

FARM
POULTRYTHE
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Farm and Garden Page

Timely Articles on Agricultural, Dairying, Poultry
and Horticultural Topics of Direct Interest and
Benefit to Many Readers in Farmington and Its
Surrounding Districts.Horticultural
Hints

PREPARE FRUIT FOR MARKET

Tentative Standard Grades Will Do
Much Toward Abolishing Exist-
ing Confusion.(Prepared by the United States Depart-
ment of Agriculture.)

Good prices ordinarily are not obtained for inferior products, and the best of marketing facilities cannot overcome the handicap of indifferent handling and packing methods on the part of the grower or shipper. Confusion, dissatisfaction and lack of stability in the markets are caused, in a large degree, by carelessness in the preparation of fruit for the market, say specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture, bureau of markets.

Success in marketing strawberries depends to a large extent upon proper picking, grading, and packing. Strawberries of a dependable grade and pack inspire in the trade a confidence that is reflected in a greater demand and higher prices for the product. It is said. To furnish growers, inspectors, and buyers with fairness to each other and to themselves, the bureau of markets has recommended grades, which include what seem to be the best features of the grading rules found in use in the various shipping sections throughout the United States.

The first grade, which is known as U. S. Grade No. 1, consists of firm strawberries of one variety, with the cap and a short stem attached. They must not be overripe, underripe, undeveloped, decayed, or moldy, and shall be practically free from foreign matter and from damage caused by sand, moisture, disease, insects, or mechanical means. The minimum diameter is set at three-fourths of an inch. In order to allow for variations incident to careful commercial grading and handling, 10 per cent, by volume, of the berries in any lot may be under the prescribed size, and, in addition, 5 per cent, by volume, of the berries in such lot may be below the minimum requirements of the grade.

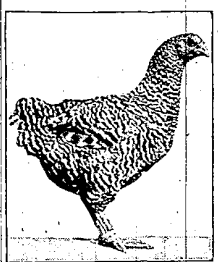
U. S. Grade No. 2 consists of strawberries that do not meet the requirements of the first grade and do not contain more than 8 per cent, by vol-



Barred Plymouth Rock.

WELL-BRED POULTRY
AROUSING INTERESTPoultrymen Help Better Sires—
Better Stock Movement.Nebraska Live Stock Owners En-
rolled in Campaign Report Stand-
ard-Bred Fowls—Plymouth
Rocks and Leghorns Lead.(Prepared by the United States Depart-
ment of Agriculture.)

In the absence of census data on the quality of farm poultry, information being received by the United States Department of Agriculture in connection with the Better Sires—Better Stock movement is believed to be of interest to poultrymen. For instance, of 75 livestock owners in Webster



Barred Plymouth Rock.

county, Nebraska, who in one day enrolled in the better sires drive, 65 reported standard-bred fowls. The flocks averaged 94 birds. The principal breeds reported are, in the order stated, Plymouth Rocks, Leghorns, Rhode Island Reds, Orpingtons and Wyandottes. Barred Plymouth Rocks were more numerous than other varieties in the breed. Of the Leghorns the White Leghorns were raised in largest numbers, while of the Wyandottes the white variety was somewhat more popular than the Silver-Laced Wyandottes, which were second. Buff Orpingtons were the only variety of that breed reported.

The facts stated are believed to show interest in the keeping of well-bred poultry, especially since the Better Sires—Better Stock blanks merely call for the number of poultry kept; and in all cases the livestock owners volunteered the facts about breeds and varieties. It is also noteworthy that, whereas the better-sires drive is aimed chiefly at the improvement of breeding males, in the case of poultry a large majority of females likewise are standard bred.

COVER OR BLANKET FOR COW

Good Way to Keep Flies From Bother-
ing While Milking—Obviates
Tail Switching.

To keep flies from bothering while milking, make a cover or blanket for the cow from a large gunny sack, ripped open, and provided with strings for fastening under forelegs, and string across back to hold in place over the rump. If both the cow being milked and the one behind the milker are so protected there will be very little tail switching.

HOW DISEASE IS INTRODUCED

Unwholesome Foodstuff That Is De-
cayed or Moldy Should Never
Be Given to Fowls.

Disease is often introduced into a flock by unwholesome foodstuff that is decayed or moldy, but good food may be easily spoiled by placing it in dirty troughs or neglecting feeding places, especially in hot weather, when soft food or milk is given.

PLAN TO WEAN CALVES EARLY

Much Time and Annoyance Saved If
Youngster Is Taken Away When
Quite Young.

The cow owner who neglects to wean his calf because it is too much trouble in making him thrive the trouble for himself by letting it trouble his mother. It is surprising how soon a calf can be taught to drink from a bucket, if it is determined enough. And the freedom from bothering with a hungry young bull a few weeks later, charging down, trampling one's feet and insisting upon having his way, is worth a lot.

Millet as a Catch Crop.

Millet has proved itself an excellent catch crop, and is especially desirable since good yields can be obtained even if sown as late as the middle of July.

Splendid for Chickens.

