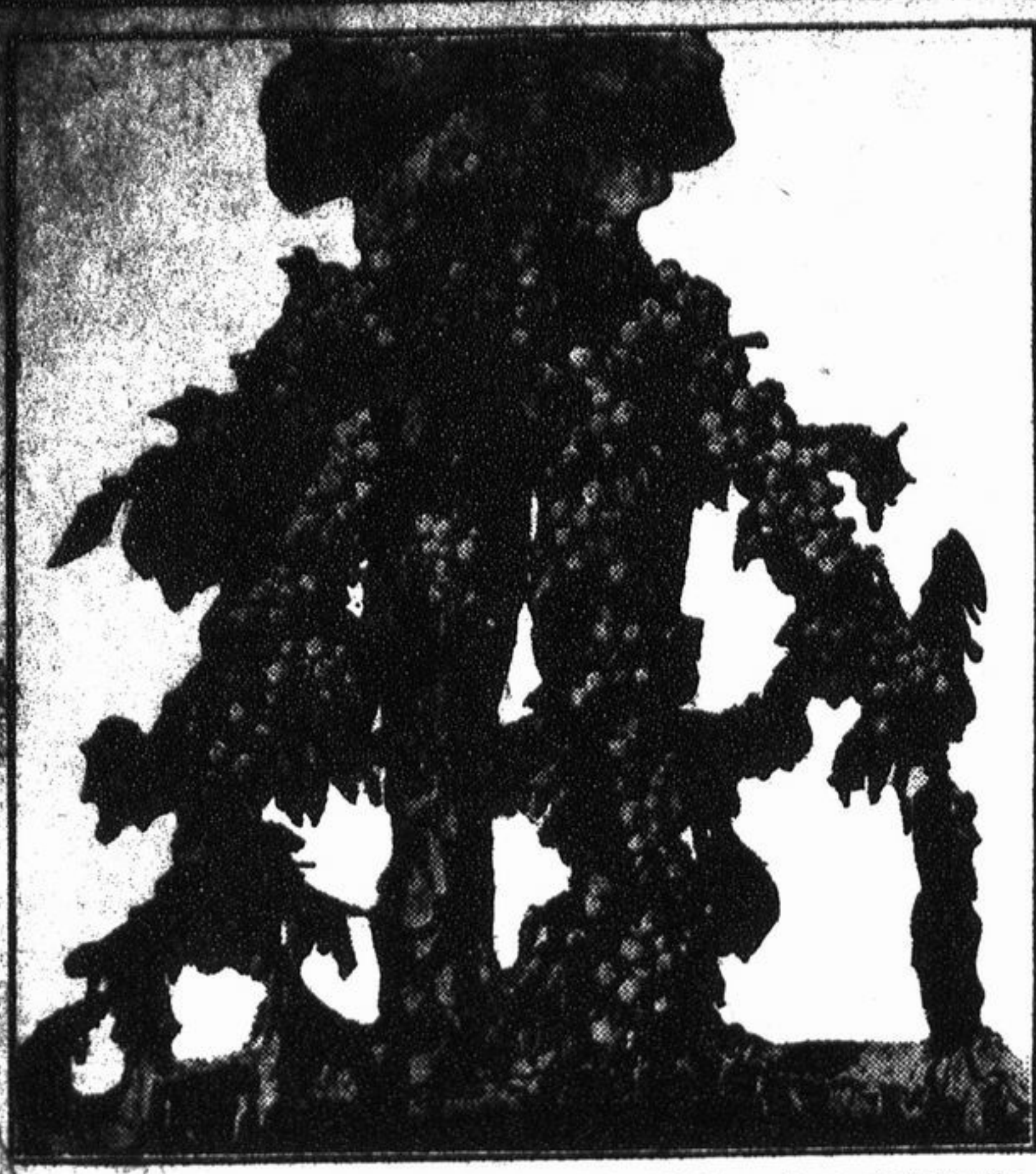


PRACTICE IN PLUM ORCHARD



While flowering slightly behind the normal in yield on account of continuing rain at pollination season and a long spell of daylight dry weather, this picture shows a bounteous yield of plums on a long aged farm.

