

# POULTRY

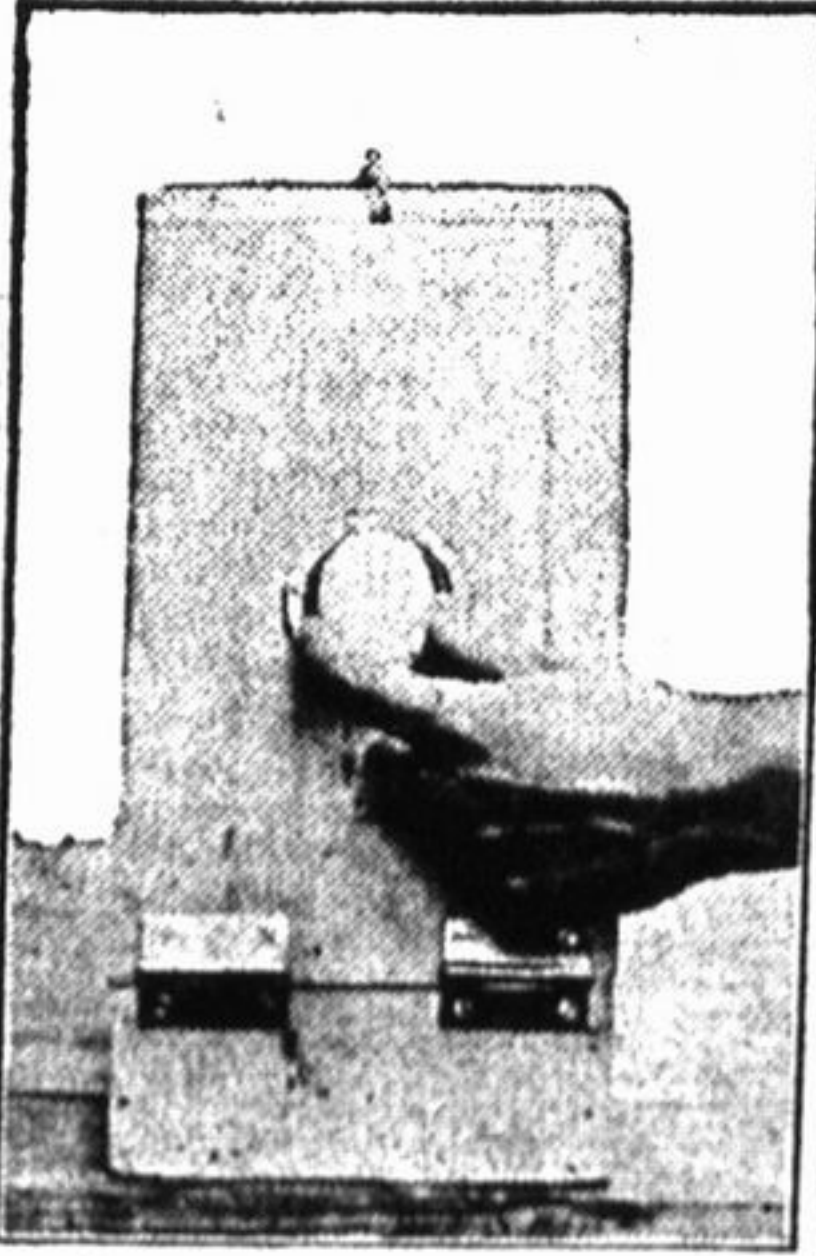
## FRESH EGGS IN GOOD DEMAND

Little More Attention to Details Will Result in Profit, Repaying Time and Labor.

(By PROF. A. G. PHILLIPS, Kansas.)  
The demand for eggs seems practically unlimited, more especially for the better grades. The growth of the storage industry has tended to equalize prices by increasing the demand in summer when fresh eggs are plentiful and supplying the deficiency in winter when fresh eggs are scarce.

Since the demand is greatest for the best grades, it seems obvious that a little more attention to details will result in a profit amply repaying the extra time and labor involved.

It is not the purpose here to enter into any discussion of the ways of increasing the production of eggs, but simply to point out the possibilities



An Excellent Egg Candler.

of profit as a result of extra care in handling and marketing the eggs now produced; the extra profit is to be made by obtaining the top retail price, and, as consumers become acquainted with the product, by obtaining a premium of from one to five cents per dozen over the regular price paid for ordinary eggs.

