

POULTRY FLOCKS

GUINEAS NEED LITTLE CARE

Fowls are usually raised in small flocks on large farm—Pearl is Most Popular.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Many hotels and restaurants in the large cities are eager to secure prime young guineas, and they are often served at banquets and club dinners as a special delicacy. When well cooked, guineas are attractive in appearance, although darker than common fowls. The flesh of young birds is tender and of especially fine flavor, resembling that of wild game. Like all other fowl, old guineas are very likely to be tough and rather dry.

A few of the large poultry raisers, particularly those who are within easy reach of the large Eastern markets, make a practice of raising a hundred or so guineas each year, but the great majority of guineas are raised in small



Male and Female Guinea Fowl Differ Little in Appearance. The Helmet and Wattles of the Male (on Left) are Larger Than Those of the Female (on Right).

flocks of from 10 to 25 upon farms in the Middle West and in the South. Domesticated guinea fowl are of three varieties—Pearl, White, and Lavender. The Pearl is by far the most popular. It has a purplish-gray plumage regularly dotted or "peppered" with white and is so handsome that frequently the fowls are used for ornamental purposes.

Guinea hens usually begin laying in April or May, those in the South laying earlier than those in the North. A short time before the opening of the laying period the hens with their mates begin searching for suitable nesting places among the weeds and brush about the fences or in the fields. In this search the male takes as active an interest as the female, and when a suitable location is found both help to dig out the nest and make it into suitable shape.

Each day as the hen goes to the nest to lay the male accompanies her and remains nearby until she comes off. Should anyone approach he strikes in warning and thus betrays the whereabouts of the nest, which might otherwise be difficult to locate. If several guinea hens are mated with one male they usually all lay in the same nest, but sometimes a hen after mating will wander off by herself to make her own nest. At times a male bird, after helping to make the nest, will sit on it and then desert her and pair off with another hen to make another nest.

From 20 to 30, and often more, eggs are laid before the guinea hen becomes broody, at which time she can be safely broken of her broodiness by removing the eggs from her nest, when she will soon begin laying again. If not allowed to sit, guinea hens will continue to lay throughout the summer, laying from 40 to 60 and in some cases 100 eggs during the season, say poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Ordinary hens are used, commonly, to incubate guinea eggs, but guinea hens, turkey hens, and incubators also can be employed successfully. The usual setting for a guinea hen is about 14 eggs; for a hen of the general purpose breeds, such as a Plymouth Rock, 18 eggs; and for a turkey hen about 24 eggs. The incubation period for guinea eggs is 28 days, although frequently they start hatching on the 26th day and are all hatched by the end of the 27th day.

If the nest in which the guinea hen becomes broody is safe from any disturbance, she may be trusted with a setting of eggs, and more than likely will hatch out every egg that is fertile, provided all hatch at about the same time. As soon as the guinea chicks begin to leave the nest the hen will leave with them, and any eggs laid late in hatching are usually lost unless they are placed in an incubator or under a broody hen before they become chilled.

DUCK NOTES.

An overworked peep of ducklings induces feather-pulling.

At eleven weeks of age ducklings usually start their moult.

It is just as necessary to avoid overcrowding among ducks as it is with hens.

A duck retains her productiveness twice as long as a hen. At six years of age she is as vigorous and productive as a hen three years old.

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AIM TO ANALYZE MARKET REPORTS

"Bulk of Sales" Quotations Are Likely to Prove Confusing to Many Farmers.

FIGURES WILL VARY WIDELY

On Day When Low-Grade Hogs Are Neglected Higher Grade Animals Are Finding Ready Sale at Attractive Prices.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

"Bulk of sales" quotations appearing in livestock market reports are likely to prove confusing to the farmer who attempts to keep himself informed on selling conditions, yet a present-day market report would not be complete without such quotations. If the farmer confines his attention only to "bulk" and "top" sales, and ignores the factors of quality and weight in the market receipts, he is almost sure to form a wrong opinion of the actual market conditions, say market specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

May Vary From Day to Day.