Don't throw away any table scraps, kitchen scraps, sweet, sour or butter-milk, but feed it all to the poultry and increase the profits.

GROWING WINTER
WHEAT IN NORTHHardier Varieties Introduced
That Give Better Yields
and Mature Earlier.

BETTER DROUGHT RESISTANT

Better Division of Labor Permits Fall
Seeding and Earlier Harvesting—
Careful Selection of Seed Will
Aid Yield.(Prepared by the United States Depart-
ment of Agriculture.)

Since the introduction of the hardy varieties of wheat from southern Europe there has been a decided northward movement of the winter-wheat area. This movement has been rapid in recent years. The regions formerly are the generally large fields of winter wheat, first, to its earlier maturity, thus enabling it to escape hail, hot winds and disease; second, to its greater drought resistance; and third to the better division of labor, which it allows through fall seeding and earlier harvesting.

The profitable production of wheat in the eastern part of the United States depends to a considerable extent on the choice of the best-adapted varieties. In general, hard red winter wheats are grown, although soft white winter wheats are popular in the northeastern United States, especially in New York and Pennsylvania. In the extreme western portion of the eastern area, which is limited on the west approximately by the line of 30 inches of rainfall, hard red winter wheats of the Turkey type are grown. Along the line of 30 inches rainfall there is a transition zone in which hard and soft red winter wheats succeed about equally well.

Better Varieties for Many Farms. Many farmers are doubtless growing poorer varieties of wheat than they might grow if they knew exactly what was adapted to their localities and farms. The United States Department of Agriculture has just issued Farm-



Harvesting Wheat.

ers' Bulletin 1108, Varieties of Wheat for the Farmer, Adapted to the Eastern United States, which charts localities in which various types of wheat can be grown to advantage.

Improve Wheat Yield. Wheat can be improved in yield and in other desirable characteristics by selecting good heads and good plants from the general field and growing the seed from each individual head or plant in separate rows. Continued selection will result in constantly improved seed. Another method of purifying a variety and increasing the yield is what may be called mass selection. This consists simply in picking out good heads from the field at large, sowing the selected seed in a small area, and selecting the next harvest time.

ANALYSIS MADE OF MANURES

Dry Material Contains Large Amount
of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and
Potash, Etc.

The average of 11 analysis of manures from cattle, horses and mixed shows that a ton of dry manure contains 38 pounds of nitrogen, 7.6 phosphorus and 34.4 pounds of potash. A ton of fresh farm manure contains about three-fourths water but it contains 16 pounds of nitrogen, 20 pounds of phosphorus and eight pounds of potash.

Shelter All Winter Through.

All water run should be properly sheltered from the heat of the sun in order to keep the water cool and fresh.

Watch for Yvyrin. Keep a sharp lookout for head lice on small chicks that were hatched by hens, or incubator chicks brooded by hens.

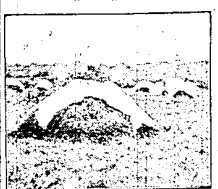
Live Stock Makes Its Best Growth

on good grass pasture.

CAPS ADVANTAGEOUS
IN PROTECTING HAYWould Obviate Much Difficulty
With Alfalfa Crop.Old Methods Used in Curing Mixed
Timothy and Clover Not Always
Adequate for Good Grade of
Alfalfa Hay.(Prepared by the United States Depart-
ment of Agriculture.)

Hay caps can be used to advantage on many farms in the eastern half of the United States, to keep rain from wetting hay in cocks. It is pointed out in Farmers' Bulletin 977 of the United States Department of Agriculture.

In the corn belt, where thousands of farmers are growing small acreages of

Alfalfa Hay, Showing Cocks Covered
With Canvas.

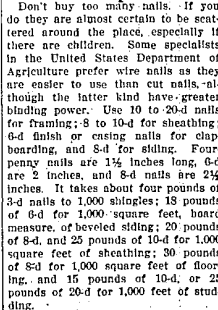
alfalfa, and beginning to realize the great value of this crop, the use of hay caps would largely obviate the difficulty now experienced in curing the first and the last cuttings. The old methods used to cure mixed timothy-and-clover hay are not always adequate for alfalfa, and in many instances a good grade of alfalfa hay might be assured by the use of hay caps.

In the South, where the weather is rainy a large part of the time during the long hay-making season, the hay cap is an especially valuable addition to hay making equipment. Alfalfa, also alfalfa and Johnson grass mixed hay are cut from three to five times a year in the South, and a great deal of hay of inferior quality is made as a result of trying to cure by ordinary methods. In this section hay caps have been used to good advantage, especially with legume hay grown for market.

ESTIMATE OF LUMBER WASTE

By 'Careful Cutting Much Can Be
Saved and Short Pieces Can Be
Used in Odd Places.