In order to obtain top prices for eggs, they must be uniform in size, uniform in color, and uniform in quality. The uniformity in color is not always important and depends on the market; uniformity in size excludes small eggs and unusually large ones as well; while uniformity in quantity calls for absolutely clean eggs that have been gathered promptly after being laid, kept under the best possible conditions, and marketed not more than three or four days after they are laid.

## TEACHING HEN GOOD LESSON

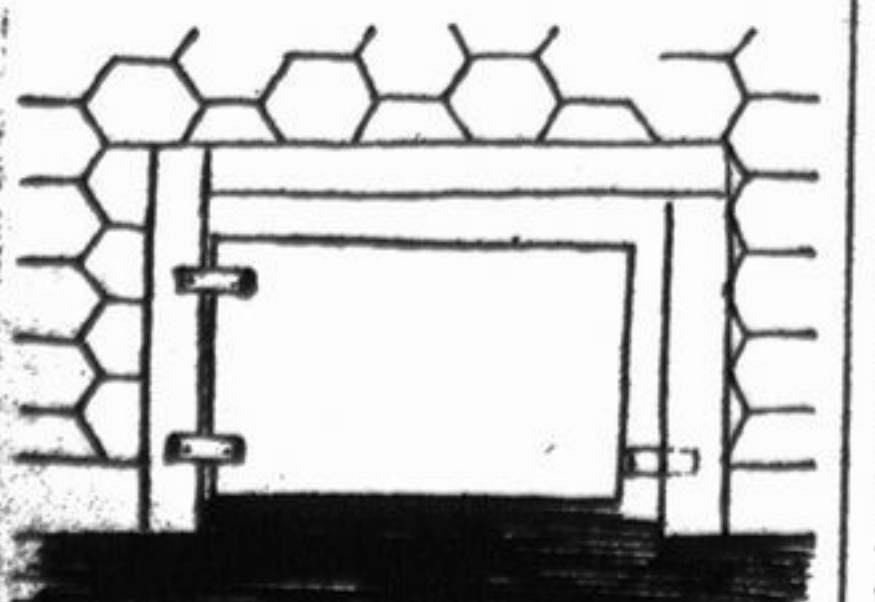
Poultry Gate as Shown in the Illustration Will Save Cussing and Garden Truck.

Barrels of perspiration may be saved by the poultry gate shown herewith, which is reproduced, with the article from the New England Homestead. Whoever has unintentionally acquired the hen chasing, hen-cussing habit may cure himself with this little device.

In the fence, preferably at a point near where the fowls are fed, a little door about 10 by 12 inches is hung on the inside of the yard, so as to always swing shut without springs. It is stopped from swinging outward by the peg shown at the right.

Mrs. Hen, returning repentant from the garden, will poke her head into every mesh of the fence in her efforts to rejoin her happy companions. The gate will thus allow her to enter without excitement or commotion from the lord of the harem from the irate owner.

But another advantage may be gained by using the gate in connection with the laying pens. If the two gates are used, one opening inward



Garden or Nest Gate.

In front of the nest, the other opening outward at the back or the side, so that the hens may go to another yard after laying, the poultryman may know which hens have and have not laid. Thus he may avoid the trouble usually connected with ordinary trap nests.

Preparation for Next Year.  
At the season of the year to the poultryman for next year, he now has to make the room to have the room

# CONFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL IN BREEDING DRAFT HORSES

Of the 100,000 Animals Marketed at Chicago Not More Than 5,000 Would be Termed A-1—Economy of Heavy Mares on Farm for Work and Producing Colts is Summed Up by Expert.



An Excellent Farm Team.

There are a number of considerations for the farmer to keep in mind in breeding horses for the draft horse trade. Among these are that size, weight, condition and character each bear an important influence in determining the prices paid on the markets and therefore that this influence is reflected upon the prices which they receive from the country shippers and buyers, says the Wisconsin Agriculturist. Nothing that influences the large central markets for the products of the farm fails to affect the sale of a single article directly on the farm.

Probably the one thing which the general run of horses that reach the markets lack more often than any other is size and incidentally therefore weight. It is stated from good authority that there are more good horses marketed in the Union Stock Yards at Chicago than any other place in the United States, and yet of the 100,000 horses marketed there not more than 25,000 would weigh over 1,500 pounds, and not more than 5,000 were what would be termed A-1 horses. First class draft horses for the city trade should not weigh less than 1,600 pounds when in working condition, and if they weigh 1,750 pounds they will satisfy all the better. To carry such weights horses should stand about 16 hands high or over and should have conformations in proportion.

