



A Paying Flock of Chickens on a Western Farm.

(By F. O. WELCH)

"Which is the best breed of fowl?" one of the popular and continually reiterated queries. If we look to experienced poultry keepers for our answer we often find them so prejudiced against breeds that they do not have and so biased in favor of those they prefer that their evidence only adds to our confusion more completely.

We examine the matter in the light of pure logic we find that the popular breeds and varieties of fowls are so universally bred by all types of poultry keepers that even were one sort better than another it would require a wiser expert than the world has yet produced to point it out and prove his case.

I saw the other day this statement: "Leghorns are universally admitted to be better layers than any other breed." Even if that statement be true it proves nothing as to the relative laying abilities of Leghorns and other breeds. Sometimes Leghorns do not lay well. When that is the case the reason for their failure is likely to be the same as those that cause specimens of other breeds to lay poorly—and there are many reasons for poor laying that have nothing at all to do with the breed as such.

I have no prejudice against any breed, but during the past ten years I have examined a great many reports of egg production in private letters and in our poultry periodicals, and I have yet to find any evidence that any one breed or variety, as individuals or as flocks, surpasses another in inherent egg-producing capacity.

The largest authentic individual egg-record that I know of—318 eggs in less than one year—was made by a Brahma. The next largest—310 eggs in one year—by a Plymouth Rock. The largest flock records that I have seen reported by apparently dependable people were made by Asiatic and American breeds as well as Mediterraneanans.

If we divide chickens into three great classes—Mediterraneanans, Asiatic and American—and then examine the evidence in those classes we can simplify the matter. Having divided the class that seems best to our temperament, circumstances, location and market, the question of the breed and variety is a matter of whim or fancy.

The Mediterranean class we have all varieties of Leghorns, black and white Minorcas, Black Spanish, several varieties of Hamburgs, several varieties of Polish, blue Andalusians, the Leghorns are hardy, small, extremely nervous and active but tamely forage widely when at liberty, they fly when confined to small pens or parks. They are nonsitters, not so likely to become overfat and careless feeding in confinement as are the larger and less active breeds. When marketed their small size limits the returns.

The Minorcas are considerably larger than Leghorns and lay a very large white egg. They are not so nervous and "blighty" and are good market fowls whenever their white skin and dark legs are not objectionable. They are nonsitters. The Black Spanish, once deservedly popular, no longer possess any particularly desirable qualities, as a rule. Hamburgs are nonsitters, lay white eggs, are small and not confined to sufficiently hardy for general utility purposes. They and Polish (a crested head) are favored rather than farmers' breeds.

The Blue Andalusians are nonsitters, large white eggs, are larger than Minorcas and smaller than the Minorcas and have slate-colored legs. The Asiatic class we have the dark Brahmas; several colorings; black and white Langshans. These breeds lay large brown eggs, are large in size and are usually slow-motivated. They are slow-motivated, cannot fly and are heavily feathered on the legs and feet. This is objectionable on heavy ground, becomes muddy in wet weather.

Shrinkage in Carcass. Poultrymen generally count on a shrinkage of a half pound on a carcass. In other words a two and a half pound chicken should dress about two pounds.

Teach Lambs to Eat. The lambs should be taught to eat grains and roughage before weaning time. A good way is to begin with oats and good hay. When time to turn out on pasture, they keep right on growing and develop into strong, healthy sheep, bringing good prices on the market.

Harbor for Orchard Pests. Where thick weeds and grass are allowed to cover the ground in the orchard, it will furnish the mice and other troublesome pests a fine harbor, thus increasing your orchard troubles and decreasing your profits.

Selecting Breed of Poultry. In selecting a breed of poultry, first study the breeds that will give you the results you desire, and then choose from these the breed that most appeals to your sense of beauty.

Brooder and of the brood this, or just before you may them, here one on top of another you or more.

er. Aside from that, they are less affected by climatic changes than are the more thinly feathered, larger combed breeds. These heavy breeds easily become too fat to lay well, if carelessly fed, but care in feeding, forced exercise in litter and skillful breeding will produce individuals and stocks that will lay as many eggs per hen in a winter or a year as will any other breeds. When marketed for meat each bird brings an appreciable return.

In the American class we find the Plymouth Rocks, several varieties; Wyandottes, several varieties; Single and Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds; American Dominiques; Javas, and several little known breeds that I am unable to describe.

The breeds in this class are intermediate between the Mediterraneanans and the Asiatics. They are known as the "general purpose" breeds. As breeds, they are hardy, good foragers, bear confinement well, are the right size, when well grown, to just suit the average meat market demand. They have clean legs and produce eggs that vary in color from very light tinted to dark brown and in size from medium to large. While they are known as sitting breeds, many individual hens, especially in Plymouth Rocks, are practically nonsitters. They are as prolific as any breed or as poor layers as any, according to

the particular stock or strain in hand and the care and skill applied to them. I have not mentioned the English Orpingtons. There are several varieties. I have no doubt that they are an excellent breed but wherein they excel or even differ from our leading American breeds in any practical particulars I do not know; except that their white skin is more favored in the English markets than the yellow skin that our discriminating markets prefer.

Space limits compel the brevity of their descriptions and the omission of several breeds that have not yet impressed many practical utility poultry keepers by their merits.

COMPOSITION OF GOOD EGGS First-Grade Article is Fresh, With Clean Shells and Weighs Twenty-Four Ounces Per Dozen.

The eggs graded firsts in the market are fresh, good-sized eggs with clean, sound shells and weigh 24 ounces or more per dozen, 45 pounds per case of 30 dozen eggs. When the egg is broken into a plate, the yolk must stand up firm and the white must not be watery. A fresh laid egg fills its shell. The longer an egg is kept the larger the air space in the interior on account of evaporation through the shell. An old egg may not fill over half its shell.

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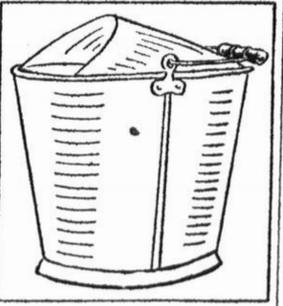
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# DAIRY FACTS

## CLEANLINESS IN THE DAIRY

Milk Passes Through Many Hands From Cow to Consumer—Strainer Does Not Remove Filth.

The importance of putting upon the market milk that is clean and of good quality should call for special effort on the part of the dairymen, for the reason that the consumer is willing to pay more for it if convinced of the fact of the superiority of the products.



Loy Pail—Cover Aids in Keeping Out Dirt.

Milk passes through so many hands from the cow to the consumer as to render the matter of obtaining pure and clean milk a difficult one. Too many console themselves with the fact that they strain the milk before selling it, but the strainer does not remove soluble filth.

It is gratifying to know that some dairymen wash the udders of the cows at every milking time, wiping them clean with towels, avoiding every chance of filth entering the milk. Such dairymen get good prices, which are secured by their reputation for skillful management of their cows and their products.

The cow is not as clean as the hog, so far as selecting a suitable place for resting is concerned, and where the dairymen himself is careless and does not keep the stalls clean, as well as brush the cows and wash the udders, it is almost impossible to have clean milk.

## SLATTED COLLAR IS USEFUL

Device Makes It Quite Impossible for Cow to Turn Her Head Far Enough to Reach Teats.

It is difficult of breaking a cow of sucking herself. About the only thing that can be done is to make some device by means of which she will be prevented from doing so.

One of the simplest and best of these is a slatted collar. For the ordinary-sized cow take two inch straps, 32 inches long, with buckles in one end and a few holes punched in the other. Place the straps about nine inches apart and rivet to them ten or eleven slats, leaving a space for one and one-half inches between each slat. The slats should be about one inch wide and 11 inches long and sharpened at both ends.

When this collar is placed around the cow's neck and buckled it will be impossible for her to swing her head around far enough to reach her teats.

## PROPER FEEDING OF CALVES

Make Changes in Feeds Gradual—Clover and Alfalfa Should Be Kept Before Young Animals.

Keep the feeding pails clean. All changes in feeds should be made gradually.

Grain should be offered to calves at an early age. Get them to eat it as soon as they will.

Feed sweet milk if possible. If you cannot have sweet milk regularly, have sour milk regularly, but avoid changing from sweet to sour.

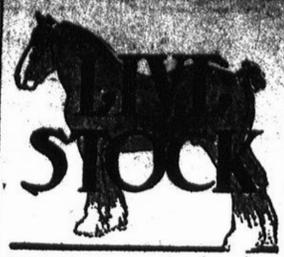
Keep clover or alfalfa hay before the calves at all times. They should be encouraged to eat a great deal of these two legumes, as the bulkiness of them tends to enlarge the digestive capacities of the calves and the large amount of protein in such hay promotes rapid growth.

Mixing Feed for Calves. When feeding the calf never mix meal, shorts or bran with the milk. Oil meal is not a good food to mix with skim milk. Ground flaxseed soaked in six times its bulk of cold water will make a jelly that can be used advantageously mixed with the milk, a pint of jelly to four quarts of milk. Cooking the flaxseed impairs its value.

Obtain Richer Cream. The separator can be made to skim richer cream by turning the cream screw towards the center of the bowl, by increasing the speed, and by lessening the inflow of milk to the bowl. The reverse will cause thinner cream. The percentage of fat will vary some from day to day, due to the variation in one or more of these factors.

