

# News And Views Of And For The Farmers

## WITH THE CHICKENS

A very common error on the part of poultry-keepers is to add substances to the soft food that prove injurious. Oyster-shell, bone-meal, and grit are cases in point. These things ought only to be used as and when required, and never forced upon the fowls. Grit and oyster-shell should be available in all times so that the fowls may help themselves when they feel inclined. When such substances are added to the soft food the birds are forced to consume an excess of mineral matter, which is the chief predisposing cause of leg weakness and other troubles.

Lice are divided into four different groups, gonolides, gonocotes, lipurans and menopes. These have their varieties, the most destructive of which is the head louse, and the most common is the pale body louse, but the lice, like mites, suck blood, but the others can only bite, or chew, and feed on dead cells, skin, feather material or surface flesh.

**Profits On The Farm.**  
Before farming as a business or profession can be considered successful in the highest and best sense, the profits arising from production and distribution of farm products must be shared by the household. Good breeds of live stock and the most approved and up-to-date labor saving and farm implements are a necessity on the farm. Likewise up-to-date, sanitary and drudgery-saving conveniences are as appropriate for the home as this machinery is for the farm. The wife and children must not be neglected. The home is, after all, the thing most desirable. The goal of the successful farmer should be the home that satisfies, the home that is restful, delightful, enjoyable—a home such as the children are loath to quit, when they arrive at maturity, but ambitions to prepare another one like it, for them selves on some other farm.—Dr. J. H. Worst.

Dispose of the old roosters. They are no longer needed, now that the hatching season is over. Do not miss an opportunity, to sell the older birds of the flock. At least one-half of the old flock must be replaced by new stock, and as the laying season is over, the old flock should be reduced now to save the expenses of feeding the hens.

In feeding chicks give them only enough feed that they will eat in half an hour. If more is given, remove it after each meal so as to cause a keen appetite between feeds. Chicks seem to develop better under such a system of feeding than when the food is kept before them at all times.

When the mother hens and their chicks must be shut up on a cool damp day, give them chaff from the barn floor to scratch in. The small timothy seed they get out of the chaff seems to agree with them; they don't need much other food.

Hens sitting at this season should be dusted with lice or Persian insect powder at least once a week and the nests thoroughly dusted as well. Watch the flocks for droopy winged chicks, for this condition shows that they are lousy. A careful dusting will kill the nests and rejuvenate the chicks.

The chicks that live are the chicks that pay, the eternal vigilance is required to keep many of them living. Be on the watch. Many a chick is caught in a storm at this season, and chilled to death.

Always remember that a warm sunny morning is the best time to apply the grease remedy to a lot of lousy chicks. It is bad for the chicks to grease them when it is cold and wet. But if too liberal with grease at any time, you will kill the chicks as well as the lice.

## Prolonging the Life of Fence Posts

(By E. G. Cheyney.)

The rotting of timber is caused by the work of fungi, very minute living organisms which get into the crevices of the wood; rot in wood is very different from rust on iron. The fungi feed on certain substances in the wood and cause it to break down or rot. Like all other living organisms these fungi require heat, air, and moisture, in addition to their food supply. If the soil contains the right amount of air and moisture for the best growth of fungi, the decay of fence posts is rapid, but in very dry soil the decay is slow. Hence the life of a post depends somewhat on the kind of soil in which it is set, and the success of any preservative treatment depends on the degree to which it excludes air and moisture as well as its effectiveness in poisoning the wood.

The kind of wood, rate of growth, age of tree, and seasoning, influence the rapidity with which the rotting of wood proceeds. Natural preservatives may be present in the cells, as in the case of catalpa and black locust. Generally speaking, the dark-colored woods are the most durable. Sapwood contains more ready-made food in forms acceptable to fungi than heartwood, so that old trees with much heartwood and little sapwood make the better posts. Tests show that slow growing wood is much more durable than fast growing wood of the same species. Even black locust when rapidly grown is rather short lived.

Thorough seasoning, or drying, is the cheapest method of lengthening the life of wood and is a necessary preliminary to any further treatment.

A post rots most quickly at or near the ground line. It does not rot rapidly near the top, where it is usually dry, or a foot or more below the ground, where air is lacking, but at the ground line where both air and moisture are present in sufficient quantities, rot flourishes. This may be further illustrated by the fact that wood does not rot under water. The piling supporting London bridge was found to be sound after hundreds of years' submersion in the Thames, and in some of the Swiss lakes sound timbers have been found after thousands of years.

Since air and heat are not very easily controlled, it is obvious that rot—that is, fungus growth—must be prevented by cutting off the supply of moisture or poisoning the food. All the modern methods of preserving timber aim consciously at one or both of these objects; all the old methods did the same thing unconsciously, the cause of rot not then being definitely known.

## HOW I FIGHT SQUASH BORERS.

Some years the Hubbard squash vine is badly injured by the squash borer. The moth lays her eggs on the outside of the vine, and in a few days the eggs hatch into small grubs. These immediately bore their way into the stalk where they live unseen and for a time unsuspected.

For a while the vines grow well; then, as the borer continues feeding on the inside of the stalk, the vines withers and dies. Whole patches of squash may be destroyed by these borers in a few days.

In 1914 I made tests of early and late planting. The early plantings were begun in April and continued into May.

Sweet corn was used as a companion crop, with the early plantings to furnish shade for the squash vines, but every vine except one was destroyed by the borers in all the early plantings.

I made late plantings of seed from June 1st to July 20th, which was the last planting of the season.

In order to hasten the development of the plants as an offset to late planting, separate hills were prepared. Holes were dug from eight to ten inches deep, which were filled with rich soil—thoroughly mixed with chicken manure, but I left saucer-like depressions as an aid to watering the plants in dry weather. This plan proved very serviceable, as no rain fell during six weeks of midsummer. The plants had to be watered frequently to keep them vigorous.

Notwithstanding the drawbacks of late planting and a dry season, this crop of Hubbards was among the best I have ever raised. Hardly a vine was attacked by the borers.

The period of squash-moth flying was over before the plants were above ground.—J. B. M., in Farm and Fireside.

## THE ARMY WORM

The Army-worm probably above all other kinds of insects which increase in enormous numbers periodically, causes widespread anxiety among farmers when it appears suddenly in a locality, and in a very short time completely destroys fields of oats and other grains.

The Entomological Branch of the Department of Agriculture has just issued Bulletin No. 3, on the Army-worm, prepared by Mr. Arthur Gibson, Chief Assistant Entomologist, who has charge of investigations on insects affecting field crops. In this publication of 34 pages a full description is given of the remarkable outbreak of this notorious caterpillar which occurred in eastern Canada in 1914. The recent outbreak was the most severe of any which occurred in Canada, and the damage caused is estimated at \$300,000, five-sixths of which took place in the province of Ontario. The value of the trenching method of control was amply demonstrated. No matter how big the advancing army of worms were, it was shown that crops could be saved from their ravages. In the bulletin the insect is described in all its stages, and methods of controlling it are given. A full discussion is included on the life-history and habits of the worm, its food, plants, natural enemies, etc. The bulletin has 19 useful illustrations, several of which show clearly the digging of proper trenches and the results obtained in controlling the worms. Copies of this bulletin may be obtained free of charge on application to the Chief of the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. Inquiries relating to injurious insects should be addressed to the Dominion Entomologist, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