The condition of a horse is all important, both as to soundness and thrift. Horses that have poor feet, bad hocks, weak wind, or poor shoulders are sticklers on the market. They sell very slowly and at very low prices. So also do horses that are in a poor condition of thrift. Fat always helps to sell horses quickly and at good prices, for it makes them look good and the horses, moreover, do not need to be conditioned before they can be put to work. A horse which looks thin when it leaves the farm is liable to look considerably thinner after it has been shipped and arrives at the sales stables. Fat horses ship far better than thin, thrifless ones. Then, too, the suspicion of being a poor doer on the best of care is liable to attach itself to the thin horse in the mind of the buyer, whereas when he looks upon a well conditioned horse no such suspicion occurs to him.

Character is a valuable asset to any horse that is placed on the market, and like size and weight is generally lacking in the usual stock of horses to be selected from in the country. A horse that shows intelligence, good breeding and those qualities that come through careful handling and good training will out-sell the common, plain looking horses by a considerable margin; size, weight and condition being otherwise alike.

The man on the farm engaging in horse production from the viewpoint of dollars and cents and anxious to make his acres earn the highest net returns should breed his mares to the best sires that are available combining size, weight, soundness and character, and should breed to them consistently. They should endeavor also as soon as possible, either by purchase or by breeding up, to possess themselves of big drafty mares combining those qualities. The only regrettable thing about the sale of the dapple gray mares on the January 11, 1912 Chicago horse market for \$1,000, is that the mares were not purchased by some good farmer to be used for breeding and farm work purposes instead of by a Chicago teaming firm to draw a big wagon. It is regrettable that they should ever have gotten away from the farm, for if they were worth \$1,000 for drawing a big wagon and heavy loads, certainly they were worth that on the farm where they could do work to earn their cost of maintenance and raise colts worth \$1,000.

The economy of the heavy mare or the farm, both from the standpoint of doing farm work and producing colts compared with light and medium weight mares is nicely summed up as follows by Secretary Dinmore of the Percheron Society of America: "The cost of maintenance under farm conditions is about the same, the heavier mares are more efficient in the work at the farm, the colts are ready for work a year younger, and if carried to the same age, will bring about twice as much as the colts from the

light weight mares and about one-third or one-quarter more than the colts from the medium weight mares."

This summary was drawn up after some careful thinking, upon the question being put to the secretary by an extensive land owner looking forward to the purchase and breeding of horses. "What kind of mares should I use? I want to know all things considered, whether I should buy a 1,200 pound, a 1,400 pound or a 1,700 pound mare?" In other words, the land owner as a business man wanted to know what would be the relative cost of maintenance, what the relative efficiency on the farm and what the relative market value of the colts produced, of these three classes of mares. Here is how he thinks out the matter, and his thinking was based on extended observation and experience:

All three classes can, of course, be managed, as far as maintenance cost is concerned, at about the same general figures. But in respect to working efficiency, if we rate the 1,700 pound horse at 100 per cent., liberal allowance is made if the 1,450 pound horse is credited at 90 per cent., and the 1,200 pound horse at 80 per cent. The colts bred to a good draft sire will average somewhere about 1,500 pounds; colts from 1,450 pound mares 1,600 to 1,700 pounds, and colts from 1,700 pound mares, 1,800 to 2,000 pounds. Then, too, the lighter weight colts necessarily make their full weight only at maturity and they will not be fit to sell until they are four and one-half or five years of age. The same is true of the medium weight colts, but buyers are scouring the country for heavy colts. Every good gelding is gathered up at three years of age. The heavier colts sell earlier, or if carried until they are older and then put on the market, the prices advance accordingly. Colts weighing around 1,500 pounds will not bring more than \$140 to \$175 on the average, because they come in competition with the great glut of common light drafters on the market. Those weighing around 1,650 pounds to 1,700 pounds will bring \$200 to \$240, and heavy weight geldings will bring \$300 to \$350. The heavy mares therefore produce colts that bring from one-third to twice as much money as the lower weight mares.

## USING GROUND FEED FOR HOGS

Fed in Conjunction With Corn Will Bring Animals Up to Large Weight in Short Time.