Freshen Strong Butter. Butter which has become strong in flavor can be freshened by letting it stand in sweet milk. Cut the butter up into rather small pieces, put it into the milk and let it remain six or eight hours. After this, wash it off in clean cold water and keep it in an earthen jar.

Check Disease Spread Promptly. Government statistics indicate a loss of about 6,736,000 hogs last year from disease. The hogs lost in this way are valued at \$68,417,000. One of the most important factors in the prevention of loss from contagious animal diseases is prompt attention to the trouble. The law means spread.



## CARING FOR MARE AND FOAL

Whole Oats, Corn and Bran Are Practical Concentrates to Feed—Stall Should Be Well Cleaned.

(By E. H. HUGHES, Missouri Experiment Station.)

Mares in foal should receive regular exercise up to the time of foaling. It is advisable that they be worked lightly or that they have the run of a lot where exercise can be taken. In working mares in foal, experience proves that heavy pulling, jerking, backing and deep mud should be avoided.

Bright mixed hay, timothy, choice alfalfa and good clover are excellent roughages for mares in foal. Sound whole oats, corn and bran are very practical concentrates to feed them when heavy in foal. Two parts whole oats, two parts corn and one part bran,



Mare and Foal.

by weight (quantity to feed depends on size of mare), with what hay they will eat, is an excellent ration. It is advisable to feed but one-half the grain ration when it becomes apparent that a mare will foal within forty-eight hours. Shortly after the mare has foaled, a drink of lukewarm water should be given her. The same ration fed prior to foaling is usually satisfactory after foaling.

When it is possible, the mare should foal in a dry, well-lighted and bedded box stall or in a clean grass lot. If she foals in a box stall, it should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with a five per cent solution of carbolic acid before she enters it. A light covering of air-slaked lime on the floor underneath the bedding is very practical safeguard against "navel" trouble.

After she has foaled it is advisable to clean the stall immediately, disinfect again and bed thoroughly. As a preventive of navel and joint disease in the foal, saturate its navel as soon as possible with a five per cent solution of lysol or other disinfectant. To prevent blistering the colt's belly smear the parts at the base of the navel board with vasoline or unsalted lard before applying the disinfectant.

## LESS WASTE WITH ROUGHAGE

When Given to Sheep or Ground It is Trampled Upon—Racks Have Proved Entirely Satisfactory.

(By E. L. SHAW)

It is hardly necessary to say that there is less waste when roughage is fed to sheep in racks rather than upon the ground. When fed in the latter way much of it is trampled upon and soiled and then the sheep refuse to eat it.

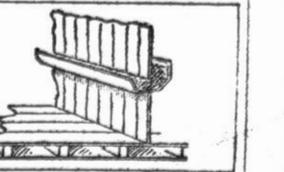
There are several types of feed racks that are quite satisfactory. A combination rack for feeding both roughage and grain is convenient, especially where the amount of space is limited. Some racks are boarded up solidly, with openings through which the sheep eat; others are slatted horizontally, this type being largely used in the west.

Racks with vertical slats are also used; these slats should not be too wide apart with suckling ewes or the lambs will get in upon the feed and soil it. Having the upper part of the rack boarded solid is desirable, as it prevents chaff from falling into the fleece.

## MANGER FOR GREEDY HORSES

Box Arranged Through Partition With Narrow Opening at Bottom Compels Animal to Eat Slowly.

A box to induce a greedy horse to eat slowly is arranged through the partition with just a narrow opening at the bottom. You put the grain in



Feed Box for Greedy Horse.

the box on the outside of the partition and the horse gets it slowly. It saves grain and the horse takes more time to grind it.

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Keep All Stock Comfortable. All kinds of farm stock must be kept comfortable, both in summer and

## SUPPLIES ALWAYS ON HAND

British Claim to Have Made Transport System to the Front as Perfect as is Possible.

When it is mentioned that 2,000 tons of goods—food and other necessities—are sent every day from the base depots to the firing line of the British army, some idea of the gigantic task of the army services will be gathered.

This enormous weight of goods, says Harold Begbie, comes almost entirely from England, for we are not buying in France even so perishable a necessity as milk. Vast stores are brought from England and loaded into sheds at the base depots.

All day by motor dory and railway truck supplies for the troops are sent as near as possible to the firing lines. And just as reserves are accumulated in the docks, so reserves are accumulated near the front, since an accident to the railways might cut off the fighting soldiers' supplies.

On one occasion there was a delay on the railways of 36 hours, but not only did the soldier at the front get all his food and ammunition, but he did not even have to draw on the reserves I have mentioned; regimental stores were sufficient for his need. Everything goes by clockwork. There is no room for an accident.—London Tit-Bits.

## His Views.

Breaking away from the house, the man hurried to his club, dropped into a chair and breathed a long sigh of relief. He had at last got away from one aunt, three cousins and two second cousins, up-country guests of his wife.

A member sitting near laid aside his paper and asked: "How do you stand on the subject of foreign relations?"

"That is a fair question," returned the other, "and deserves a fair answer. In principle and practice you can put me down as favoring their infernalism in Schorharle county seven days a week for 52 weeks each year until 1963."

## Reason for His Belief.

"I never saw such a superstitious fellow as Hixby."

"What's his latest?" "Why, he's been trying all the morning to prove that 1915 is an unlucky year. He's manipulated the figures 1-9-1-5 with addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and the rule of three."

"What has he found that seems unlucky?"

"Nothing, except that when he added 1-9-1-5 together and subtracted the total, 16, from 1915 it left 1899."

"Yes!"

"And that was the year he married."

## No War This Time.

Critical Husband—This beef isn't fit to eat.

Wife—Well, I told the butcher that if it wasn't good I would send you around to his shop to give him a thrashing; and I hope you'll take someone with you, for he looked pretty fierce, and I didn't like the way he handled his big knife.

Husband—Humph! Oh, well, I must say I've seen worse meat than this.

## Too Capable.

"What? You've fired your champagne? I thought you considered him a very capable man."

"So I did, but it's only lately I've found out some of the big things he's capable of."

## Difficult Crossing.

Bacon—I see Japan is considering a plan to bridge the Shimomoseki straits at a cost exceeding \$10,000,000. Egbert—I'm not surprised at the cost. It's an awful name to get over.

## On a Ladder.

Hampton—How do you get the paint on your coat?

Rhodes—From the men higher up.

## British troops serving in India are paid by the Indian government.

## LOOK YOUR BEST

As to Your Hair and Skin, Gossamer Will Help You. Trial Free.

The Soap to cleanse and purify, the Ointment to soothe and heal. These fragrant super-croamy emollients preserve the natural purity and beauty of the skin under conditions which, if neglected, tend to produce a state of irritation and disfigurement.

Free sample each by mail with Book, Address Postcard, Cateura, Dept. XY, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

## Their Effect.

"What was Elma giving her father such warm thanks about?" "Her new summer furs."

The specific gravity of cork is 24 and that of ebony 133.

## Drink Denton's Always pure and

Train up a child in the way he should go and it's doubtful he'll take a flyer in the direction.

## The Effects of Opiates.

THAT INFANTS are peculiarly susceptible to opiate preparations, all of which are narcotic, is well known. In smallest doses, if continued, these opiates cause depression and growth of the cells which are likely to become permanent, imbecility, mental perversion, a craving for alcohol or tobacco. Nervous diseases, such as intractable nervous dyspepsia, are a result of dosing with opiates or narcotics in their infancy. The rule among physicians is that children receive opiates in the smallest doses for more than a day only when it is unavoidable.

The administration of Anodynes, Drops, Cordials, and other narcotics to children by any but a physician cannot be deemed prudent, and the druggist should not be a party to the need the attention of a physician, and if a warning, he does them willfully with narcotics.

Castoria contains no narcotics if it bears the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.

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## BLACK LEG

BLACK LEG is a disease of the horse, caused by a parasite which enters the body through the legs. It is characterized by a swelling of the legs, which may lead to the loss of the horse. It is a very serious disease and should be treated promptly.

## It Didn't Work.

The crowded car was overflowing. "Get out of the step," the conductor cried. "I've got to shut the door."

"Don't mind me," replied the man on the step. "Close it if you like. It's true that I have a couple of sample packages of dynamite in my overcoat pockets and the windows might be broken and the roof blown off, but don't hesitate on my account. I haven't many friends, anyway, and I don't think many would sorrow over my early demise. Go ahead and close your door."

## Delicate Ground.

"What is to be the subject of your graduating essay, Charlie?" "Beyond the Alps Lies Italy! Do you think I could venture to use that?"

"Why not? It has been used before with a modicum of success."

"I know, but things are so tangled just now. Would it seem to indicate a disregard of the requirements of strict neutrality, think you?"—Pook.

## Prize Drawing.

"I hear Jack has fooled us all and got married."

"Yes, he went way down to New Orleans for his bride. I understand he had known her only a very few days."

"Sort of a Louisiana lottery for Jack, eh?"

## A father likes it, but a mother, always resents it when her son is called "Bill" instead of "William."

Love is a malady of the mind that swells the head but makes \$10 look like 30 cents.

## From Corn to Toasties

—a capital evolution

The ripened kernels of peppy white Indian Corn with their succulent goodness, are cooked, then rolled into thin, wafery bits, and toasted to a golden brown.

Add a little cream and sugar—perhaps some fresh berries—and a combination snacks wonderful.

Post Toasties are untouched by human hand from start to finish of the making, and come to you clean and sweet—ready to eat from the package. Wholesome, nourishing—a Royal dish for hot days—all days.

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