## KINGSTON MARKET

Meats.	
Beef, local carcasses, lb.	11 12
Beef, hinds, lb.	13 14
Beef, cuts, lb.	15 25
Beef, western, by carcass, lb.	13 14
Hogs, live, cwt.	9 60
Hogs, dressed, lb.	14
Lamb, frozen, by carcass, lb.	15
Lamb, spring, by carcass, lb.	7 00 8 00
Mutton, lb.	13
Veal, by carcass, lb.	08 14
Fish.	
Bloaters, doz.	40
Cod, steak, lb.	12 1/2
Eels, lb.	10
Haddies, finnan, lb.	12 1/2
Haddock, fresh, lb.	12 1/2
Haddock, frozen, lb.	08 12
Halibut, fresh, lb.	20
Herring, fresh washed, doz.	50
Live lobsters, doz.	25
Pickered, lb.	60
Kippers, doz.	10
Perch, lb.	10
Pike, lb.	10
Rock-fish, lb.	15
Salmon, Quaila, lb.	10
Salmon, Coho, lb.	20
Salmon, Chinook, lb.	20

## MARKET REPORTS

Vegetables.	
Beets, bush, \$	50
Cabbage, new, lb.	10
Celery, bunch	15
Lettuce, bunch, doz.	50
Onions, green, bunch, doz.	50
Potatoes, bush	50
Parsnips, bush	75
Rhubarb, bunch	10
Turnips, bag	75
Grain.	
Barley, bush, \$	1 00
Bran, ton	27 00
Buckwheat, bush	1 15
Corn, yellow feed, bush	95
Corn, cracked, cwt.	1 50
Corn, meal, cwt.	2 45
Flour, owt.	3 85 4 15
Hay, baled, ton	18 00
Hay, loose	17 00 18 00
Oats, local, bush	75
Oats, Man., bush	70
Straw, baled, ton	9 00
Straw, loose, ton	8 00
Wheat, bush	1 50
Hides.	
Beef, hides, cured, per lb.	14c
Beef, hides, green, lb.	12c
Heavy bulls, lb.	12c
Veals, green, lb.	12c
Deacons, each	90c
Tallow rendered in cakes	50c
Kips or grassers, lb.	8c
Raw skins, per	15c
Lamb and shearing, each	25c
Sheep skins, each, up to	\$2.00
Horse hides, each, up to	\$5.00

## Pig Keeping And Cost of Production

The high prices of feeding stuffs are affecting adversely most of the minor as well as the staple pursuits. Pig keeping occupies a place somewhere between the two, probably nearer the main than the subordinate group, and, from all accounts, it is suffering severely from the change in the prices of corn stuffs. The breeding, rearing, and fattening of pigs depends to a great extent upon the use of concentrated feeds. No other class of animal gives a larger and quicker return for judicious expenditure in feeding-stuffs than the pig, but, on the other hand, an exceptional proportion of its diet consists of grain or grain offals, precisely the commodities that are most vitally influenced in price by the disorganization that results from war. In many cases home-grown grain or the by-products of the milling industry are used in large quantities, but these vary in price in accordance with changes in the supplies and cost of imported materials. The business farmer bases his reckoning of outlay on the value of the articles in the open market, and this sound system precludes him from using grain or grain offals for fattening of pigs when he can put them to better advantage in other ways. He may feel justified in consuming them at home when the margin between the two courses is not pronounced, as by doing so he is making increased provisions for fattening of pigs on his land, but there is a limit to the allowance that he can make for benefit in this.

The pig keeper, next to the intensive dairy farmer, is perhaps the largest buyer of imported stuffs. It is still the custom in some countries for the young pigs as well as the breeding sows to fill the part of farm scavengers, but as a rule a more regular method of feeding and management is adopted. Early maturity is the central aim in pig raising, as it is in the fattening of cattle and sheep, and it is an economic certainty that if circumstances are favorable the adoption of intensive practice the pursuit is in great danger of being discontinued. The modern farmer, having to make his living from small profits, must adopt methods that will give him a big turnover at short intervals, and pig keeping can answer this demand only when feeding-stuffs are plentiful and inexpensive. It is not surprising, therefore, to learn from different sources that many pigsties are already unoccupied, and that further reductions are expected. This is unfortunate, though perhaps unavoidable, for it portends scarcity of bacon and other pig products. The outlook for the consumer is far from reassuring, since heavy reductions in the

