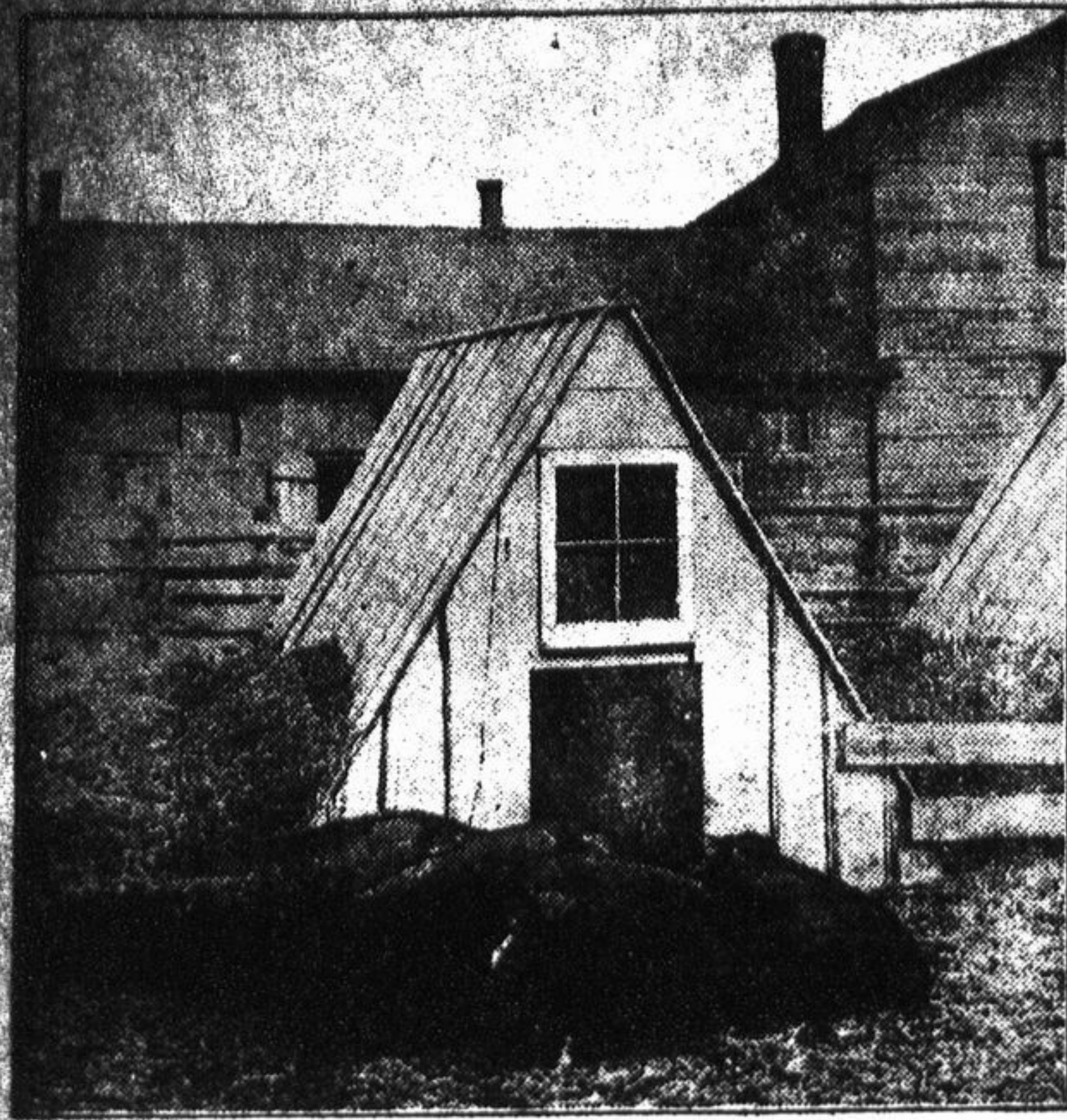


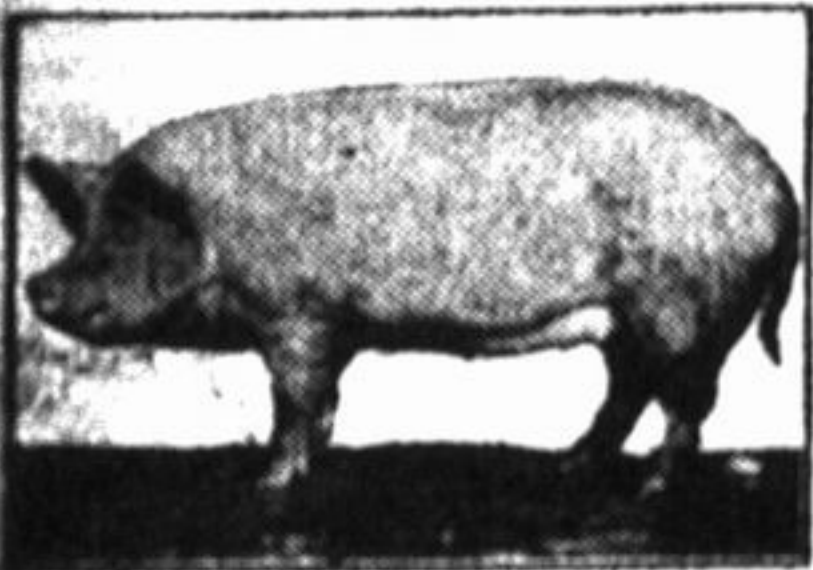
KEEPING YOUNG SOWS IN GOOD FLESH



A Good Type of Hog Cot.

It is held by most farmers that the best sow must be kept in thin flesh. Following this rule, which is good in a way, many farmers allow the sows an insufficient amount of feed, and hence both sow and pigs suffer, writes W. H. Underwood in the Iowa Homestead. Also the young sow farrows before she is mature in size, and through light feeding she never attains the size and breeding capacity that she would had she been given larger amounts of feed during her growing period.

The sow for several well understood reasons should not be kept too fat, especially in farrowing time. She has, however, large demands placed upon her, and hence requires large amounts of feed to sustain normal



Medium Type of Yorkshires.

activity. She needs much feed during pregnancy for the development of the unborn pigs and for her own vital needs.

After the pigs are born, during the suckling period, the sow requires an extra large amount of nutritious feed in order to furnish a full flow of milk for the little pigs and maintain her own flesh.

Too often the sow at the close of the suckling period becomes poor and de-

DAIRY PROSPERITY BY USE OF A SILO

