EFFICIENT FARMING

"Capon Farming Is Easy, and It Pays Me eVry Well."

"There are six reasons why I raise capons instead of roosters," said Frank Nutter of South Portland, Maine, to a bunch of fellow farmers at a local meeting one night.

"First, the quality of the meat is a hundred per cent. better. You know in a minute when you pull your knife across a good piece of steak, and when you get hold of a steak off some old bull. There is just as much difference between the meat on a capon and that which comes from a rooster. Once eat real capon and you never will call for any other kind of poultry meat.

"Second, the capons grow faster; take full brothers, and the one raised not caponized will be anywhere from fifteen to thirty per cent. lighter than the capon at ten months, and at least ten per cent. lighter at six months.

"Third, the capon eats less for the growth it makes. It does not waste its energy fighting and running around that the rooster does. Everything he gets to eat goes to build quality meat and frame.

"Fourth, the capons can be kept in larger flocks with less trouble. They can be run with the rest of the flock, while the young rooster is either trying to lick every other male in the flock or has half of his growth beaten out of him every day.

"Fifth, if you want a real large carcass to roast, you can keep the capon until it is twelve or fifteen months old and it is just as tender as a broiler; whereas the rooster grows very little after he is six months old, and then he gets tougher every day.

"Sixth, and very important, is the market. There are many advantages the capon has over the rooster on the market. For one, you can hold him over. You don't have to sell him in the fall when the poultry market is loaded with fowl and everybody else is selling roosters and poultry. You can market capon any time from Thanksgiving to Easter. Also, once you have sold anybody a capon he will always give you preference. Then, too, you get more per pound for the capon. It weighs more, and more per pound combined means a lot. This difference in price will show more and more as people get their first taste of capon meat."

"Yes, Frank, that may be all right for you to say," interrupted one of his friends, "but the rest of us are not all as handy at performing this operation as you are, and it looks to me like quite a job. How many do you lose in the operation?"

"Well," said friend Nutter, "I knew you would ask me that, so I have it all figured out, as near as possible. On the first fifty that I operated I did not lose one. On the next fifty I lost five, and since that I have not lost a single one, and I have raised over a thousand in the last six years.

"I lost so many in the second fifty against none in the first because I had not learned that, while there is nothing difficult in any part of the operation, one must take each step carefully, and do each right.

"I had never seen the operation. I learned of it at a lecture I once attended. I made notes, and when I got home I followed these notes step by step, and that is why I was so successful with the first fifty. Then I got so confident that I became careless, and tried to eliminate some of the steps, and had to refer back to the notes to get straight again. I have these notes right here, and I am sure that any one of you can do as well as I did if you will take them home and follow directions.

"There are a number of caponizing sets on the market which are good. These sets are fully equipped, and give full instructions with diagrams as to how to use each instrument, also how to fasten the bird on the table or board to operate. The notes I have, however, will be very helpful in addition to the instructions given with the instruments. So here are my notes:

"First, select cockerels at the age when the face begins to redden, and the comb and wattles just begin to grow, for the average strain of the general-purpose breeds, such as the Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, or Wyandottes and the like. This will be when they are about five or six weeks old, and from then until they are from eight to ten weeks old they will weigh from one pound to almost two pounds each. If they weigh two pounds or more, they usually will not make such good capons, and it is harder to do the operation well. If under a pound, it is also much harder to operate. The larger breeds, like the Brahmas, usually will be seven to nine weeks old, and weigh about a pound and a half to two pounds.

"Second, starve the birds thoroughly. This is very important, as it empties the intestines and gives you plenty of room to operate. To starve, coop the birds up for at least thirty-six hours without food or water, grit, or green food. Do not allow them to eat anything. After twenty-four hours they will become very hungry, and will eat every thing in sight, even their own droppings. To avoid this, keep them either in the dark or in slat-bottomed coops.

"Third, by killing the first bird before operating, by bleeding in the mouth, it will not be wasted, as it can be eaten afterward, and this will be very helpful in taking away the nervousness of the beginner, and will help him to get more familiar with the looks and relative position of the various organs.

"Fourth, beginners should cut the birds on both sides.

