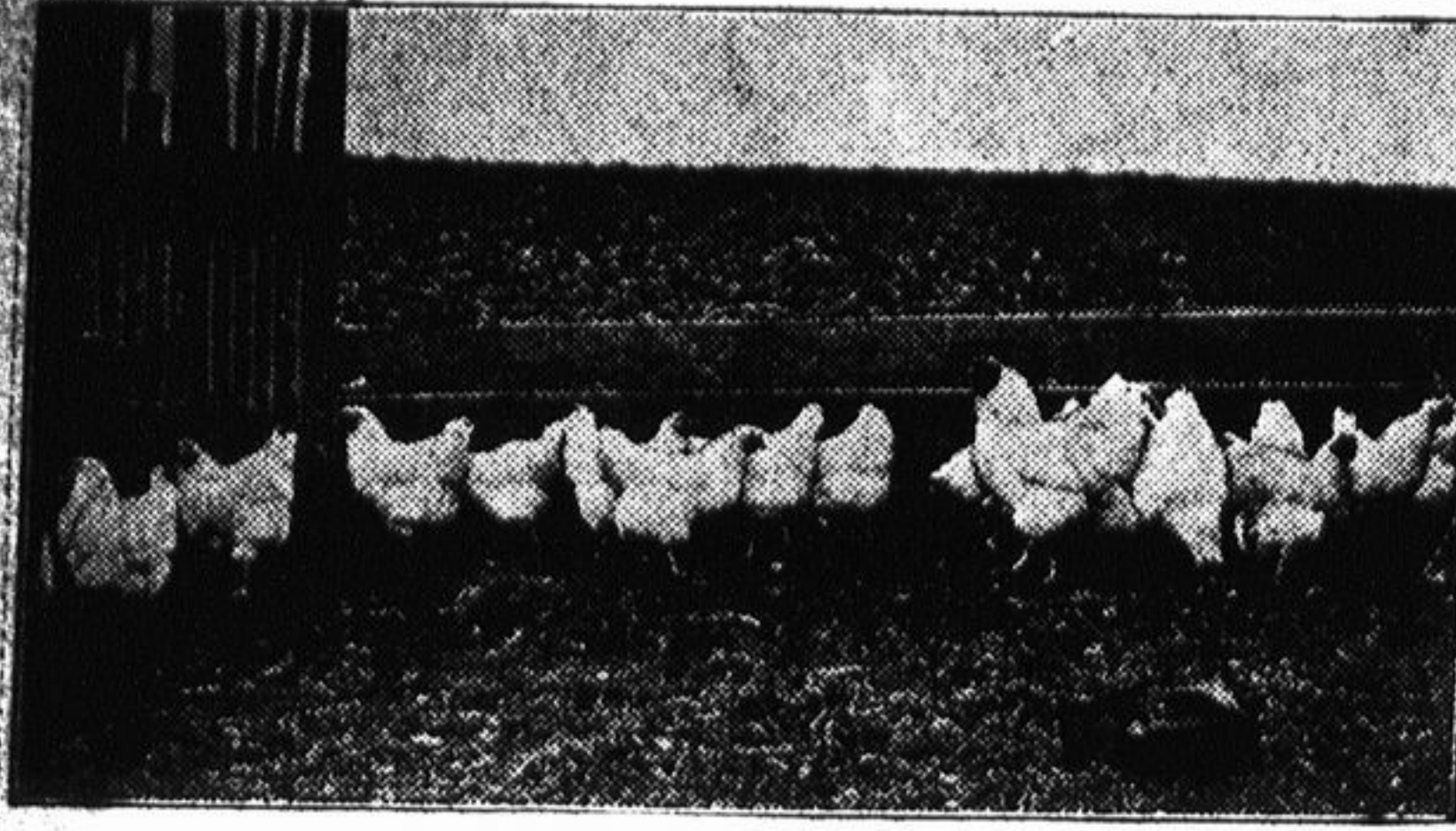


**HOW MONEY CAN BE MADE WITH POULTRY**



A String of White Wyandottes.

(By KATHERINE ATHERTON GRIMES.)

People who go to the market to buy eggs or poultry always want the best they can get. And the only way they can tell is by the looks. So if you want to get good prices for your poultry products, you must make them look nice.

At this time of year your most important product will be your eggs. The boy with only a few hens will hardly be able to do any shipping on his own account, but must depend on his home market. There are, however, several ways in which he can get a little more than market prices for his eggs.

One way is to arrange with your home dealer to furnish him strictly fresh eggs, graded and guaranteed, for his finest class of trade. Any grocer likes to get eggs that he knows he can recommend, and is willing to pay a good price for the same. As many town customers buy their eggs just a dozen at a time, it adds to the attractiveness and salability of your goods if they are put up in neat cartons holding just that number.