BEACH, Iowa Experiment Station.

Curculio.—This insect makes its home in the tender young fruit and lays its egg. It then cuts a flap around the puncture, characteristic wound. The curculio enters a larva which feeds all an often causes it to wither. Often the wormy fruit drops before it drops and then helps to spread the rot fungus to other fruit. Spray with arsenate of lead, using from 1 pound to 4 pounds to 50 gallons just before the blossoms open and again as soon as they fall. Two weeks later spray with 1 pound of lead to 50 gallons. Paris green might hurt the leaves if used.

When the insect is very abundant jarring may also be practiced. A convenient "jarker" is made of cotton sheeting stretched over a frame mounted on low wheels. One side is left to allow the cart to be pushed directly under the tree. The tree is then jarrred and the curculio which are caught upon the sheet are swept into a box hung under the center of the sheet from whence they are later removed and destroyed. Jarring should be done as soon as the blossoms fall and continue from two to three weeks. Early morning is the best time to do this work.

When cultivation continued into

September helps to keep the curculio under control.

Plant Lice.—Several kinds of plant lice, or aphides, attack the plum. They work on the under side of the leaf so that it curls and often droops. They multiply very rapidly. On susceptible stock they may often be fought quite successfully by cutting off the infested tips promptly and destroying them or dipping in nicotine sulfate, 24, but in the orchard this is hardly practicable and probably the best that can be done is to spray with nicotine sulfate or with whale oil soap, one pound to about seven gallons of water, as soon as the lice appear and before the leaves curl.

Fruit Rot. Sclerotinia Fructigena.—This disease causes much loss to plum growers by rotting the fruit and sometimes also by destroying the blossoms and the tender shoots in spring. It is particularly destructive in Iowa to plums of the domestica or European class, such as Lombard, or Spanish King, German Prune, and Blue Damsel, and also to the Japanese plums. It finds easy entrance to the fruit through punctures made by curculio or other insects. It may be partly controlled by fighting the curculio thoroughly and by spraying with lime sulphur.

Leaf Spot. Cylindrosporium Padl. K.—This is often quite injurious to the plum. The same disease attacks the cherry.

FARM MONEY

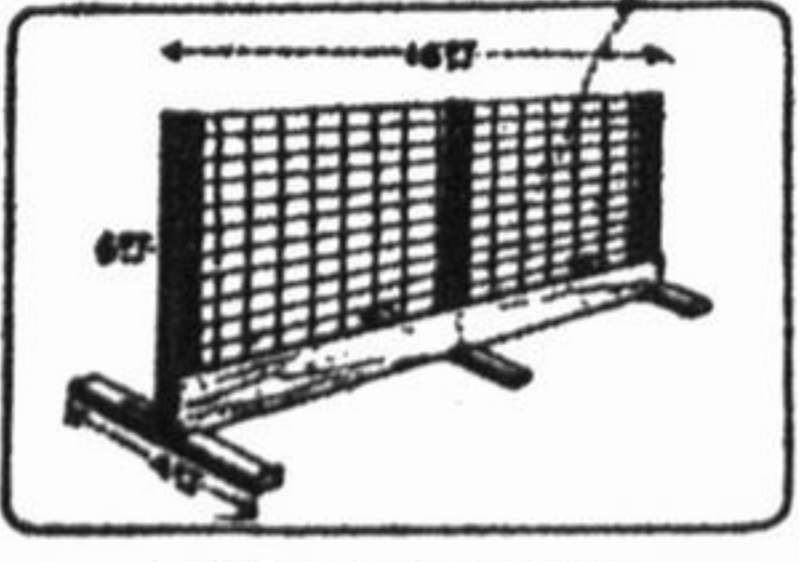
POULTRY FENCE IS PORTABLE

Problem of Keeping Fowls on Same Soil for Years and Maintaining Sweetness is Solved.

