

RECOGNIZE BEST EGG PRODUCERS

Most Profitable Hens Possess Certain Characteristics Difficult to Hide.

PLAN OF MISSOURI COLLEGE

Fowl Must Be Strong, Active, Healthy, Gentle and Contented and Should Not Molt Before the First Day of October.

Would you know a good laying hen if you should meet one? Hundreds of farmers would. They have found out that the best producing hens have certain characteristics difficult to hide. If they doubt general appearances it is a simple matter to catch the bird and by a few movements either confirm or dispel the doubt. There's no getting away from the fact—a good hen can't hide her good qualities from well-informed poultry raisers. Some, not so well informed had to go through the "show-me" stage, and the extension service of the University of Missouri college of agriculture, acting through specialists and county agents proceeded to do the showing. These agents last year held 2,208 culling demonstrations. Out of the 200,000 birds handled, 81,000 were culled. The doubters were instructed to retain the culled and report the number of eggs received. In no case have the culled been found profitable.

Characteristics of Hens. What are these characteristics by which a laying hen can be picked out? Circular No. 70 issued by the extension service groups them under five heads: Vigor, molt, pigmentation, quality, and laying condition. They are further defined. The hens must be



Quality and Utility Are Combined in This White Plymouth Rock Hen of the Flock on the Government Farm at Beltsville—Though of a Family of Prize Winning Show Birds, She Made a Good Record as a Layer—From January 25 to September 11 of Her Pullet Year She Laid 176 Eggs.

strong, active, healthy, gentle and contented. They should not molt before October 1. Pigmentation refers to color—shanks and beak pale, ear lobes showing no yellow. In seeking quality, observe that the skin is soft, fine and velvety, breast bone thin, bones straight and flexible. To be in laying condition, the abdomen is soft and flexible. Vent moist and expanded. Body depth four inches or more. Width of pin bones at least three fingers.

Pick Out Best Layers. No difficulty should be met in picking out the best laying or the poorest laying hens in the farm flock. With some birds, however, the distinguishing marks are not so distinct and may sometimes be rather contradictory. Thus one hen may be an early moulter and yet show good body depth. Another bird may molt late and at the same time show poor quality. Birds of this type are usually medium producers and the owner must decide whether they should be kept or sold. If the birds are being culled very closely with the idea of keeping only the highest producers then all those in the doubtful class should be disposed of. If only the unusually poor birds are to be sold then those showing uncertain characteristics should be kept. Any person who will examine a few hens, keeping in mind the characteristics of the good producer as opposed to those of the poor producer should be able to cull satisfactorily.

FARM WAGON UNDER SHELTER

Average Life of Vehicle Is Six Years When It Should Be Twenty With Hard Work.

The average life of a farm wagon is six years, when it ought easily to be thirty with good care, or twenty with hard work. The thing is to keep it under a shed when not in use. Wash off the mud when it is stored. Give it a coat of paint once a year. This treatment will double its life.

COLLAR BOILS HURT HORSES

Best and About Only Cure for Trouble Is Veterinarian's Knife—Pressure Is Cause.

If one of your horses is troubled with collar boils the best (and about the only) cure is the knife of a veterinarian. The cause of the trouble remains in the form of a more-or-less dried-up crust and will recur whenever there is continued collar pressure.

SLIDING FARM GATE IS EASILY OPERATED

Must Be Suspended Between Two Strong Posts.

Equilibrium Is Maintained by Principle of Cantilever—Rollers Are Made of Hard Wood, Bored to Hold Gas Pipe.