Of course your eggs must be clean. If your hens are of several kinds, you are likely to get eggs that are not uniform in color. Sort them so as to put each color by itself. If you have never tried this plan, you have no idea how much nicer your eggs will look, and anything that adds to their appearance helps your price.

Not long ago the following little every-day occurrence was noted in a grocery where many eggs were being brought in. A great bucketful had been offered for sale, and the clerk was busy counting them out. They were like Joseph's coat, of "many colors," but it is to be hoped his coat was not like them in being stained and dirty.

"Anything with a shell on passes for an egg with some folks," grumbled the disgusted clerk, as he gingerly fished out two or three specimens that were most indisputable "old," and laid them carefully to one side. "If these old things didn't come out of a last year's hen's nest I'll miss my guess."

At last he finished his counting, and returned to the counter to settle with their owner.

"Twelve cents is the best we can do on that grade of eggs," he said. "We're overloaded with them now."

"I thought you were paying more than that," protested the woman who had brought them in.

"I had to lay out over two dozen

that were cracked, or otherwise unsalable," replied the grocer. "If you had sorted your eggs I might have done better for you."

Of course she did not like it, but whose fault was it if she could not get the highest market price?

A little later another lot was brought in. There were two boxes of them, in each of which were twelve cartons, holding a dozen eggs each. One box was full of white-shelled eggs, clean as pearls, uniform in size, and packed with the small end down. The other held brown-shelled eggs, some cartons being light brown, and others dark brown. The clerk smiled as he lifted them out.

"Eighteen cents a dozen, and glad to get them. Orders waiting for them



A Dual-Purpose Hen.

right now. Jim, go and 'phone to Mrs. Grant and Mrs. East that we've got those eggs they want."

And that is the difference. When the grocer knows what he can depend on, he is willing to pay for it. He does not have to hunt a market for his best eggs, any more than you do.

Another good way is to sell your eggs directly to individual customers, thus making the middleman's profit, too. There are many people who are willing to pay from five to ten cents a dozen more than the regular market price for eggs that they know will be fresh and good. A very good plan is to mark each carton with your name, the date the eggs were gathered, and the words "quality guaranteed." It does not take long to work up a fancy trade in this way, but of course it takes a little more time than to sell direct to the grocery.

**SOME REMINDERS FOR THE ORCHARDIST**



A New Seedling Peach—Unusual Variety.

(By BESSIE L. PUTNAM.)

Whenever we see a farmer, particularly in the peach belts, buying peaches, we feel that one part of his education has been neglected.

There are scores of communities in which about one-half of the residents grow their own peaches and the other half buy from them and then emit a wall that they cannot grow peaches themselves.

Peaches perhaps do best on sandy soil, but a good clay soil, thoroughly enriched and cultivated is now growing in many part of the country excellent fruit.

No matter how thrifty our peach orchard may be constant planting is necessary to keep it thoroughly up to the mark because they develop and mature rapidly and are, therefore, short-lived. Peach trees decay more than any other fruit tree.

No reason now why fruit should not go to market packed in the most attractive manner. Boxes and hampers are now being made of paper and are just as cheap as wood.

There is almost as much in the selling of the fruit as in raising it and fruit that is well packed in attractive packages always brings the best price.

It is a sad mistake to plant young trees in the midst of old and worm-eaten trees, particularly when no attention is paid to the eradication of insects.

It is permissible to allow a saw in

the orchard occasionally, but it becomes pretty nearly being a crime to take an axe among the trees.

Not much use to spray for leaf curl after the buds break. We tried to convince a man of this fact when we saw him spraying along the middle of June. He said he was spraying to prevent leaf curl, but did not know what caused it. Do you?

How many fine orchards we have seen ruined by allowing a top-heavy growth. The way some people treat their orchards one would imagine that they gave their trees credit for possessing human intelligence and the power to protect themselves from enemies and to rid themselves of disease.

The ground newly set trees should be firmed frequently for at least a year as otherwise they are apt to be blown out of line by the strong winds.

Do not be afraid to thin the fruit on the trees. Rub off the apples and peaches until one is left every five or six inches. It takes grit to do this, but you will have better and larger fruit if you will follow the plan.

Orchard soil must be rich in organic matter and for that purpose if for no other clover crops are valuable.

Orchard ground should not be cultivated later than August first because cultivation keeps the sap running and the trees must have time to stop growing and harden before winter comes on.

**"CROWN GALL" DESTROYS MANY TREES**



"Crown Gall" on Peach "Crown Gall" on Apple "Nematode Galls" on Peach Roots.

(By F. W. CARD.)

There is a mysterious disease becoming very prevalent throughout the country at large of which as yet comparatively little is known. Its effects are apparent and familiar in many sections, but its cause has not been definitely determined. The name "root knot" would be the most natural one by which to designate it, but in using the term it is liable to be confused with another disease due to an entirely different cause. The name "Crown Gall" has been applied to it in California and hence will probably be retained though the knotty growths are not confined to the crown of the plant. It is characterized by a rough, knotty growth at the surface of the ground. This growth usually encircles the entire stem or main root at this point, and smaller knots frequently appear on the lateral roots deeper in the ground.