I built a fence last summer that has proved very successful. It has long been a problem how to keep our fowls year after year on the same soil and yet have it fresh and sweet. We planted different crops in our yards after we were through with the breeding season. This we found very beneficial, but as the yards had to be dug up by hand it required much labor if there were many of them. I found the solution by using portable fences, writes A. E. Van Natta of Indiana in the Farm and Home.

The fences were built of 2x3-inch hemlock joists and 12-inch hemlock boards, 5-foot wire and iron shelf braces. All the lumber was 16 feet long. I cut the joists into two 6 and one 4 foot lengths and nailed a 4-foot piece on the bottom of a 6-foot length with two 20-penny nails, making a T shape.

In one angle the T was placed a 10x12-inch japanned shelf bracket fastened by six 1 1/4-inch screws. A 12-inch 16-foot board was then put in by cutting a notch in the ends and center, one inch deep and three inches



Portable Poultry Fence.

long. Stand up three of the T's eight feet apart and place the cut board on them, letting the 4-foot pieces rest in the inch notches in the board; square the uprights with the edge of the board and nail. We now have one 16-foot section complete, except the wire. The 12-inch board at the bottom is sufficient to prevent the cocks from fighting. This fence is very slighty, and two men can easily shift it wherever desired. If you wish to stack it out of the way the screws can be removed from the brackets and the 4-foot bases knocked off and replaced, when setting the fence, without much trouble.

SKIM MILK GOOD FOR HENS

Casein Largely Supplies Protein Necessary for Eggs—Also Excellent for Use in Fattening.

Skim milk is one of the very best feeds for both young chickens and laying hens. The casein, or curdy part of the milk, largely supplies the protein necessary for laying hens, while for fattening fowls there is nothing superior to milk for making white, juicy, delicate flesh. The milk may be fed either sweet or sour and may be given as a drink or mixed with wheat bran and oatmeal or both.

Sour skim milk, or buttermilk, fed to hens confined in yard or small ranges keeps them in health. The acid of the milk supplies the lack of vegetable acid they would pick up in grass pasture—the buttermilk aids digestion. Poultrymen near the wholesale city milkmen and creameries can often buy the sour milk for ten cents per gallon. At this price it is a cheap food.

POULTRY NOTES

During inclement weather fowls are better housed than out.

If the hens are not laying the chickens are that the fault is with their keeper.

In an egg of 1,000 grains, 600 belongs to the white, 200 to the yolk and 200 to the shell.

Let the children have a pen of hens. Look up the different breeds at the fair, and buy a pair that attracts you.

The pullet or hen which begins to lay in November will usually lay all winter if properly fed, housed and cared for.

Don't allow your chickens to have easily leg. Clean and apply a good disinfectant, then rub in plenty of good grease.

That good layers are great eaters. A bird must have capacity to eat and digest a great amount of food if she is to lay a great number of eggs.

Out out all small chickens and keep the largest and most vigorous ones for winter laying. The long hot summer has retarded the growth of the birds.

POULTRY

DESTROY ALL AILING FOWLS

Disease Generally Attacks Most Susceptible of Flock and They Should Be Killed at Once.

(By M. F. GREELEY.)

Most ailing or diseased chickens or hens had better be killed than doctored. In the first place it is by far the quickest way. Again, it at once does away with any risk from contagion. Moreover a once sick hen, even if she does seem entirely recovered, seldom develops into a first class layer, and second class layers seldom pay.

There is another point, often overlooked. Disease generally attacks the weakest or most susceptible of the flock, and the flock was ever benefited by keeping in it birds of this kind when it is known they are such. It is true that now and then some trivial thing may all an otherwise strong bird, and it would be a mistake to give her no opportunity to recover. We have had cases of limberneck, humble foot or slight lameness or cold, that yielded promptly to treatment. A few drops of pain killer or other hot drink seems to work on limberneck even more quickly than on a cold, and opening the swelling and applying some cleansing healing wash has been about all we have ever found necessary for bumble foot.

But, as a rule, ailing hens or chicks, particularly if they persist at all in ailing, we thing had better be killed and burned or buried deeply.

WHY SOME POULTRYMEN FAIL

Lack of Thorough Investigation Before Taking Up Industry Has Been Usual Cause of Failure.

