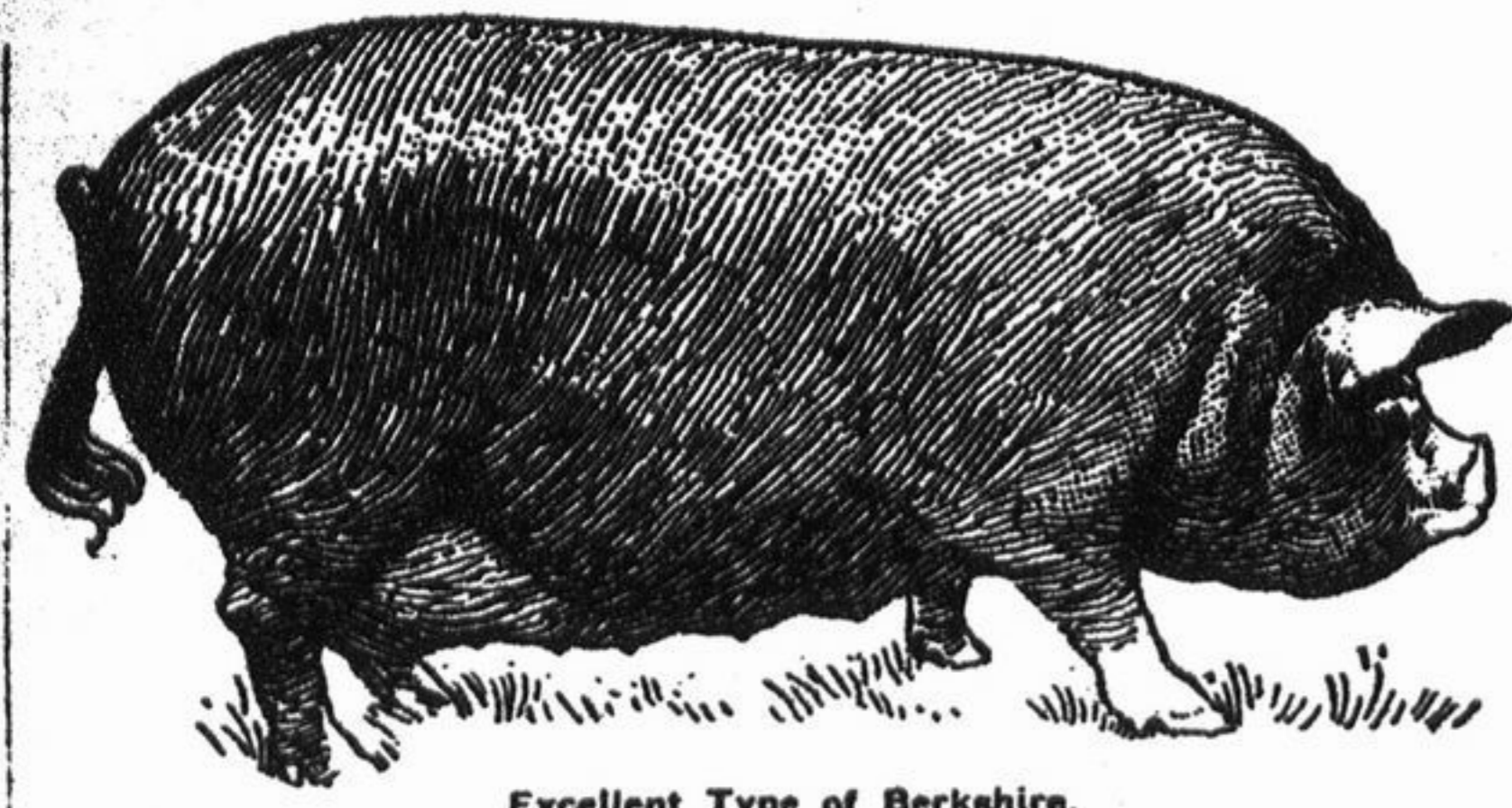


PROPER MANAGEMENT OF SOWS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE

Animals in Good Physical Condition Will Care for Their Young and Raise Them in Excellent Manner—Best Food Just Before Farrowing Time Is Wheat Middlings and Bran.



Excellent Type of Berkshire.

(By L. G. JOHNSON.)

Quite often I have heard the complaint of sows eating their pigs, and only a short time ago a neighbor of mine had a fine brood sow to eat her pigs immediately after farrowing. Now this is not natural for a sow to do so, and when they do there is a reason for it, if that reason is only looked for.