A sliding farm gate which rides on rollers is easily opened and closed, and such gates would be commoner if it were not for certain difficulties of construction. The gate must be suspended, as the earth is too soft to support the rollers, and if it hangs from a track, barn-door fashion, the passage through the gateway will be obstructed. This difficulty can be overcome by furnishing the gate with a



By Means of a Long Top Rail a Farm Gate Is Made to Ride Smoothly on Wooden Rollers.

long top rail which projects several feet beyond the rest of the structure, as shown in the sketch. The projecting part bears against a roller placed above it, so that equilibrium is maintained by the principle of the cantilever. There is less strain upon the posts than in the case of a hinged gate, but it is necessary to plant them firmly, as the gate will not ride easily if they are bent from the vertical. Each pair of posts should be bolted together before being set in position, and should be set 3 feet deep, with a coat of creosote on the lower part, to prevent rotting, and with wooden blocks spiked around them, to keep them steady. The rollers are made of hard wood, bored to hold a bushing of 3/4-inch gas pipe, which should be made a tight fit. They are then placed between centers, or on a mandrel, and turned true, after which they should be boiled in linseed oil to make them weatherproof.—H. A. Shearer, Willets, California.

GOOD BROAD CONCRETE WALK

One of the Greatest Time and Work Savers About the Farm—Prevents Tracking Up the House.

One of the greatest time and work savers about the farm is a good broad concrete walk from the barn to the house. When there is nothing but a dirt walk it is almost impossible to avoid "trackin' in" mud and barn litter, but with a concrete walk raised a couple of inches above the yard level, and with base enough to permit of driving over it where necessary, a lot of the work of the housewife is done away with.

DRILL CUPS ARE NEGLECTED

More or Less Wear Causes Partial Closing or Widening of the Grain Spaces.

One of the too-often neglected jobs about the farm is the tuning up of the cups in the grain drill. After the first few years there is sure to be more or less wear, and this not infrequently results in the partial closing or else the widening of the space through which the grain moves into the spouts. When this happens, even seeding becomes impossible. And often just a little attention will set matters right, and will greatly prolong the life of the drill.

CONCRETE FLOORS FOR BARN

Provision Should Be Made for Sufficient Slope So That It Can Easily Be Flushed.

In laying the concrete floor for the new barn, see that it slopes enough so that it can be easily flushed with a hose. Even if you haven't the water at this time, the day is coming when you will have water pressure, and will to the bulk of your cleaning by means of it.

SUN IS BEST DISINFECTANT

Hard to Beat Plenty of Good Strong Sunshine and Ought to Be Kept at Work.

You can pay out a lot of money for disinfectants, but it's pretty hard to beat plenty of good strong sunshine. Not that the disinfectant may not be needed too, but that sunshine ought to be kept steadily at work.

TRUCK FOR AVERAGE FARMER

Vehicle of One to Two Tons Capacity With Trailers Is Plenty Large Enough.

For the average farmer's use a truck of one to two tons capacity and one or two trailers of equal capacity is preferable and less expensive to buy and operate than a three or five ton truck alone.

RIFLE CLUB HERE SOON UNDER NRA RULES THE PLAN

Shooting Enthusiasts are Organizing Body—Government Issue the Equipment.

Rifle enthusiasts of Downers are organizing a rifle club to be affiliated with and run under the rules of the National Rifle Association.

George S. MacDougall, who is one of the crack rifle shots of the village, and who is more keenly interested in the sport than probably any other man, is the prime mover in the scheme and is circulating a petition asking the national body to grant the local club a charter.

After sufficient members have been secured and the details of the organization complied with, the United States Government will issue the necessary equipment for both an indoor and an outdoor range. They also loan to the rifle clubs two large and two small bore guns and ammunition. The latter is supplied on a graduated scale according to the shooting ability of the club members.

There are in the village many good shots. Most of these men are ex-members of Company H, which team carried off and still retains the cup of the Second Regiment, I. R. M. A majority of these men have signed to become members of the new club which is expected will be a flourishing institution in a few weeks.

Those interested, who have not yet been approached on the subject, can receive particulars by seeing Mr. MacDougall.

A Sure Bet. The man who carries water on both shoulders generally gets wet.

WOMAN'S CLUB NOTES

The Woman's Club held their regular meeting Wednesday in Library Hall at which time resolutions were adopted commending the Kindergarten Association for the great benefits conferred on the community.