It is known to be more or less common in Europe. In Germany it is believed to be the result of injury to the roots received in cultivation or in some other way. In our own country it is more or less commonly known in many sections, and doubtless occurs throughout the greater portion of the United States.

The only treatment that can be recommended at present is to vigorously exclude all affected plants when setting. No one can afford to plant such trees under any circumstances. The risk is too great and the chance of ever getting any profitable return from them far too small. Of course it is always desirable that the trees or plants should be obtained from nurseries where the disease does not exist, but it is not always possible to do this. The next best thing to do is to burn every tree in the orchard found to be affected.

**Sheepy Taste.**

The sheepy taste often found in mutton does not come from contact of the flesh with the wool but from some peculiar flavor in the inner or secondary skin which is released by cooking.

The Tunis sheep is entirely relieved from objectionable flavor as are all breeds of fat-tailed sheep.

**Encourage the Boys.**

The ownership of a handsome colt or a half-bred well bred calves is often sufficient to keep a boy on the farm. Pretty cheap prices and it's a pity that more farmers do not take advantage of the opportunity.

**Humus is Essential.**

Our old friend Humus does not stand much of a show with some farmers. They have not yet learned that in order to make material to last through the crop rotation we must plow under grass sod and other crops of that kind. It takes a little nerve to plow under your crop of clover, for instance, but it must be done if we are to keep up with the procession.

**Guinea Pigs as Food.**

The guinea pig market is at present furnished largely by the demand for pets and for animals for scientific laboratories, but there is no reason why the animal should not be used as food in this country as it is in South America.

**Easy to Grow.**

The trailing nasturtiums are among the easiest annuals to grow and will give a supply of flowers the whole season.

**PREDICTIONS OF RAINY WEATHER**

Horses Neigh, Cattle Low, Peacocks Scream, and Ducks and Geese Are Noisy.

(By A. V. MEERSCH.)

It is well known that animals and fowls give notice of the approach of rainy weather by their peculiar actions. Dogs and cats are less energetic and show an unusual disposition to sleep. Sheep crowd together in a shelter place. Horses neigh, cattle low, peacocks scream, guinea fowls squall, and ducks and geese are more noisy than usual.

All this is due to the decreased supply of oxygen in the air and to the depressing effect of damp air on their nerves. It gives them some difficulty in breathing and makes them listless and uneasy.

Another sign of rain is seen when a cat rubs her ears and sometimes every part of her coat that she can reach. This is due in part to the dampness of the air, which penetrates the hair and makes the skin itch, but is chiefly due, perhaps, to the air being heavily charged with electricity. The hair of the cat becomes heavily charged, too, and she rubs it to make it smooth, and to brush away the peculiar sensation electricity causes.

Perhaps you have noticed that the leaves of the dandelion and clover fold up and go to sleep, so to speak, when the rain is near. As these plants never open their leaves without the stimulating influence of sunshine, the cloudy sky puts them to sleep. Another reason for the change is the expansion of the air vessels of the plants, due to the damp air which causes the leaves to contract and close just as paper curls when one side of it is moistened.

**Next: Death Bird.**

The common plover is one of the most useful birds in the land, as it eats small, wire worms, beetles and all sorts of objectionable insects. Its nestlings are protected

**ESSENTIAL PART IN TOMATO CARE**

Pruning Vines Is Most Convenient Way to Secure Stronger Vine and Stalk.

(By J. J. CASEY.)

The tomato is raised in this country almost entirely for shipping purposes. They are dedicated as a food for all classes of people, the laboring classes especially, who buy them of the marketers.

I find the tomato easily grown, but I also find they must be cared for in the proper way and manner. One of the most essential parts in the culture and production of the tomato is the pruning of the tomato vines in the most convenient way and manner, to aid in a stronger vine or stalk, and to give growth to a larger crop of tomatoes which, without doubt, will give to the grower the premium much above his work.

If the pruning is not done, the plant will grow slender, tall, and have an ugly shape, and when the crop of tomatoes get to a very great size the plant will bear down to the ground and the tomatoes will rot.

Another thing is if the tomatoes set well on the unpruned plant they will not get to any size, for there is too much of the leaves and stalk to support.

The first pruning is to take place as soon as the plants take a start to grow after they have been set in the six-inch cold frame. The plants should be about eight inches high, and only the top pinched off. Next, in a day or two, pinch the tops off of the second to the bottom suckers, and so on until the whole plant is gone over, waiting a day or two between each pruning of the suckers. About every two weeks the tops of the stalks should be pinched out, thus causing the stalk to become greater in diameter, which aids in the supporting of the heavy load of tomatoes. It is good to prune once after setting in the field.

**Eggs to Chickens.**

Chickens should be fed hard boiled eggs only a few days.

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