"Fifth, about the only way that the bird can be killed outright is by cutting the artery which follows along the backbone, and if any care is used at all this cannot be done.

"Sixth, all of both organs should be entirely removed, or it will result in a slip, which has none of the desired qualities of the capon.

"Seventh, operate on a sunny day or use a good spotlight or an electric drop light placed near the opening, so you can see clearly inside the bird while operating.

"Eighth, it is best not to try to sew the opening up after the operation, as once the bird is removed from the table the muscles which have been stretched while the bird was on the table will fold back and cover the opening better than you can do it by sewing.

"Ninth, the birds can be fed immediately after the operation. It is better not to give too much food and water at the start, increasing gradually for a day or two until they get all they want.

"Tenth, if any wind bags set in under the skin after the operation, by cutting a small hole in the skin the air will come out and very seldom trouble again. If it recurs, let it out the second time. Once usually stops this trouble.

"Although these instructions may seem complicated and the operation hard, in reality it is quite simple. Failures seldom happen, as the birds can stand an unusual amount of manhandling with apparently no ill effects. The first one will seem hard, but the rest will come easy.

"As a matter of fact, any one of you fellows can do as well or better than I did, because I am an exceptionally poor hand at that kind of work, and I found it very easy to learn."

The Dairy

Good dairymen recognize that cows kept in good flesh develop increased capacity for milk production and insure improvement in the upgrading of the herd. The production of large yields of milk places a heavy drain upon the physical vitality of a cow, and only by proper feeding can she continue to produce economically.

Pastures during the summer season are bound to decline and despite good management gradually become less nutritive. To keep the cows in good flesh and insure large yields of milk during the late summer and fall months require that the pastures be supplemented with other feed.

Dairy cows have been bred for milk producing purposes to such an extent that they will sacrifice their own bodies for milk production. Profitable dairy cows, like any delicately made machinery, can not for any length of time withstand heavy work unless well cared for and suplied with the necessary material for replacing the bodily tissues which are constantly wearing out.

A large number of dairymen plan to have their cows come fresh in the fall and early winter. With this practice the cows are on pasture when the pasture is on the decline. During the first few months of the gestation period the cow is not drafted upon for any large amount of nourishment for the coming calf, but as it gradually develops more nutriment is required. Cows several months along in pregnancy should be well fed to keep up their own bodies and give their unborn offsprings the necessary food for proper development.

It is the usual practice among dairymen to discontinue graining their cows as soon as they stop milking them. If the cows are in good flesh and on good pasture this practice is all right, but if the cows are in low flesh after several months of heavy milking, it is advisable to keep on with the grain for a time at least. The grain ration assists in balancing up the pasture.

Cows kept in good flesh reproduce strong heavy calves at birth and come to their milk in better condition for another year's work. I do not feel that feeding grain while cows are dry is an unprofitable practice. It prepares them for profitable production a little later on. Keep the cows in good flesh at all times and much less trobule will be encountered during the freshening and milking period.

Bumble-foot can be cured by opening and draining the abscess in the foot. Then place carbolated vaseline in the wound and place a bandage securely around the foot. The pus that forms in such a wound is cheeselike and requires a wide incision rather than just a pin prick to remove it.

Sunstroke and Heat Stroke.

A good driver is very tender of his horse in hot weather, for he knows that a very short stretch of work while the animal is overheated may be the ruin of it. This is just as true of human beings. We can stand a lot of hot weather and a lot of hard work, but there is a limit beyond which we are in very serious danger. Scores of persons die every hot season from sunstroke and heat stroke and almost all of these deaths could have been prevented. When you investigate such a case you will find that the man did not feel quite himself that day, or perhaps he had but recently recovered from an attack of "flu" or some other weakening disease. But the work was urgent, so he went out and kept at it "until he dropped." Poor judgment!

In sunstroke there is a severe congestion of the brain. The face is red and the skin is burning hot. The sufferer should be placed in the nearest shady spot, lying down but with the head raised. Cold water should be applied (ice if it can be obtained) and if the case is very serious it will pay to rush the patient to a hospital where he can have cold baths. But it is very important that the patient himself be kept from every exertion.

Heat stroke requires very different treatment. The patient is in a condition of shock or collapse. The heart is very feeble. The skin is covered with clammy sweat and the extremities are probably cold. The sufferer must be put at absolute rest, lying down in the coolest place available. He needs stimulation. The clammy skin must be rubbed; it may be necessary to cover him with a blanket while the stimulation is going on. If he is able to swallow, stimulants may also be given by the mouth, and instead of cold they should be hot. With both patients rest is very necessary and with either it is very important that he take time enough for complete recovery before being again exposed to the hazards of hot weather work.

Poultry

It has been found that the oil drained from the crank case of an automobile is excellent for the control of scaly legs, or for painting roosts, etc., to control mites.

A rough scaly condition of a hen's legs is often thought an evidence of age, but it is in reality a diseased condition brought about by the activity of a mite which burrows under the scales of the legs and sets up an irritation, inally resulting in the condition indicated. Dipping the legs and feet once or twice in crude oil or a half-and-half mixture of kerosene and linseed oil will usually suffice. Kerosene alone works fairly well, but lacks body and may cause blisters if it gets into the feathers.

Potato Leaf Hoppers.

One of the great troubles of the potato grower during the past few years has been hopperburn or tip burn. The latest thought of plant experts is that this is caused by the potato leaf hopper. While the trouble is largely due to the leaf hopper, it is greatly aggravated by hot weather which frequently occurs when the hopper is most abundant.

Careful experiments by entomologists have shown that the leaf hopper found on potatoes are the same as those found on young apple trees earlier in the season and as the potatoes appear above the ground the insects leave the apples and begin feeding and laying eggs on the potato vines. Tests show that this pest can be readily controlled by a spray containing five pounds of copper sulphate, ten pounds of lime, two and a half pounds of powdered arsenate of lead and fifty gallons of water. As the hoppers congregate on the lower side of the leaf, it is very essential to spray from below rather than from above.

Says Sam: Some teamsters make me wish horses weren't so patient.

The Sunday School Lesson

SEPTEMBER 3

Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls of Jerusalem, Neh. 4: 7-16. Golden Text—Our God shall fight for us, Neh.4: 20.

Lesson Foreword—Nehemiah secured from Artaxerxes, the Persian king, the appointment as civil governor of the district of Jerusalem. On arriving in Jerusalem, he investigated the walls and found that there had been no attempt to rebuild them since their destruction by the Babylonians. He then convoked an assembly of the leading people in the city, and by a convincing address, persuaded them to rebuild the walls and thus ensure the city against hostile attacks.

I. The Dangers, 7-13.

V. 7. The leading adversaries of the Jews are introduced. They have already been mentioned in 2: 10, 19, 20 and 4: 1-3. (Sanballat.) In 2: 19, he is called the Horonite, that is, a native of Beth-Horon, a town situated about 18 miles north of Jerusalem, and belonging to the Samaritans. **Tobiah;** is called in 2:10 "the servant, the Ammonite." Some commentators have conjectured that Tobiah was the private secretary of Sanballat. If this were the case, he had a double animus against the Jews,—the race hatred between the Jews and the Ammonites, and the feud between the Jews and the Samaritans: **Arabians;** the lawless Bedouin tribes who roamed over the Arabian steppes. **Ammonites;** a people who lived on the east side of the Jordan, and who were the traditional foes of the Israelites. **Ashdodites;** citizens of one of the principal Philistine cities. **They were . . . . wroth.** Their indignation was aroused because in proportion as Jerusalem was strengthened, their own independence would be weakened or threatened. "Balance of power" was as real a problem for them as for us.

V. 8. At first their opposition was shown chiefly in taunts, ch. 2: 19 and 4: 13. When they saw that their taunts availed nothing, they held a council in which it was decided to muster an army and hinder the rebuilding of the walls by force.

V. 9. **We made our prayer.** The task before Nehemiah seemed almost superhuman. Hostile forces might arrive at any moment. The inhabitants of Jerusalem were poor and dispirited. Hence Nehemiah had recourse to prayer. Prayer receives a noteworthy prominence in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. **See a watch.** Sentinels were posted to observe the approach of the advancing army and to prevent a surprise attack.

V. 10. **Judah said.** Not only was there opposition without the city, but there was disaffection within. The people—Judah—were spiritless and fatigued. They complained that the task of clearing away the rubbish and rebuilding the walls was too much for them.

V. 11. **Our adversaries said.** "After mentioning the source of weakness within the walls, Nehemiah describes the danger without" (Ryle). The intention of their adversaries had been reported, no doubt, by people who came up to Jerusalem from the outlying districts. Since the Jews learned of it, the element of surprise was eliminated from the contemplated attack.

V. 12. Ryle says that: "to discontent within, and the schemes of the foe without, is added the panic of the Jews in the outlying districts." **The Jews which dwelt by them.** Some Jews from the districts where the hostile armies were being mustered, had come up to Jerusalem to assist in the work of rebuilding. **From all places,** etc. The Hebrew text at this point is very obscure. The meaning seems to be, as one commentator suggests: "Deprived of the able-bodied men who had been sent to work on the walls of Jerusalem these little (frontier) towns could not hope to defend themselves against the gathering foes. Wherefore they address themselves through their leaders to their fellow-townsmen sojourning in Jerusalem, 'Ye must return unto us.' "

II. The Precautions, 13-16.

V. 13. **Lower places . . . . . higher places.** Here again the Hebrew text is obscure. The Revised Version suggests a good meaning. The houses and buildings, for the most part, closely adjoin the walls. Nehemiah chose the open spaces where the buildings were well clear of the wall and there he stationed armed detachments. In these open spaces the buildings would not interfere with their movements. **I . . . set the people after their families.** The defence of the city and the operations on the walls was distributed according to families. The defenders were stationed in front of the places where their respective families were at work rebuilding the walls. Strong family feeling would thus ensure a strong defence.

V. 14. **Nehemiah sought to put heart** into the workers and defenders by appealing to their faith in Jehovah, and to their love of their kinsmen. **Fight for your brethren.** It would appear that Nehemiah considered that the very existence of the Jewish community in Jerusalem was at stake.

V. 15. **When our enemies heard.** The opposing forces had contemplated a surprise attack, but when they learned that the Jews were aware of their plans and were prepared to resist them, they saw that they were foiled and gave up the notion of an immediate assault. **We returned . . to the wall.** The news that their adversaries had abandoned their project was sure to travel back to Jerusalem. It permitted the Jews to concentrate once more upon the building operations. Even so, they went about their work armed, vs. 17, 18.

V. 16. **Half of my servants.** Doubtless these were the armed retinue which Artaxerxes had given him on leaving Shushan, 2: 9. One-half of them were set to work upon the walls; the other half remained under arms and were ready for any emergency. **The habergeons;** coats of mail, here in the form of strong leather jerkins. **The rulers were behind,** etc. Stationed in the rear of the workmen, the leaders of the people could issue commands in case of an attack.

Application.

Paul has a right to speak to us, for he has left a deep mark on the history of the church, and the world. Something made him great. Was not one element of his power his profound conviction that he had a mission, to which he was appointed by God? The reference material in this lesson directs us to Paul's letter to the Corinthians, in which we find him saying, "We are God's fellow-workers." In another letter he says, we are "workers together with Him." In Ephesians he declares we are "created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." God is the architect, we are the builders. He is building His city, and He puts honor on us in using our service. This spacious thought that God is working out an age-long purpose, and uses our slight contrimution, puts value on our lives. It is a great, hopeful thought, and it supplies inspiration to men to work and sacrifice, as Paul and Nehemiah did.

SMOKE
OLD CHUM
The Tobacco of Quality
½ LB. TINS
and in packages

Lime in the Soil.

One of the keenest, and at the same time one of the most valuable lines of research followed by the Division of Chemistry of the Dominion Experimental Farm system, is that of endeavoring to ascertain the best methods of preserving and reviving the productiveness of the soil. Bulletin No. 80 entitled "Lime in Agriculture" tells of the important part that is played in this direction by lime; how it corrects acidity or sourness of the soil, and how this condition is revealed by the use of litmus paper. Acid soils are especially to be found in wet, low-lying, or badly drained lands. In remedying this state of affairs an application of lime is most effective; also in improving the tilth of certain soils, removing their stickiness when wet, and rendering them more mellow when dry. Lime, in addition, has a tendency to decompose the insoluble potash compounds, and is destructive of certain organic acids that check the development of nitrifying organisms essential to the supply of nitrogen to field crops. An application of lime in fair quantity renders the soil slightly alkaline, upon which those organisms in the soil having as their function the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen also depend for their best development. The bullentin gives a practical illustration of this by saying that it would pay farmers failing to get good crops of clover, alfalfa, peas, or beans to test their soils to see whether they are acid, and, if found to be so, to apply lime as a remedy. The bulletin, which will be sent on request addressed to the Publications branch, Ottawa, propounds methods and rates of application for each of the different forms of lime, and concludes with clear, specific information as to the use and misuse of lime and lime compounds.

Increased Colt Population.

In traveling over a considerable portion of Ontario, it became apparent that a larger number of colts can be seen on the farms this year than have been in evidence during the past few years. We were also impressed by the almost exclusive use of horses by large contractors in the building of highways. A large number of tractors were in evidence in the fields, but it is plain to be seen that horses are not yet leaving the farms in any large volume.

Electricity is the newest hired man, and modern kitchen appliances the newest hired girl.

Some Painting Pointers You Might Use

By H. H. Johnson

And are you going to tackle your painting job yourself? If so, and you don't happen to have worked with a painter, here are a few pointers picked up by personal experience that may help.

Here are the things you will need:

An extension ladder.

Putty to fill the nail holes.

A good putty knife to scrape off rough, peeling paint.

A brush for the "body" work. Four-inch, good grade.

A similar brush for the "trimmer."

A small stiff brush for window sash.

Two small stiff wirehooks on which to hang the paint pails.

To order the right amount of paint, measure the surface, not making any allowance for windows or corner boards. Take the total number of square feet to your dealer. He can reckon the number of gallons needed. One gallon is usually reckoned to cover a little more that 300 square feet, two coats. A lot depends on the surface. If the wood is old and spongy, all bets are off. Better order plenty, with the privilege of returning the unopened cans.

Next, get a quart of shellac; also a gallon or two of boiled linseed oil. Use the shellac on knots that show yellow through the old paint. It will "kill" them. Let it dry before painting.

Use the oil to thin your first coat. No rule as to the amount. If your paint is quite thick, a pint to the gallon will do.

Paint is right when it runs in a smooth stream off the brush. When it breaks and "rains" it is too thin. Paint is too thin when it runs on the wall, after being spread on. In that case the best thing is to let it stand overnight, pour off the oil that gathers on top, and work it to the right thickness by adding oil a little at a time, stirring thoroughly.

Mix your paint in a good-sized pail or keg. Pour it back and forth, and stir it with a ladle, until it pours smooth and free from lumps.

Then dip your brushes in the paint, one to each color. Fill the bristles thoroughly, well into the heel of the brush, and lay them, still full of paint, flat on a board overnight. This will keep the bristles from curling. If the bristles pull out, go and buy a better brush. You'll save both temper and job.

Now do all your patching. Nail down loose clapboards; putty all nail holes and little cracks; scrape off the spots of peeling paint. Cover these patches with a primer coat of the proper color; shellac the knots; take the windows out and paint them, first resetting any broken or loose glass.

Then begin the big job. Set the ladder up at the rear end, where your first mistakes, if you should make any, will be out of sight. Work from the top down—always! And take a narrow strip of perhaps a half-dozen clapboards clear across the entire end or side you are painting. Paint the eaves first, down to the weatherboard. Then the clapboards in the gable, then a part of the weatherboard. Keep a rough rag in your pocket to rub off paint that gets over on the weatherboard as you paint the ends of the clapboards. Don't hurry; don't swear; you're doing fine!

The right way to paint siding is to give the brush, filled at the tip with paint, a long sweeping stroke underneath the clapboard at the top, and so down for the width of the strip you are going to paint across the wall. Fill the ends of the siding, next to the corner boards, with paint enough to cover every spot. Then, with long sweeping, firm strokes that end by lifting the brush as it is traveling direct with the grain of the wood, apply enough paint to cover the surface well and evenly. Paint needs rubbing in. If it is "slopped on" it peels off in a hurry—as it will do if the surface happens to be a bit damp.