Sows by nature are not cannibals and if they are in good physical condition they will care for their young and raise them in the proper way.

On the other hand if she is nervous and fretful at farrowing time she is apt to eat her pigs, but when they have the run of good pasture and are properly fed and cared for they seldom eat their offspring.

If a sow is compelled to live in the barnyard, sleep in manure piles or straw stacks, and only fed a little dry corn she is apt to be feverish, constipated and have but very little milk, and in such cases she is likely to eat her pigs or lie on them and smother them before they are old enough to suck.

I have a large basement under my barn where the frost is never seen and in case the weather is very cold I give my sows a good, warm, dry pen in this basement. I don't care about the pen being over large, a pen sixteen feet square is large enough for four sows up to two weeks before farrowing, after which I place each sow in a separate pen with her pigs. I like this pen to be ten feet square with light bedding, cut straw is preferable.

The best food for a brood sow is wheat middlings, the coarser the better, or wheat bran and middlings may be mixed half and half. This should

be wet to a stiff mass with milk, house slops or water, where it is available skim milk is the best for this purpose.

Besides this she will eat and should have plenty of clover or alfalfa hay; it is surprising the amount of clover hay that a sow will eat, especially to those that have never fed the same to hogs; in addition to this I always feed my brood sows about four or five pounds of sugar beets to every hundredweight per day; I feed them whole for the purpose of giving the sow exercise in eating them, some advise the feeding of raw apples but I do not like to feed any great amount of them especially if they are sour.

One winter I kept six sows in the same pen and fed them the following rations per day: Twenty-seven pounds of sugar beets, ten pounds coarse middlings and all the clover hay they would eat, and they came out in shape that was hard to beat and raised forty-seven nice healthy pigs.

In addition to the above ration I keep a box in the pen where the sows may have free access to it at all times filled with the following: Charcoal six parts, wood ashes two parts, and two parts salt. It is needless to say that plenty of pure clear water should be given to the sows as most everyone realizes this fact.

I always handle my sows and humor their whims in order to keep them gentle as a gentle, well-satisfied sow will do better and have better success with her pigs than one that is nervous and fretful.

Brood sows should not be fed for the purpose of fattening them but only feed enough to keep them in a thrifty, strong and healthy condition.

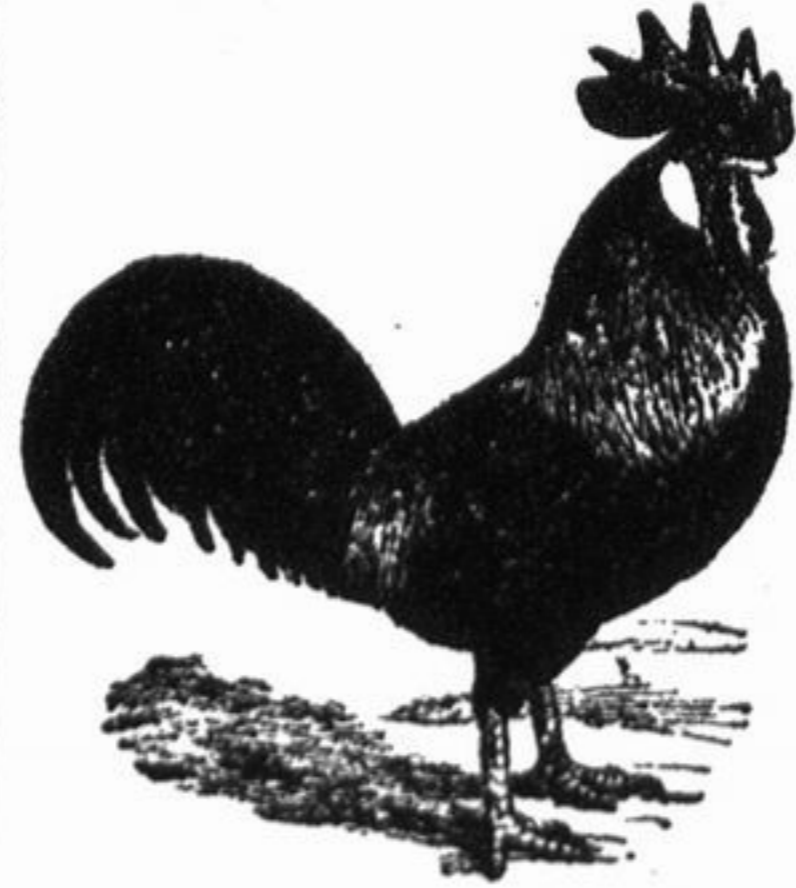
POULTRY

INCREASES THE EGG YIELD

Mash Diet Made Up Solely With Cornmeal Mixed With Warm Milk Gives Excellent Results.

A mash diet made up solely of cornmeal mixed with warm milk was fed to a pen of layers, mostly Leghorns, with the following result: First, a remarkable increase in their egg yield; second, an increase in their weight; third, frequent and sudden deaths from apoplexy.

These results were due to the high fattening food given, and proved con-



Leghorn Cockerel.

clusively the grave danger encountered by adopting such a system of feeding.

A meal mash in the morning and whole or cracked corn at noon and night brought about the same results.

These experiments were tried during the spring months before the fowls had access to yards or free range.

Later in the season when on free range the same rations were fed with the same result, but attended with fewer deaths.

There is danger in feeding the flock too highly, or, in other words, upon food too rich in blood and fat-making ingredients.

The first shipment of Leghorn fowls to America from Leghorn, Italy, was in the year 1834. The variety immediately became popular from its prolific laying and non-sitting qualities, holding the same place among poultry that the Jersey holds among cattle. Leghorns are excellent foragers, of lively, active, restless dispositions and will pick up a good part of their living, thriving best when allowed a wide range.

VALUE OF POULTRY MANURE

Excellent for Corn on Account of Large Percentage of Available Nitrogen It Possesses.

Poultry manure has twice the value of horse or cow manure. It is especially valuable for corn soil, since it possesses a large per cent. of available nitrogen, the element required in greatest quantities. It is a good manure for hotbeds. But this manure must not be applied to growing plants; it will injure them. It must be worked into the soil before planting.

If poultry manure can be obtained in abundance it will be a temptation to load it on a manure spreader and haul it to the field. But no manure spreader can handle it successfully unless it is mixed with coarse cow or horse manure. It is better to follow the old "armstrong" method—apply it by shovelling from the ordinary wagon. This gives you the advantage of controlling the thickness of application.

The field should not be plowed very deeply after the manure is applied. It would be much better to harrow it in, but a shallow plowing is satisfactory.

Many piles of hen manure are allowed to go to waste on the farm because the results from its application were not satisfactory. If applied according to these instructions, bearing in mind that it is rich in nitrogen, the increased production will be gratifying.

POULTRY NOTES

Large flaked bran is the best. Millet seed contains considerable flesh forming substance. Common field peas make an excellent egg producing food.

According to the food is the health and prosperity of the hen. Meat scraps should be kept in a cool place to avoid heating.

White middlings contain more nutrient than the brown kind. It is claimed that carrots improve the color of the yolk of the egg.

Barley should be fed only occasionally as it is a hard grain to digest. The two chief losses in setting hens are lice and interference of other hens.

Early hatching has been a great factor in the production of winter-laying strains. It is an easy matter to overfeed fowls, and poultrymen should bear this in mind.

In order to manufacture eggs it is necessary for a hen to be supplied with the proper material.

To make sure that fowls have enough grit it should be kept where they can help themselves at will.

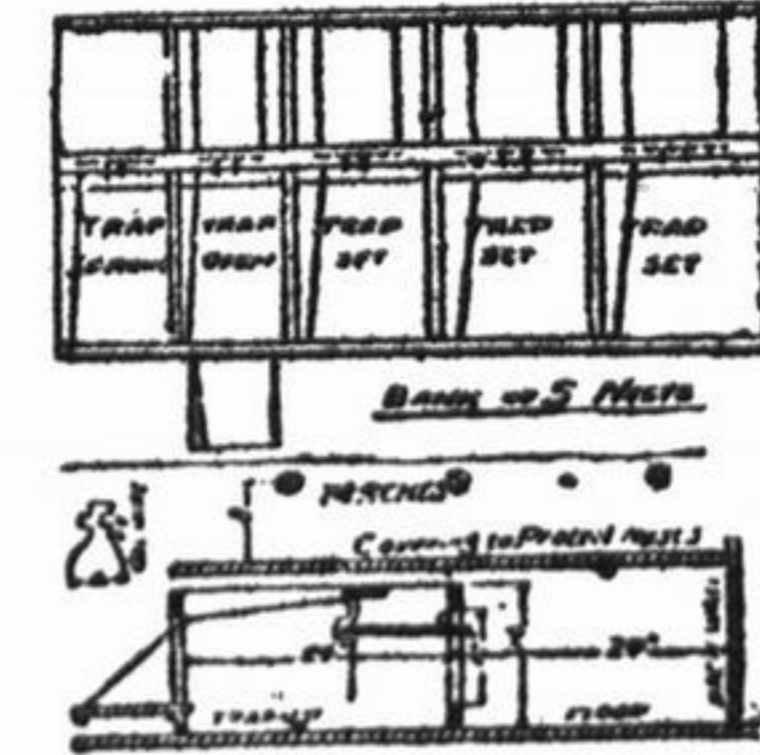
POULTRY

ADVANTAGES OF TRAP NESTS

By Use of Device Number of Eggs Laid by Each Hen May Be Ascertained Without Trouble.

The primary object of using trap nests is to develop a heavy laying strain. It has been found by the use of trap nests that the number of eggs laid per hen in an average flock varies from 40 to 245. Without using trap nests, the results from such a flock would be uncertain and probably unsatisfactory. It is the object of the poultryman to breed and build up the strain which lays the heaviest, by breeding to the heavy producers.

For fanciers, the trap nest is indis-



Sectional View of Nests.

pensable on account of the fact that in the ordinary pen there are from six to 12 females to one male. If trap nests are used, and there are as many as there are females in the pen, it is possible to distinguish each hen's eggs, while if the trap nests are not used, this is impossible.

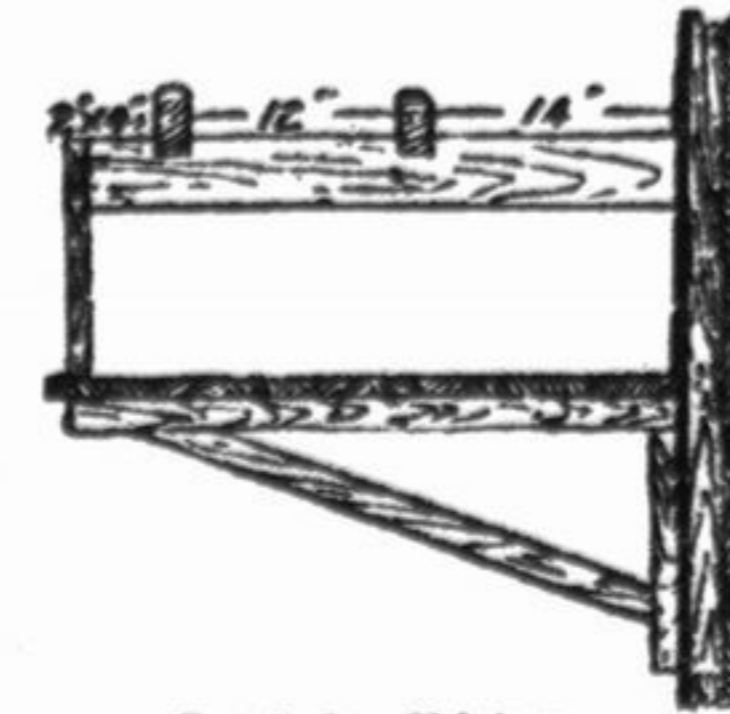
The use of trap nests goes far to prevent the hens forming the habit of egg-eating. They are likely to form this habit if kept in limited quarters. If so kept, they are probably not given the very best food, and probably not enough of it, especially animal food.

The accompanying drawings of a bank of trap nests are self-explanatory. The nests are built without any top or bottom. The hen enters through the hanging wire, which releases the door. She then passes on to the nest compartment toward the front end. To inspect the nest, and to remove the hen, ascertain her number, and secure the eggs, the front door is simply unbuttoned, and let down. It will be noticed that the two doors are fastened together with a cord, so that when the front door is let down, the trap is automatically set again. The hen will find it difficult to leave through the back door at this time, as the hanging wire permits her to go one way only. These are so simple that in making them in almost any quantity, the material should not cost over 15 cents, at most, per trap nest.

PERCH SPACE FOR CHICKENS

Small Hens Should Be Allowed Six Inches, While Larger Birds Should Be Given Eight.

As a general rule, small hens should have about six inches of perch space, while the larger hens should be allowed eight inches. In the winter they huddle closer together, but in the summer there should be plenty of room to allow them to spread out.



Perch for Chickens.

Perches should be 12 inches apart and not closer than 15 inches to the wall or ceiling. Show birds, especially Leghorns or similar type, should be kept at a greater distance from walls and ceilings. Many good birds are spoiled by "brooding" their tails against the walls.

There are several methods of making movable perches. One of the most common is by hinging them to the wall at the back.

