

FRUIT TREES AND COWS ARE PROFITABLE



Fine Old Apple Orchard.

(By C. M. SCHULTZ.)

There are days, and even weeks, when the fruit grower, even with a small orchard, if he be a true orchardist has his hands full and running over. At such times he finds it difficult to obtain sufficient help to take care of his fruit and must needs depend upon such boys and girls and women and non-competent men as he may be able to gather from the hedges and by-ways.

The small orchard alone will not permit the employment of competent help all the year around, but when combined with dairy or poultry raising this difficulty is easily overcome, and the owner is in the much better position to take care of his fruit and make a better profit out of it than he would be if conducting the orchard alone with insufficient help.

Overhauling is of course, like dairying, a specialized line of endeavor, also is dairying and poultrying. There are not enough people in the business who realize this, but the fact is slowly beginning to make its way upon the intelligence of those engaged in it.

Dairying is a man's job and so is poultry raising, although the latter can be conducted and in fact, is now, being conducted in thousands of places by women who find it more profitable and healthful than indoor employment.

A large farm is not necessary for dairying. While pastures are needful to a certain extent, it is a fact that dairymen are becoming less dependent upon them every year. A dairyman of my acquaintance near Danbury, Conn., last year plowed up 75 acres of pasture and put it all into corn which was later turned into the silo. He now has two pastures, each of about 40 acres, and one of these will go into corn this spring and the other will follow next year. This man says he has demonstrated that he can produce more milk with greater regularity of flow by the use of silage than on pasture and at less cost.

On an orchard farm where there is say, 40 acres of fine land, a dairy of 10 cows could be maintained without difficulty. Of course pasture could not be depended upon, but specialized feeds must be used. Good corn land will turn into the silo 35 to 35 tons of the very best kind of feed per acre, and no pasture on earth has ever yet been able to produce such an amount of milk-giving product.

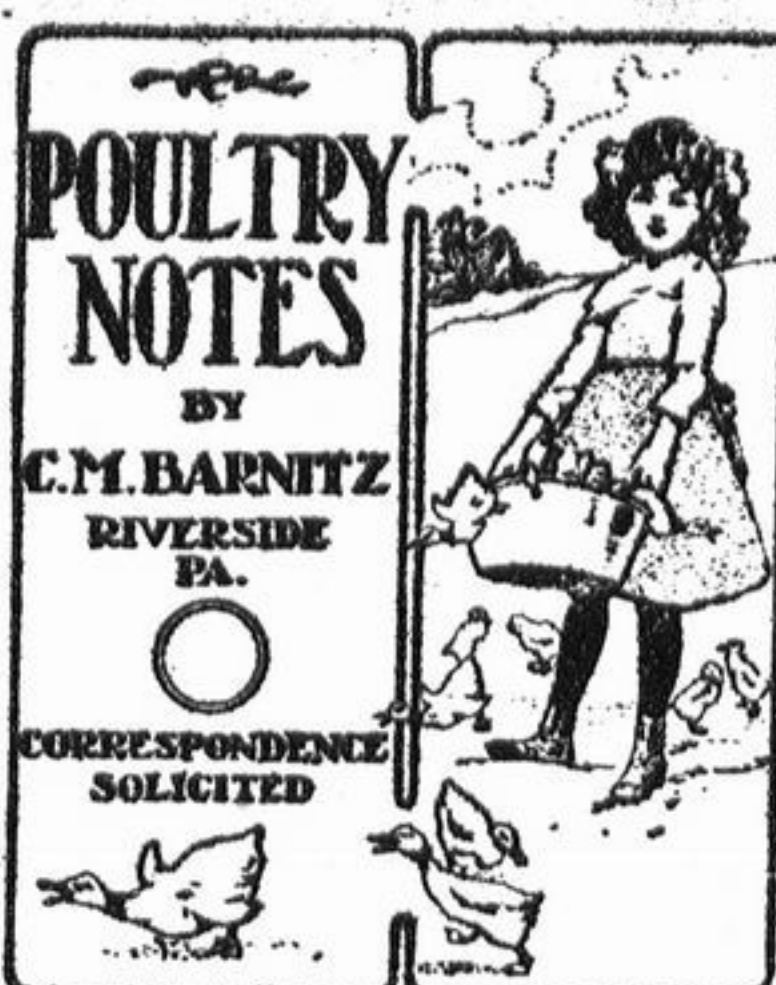
Two silos of, say, a total capacity of 75 or 80 tons, will hold sufficient ensilage for six months' winter of 10 cows, and also provide plenty for summer use. Ten cows at least can be maintained on a farm of 40 acres exclusive of the orchard, provided the highest cultivation is followed and the work is specialized. Of course if the cows are to be allowed to run over large areas of pasture this cannot be done. While a little pasture must be used, mainly for exercise and to give that variety necessary to dairy feed, the main support of the dairy must come from the silo and from green crops, especially grown for them.