When you have finished a strip, get down on the ground and admire your work. If the lower edges of the clapboards are covered, if the paint looks even, and without brush marks, if it does not "run," if it shows a clean line between the "trimmer" and the "body"—then you have done a good job, far better than I did the first time I tried it.

If it's a two-coat job, don't hurry the second coat. Let the first dry thoroughly. It can appear dry on the surface and still have a film of soft paint next to the wood. Do just as careful work the second coat—a little neater if you can. Paint the doors one at a time, so that you'll have a chance to get in and out without marking up the fresh paint.

SHOWING UP FATHER

It was our pleasure to spend a couple of days last week with a young farmer who is now in charge of his father's general farm. He is making good. The place had gotten in poor condition through the use of methods developed during pioneer times—methods which provided for removing fertility from the soil but not for replacing it.

The first step taken by the young man was the purchase of a small herd of good dairy cows to which he has been adding as opportunity offers. Now he milks ten. Besides spreading the manure from the cows upon the fields, he has plowed under green crops and hauled manure from stables located in his market town. From these three sources he has been able since he took over the management to put in the soil of his farming land a fairly ample supply of humus. The farm shows it. He is already cashing in on his venture and now after three years his father is taking renewed interest in the business.

This young man had accurately sensed the first commandment of good farming: "Thou shalt keep thy soil filled with an abundance of good plant food." He went about keeping the commandment in the most logical way, through the use of the dairy cow. Now that he has justified his position he will have the fullest co-operation of his senior in carrying out plans and policies which will mean much to the future of that particular farm.

Sometimes it requires young eyes to see things which are not apparent to older persons.

Going It Together

Last spring a bird lover of the writer's acquaintance built a neat tenroom home for his feathered friends and anchored the structure at the top of a pole in his back yard. Last week I watched with much interest a colony of martins which had taken possession of the house. They were not the first tenants, however. The first pair of martins to arrive found the ever-present sparrows already preparing their nests.

The story of the conquest by the martins is interesting. Upon finding the house occupied, the newcomers went about to take possession. There were too many sparrows, however, and no headway could be made. For two days the martins kept up a continuous fight, seemingly trying to worry the enemy into submission, but to no avail. Then the martins disappeared. A few days later, however, they were again on the scene, but this time with ample assistance. They had successfully solicited the aid of other martins to give battle for the house. The fight was hard and furious, but finally the victory was won. The martins then settled down to housekeeping and last week their numbers had increased sufficiently to fill every one of the ten rooms to overflowing.

Perhaps farmers could well afford to imitate the prudence of these birds, who, when the first pair found the task too great for their own strength, solicited the aid of others. There are many problems connected with the business of agriculture and rural life which need the co-operation of the entire community to solve them.

Tommy's Essay on Parents.

Parents are things which boys have to look after them. Most girls also have parents. Parents consist of Pas and Mas. Pas talk a good deal about what they're going to do, but mostly it's Mas that make you mind.

Once a boy at a boarding school went to calling Pa the governor and got his allowance cut down. His Pa said he ought to have waited till he was going to college.

I know a boy that hasn't any parents, so he can go swimming any time he wants to, but all the same I'm going to stick to my parents.

Red Clover Puts Nitrogen in the Soil.

At the Ottawa Experiment Station red clover was turned under each year for nine years on a sandy soil. At the end of this time the soil contained 472 pounds of nitrogen per acre more than at thebeginning.

Shallow-cultivated corn does best.

An oven at least ten inches from the floor makes it easier for Mother.

Tile drains, laid right, are more nearly everlasting than any other farm improvement.

Three men, all neighbors, were examining a truck and decided to buy it co-operatively. Co-operation is in the air. Better hitch on behind.

How much a farmer depends on rain can be judged from the fact that under general farming conditions about twenty inches of water are necessary to raise a crop. Translate inches into tons and we have the rather startling figure of 2,270 tons of water necessary to grow an acre of crops. A soaking rain that without cost will spread some two hundred tons of water over every drought-ridden acre is a boon beyond reckoning.

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