

## Farm Interests

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Experience Has Shown That the Right Use  
 of Fertilizers, Barn Manure, Proper Tillage,  
 Good Seed and Crop Rotations, Insure Farm  
 Prosperity.

### A PROFITABLE WHEAT FIELD IN CENTRAL INDIANA.



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 2 1/2 Per Cent. Ammonia, 8 Per  
 Cent. Avail. Phos. Acid, 2 1/2 Per Cent.  
 Potash.

### NATURE THE INDICATOR OF SOIL NEEDS.

Much is being said at present about  
 the value of soil analyses. There is  
 considerable difference of opinion as  
 to the type of analysis which is giv-  
 ing the fullest information.

One school maintains that a chemi-  
 cal analysis is final in its informa-  
 tion, while another school of longer  
 standing maintains that a mechanical  
 analysis is more important than an  
 actual chemical analysis. Still a third  
 school is shedding considerable light  
 on the soil problem through its bac-  
 teriological investigations.

The average farmer cannot wait for  
 the doctors to agree. In fact, he need  
 not wait for a settlement of such a  
 controversy. It is true that all three  
 forms of analyses mentioned will give  
 valuable information concerning the  
 nature of any given soil, but they are  
 all limited, in that they do not distin-  
 guish between the plantfood that the  
 plant can make use of, and that which  
 is unavailable.

However, nature is her own indica-  
 tor. If the farmer can read the signs  
 in his crops and soils, there is no rea-  
 son why he cannot analyze his own  
 conditions satisfactorily. If there is  
 no clover growing in his fields, if the  
 grass growth is spindly and pale  
 green in color, and if sheep sorrel is  
 found growing and moss is found on  
 the surface of the soil, there is clear  
 evidence of a sour condition of the  
 soil. Such a condition may demand  
 immediate attention to drainage. If  
 sufficient drainage, either natural or  
 artificial, has been provided, condi-  
 tions, such as mentioned above, clear-  
 ly indicate the need of lime in some  
 form to neutralize the sourness of  
 the soil.

On a soil to which good tillage has  
 been given and which contains suffi-  
 cient organic or vegetable matter the  
 plantfood requirements are indicated  
 as follows:

If the stalk growth of the crop is  
 spindly and short and there is a gen-  
 eral lack of vigor the soil is undoubt-  
 edly deficient in nitrogen.

If there is a strong growth, but  
 when ears of corn get to the filling  
 stage they do not fill and ripen and  
 the ears are immature when frost  
 comes, there is need of available phos-  
 phoric acid.

If the kernels of corn do not fill  
 properly, if there is a number of small  
 potatoes in the hill, there is a lack of  
 potash in the soil. In the tomato, the  
 lack of potash is indicated by small,  
 unshapely fruit, poor in color and in-  
 step in flavor.

If the farmer understands fully that  
 nitrogen influences the vigor and ex-  
 tent of plant stalk growth and phos-  
 phoric acid has to do with the setting  
 of the seeds and the ripening of the  
 fruit, while potash has to do with  
 the filling of the seeds and fruit and  
 the stiffness of the grain stalk, he can  
 read their needs in the indications  
 which he sees in his growing crops.  
 He can, therefore, to a large extent,  
 be his own analyst.

Theoretically and practically, anal-  
 yses of soils are good. The science  
 of modern dietetics enables the sci-  
 entific dietitian to cook to prepare  
 food with the proper balance of pro-  
 tein and carbohydrates for the needs  
 of a normal human being. However,  
 the average housewife does not de-  
 pend upon her knowledge of the pro-  
 tein-carbohydrate and fats when  
 preparing three meals a day for her  
 family. She knows by observation  
 what is nutritious food. By observa-  
 tion she learns to so regulate the diet  
 that the health and vigor of the family  
 is maintained. The situation is pre-  
 cisely the same with the farmer and  
 his crops. If he will but read the  
 signs in his growing crops, he can  
 make the adjustments to give the  
 crops the maximum crops of best qual-  
 ity.

## RESULTS OF FERTILIZING CORN.

A Practical Farmer's Experience.

Farmers' Guide, March 29, 1913.  
 As a little experience is often worth  
 more than a whole bulletin of theory,  
 I will give a few actual facts in re-  
 gard to fertilizing corn. Now that the  
 first enthusiasm and consequent reac-  
 tion are over, we can calmly view  
 our failures and successes, and, as we  
 have for five years made actual tests,  
 can tell pretty nearly the value of fer-  
 tilizers on our soils. Broadcasting  
 seems to be the popular method, but  
 this gets the plant food so far away,  
 the corn does not get it when it needs  
 it most.