Of course, on a combination orchard and dairy, farm crop rotation is absolutely necessary. We must have clover, we must produce corn for the silo and some for the pigs, because the pigs are necessary to use up the skim-milk and the oats and cow peas should always have a place in the rotation.

Ten or a dozen cows with their calves and the pigs and horses necessary to work the farm, will produce sufficient manure to dress the land fairly well. If this manure is applied to clover sod and this is turned down for the corn it will produce a tremendous amount of succulent feed to go into the silo.

A farm of this size should also have a field of alfalfa—and let no man believe that alfalfa is to be confined to the arid regions of the west. Some of the finest alfalfa is now grown on the New England hills in places where little else have been raised for many years, while on the rich corn lands of the middle west, alfalfa is now as much a fixture as the corn itself. The orchardist with only 40 acres of fine land as his command will choose to buy some concentrated feeds, such as alfalfa, but this is not the best thing to do. Dairying is a business that should be run on a scientific basis, and if the farmer has the land and the labor to raise his own alfalfa, he should do so. It is a much better thing to do than to buy it, and it will pay him to do so.

There are many other things that can be raised on a farm of this size, and if the farmer is willing to do so, he can make a very good thing out of it. The fact is, that a farm of this size can be made to pay for itself, and if the farmer is willing to do so, he can make a very good thing out of it.



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BREEDING FOR BIG EGGS.

"Aigs" are no longer "jst aigs." People even have favorite colors, and eggs are now classed as rots, spots, blood rings, floats, checks, watery, weak, seconds and firsts, and firsts are also divided into ordinary and extras, the latter being the bon ton big egg which commands the big price and which every fancier should strive to produce.

Most flocks have hens that lay eggs from eighteen ounces up.

We show here eggs that weigh four ounces each, laid on successive days by one of our big egg layers.