A 3 o'clock meeting adjourned to the Kindergarten Building where the annual childrens Christmas party was held. Miss Florence Bayer of Chicago, gave several short readings. Pollyanna, Daddy Long Legs and Johnny's New Suit, which greatly pleased the children. Favors were distributed and a real Christmas time was enjoyed by the grownups as well as the children.

LOCAL TALENT GIVES CONCERT NEW YEARS DAY

Sick Soldiers at Naperville Sanitarium to Hear Music of Our Local Artists.

Mrs. James P. Mitchel made a trip to the sanitarium at Naperville on Christmas Day taking baskets of fruit and gifts from the neighborhood Club of which she is a member, to the disabled ex-service men stationed there.

She was told by the attending physician what the boys needed most was "cheering up." Consequently she has arranged a concert for them for New Years Day.

Those who have already consented to take part are Mr. George Nargney, violinist with Mrs. Nargney as accompanist; Miss Gwen Griffiths and several other of our gifted people.

This should give the boys much pleasure.

COMMUNITY XMAS TREE WINKS YULETIDE GREETINGS

Colored Electric Lights from Evergreen in Depot Park Greet Railroad Patrons.

The surprise to most of us, on Christmas Eve was the sudden springing into light of one of the evergreens in depot park. This is the same tree under which the Community Christmas tree celebration was held last year and which served in the same way.

We want to congratulate the village council and any others who were responsible for the lighting of the

tree. Not only did the many colored electric winks a Yuletide greeting to the patrons of the Burlington, but everyone in town felt more of the spirit of Christmas after seeing that someone had remembered to make arrangements for its lighting. We are informed that the village is again supplying the labor and the electric current and that the churches are taking care of any other financial obligations.

Parents' Problem. Should boys be allowed to play practical jokes. "Boys will be boys!" Teach them not to go too far; not to give pain; make clear that a joke is funny—something at which every one concerned can laugh. Further than this do not go in the way of restraint. —Exchange.

HAPPY NEW YEAR. We are nearly to the close of another year, one which has been a very pleasant one in our relations with the people of this Village. We desire to thank our customers for their business during 1920 and to hope that 1921 will hold for them all the good things of life. JOSEPH MAZZA. Phone 355. 27 So. Main Street.

SERVICE FIRST. A New Year Announcement. THE creation of one Company to handle the Bell telephone service of the entire State of Illinois, for many years the plan and hope of the Bell managers, is now accomplished, and the Illinois Bell Telephone Company henceforth will supply the service in place of the Chicago Telephone Company and the Central Union Telephone Company. The newcomer is the Chicago Telephone Company with a new name; officered by the same men who for many years in the Chicago and Central Union Companies have devoted themselves to the development and operation of this great public service in the State. B. E. Sunny, for twelve years President of the Chicago Company, continues in that office. Edgar S. Bloom, for seven years at the head of the Central Union Company, becomes a Vice-President, and W. R. Abbott, for many years General Manager of the Chicago Company, becomes Vice-President and General Manager. The change in the name from "Chicago Telephone" and "Central Union" to "Illinois Bell" will be a source of regret to many Illinois men and women of two generations. While it is now a commonplace adjunct to the daily business and domestic routine, the telephone, in its uncanny effectiveness in extending the human voice, has not entirely lost the appeal to our wonder and amazement. Illinois people will pleasantly remember the names of the two companies that were so closely associated with forty years of development and service of Bell's remarkable invention. The mammoth proportions of the Illinois Bell are best illustrated with a few figures: It has 810,000 telephones. There are 340 other telephone companies in the State having 340,000 telephones. The Illinois Bell connects with these companies, making a total of 1,150,000 telephones in the State system. It has 2,300,000 miles of wire. It employs 20,000 men and women. The Illinois Bell begins its career with the New Year and, in extending its greetings to its subscribers, expresses the hope that through the character of the service it will supply, it will always have their friendship and confidence. ILLINOIS BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY.