The floors of the pens should be covered with cut straw, or better still, dry leaves gathered in the fall and stored away to be used through the winter.

The grain food when scattered in these leaves or straw gives the fowls



Poultry House.

the much needed exercise. The dry mash-feeds and meat-scrap, etc., are fed in the troughs.

The interior should be thoroughly sprayed with lime-and-sulphur solution. Use equal parts of lime and sulphur in making the whitewash and you will not be troubled with lice, chiggers or mites that trouble the poultry.

Corrective for Overeating. Charcoal is an excellent corrective of the evils of injudicious overfeeding, and is also a good remedy in bowel disorders in poultry. Having wonderful absorbent powers, especially for gases, only a small quantity should be put into the feed hoppers at a time on account of its absorbent nature.

It should be kept in a thoroughly dry vessel with a close-fitting cover, so as to exclude the air. If charcoal is heated well before given to the poultry, it will have a tendency to drive off the impurities which may have become absorbed, and it will be equal to fresh charcoal.

Keep Off the Grass. Little chickens should be kept off the grass as much as possible, when it is wet with dew. The hen should be well fed and watered, so that she may rest content in the coop; then if the little ones range far enough on their own account to get damp, they have a dry mother to return to and will take no hurt.

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