## NOW IS TIME TO PLANT TURNIPS

Match of the poor success in growing rutabaga turnips is due to late planting, poor soil and faulty seed. The crops should grow ideally in this section, but only seldom are quality roots to be found. The seed should be planted by the middle of June or at the latest the last of June. Select a fertile friable loam and ply a heavy dressing of well-rotted manure. The manure ought to be applied as soon as possible and plowed under, harrowing the ground two or three times at intervals of four or five days to kill germinating weeds.

Procure the best seed possible, and sow this in rows two or three feet apart. As good seed has a high germinating power, sow it thinly but stand too close together. Thin them to eight or ten inches apart, if thin-

imports from abroad are predicted, Denmark, which is one of the chief sources of our bacon supply, has been even more severely injured than this country. She imports great quantities of concentrated stuffs but since the outbreak of war these commodities have been obtainable only in small consignments with the result that the number of breeding pigs has had to be heavily curtailed. The pig differs from other animals in its facility to multiply rapidly, but the position in all pig-breeding countries warrants expectations of a great increase in the price of fat animals. For this reason it is regrettable that Great Britain has to follow the example of Denmark.

Blue's homestead consists of a triangular point of land jutting into lake, 189 feet long in its longest part and 38 feet wide in its widest part. The entire area of the homestead is 8-10ths of an acre, and the land office authorities say it is probably the smallest entry ever proved up. The young woman who made the entry is 27 years old. To comply with the homestead law and obtain patent to her lakeside land, she built a door house, 10 x 10 feet, and lived in it for seventeen months. The 10 cents paid into the land office was the price fixed by the Government for commuting the entry to cash. In consideration of the 10 cents, she will not be required to complete the three years of residence on the land that would otherwise have been required. Of the 3,424 square feet in Miss Blue's homestead, the law required her to cultivate 218 square feet. Instead, she cultivated and grew crops on nearly half the area of the lot. Her crops included tomatoes, cabbage and clover.

## THE LUTHERAN SYNOD.

**President's Loyal Address Adopted—Officers Elected.**  
Morrisburg, June 12.—The annual convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Central Canada was held in St. Paul's Lutheran Church here during the past four days. Reporting on the loyal expressions of the President, the Committee on the President's Report said: "We commend the hearty loyalty of our people to our beloved British Empire in the present war crisis. Our loyalty, as Lutherans, to the flag of the ally, whose protection we enjoy, is historic, and is not a mere matter of policy with us, but of principle and of faithfulness to the teaching of God's Word, which saith: 'Let every soul be subject unto the higher power. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.'" This report was unanimously and enthusiastically adopted by a rising vote.

The following officers were elected: President, Rev. Jacob Maurer, M.A., Williamsburg; secretary, Rev. N. Willison, Unionville, and treasurer, C. H. Pierheller, Toronto.

## Strainer Cloths For Milk.

Milk that will not deteriorate rapidly, and milk for the making of first-class dairy produce, must be free from any sediment it may contain. During the process of milking by hand, particles of dirt gain access to the milk, especially when there is careless milking. It is quite usual to see pails of milk with small pieces of hay, straw, etc., floating on the surface, and many think if these are removed that is all that is necessary. Apart from these pieces there are innumerable fine particles that cannot be seen unless the milk stands for any length of time, and it is to be clean these must be removed by some straining process. When milk is put through a centrifuge all the dirt is driven out, but this method is practically impossible in an ordinary farmhouse or dairy, and the only available method is straining. Sieves, whether of wire gauze or perforated metal, are inefficient by themselves and should be used in conjunction with some material, they will remove the larger particles, and if a cloth is tied outside the sieve the finer part of the dirt can be removed from the milk. The best strainer cloth for ordinary use will be found to be a cheap quality flannellette; one having an open tex-

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