Dairymen Should Take Advantage of Every Opportunity to Reduce His Expenses.

(By J. E. WORMAN.)

If a dairy farmer were told that he could roll silver dollars down a hill and then pick up two dollars for every one he rolled down, and this statement was verified by some of his neighbors, and hundreds of other dairy farmers in the country, that farmer would stay up nights to roll the dollars.

But when told that he could double the profits by the use of the silo he becomes very indifferent and keeps out in the same old rut, feeding dry feed, wasting nearly half of his corn crop and doing a lot of unnecessary work.

In these days of close competition dairymen should be ready to take advantage of every opportunity to reduce the cost of production, and it will be found that it is easier if the proper methods are used to do that than to raise the selling price of the dairy product. The results are the same; a large net profit.

In the corn plant about 40 per cent of the feeding value is in the stalk and 60 per cent in the ear. When the ear alone is fed nearly half of the corn crop is wasted.

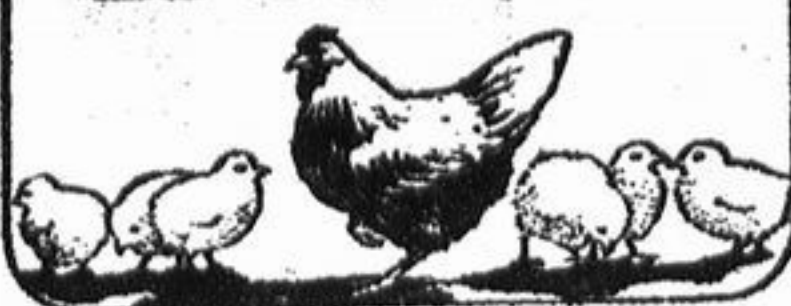
Where the dry stalks are fed at least half of them remain uncasten, while if stored in the silo the loss is almost nothing.