While wheat seldom needs a com-  
 plete fertilizer on our clovered land,  
 corn does, as the nitrogen is necessary  
 to give it a quick start. We use a  
 formula ranging from 1 1/2-8-2 1/2  
 to 2-10-2, using less potash than for wheat.  
 Another difference is, we use the same  
 formula on all soils except black,  
 where we increase the potash. In fer-  
 tilizing wheat we vary the formula  
 to suit various soils.

Each year we leave several rows  
 unfertilized, in order to prove our  
 work. These are husked, and the  
 corn weighed or measured and com-  
 pared with the same number of fertil-  
 ized rows adjoining. The results for  
 the five years vary from one to four-  
 teen bushels increase per acre, averag-  
 ing about eight. The increase in  
 quality will pay for the fertilizer, and  
 applying it is very little trouble with  
 a drill attachment. This year, on a  
 thin, soggy soil, we secured an in-  
 crease of over fourteen bushels by ap-  
 plying 100 pounds per acre of 1 1/2-8-  
 2 1/2. Our elevator man says he can  
 tell fertilized corn when it comes in  
 by its solidity.

This year our fertilized corn weigh-  
 ed ten pounds per measured bushel  
 more than the unfertilized. Many  
 farmers have fertilized their corn one  
 season, looked over the field when the  
 crop was maturing and said they could  
 see no difference, and gave it up. Un-  
 fertilized corn sometimes catches up  
 in height of stalk in August, and judg-  
 ing merely by appearance would yield  
 as much. But my five years' tests tell  
 me that appearances are deceiving. I  
 have fertilized corn on various soils  
 and believe it will pay on any soil that  
 manure will.

An old prejudice that we still com-  
 across occasionally is that if you begin  
 to fertilize you will have to keep it up.  
 I don't see why this argument will not  
 also apply to using manure. The basis  
 of fact in it is, if you begin, and make  
 careful tests, you will keep it up. If  
 I can put one dollar into my corn drill  
 for each acre, and shank four dollars  
 into the wagon the next fall, won't I  
 keep it up? Another fallacy is that  
 fertilizer will, in a few years, ruin  
 your ground. I think this comes from  
 the same source as the belief that if  
 you kill a toad it would make a cow  
 give bloody milk, or vice versa. To  
 satisfy your mind on this, measure  
 off a square rod of ground and sow a  
 pint of fertilizer on it—this is 160  
 pounds per acre. Then study out how  
 quickly such a mite would affect your  
 soil, and you will get lost in the at-  
 tempt. Fertilizer is manure in tablet  
 form, and small doses give large re-  
 sults.

C. SUMNER BEARD,  
 Wayne County, Indiana.

### THE HOME GARDEN.

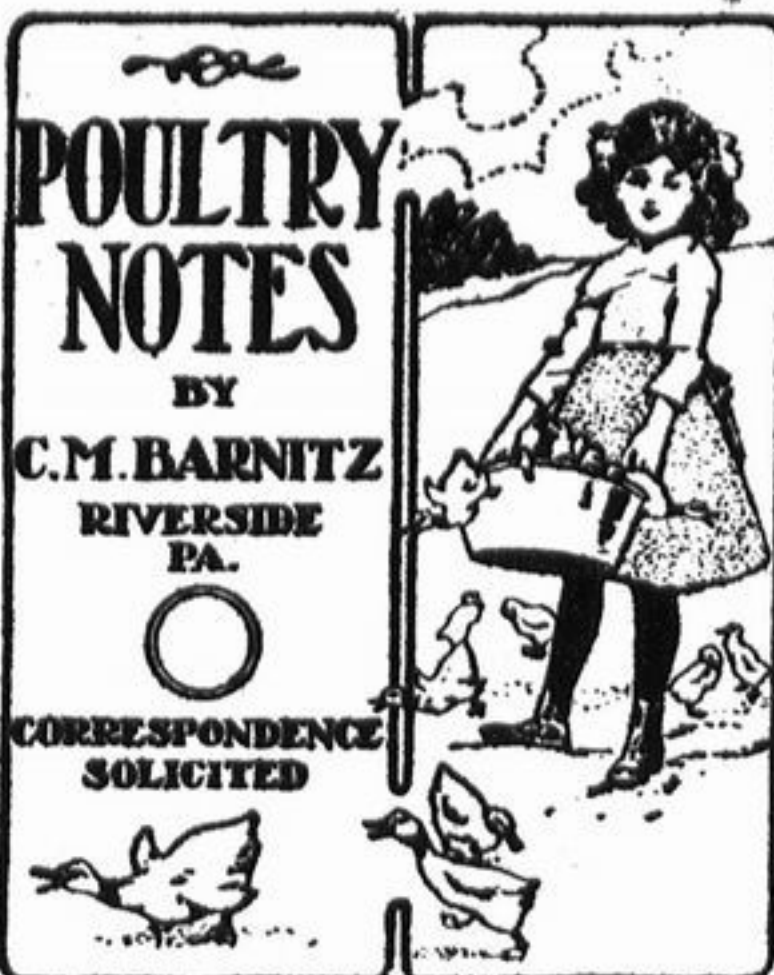
Proper Preparation Means Profitable  
 Yields.

Points in Its Preparation.

The ideal home garden should be  
 located on a fairly rich, mellow  
 loam. However, it is frequently not  
 possible to change the location of  
 the home garden to meet these needs.  
 If the soil is a heavy clay, it  
 must be manured heavily with  
 straw manure. Some good effects  
 can be obtained by growing green  
 material, such as rye or oats, or, bet-  
 ter still, growing a heavy crop of  
 clover on the garden site and plowing  
 it into the soil. This large supply of  
 organic matter is necessary so that  
 the soil may retain a good supply of  
 the moisture which falls during the  
 winter months, for it is upon this  
 store of moisture that vegetables de-  
 pend largely, and not upon the sum-  
 mer showers.

Speaking generally, the garden  
 should be dug or plowed deeply in the  
 fall. The soil, lying exposed to the  
 alternate frosts and thaws of winter  
 is greatly benefited by these  
 changes of temperature. If there is  
 no clover found among the grass  
 around the garden, and if peas or  
 beans do not do well in it, the gar-  
 den should apply lime at about  
 1,000 pounds per acre. This can be  
 distributed upon the soil early in the  
 spring and worked in as the seed bed  
 is prepared.

Good barn manure is used very ex-  
 tensively for gardens on account of  
 the splendid effect which it has on  
 the physical conditions of the soil, and  
 the fact that it supplies considerable  
 of the elements of plantfood. How-  
 ever, especially for such crops as po-  
 tatoes, onions, corn, cabbage, and for  
 such fruits as strawberries, this plant-  
 food is unbalanced. For these crops  
 gardeners have obtained good results  
 from supplying plantfood in the form  
 of fertilizers at the rate of about  
 1,000 pounds per acre. A suitable  
 fertilizer should provide about three  
 to five per cent. ammonia, six to eight  
 per cent. available phosphoric acid,  
 and three to six per cent. potash. This  
 additional plantfood should be worked  
 into the soil as the seedbed is being  
 prepared. It is also good practice to  
 apply manure in the rows, taking care  
 however, that the manure is mixed  
 with the soil before the seed is  
 dropped.



[These articles and illustrations must not  
 be reprinted without special permis-  
 sion.]

### THE BLACK LEGHORN.

A Pittsburgher writes, "What vari-  
 ety of hen would you keep in my cli-  
 mate for maximum eggs?"  
 Well, if we lived in smoky, sooty,  
 black Pittsburgh we should keep  
 Black Leghorns, sure, but really they  
 make good anywhere.  
 The Black Leghorn is an establish-  
 ed Italian variety, and a visit to Gen-  
 ova today will show them the same  
 there as in 1872, when they were im-  
 ported to this country, and they were



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.  
 BLACK LEGHORN COCK BIRD.

then so perfect that just three years  
 after they were admitted to the stand-  
 ard of excellence.

With the other seven varieties of  
 Leghorns it is not so difficult to get  
 the yellow shank, but to get a yellow  
 shank and a pure black plumage—ah,  
 there's the rub!

Black Leghorn chicks generally hatch  
 dark legs, and these very often turn  
 pure yellow in the males, but remain  
 black or yellowish black in the fe-  
 males, and it is often the case that the  
 male with pure yellow shank has