Fertility of Eggs. The disposition of the male bird has considerable to do with the fertility of the eggs. A male that is greedy and quarrelsome is apt to drive hens away from the feed and gulp down more than is good for him. Such males become overfat and consequently sluggish.

On the other hand, the too gallant male will stand back while the hens are helping themselves. His condition is as bad as the greedy bird, for he is undefeated and has not the proper strength to fertilize.

Hen Not Sentimental. There is no sentiment in a hen. Her only object in life is to get enough to eat. If she is given that and a warm, well-ventilated house to sleep in all night, a dry sheltered place in winter, she will do the rest.

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KANSAS COWS MAKE RECORDS

Carlotta Gave 15,773 Pounds of Milk in One Year—Fairly Good Average Yield Is 6,000 Pounds.

If a cow gives 6,000 pounds of milk a year most men are satisfied. This is a fairly good average yield. But here are some two-year-old Ayrshires that surpass that figure by a long way. Their work was described by Prof. O. E. Reed, head of the dairy department, in the annual institute. Here are the records:

Canary Belle, 10,118 pounds of milk and 437 pounds of butter, 3.7 per cent test.

Fearnot of Oakdale, 5,218 pounds of milk and 292 pounds of butter, 4.08 per cent test.

Johanna of Juneau, 7,881 pounds of milk and 325 pounds of butter, 3.72 per cent test.

Rose of Oakdale, 5,956 pounds of milk and 308 pounds of butter, 4.42 per cent test.

Any one of these cows would support a family of five persons. Such cows probably could be bought for \$175 or \$200, but not at the college. The cost of feeding the ration, and the income, may be gauged for all the group by referring to the history of Johanna of Juneau, a model family cow; Johanna ate, every day, thirty pounds of silage, ten pounds of alfalfa hay, and nine pounds of grain, consisting of four parts of corn, two parts of bran, and one part of cottonseed meal. This ration cost \$5 a month. It was fed as described only when the cow was giving the highest yield. One pound of the grain ration was allowed for every three pounds of milk, so that when Johanna gave 27 pounds of milk a day she received 9 pounds of the grain.

Johanna gave 892 gallons of milk which sold in Manhattan for 32 cents a gallon, 3 cents a quart, or \$288.76. Not a bad kind of a cow to have around. And, by the way, a gallon of milk weighs eight pounds. Professor Reed told, too, of another fine cow, a Holstein, thirteen years old—Carlotta of Juneau, 15,773 pounds of milk and 437 pounds of butter fat, equivalent to 260 pounds of commercial butter. This was about \$95.00. Most cows pass their business period at 6 or 9 years. The old cow of 12 years returns a profit, having out costed, of \$75.76. If her milk had been sold at 7 cents a quart it would have brought \$288.76. Subtracting the feed bill the profit was \$113. Her milk was used for butter.

BREEDING BULLS NEED EXERCISE

Close Confinement Will Ruin Disposition of Otherwise Kind Animal—Makes the Best Sire.

(By G. M. TWITCHELL.)

I saw a good bull the other day which was being spoiled by kindness. He had not been out of his little pen for more than a year, his feet were all out of shape and naturally he was crabbed and surly. Who wouldn't be under such treatment? It is simply inhuman, but it's common. A day or two later I saw another in a well-fenced enclosure, with an overhead wire firmly attached to strong posts, set 40 feet part at the ends of the pen, and a chain connecting the bull's nose to the wire. Here he traveled day after day, the fence too high for him to see other cattle, but with plenty of room for exercise. The good nature of the animal told of the success of humane treatment. It is not only cruelty to keep a bull closely chained day after day and year after year, but more than that, it will ruin the disposition of an otherwise kind animal. The law of environment holds here, and the bull suffering for exercise cannot be as good a breeder as his neighbor made comfortable in every way. Try it.

STABLE MANURE QUITE VALUABLE

Most Important and Abundant Material for Soil Improvement—Much Unnecessary Waste.

Farm manure always has been and probably always will be the most important and most abundant material for soil improvement. It is a necessary product on every farm and on stock farms a product which accumulates in very large amounts. If not used for soil improvement it becomes a worthless nuisance about the stables. A conservative estimate places the annual production of farm manure in the United States at two billion tons. The actual and known agricultural value of fresh farm manure containing both the liquid and solid excrements is \$2 a ton. If the value is measured in terms of plant food or by the actual increase in crop yields produced by the use of the manure on long cultivated soils. The unnecessary waste and loss of farm manure which occurs in the United States each year is equal in value to ten times the value of all commercial fertilizers used in this country.