While there is a great profit in raising poultry, failure of special poultry farms is frequently reported. Lack of proper investigation before going into the enterprise has been the usual cause of lack of success. Then, too, perhaps, bad locations, lack of the necessary amount of capital, careless investment, improper choice of breeds and character of buildings had a great deal to do with the trouble.

Some of the essential features in the successful handling of a poultry farm are the development of the young stock, proper feeding, proper marketing, the right kind of labor, etc. Specialization in poultry is just



A Profitable Type.

as profitable as specialization in any other branch of agriculture. A careful account of expenses and receipts must be kept, so that a check can be made from time to time on the business. Moreover, poultry in small lots are very adaptable to people not in the best of health and particularly to women, who are adapted to the raising of farm fowls.

GRAIN NEEDED FOR POULTRY

Corn May Be Used as Feed to Advantage, but It Must Be Supplemented With Something Else.

Grain is the staple food for poultry, and will be used for that purpose as long as fowls are kept on farms; but hens cannot give good results on grain alone. It is beneficial to them, says the Fruit Grower, and will be at all times relished, but the demand of the hens is such as will call for variety. In the shells of eggs, as well as their composition, are several forms of mineral matter and nitrogen, which can only be partially obtained from grain.

Even grains may in competition, and when fowls are fed on one kind for a long time, they begin to refuse it, as they may be over supplied with the elements in the food ration and lack the elements that are best supplied from some other source. For this reason they will accept a change of food, which is of itself an evidence that the best results from hens can only be obtained by a variety of food. Corn and wheat may be used as food with advantage, but it must be given as portion of the ration only, and not made exclusive articles of diet.

Water for Ducks. Ducks kept entirely on land must have deep drinking vessels, so they can get their heads under water. Where shallow vessels or troughs are used they gum up about the eyes, become listless, sit about, lose their appetite and eventually die.

Meat Feed Lacking. Feather-pulling fowls usually lack meat feed.

FERTILITY VERSUS SINGLE CROPPING

Potato Growers May Well Benefit by Experience of Wheat Raisers of Wisconsin.

(By C. L. FITCH, Colorado Agricultural College.)

When Illinois and Wisconsin, Minnesota and Dakota and other western states were put under the plow, the chief crop was wheat. After fifteen or twenty years of wheat growing in southern Wisconsin the crops diminished seriously, and about war time the yields ran so low because of disease that wheat growing was abandoned as a failure.

After almost a generation of fairy-tale and the exclusive reliance upon corn, oats, barley and clover, wheat was tried again, and the yields are now larger than in the pioneer days. This offers a parallel to the growing of potatoes in southern Maine in the earlier days, their virtually going out and now their larger production again.

After the experience of 1911 and 1912 the potato growers of many regions in the Rocky mountain states will do well to consider if they have not already reached for the time being at least the passing of their crop. Persistence is a good thing, but not always better than wisdom.

BIRD IS FRIEND OF ORCHARDISTS

If All Members of Feathered Tribe Were Killed Land Would Be Overrun With Bugs.

In spite of the annoyance that birds cause by eating fruit, orchardists who have made a close study of the matter say that the birds are the best friends they have. If the birds were to be killed the land would soon be overrun with bugs and worms, and fruit raising would be destroyed. Not all orchardists, however, agree with this statement. An Illinois fruit grower stated at a horticultural society meeting that birds should not be protected any more than snakes. He kills hundreds of snakes, robins and chickens every year because they destroy some of the fruit. It is stated on reliable authority that if snappers were not out near cherry trees the birds will eat the berries and not allow the cherries to our considerable extent.

PRACTICAL NOTES OF POULTRY YARD

Sunflowers Can Be Started Almost Anywhere and Transplanted—Add Variety.

A body used hen is an eggless hen. Stop feeding with poultry. Do best.

Water the hens two or three times a day with as good water as you would use to drink yourself.

How would you like to eat the food you give your hens? If you beg to be answered, then we tell you that you are not doing the right thing by your hens. They never ought to have food that is not good enough to eat on our own tables.

When you feed on the legs of your hens, you should think, will prevent

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