Think of eggs three pounds to the dozen! These are not double yolks, but

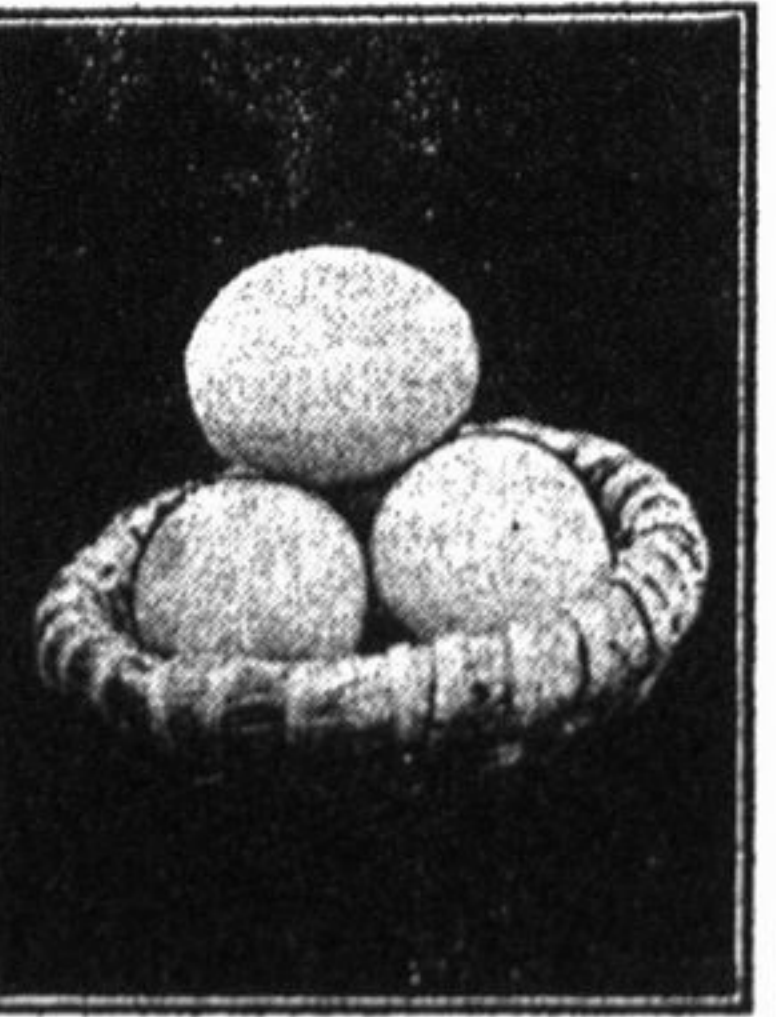


Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

EGGS THREE POUNDS TO DOZENS.

perfect eggs, which hatch perfect chicks, and the hen, a White Wyandotte, weighs seven pounds—a half pound over standard weight.

There are hens that lay little eggs, hens that lay medium and hens that lay big eggs, and the only way to get a flock that lays the big eggs is to breed from the big egg layers.

Such hens should be bred to a male whose dame laid the big egg.

No; it's not in the name either. Minorca fanciers claim Minorcas lay the largest eggs, and Light Brahma fanciers claim their big feather leg lays the largest eggs, yet we have seen eggs from both that looked like 3 cents.

It's the strain, not the breed name, that tells. It's whether they are bred for big eggs.

Two other points. Our big egg layers don't eat much more than hens that



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

SEE LAID 'EM.

lay the "weeny teeny" egg, either, nor do they lay fewer eggs because their eggs are large and they are good sized hens.

To say that a perfectly formed big hen can't lay as many eggs as a perfectly formed ordinary sized hen is as absurd as to say that a large grapevine of perfect structure can't produce as many grapes as a small grapevine of perfect structure.

We know it's not so.

DON'TS.

Don't get angry when a customer complains about your shipment. You can mollify a customer quicker with tanglefoot taffy than with jaw rattle roughhouse.

Don't feed egg stimulants. We have never seen a healthy hen in normal condition that wouldn't respond readily to good feeding when she has proper exercise and shelter and is free from bughouse.

Don't beft brooder chicks with chaff from the loft where sparrows harbor. It's bughouse.

Don't keep stacked lime where baby chicks can get it.

Don't quarrel over petty things. Stand up for your rights, but fight only when it's right.

Don't put new hay in the mow until you are sure there are no nests of eggs there. You may cover them and then find them next summer and well then for eggs laid in the mow.

BLOWN UP BY DYNAMITE.

An old farm hen, a rural rover, flew into a haymow among the clover and said, "I'll lay my eggs right here and hatch me out some babies dear."

She only hatched about a week when, with a roar and dust and creak, in came a load of new mown hay that was pitched right where her brown eggs lay.

Those eggs lay there from June to May, until they used that new mown hay. When the old hen found the same old nest and cackled loud, "Well, I am blest!