In finishing hogs I make a slop of ground oats and shelled corn (ground) and a small handful of lime to each hog, says a writer in Swine Breeders' Journal. This feed, in conjunction with ear corn, or shock corn if possible, will bring hogs up to large weights in a surprisingly short time.

I believe that most up-to-date stock raisers will agree that with such kinds of grain as wheat, rye and barley, grinding and mixing with other feeds is absolutely essential. For example, no one would think of feeding wheat to hogs without first thoroughly soaking it or running it through a feed mill. It may not be necessary to grind it very fine, but it should at least be crushed pretty completely, or ground fine enough so that the hard, compact portions of the grain will not go through the animal, undigested. This is true for old as well as young animals.

Another point upon which most people will agree is that for the young growing stock, especially animals which do not have a full set of teeth, grinding is necessary. It not only enables young animals to get more of their feed, but they eat greater quantities and grow much more rapidly. On unground feed of the type noted, a young animal would do very little good; but if wheat, barley, rye, etc., be ground and mixed with a little corn, they will thrive.

## Leveling Board.

A leveling board attached to the cultivator helps to reduce the loss of soil moisture by evaporation. When the ground is kept fine and level, less surface is exposed to the air and the capillary at the surface is less active.

# POULTRY

## FEW LESSONS WITH TURKEYS

Breeder of Twenty-Two Years' Experience Finds Business More Profitable Each Year.

I have raised turkeys for sale 22 years, and find it a more profitable business each year, says a writer in the Farm and Fireside.

I have had to learn many lessons by quite an expensive route. One year I failed entirely by too close in-breeding. Another year I let my turkeys wander at their own will and roost where they pleased. Again I allowed some to go up in the trees—a hard storm blew them out and drowned 24 beauties. Since these lessons I have worked differently.

I change either breeding hens or toms every other year. I usually buy a thoroughbred bronze from some unrelated flock. I keep old hens for breeders, and find their poulters more healthy. One early turkey is more profitable than three late ones, so I use the first eggs and sell the later ones. Chicken hens are set on the first laying and the poultry given to the first turkey hen that becomes broody. Large, airy pens or coops with rainproof roofs are built quite a distance from the house.

The hens are kept up two weeks, and then turned out every morning, unless the weather becomes rainy. They have learned to come when called, and will answer me from ever so far when I call "Pee turk! Come on!" I am never too busy or too tired to get them up at the approach of a hard storm, and at four o'clock in the evening. They soon learn to come home. After they are five or six weeks old I never feed at noon.

I feed no sloppy feed, but have good luck with wheat or corn bread, cracked corn, cooked soft, wheat, mashed potatoes, etc.

The first two weeks are the most particular. I give each poult a grain of black pepper when it is 24 hours old, and a stroke of lard or vaseline from bill to top of head.

Then a feed of hard-boiled egg, shell and all, crushed fine, mixed with bread soaked soft and squeezed dry. Fresh water, sand, lime and ground charcoal are kept handy. They eat of all; I never feed too much. I never feed over four times a day, and that often only a week. More turkeys die from overfeeding than underfeeding. I use a flat board to sprinkle their feed on, and keep it clean. It pays to be cleanly with turkeys.

## LEGHORN HENS AS MOTHERS

Although Called Nonsitters Occasionally One is Found and Will Cover Many Eggs.

Although the Leghorns are called nonsitters, they do sit occasionally, and I like them very much as mothers. It would hardly seem possible that a Leghorn hen would cover more



Single-Comb Leghorn.

eggs than a Cochins, but it is a fact, say a writer in an exchange. The Cochins' wings are short and stubby, while the Leghorns' wings are long and she will spread them over a big nestful. Last summer a Leghorn incubated 29 eggs for me and hatched 19 of them. It was, however, in the month of July, and her nest was carefully arranged in a basket; but I never give them less than 15. They take excellent care of their young; being light weight, they seldom hurt a chicks by stepping on it, and they will fight intruders fiercely.

# POULTRY NOTES

Keep your stock healthy, clean and comfortable.

Not all the failures of poultry life are due to the hens.

The first duck eggs of the season are hardly ever fertile.

Don't gorge the growing chicks one day and starve them the next.

Any fowl is liable at times to produce an egg containing blood spots.

Well grown ducklings very often will begin laying at five months of age.

Chicks like heat, and it is good for them; but there is a difference in heat.

Don't let chicks squeeze through slatted coops until their bodies are deformed.

Poultry breeding as a pursuit is essentially a labor of love, but it is nevertheless a labor.

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