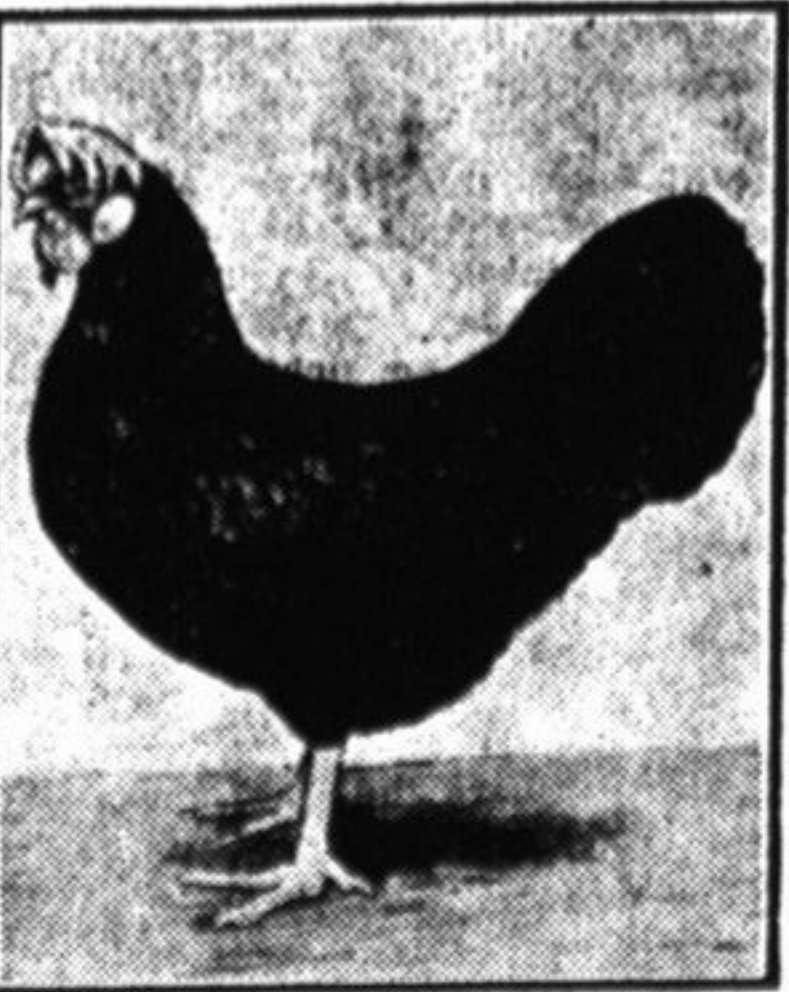


Photo by C. M. Barnitz.  
 BLACK LEGHORN PULLET.

white in the tail, while the hen with  
 pure black plumage has a black or yel-  
 lowish black leg.

It seems against nature for black  
 plumage and yellow shanks to be bred  
 in the same bird, and this the stand-  
 ard recognizes when it calls for yel-  
 low or yellowish black shanks in show  
 specimens.

The Black is the largest of the Leg-  
 horn tribe and is claimed to be the  
 wildest and the greatest fier, having  
 been known to rise straight off the  
 ground in a graceful flight of 300 feet.  
 It is not inferior to any of the Medi-  
 terranean in laying, being especially  
 good in winter and laying the largest  
 Leghorn egg. We recommend the  
 Black Leghorn to those who desire to  
 keep the White, but cannot because  
 their white plumage becomes so soiled  
 in the small runs and soot of the city.

### DON'TS.

Don't neglect the comfort of the  
 watch dog. As there is an inhumanity  
 to man, so there is much brutality to  
 brutes. Let us see that we exercise  
 mercy toward the least of God's crea-  
 tures or we shall not obtain mercy for  
 ourselves.

Don't use a megaphone to tell your  
 troubles. Be still, and hear, and cease  
 repining. You'll never gain a rap by  
 whining.

Don't ask the editor questions on  
 poultry. Ask him for a receipt for  
 cash in advance and hootay for the  
 chance. Send your query to C. M. B.  
 with a stamp, but no fee.

Don't locate your poultry pen with-  
 out studying surrounding conditions  
 first. Transportation facilities and mar-  
 ket are chief considerations.

Don't buy beef scrap without first  
 getting samples and refuse shipment  
 if sample and goods are not the same  
 quality.

### LIFE IS SO SHORT.

Life is so short and there's so much to  
 say  
 We dare not waste the time, for 'twill  
 soon be yesterday.  
 Human years for andness,  
 Words of wisdom, love,  
 Words that with the weary heart  
 And point to heaven above  
 So let's watch our lips, my comrade  
 May each day close with the thought  
 That some day is more contented  
 Through the work our words have  
 wrought.

Life is so short and there's so much to do  
 We must be industrious and to our duty  
 true.

We must build a character  
 That shall stand for aye.  
 We must leave the human race  
 Better for our stay.  
 So let's watch the minutes, comrade.  
 Let us use our time so well  
 Thus, though life is very short,  
 We can make each moment tell.

C. M. BARNITZ

KURIOS FROM KORRESPONDENTS  
 Q Are all eggs infertile (that test clear  
 after being under incubation for three  
 days or more)? A. No. Some germs do  
 not develop.