Bulk of sales figures should always be studied in conjunction with the quotations on grades which are based on weight and quality. The bulk of



The Wise Farmer Learns to Analyze His Daily Market Report.

sales figures may vary widely from day to day without indicating that the market is unstable. This situation frequently arises from a limited trade in low-grade hogs on the same day that high-grade animals are finding ready sale. The bulk of sales quotations for such a day will reach a relatively high figure. On the following day a larger number of low-grade animals may be included in the sales and the higher grades neglected, with the result that the bulk of sales quotations will be far below that of the preceding report. On seasons when the average quality of the animals offered is low the bulk of sales quotations will reflect this condition, and the farmer who has animals ready for shipment may be misled as to the actual state of affairs, unless he takes into account the other factors which have an important bearing. Because the bulk of sales report from the market is much lower than that from another city he may decide to ship his product to the market which appears to offer the highest prices. As a matter of fact, for the grade that he has to offer, the market quoted the lower bulk figures may offer the higher price to him. It is undoubtedly true that country buyers often take advantage of low bulk of sales reports to depress purchasing prices in their localities.

KEEP CALVES IN STANCHIONS

Best Practice Where Number of Young Animals Are Kept in Same Pasture Together.

If a number of calves are placed in the same pasture and are of such age that milk must be fed, it is necessary that a row of stanchions be provided in which to tie them while being fed and for a few minutes afterward. Each calf should be fed separately. Too often a number of calves are fed from a trough. The result is that the large calves grow themselves while the weaker ones do not receive enough milk. "Bulk" feeding is a very poor practice.

Trained Tomatoes Best.

Tomatoes trained to a stake or trellis do not give as many fruit as when left on the ground, but they are of better size and color.

Tie Up Cauliflower.

Tie up cauliflower as soon as the head sets, to keep the heads white and clean.

This can be done if the farmer is in the dark as to the quality of the stock comprising the bulk transactions. Shows Quality and Grades.

To be of practical use to the farmer, the bulk of sales quotations must be considered with a knowledge of what is being offered; for shogs of various grades and qualities. Studied in this way the bulk of sales reports are of material value, for they show the quality and grades that make up the principal supply at any market for any period. Bulk quotations also give a more lucid idea of general trade conditions on these sessions of the market when the value from the opening to the closing varies widely.

The clarification and standardization of market reports and classifications throughout the whole country is one of the big tasks on which the bureau of markets, United States Department of Agriculture, is working. When this has been accomplished and the live-stock trade begins to grade its receipts with reasonable uniformity the need for bulk sales quotations will not be nearly so great as at present.

ANNUAL WHITE SWEET CLOVER YIELDS WELL

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

It has been determined that sweet clover, which grows luxuriantly along roadsides and on the edge of ways, and which is grown in some sections as a forage crop, has one strain which is annual. The annual sweet clover occasionally appears in patches of the more common biennial form, either as single specimens or in small groups. Seed of the annual has been separated, and in recent years it has been propagated. These plants are brought out in Department Circular 109, Annual White Sweet Clover and Strains of the Biennial Form, recently published by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The nature of this new variety, according to the bulletin, is such as to indicate that it may have important possibilities. Probably its greatest use for hay will be as an emergency crop. When a stand of clover has been winter-killed, when for any reason a farmer finds that his hay supply will be short, this variety can be seeded during the spring and, provided lime and the proper bacteria are present, will yield a satisfactory crop. When the fall is sufficient it may be seeded even after wheat harvest. It makes a good growth the first season, and experiments in Iowa and Michigan have shown that it can be seeded with oats, to be harvested after the grain is cut. It grows rapidly, and for this reason will keep ahead of weeds.

The annual has a smaller and more woody root than the biennial form, and crown or resting buds are not formed. The stems, branches, leaves, flowers, pods and seeds are indistinguishable from those of the biennial form, but during the season of seedling the plant grows more rapidly, blossoms, fruits and dies. It blooms early and ripens seed in August when seeded early. Seed of the annual form is still very scarce and high priced and, since it cannot be distinguished from seed of the ordinary biennial, should be purchased with caution.

NECESSITY GOOD FOUNDATION

Farmers Interested in Co-operative Organization Where Facilities Are Lacking.

Necessity is a good foundation for a co-operative organization. If the farmers in any community feel that they are interested in it, with it, it supports it. This need may show itself in a lack of markets, facilities or unsatisfactory marketing conditions.

BEST DIVISION OF PASTURES

At 20-Acre Tract Will Yield More Grass Where Herd Is Shifted to Small Fields.