Every dairymen knows that cows will do their best on fresh June pasture. The grass is succulent and palatable and the conditions for a maximum milk flow are ideal. These conditions, however, do not last very long.

The silo comes as near to supplying the ideal conditions as anything that can be found, and it is available every day in the year. It provides a uniform feed for every one of the 12 months.

Every sensible dairy cow owner will prefer to have a silo than a pasture. It is better to grow truck-crops for our own laboring men than to ship them to Europe.

POULTRY FACTS



PROFITS FROM THE CHICKENS

No Place Where Business Can Be Made So Profitable as When Conducted as Side Line on Farm.

Specialized poultry farms are becoming more numerous each year. In many cases these are paying good returns on the money invested, but their effect on the supply of eggs and poultry for our large markets is but as a drop in the ocean. It is for the small flocks of 50 to 300 fowls upon the farms as a side line that we must depend for our supply of poultry products in the future as in the past, writes Prof. P. G. Holden in the Farm and Home Poultry Annual. No other branch of agriculture is represented on so many farms. The census for 1910 shows that 88 per cent. of all farms reported keeping poultry.

In no case can the business be made so profitable as where it is conducted as a side line of general farming. It is possible to allow chickens to range through many crops that are grown on the farm without damage to the crops and by such practice secure double returns from the same piece of land.

Orchards or corn fields are ideal for this purpose and if the presence of the chickens in them is beneficial rather than detrimental, as they will destroy



Prize-Winning White Leghorns.

large numbers of insects injurious to the crops. The movable colony house which is rapidly coming into general use on the farm makes it possible to scatter the chickens out over the fields.

This method is especially valuable for handling the young stock, as it gives freedom to the birds. The result will be stronger, more vigorous birds. By moving the house close to the fields where small grains have been harvested the birds are able to turn into profitable gains the shelled grain and scattered heads which remain on the field.

It is much easier to maintain a sow in good flesh than to restore it after it has been lost, and it is better in every way for the animal. A good sow may be fully half the herd in giving quality to the pigs if she is given sufficient feed and care to make manifest her full powers.

CLOVER HAY FOR CHICKENS

Fowls Will Be Kept in Better Laying Condition and Production of Eggs Increased.

(By J. P. SHUREMAN, United States Department of Agriculture.)

There is nothing better than well-cured clover grown or second growth clover hay for chickens. This should be cut up fine and steamed.

Aside from alfalfa there is no other food that can take the place of clover. By allowing a ration of scalded clover to hens they will keep in better laying condition and the production of eggs will be increased. Where clover hay cannot be secured bran is a very good substitute, though not so rich in mineral matter.

Vegetable food, such as cabbage, potatoes, beets and turnips, should be supplied the year around.

POULTRY NOTES

Cabbage makes a good green food for ducks in winter.

Hens lay a few more eggs when males are not used in the pens with them.

Egg production is not measured so much by the quantity as by the quality of the food.

A light morning feed for the flock is best because it keeps them hustling through the day.

Quarrelsome male birds in a flock not only worry each other, but keep the whole flock in a turmoil.

That hens must be fed and fed liberally if one expects eggs in large quantities, especially winter eggs.

The smaller the quarters the greater the care necessary in order to keep the hen houses clean and sanitary.

It is poor policy to change the quarters of hens or pullets while laying, for it usually checks or stops egg production.

It is claimed by those who have tried it, that a cross of Muscovy ducks on Pekin ducks will produce sterile progeny.

POULTRY FACTS

COLONY HOUSES FOR WINTER

Some Poultrymen Arrange Summer Coops in Suitable Manner for Use During the Cold Weather.

When young birds are brought in from the range we often find ourselves in need of more house room to winter the increased flock.

There are several ways in which the summer colony coops may be made to piece out the winter houses. If there is but one it may be placed close to the main house and used as an extra scratching and exercising room. The fowls may then pass from the main room to the addition by means of a tube constructed of boards and set into the opening about 10 by 20 inches in size, cut near the floor of each building. A dry goods box with top and bottom removed will answer nicely as a connecting passageway.