Q I have been unable to get fertile  
 eggs for several years from my pea  
 fowl and have been wondering how it  
 would do to mate them to the white.  
 What do you think of it? To what use  
 do peacocks live? A. We have never  
 heard of colored and white peafowl  
 mating. They are antagonistic to an-  
 other color. There birds of a feather  
 must be bred together. Peacocks some-  
 times live over a century.

Q Can a hen be sick and yet lay?  
 A. Yes, for a short or longer period  
 according to what the disease is. With  
 an ailment like cholera or pneumonia  
 a hen stops laying quick. With roup  
 that runs the course from cold to entan-  
 th to roup we have known hens to lay  
 two weeks after the first symptoms.  
 We have known hens with chronic  
 diarrhea to lay for a month and have  
 seen hens lay while the abdominal  
 cavity was so full of tumors that both  
 the ovary and intestines could no  
 longer perform their functions.

Q How old should geese be to pro-  
 duce strong goslings? Is a pond neces-  
 sary? A. Two years. While geese  
 may be raised without a pond, they  
 do better when they have swimming  
 facilities.

Q Is it true that an egg is equal to  
 a pound of sirloin steak in nutritive  
 value? A. Six big eggs are, but if it  
 came to a choice most fellows would  
 yell for the steak.

### FEATHERS AND EGGSHELLS.

A hen's egg contains 80 per cent. wa-  
 ter, and what a big profit there is in  
 this water when eggs sell from 20 to  
 60 cents a dozen, and yet some poul-  
 trymen are too slow and lazy to give  
 their hens enough water to drink.  
 Wouldn't the milkman jump at such a  
 chance?

An evening feed of good, soft  
 yellow corn is a heating, satisfying, last-  
 ing meal for the hens on a cold night.  
 Try it yourself by eating more mush  
 and milk and corn pone and also thus  
 reduce the high cost of living.  
 The postoffice department insists  
 that eggs must be marked "eggs." As  
 the United States district court at Phil-  
 adelphia has decreed an egg is an egg,  
 even though it contains a chick, until  
 that chick gets out, the shipper of hay  
 mow antiques may tag them "eggs"  
 without breaking the law or busting  
 his elastic conscience.

Eggs that are frozen and then thaw-  
 ed always change in appearance, and a  
 customer is apt to suspect you of sell-  
 ing ancient or preserved eggs. Gather-  
 ing them often on cold days saves trou-  
 ble and gives you a chance to pick up  
 any eggs dropped on the floor and to  
 inspect the flock for signs of winter  
 ailments.

Those egg speculators who borrow-  
 ed money to store eggs to sell at fabu-  
 lous prices to the public during the  
 winter forgot there are two sure things  
 the men can't control the women and  
 the weather. Well, yes, they did go up  
 against it, didn't they? Rusted is no  
 name.

When you get those birds home from  
 the show put them in a roomy, com-  
 fortable place and give them a chance  
 to stretch. Don't turn them out at  
 once, feed them good nourishing food  
 and keep them by themselves. They  
 need a rest. Besides, they are new  
 strangers to the rest of the flock and  
 are apt to get henpecked, and then, too,  
 they may have some disease germs in  
 their feathers brought home as soon  
 venis.

As a preliminary test of what the  
 parcel post would do to eggs a carton  
 containing one dozen was sent as  
 "merchandise" to Postmaster General  
 Hitchcock at Washington from Okla-  
 homa City, a distance of 1,500 miles.  
 The eggs were knocked around in the  
 ordinary mail, but arrived in fine con-  
 dition.

Missouri's poultry product for 1910  
 was over half a billion dollars more  
 than the gold and silver produced the  
 same year in Colorado, California and  
 Arizona. Let our poultry pessimists  
 put that in their pipe and smoke it.

The Crystal palace show, London,  
 had an entry of 100 turkeys, 53 Bronze  
 and 47 White Holland. Many of the  
 aristocracy breed and show the big  
 bird. In this country turkeys are seen  
 at but few shows. Some associations  
 do not encourage their exhibition, con-  
 sidering them too difficult to coop and  
 care for.

Never use a lamp that leaks for heat-  
 ing incubator or brooder. A friend  
 showed us his incubator in operation  
 in the room where a family of three  
 slept. Underneath the lamp was a  
 basin to catch the leaking oil. The  
 probable results of such criminal care-  
 lessness are too dreadful to contem-  
 plate. Friend, use a good clean lamp  
 and handle it with care.

C. M. Barnitz

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