Dividing pastures into smaller fields is time and money well spent. A 20-acre pasture divided will yield much more grass where the herd is shifted from one field to the other than if allowed to tramp on the entire field at will.

Chief Chick Essentials. The proper growth of chickens are good crops, clean houses, cleanliness, proper feed and water, shade and free range.

Profitable Truck Markets. Roadside markets furnish good ways of disposing of vegetables, fruit and flowers, if one happens to be living on a well-travelled highway.

Two Disturbing Factors. Two of the main disturbing factors in the care of bulls are the feeding of concentrated meal and a lack of exercise.

IMPORTANT NEED FOR MORE TREES

Three-Fifths of Primeval Forests Have Been Cut Away, Says Forester Greeley.

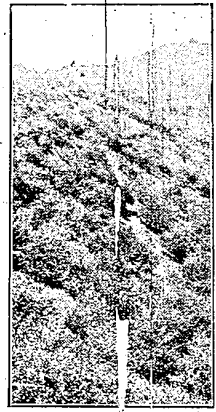
SUPPLY OF WOOD NECESSARY

Despite Fact That Many Substitutes Have Been Devised Demand for Timber Continues to Grow—Much Land Is Idle.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Timber depletion is now reached a point in this country where three-fifths of the primeval forests are gone and where 61 per cent of the timber that is left is west of the Great Plains. Col. W. B. Greeley, chief forester, forest service of the Department of Agriculture of the United States, recently told the members of the Chicago Association of Commerce.

Liberal use of American forests was a necessary part of the commercial growth of this nation, Colonel Greeley believes, but reforestation should have been practiced, if not from the start, at least in late years. There is an abundant area of forest land in this country to support all industries, and a liberal supply of wood is most necessary to the people of this country.



Hill Land Orchard Near Lynchburg, Va.

It was thought that, like the European countries, we would use up our civilization was older, but the third or one-half as much wood per capita as we did in the early days. But this rule does not affect the American people. The older the states and communities in this country grow the more timber they seek to require in one form or another.

Many substitutes have been devised for wood, and yet the great demand of the country for timber continues to grow. More wood is used in construction today than before the discovery of concrete, and more wood is used in building railway cars than before the steel or paraffin was developed. This is apparently true in nearly every industry.

Abundant and widely distributed forests have meant to the United States lumber for the houses of the people beyond the standards of any other nation. They have paced newspapers and magazines on the average family table. They have contributed largely to social and industrial conditions which promote democracy and

ROTATION URGED IN GARDEN

Disease Spores and Insects Attack Crops Where Same Vegetables Are Planted.

The same kind of vegetables should not be grown twice in succession in the same part of the garden. If this can be avoided, if a radically different kind is grown in the same place, insects, though present in the soil, are not liable to attack the second crop.

Small Flock Is Important.

A small flock of laying hens on a town or village lot or in a city back yard is an important branch of poultry keeping.

Market Needless Rooters.

Do not let needless rooters eat up profits. Get them into condition for market and then weed them out promptly.

Care for Work Horses.

Take good care of the work horse these warm days.

Horticultural Facts

PROPER PICKING OF BERRIES

Small Fields Are Handled by Members of Family—Commercial Growers Hire Help.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Harvest season for berries, as with any other market crop, is a critical period, because upon proper methods depends the entire success of the year's work. No matter if the vines or bushes have been carefully chosen, properly set, thoroughly cultivated, and scientifically pruned or trained, the grower will not be able to get the full extent of financial returns unless the berries are carefully picked and carefully handled.

Berry harvest once meant taking a tin pail into the woods or fields, filling it from the wild bushes and carrying the berries to the house, where they were prepared for the table or canned. If they were green or overripe, or if there were sticks, leaves or hulls in the pails, it meant no more than a little sorting. In commercial culture berries must be picked so they will stand shipping, possibly hundreds of miles, and appear on the market with the boxes reasonably filled and the berries in an attractive and edible condition. If they are overripe when picked they are likely to break down and spoil before getting to market, and if they are picked green they are likely to be worthless. Bruising makes them settle down in the basket and also lays them open to mold and heating.

If the field is small the members of the family may be able to handle the crop, but if it is large it involves engaging pickers and their supervision. Unless they are engaged well in advance of the harvest season, the grower is often unable to secure a sufficient number of pickers to harvest the berries as fast as they ripen. If sorted out, the overripe berries are usually a total loss, and if packed they reduce greatly the value of the firm berries with which they are marketed.