Some people fit up the summer colony coops as laying rooms, arranging all nests in them and thus leaving the whole space in the main building for use of the hens in the daytime. Still others use the coops as dusting rooms. Especially do the early brooder houses answer nicely for this, as there is usually plenty of sunlight. The dust may be kept moist and free from trash and so does not get into the food and water vessels, as it often does when nesting and feeding must be done in the same room. Sometimes two or three of these coops are used together for a small flock, one being used for a roosting room, one for a nest room and exercise. In each case they are joined by a wooden tube or passageway.

Some make their summer colony coops of knockdown sections so arranged that some five or six of them may be set up together in one continuous shed for sheltering the birds in winter. Such a pen must either be banked with straw or covered with paper for the winter to make it wind-proof. By the time the young birds are ready for the colony houses another year the old ones are having free run of the farm.

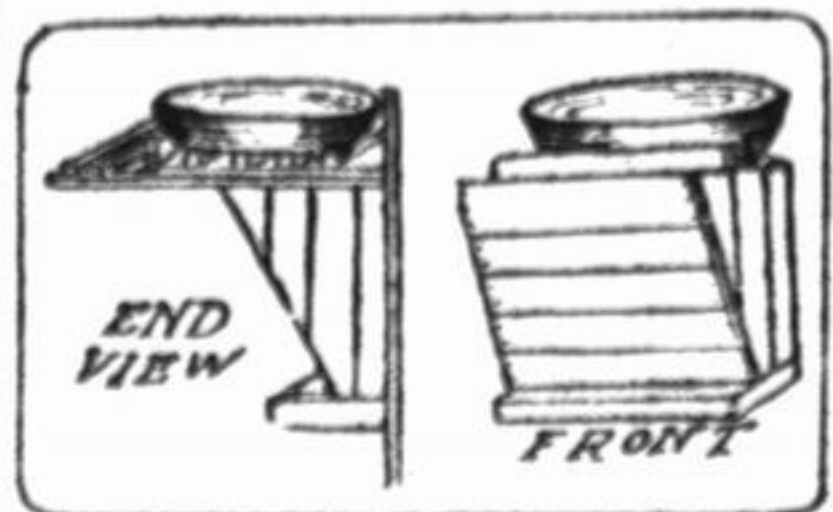
DRINKING PAN AND GRIT BOX

Vessel is Elevated to Prevent Litter Being Scratched into It—Contrivance is Easily Made.

The accompanying illustration of a combination drinking pan and grit box appeared in a recent issue of Successful Farming. The idea of elevating the drinking pan is to keep the water clean and prevent litter being scratched into it. The birds soon learn to fly upon the perch in front of the pan, to get the clear water.

The pan itself is made about three inches deep, so that when the water becomes frozen it can be easily dumped out.

The small hopper or box under the grit, or be divided into compartments drinking pan is made on the self-feeding principle, and may be used for grit, or be divided into compartments



Drinking Pan and Hopper.

for oyster shell and grit, or beef scrap. The frame on which the pan rests, is made to fit over the side of the hopper, the cross slats being firm on the top of the hopper. The whole contrivance can be easily made out of odds and ends of lumber found lying around most poultry or barn yards. The combination, when finished, is hung on the wall at a convenient height.

PROFITABLE TO GRADE EGGS

Better Prices Are Always Secured When Eggs Are Sorted According to Size and Color.

Even buyers at the country store will appreciate your efforts if you will sort your eggs according to size and color. Graded eggs show up a great deal better than those that are piled in promiscuously, and should—and will—command a better price if the dealer's attention is called to the fact, and he is assured that your eggs will be furnished that way all the time.

There are few, even of country stores, that would not be able to command a higher price for uniform, clean, fresh eggs, attractively picked, and one that produces that kind the year round can secure an advance in the market price. Large shippers will jump at the chance to secure eggs of this class, and are always ready to pay a higher price.

One firm made the statement recently that strictly first-class eggs were worth eight cents a dozen more to their trade than eggs that they could not guarantee. It is the cheapest possible way to increase the poultry income. Try it.

Best Grain Ration.

A mixture of wheat and oats makes one of the very best grain rations for hens. They lay on it because it contains the stuff of which eggs are made.

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