"Those are the eggs I laid last year to hatch some lovely babies dear. Now, I'll just lay a dozen more and hatch myself chicklets galore."

But Biddy's effort was all in vain, for the hay was thrown on the eggs again, and they lay in the mow until Easter week.

When the farmer came some hay to seek, he only trod on an egg or two when through the roof like a flash he flew.

And as he was passing out of sight he yelled: "Goodby! It was dynamite!" C. M. BARNITZ.

HEN HABITS.

While the hen, like men, may in some respects be morally depraved, yet she is also a creature of habit and is capable of instruction and what she is depends much on the human who makes her young ideas shoot.

If she's an egg fiend, she gets that habit because enough nests are not provided and the egg laid on the floor rolls around, gets cracked and is eaten and she wants more, or the nest is open on top and the eggs are trampled on and broken, or there is not lime to make strong eggshells or something that's in the egg is needed in the ration to satisfy the needs of her system.

If she's a feather fiend, devouring her own garments and disrobing her brothers and sisters, there's a reason for it. She may be bughouse and get the habit while pecking at crawlers, or gets no meat in the ration, or is not kept busy scratching in litter, or she may get the taste from eating scalded feathers thrown away by some wasteful housewife.

If she raises Cain in the neighborhood by tearing up the neighbor's garden that habit wasn't born with her in the egg. There's a hole in the fence, a top rail on the wire or a neighbor's ill smelling, insanitary garbage pile or a charming chancier leads her into temptation. If she runs from her owner as if scared to death and skyrockets off the nest at his approach, it's a sign of roughhouse methods and cussin' in the chicken coop.

A nervous, kicking, balky horse, a cow that slaps the milkmaid with her tail and kicks over the milk bucket, or a dog that chases a team and causes a runaway and snaps at the passerby, these do not come by such habits naturally, but by training or lack of training. So with the hen. You can't teach a hen to play a bass horn nor sing a duet with Melba, but by gentleness you can make her gentle, and you can keep her from forming bad habits by keeping inducements to such away.

FEATHERS AND EGGSHELLS.

In one day 50,000 day old chicks were shipped from Petaluma, Cal. Chicks seem to be about as plentiful there as orange blossoms, and it is claimed there is no lack of beautiful maidens in that lovely, flowery, fruitful Eden either.

In starting the poultry business you should begin with a breed that is in demand. To start with low grades, or half breeds, is worse than not to have started at all. The best are none too good, and to work out problems in flesh and blood to successful solution one must have the best.

Rotten eggs sold in Pennsylvania must now be dosed with kerosene to render them unfit for baking those lovely golden custards and sponge cakes that have been sold to many of our city citizens. This law should be passed by all the states, even if it does discriminate by decreasing the millions of the egg trust and increases the billions of the oil trust.

Sonoma county, Cal., is the leading county in the United States for poultry. Last year it raised 1,512,001 fowls and produced 113,650,599 eggs, the income from poultry reaching \$3,088,518.

When a squad of men consented to eat raw cold storage eggs two years old for ten days to prove that age is no detriment to Kansas eggs they certainly showed nerve. We advise them to have a bombproof or cyclone cellar handy when the shells are cracked and to use Kansas "redeye" as an antidote.

Among the advantages the poultryman has over the dairyman the hen milks herself while the dairyman must milk the cow and often gets kicked to boot.

A New York poultryman asked us to find the architectural defect in one of his poultry houses that was just the same as another, but his fowls always got colds when housed in it, while the birds in the other kept healthy. An examination showed both houses alike but the afflicted flock all young and 200 more in number than the old flock. Overcrowding brought damp and disease, as it will even in a poultry palace.

Missouri, the chief poultry state in the Union, produced over \$50,000,000 from her feathered flocks. This exceeds the worth of the combined wheat crops of Iowa, Texas, New York, Michigan, Maryland and California. And yet some people say poultry doesn't pay and some states as yet make no appropriation for poultry culture.

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