Local men, women and children are preferable to transient labor. Usually they can be depended upon to remain through the season. However, if there is a large acreage of berries



On Proper Picking Methods Depends the Success of the Berry Crop.

In the neighborhood, outside help frequently must be secured. Some families who pick berries have camping outfits and travel from one district to another as the season advances. These laborers usually are efficient, but not always dependable. Many pickers stop work after the height of the season, or as soon as the best of the picking is over. In some districts a promoter, a fraction of a cent a quart is offered pickers who stay until the end of the harvesting season.

Proper supervision of the picking force is especially important. A small count of the class of labor ordinarily used and the ease with which berries are damaged. Usually a "row boss" or foreman is placed in charge of a group of pickers. He sees that the rows are assigned to the pickers and that no ripe berries are left unpicked, that the number of green or otherwise defective berries placed in the boxes is held to the minimum, and that the pickers do not damage the vines or bushes.

Special carriers to hold baskets while picking can easily be obtained. One method is to take an ordinary quart basket and tie it about the waist, setting other baskets in it, but the best carriers are made to swing from the shoulder and hold two baskets side by side.

For carrying berries to the packing shed, straw holding up baskets is convenient. The tray is carried by a wire handle. The picker ordinarily should not be permitted to carry more than one tray from the shed, and should be required to set it in a shade until full. This will insure against berries being too much wilted or sunburned.

Keeping an account with the picking help is troublesome, unless a simple system is employed. Many growers get checks the shape of shipping tags and printed with numbers representing the number of boxes or the amount to be paid, and punch out the figures as the quarts are brought in. Others issue card tickets for each quart or tray filled, and these often are taken in trade at local stores, making it easier for the grower to finance his harvesting.

The berry harvest is of comparatively short duration and involves long hours and hard work on the part of the grower, and every effort at careful supervision will show its effect when the final checks come in.

DIFFERENT WAYS FOR GIRL TO MAKE MONEY

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

When a city girl feels the need of money—her own money, to pay for the things girls imagine they must have these days—she goes to work in an office, a store, or a factory, according to her education and opportunity. In the country a girl, with much the same longings for nice things and "good times," looks to the poultry yard, the milk house, or the garden for her earning money. If her parents are the right kind, if they are intelligent enough to help her and encourage her in her work, she will soon establish herself as a semi-independent member of the family. If, as often happens, the parents are not disposed to have such goings-on, and there is no home-demonstration agent, no girls' club, no extension work of any kind in the community, the country girl goes to the city, where the farming regions have lost one more potential home and family.

No doubt exists in the minds of men and women of large experience in the extension work carried on by the United States Department of Agriculture in co-operation with state agricultural colleges that the economic appeal is the entering influence needed in getting their clubs or bureaus started in rural districts. Once the young people have learned a way to earn money the desire for the things they will buy asserts itself, and home betterments and improved living conditions follow naturally.

Down in Arkansas a girls' canning club started a contest to determine which of the members could produce the most tomatoes at the least expense, and with the lowest percentage of waste. Annet Sargo, of the Mount Valley route, near Hot Springs, grew 3,140 pounds of tomatoes on one-tenth of an acre, at a cost of \$31.40 and net returns of \$349. With the same expense her sister, Fannie, grew 3,020 pounds and had a net return of \$107.80. Ada Rosamond grew 2,803 pounds, costing \$27.42, with a net return of \$76.60, and Ruby Waddell, at Bonnersville, had 3,070 pounds, costing \$29.91, with net returns of \$68.

CELERY INJURED IN TRANSIT

Damage Caused by Loading Too High in Cars and by Preventing Ventilation.

Celery is injured in transit because it is loaded too high in the cars to permit proper air circulation and rapid cooling, says the United States Department of Agriculture. Smaller carloads or less of them in the load would help to insure rapid cooling.

Rich Soil for Garden.

Soil in the garden should be rich and well supplied with humus. Stable manure is best for the garden, for it furnishes both plant food and humus.

Dual Purpose Legume.

The soy bean is the dual-purpose member of the legume, an annual used as a green manure, silage, hay, seed and pasture crop.

Increase Milk Production.

A pure-bred sire for the dairy herd can start an increase in milk production that continues through future generations.