Don't forget to estimate the waste in buying your lumber for building a poultry house, barn or other structure. In figuring on common shantling add one-fourth for cutting waste for boarding, siding and 8-4 for shingles. Four penny nails are 1 1/4 inches long, 6-d are 2 inches, and 8-d nails are 2 1/2 inches. It takes about four pounds of 3-d nails to 1,000 shingles; 18 pounds of 6-d for 1,000 square feet of boarding; of beveled siding; 20 pounds of 8-d, and 25 pounds of 10-d for 1,000 square feet of sheathing; 30 pounds of 8-d for 1,000 square feet of flooring; and 16 pounds of 10-d or 25 pounds of 20-d for 1,000 feet of stud-



MINERAL MIXTURE FOR HOGS

Charcoal or Slack Coal, Wood Ashes,
Air-Slaked Lime and Copperas
Are of Importance.

Keep a mineral mixture of charcoal or slack coal, wood ashes, one bushel, air-slaked lime, four pounds, salt four pounds, copperas one and one-fourth pounds, before your hogs at all times. The copperas is dissolved in a quart of water and poured over the other ingredients after they are mixed. This mixture helps to keep down worms and makes the hogs have a better appetite.

Importance of Soy Bean.

The soy bean has an important place among spring crops. Having a high protein value, the crop may be fed to good advantage with less nutritious crops, such as corn, sorghum, sudan grass, and millet.

Segregate New Fowls.

When you purchase new fowls, it is always a good plan to keep them to themselves until you are sure they are free from disease and lice.

CULL "SLACKER"
FOWLS IN FLOCKPoultry Methods Greatly Im-
proved by Campaigns in Com-
munities in Idaho and Iowa.

FARMERS' WIVES GET \$177.22

Many New Poultry Houses Have Been
Constructed and Others Repaired
and Cleaned—Breeding Elim-
inated Nonlayers.(Prepared by the United States Depart-
ment of Agriculture.)

Culling campaigns in Iowa and Idaho have greatly improved poultry methods in the communities where they were carried on. The home demonstration agent, co-operatively employed in Marshall county, Iowa, by the State Agricultural college and the United States Department of Agriculture, states that many new poultry houses have been built and many others repaired and cleaned. In one month, with the assistance of a specialist from the State Agricultural college, 60 demonstrations of culling were given, 950 percent attended and 7,420 birds were handled from which there were 3,003 culled out.

Records Were Kept.

Thirteen egg records were kept for two weeks before and after the demonstration. The owners found that 2,219 birds laid 5,492 eggs before culling and that after culling 1,527 birds laid 5,570 eggs, which meant that 692 were not producing. The "slackers" were sold for 35 cents per pound, and netted \$177.22 for the farmers' wives.

In another county in Iowa during one month 62 demonstrations were held in the culling of home poultry flocks. The home demonstration agent in which 6,833 birds were handled and 2,600 culled out, of a sav-

Home Demonstration Agent Culling
"Slacker" Hens.

ing of \$3,322 on feed. About \$1,200 was realized from the sale of these nonproducing birds.

Big Saving in Idaho. Six home demonstration agents in Idaho counties report poultry culling with the result of saving \$51,366. Interesting reports from the counties include the building of 25 standard-type poultry houses, a tuberculosis eradication campaign, two poultry excursions with an attendance of 170 interested people, and a community breeding circle to demonstrate that systematic breeding tends to eliminate nonlaying hens.

FEEDING CATTLE IN SUMMER

Animals Have Seldom Been Marked
Down When Marketed Because
There is a Surplus.

The increase of clover in summer will operate against a great increase of cattle feeding during the season of field work, for the average farmer does not care to feed cattle night and morning in summer when tired out with the long day's work on the land. But if one cares to investigate, he will find that summer-fed cattle seldom have to be marked down when marketed because there is a surplus of stuff in the terminal markets.

The ideal ration is made up of rich tender grass and grain. The feeding period is shortened and the gain per hundred pounds of grain is enhanced as compared with dry-lot feeding in winter. Counting all the factors in the game, the risk in summer feeding for market is far less than in winter.

Excellent for Chicks.

Sour milk is excellent for young chicks. It makes them healthy and strong as well as disease resistant.

ARRANGEMENT OF DUCK FARM

Should Be Located on Light, Sandy
Soil, With Convenient Facilities
for Watering.(Prepared by the United States Depart-
ment of Agriculture.)

Duck farms are usually located on light, sandy soil, preferably on sloping land, where the droppings will leach freely into the soil, and the land keeps sweet and clean. The farm should have good shipping facilities to aid both in shipping products and in buying supplies. The arrangement of the buildings should be planned to economize labor and allow for future increase of the equipment.

The incubator chair should be convenient to the brooder house, the brooder house to the growing house

Young Green Ducks, Ready for Mar-
ket.

and pens, and these buildings to the killing house. The pens in the houses, the outside yards, and the arrangement of the buildings should be planned so that the ducks may be easily driven from house to house as desired. The food house or house should be centrally located.

Convenient watering arrangements are essential where large numbers of ducks are kept, as they require a large amount of drinking water, say poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. While ducks may be kept successfully under very intensive conditions, it is advisable to allow considerable yard space. Double yards, which may be rotated and planted to quick-growing crops, such as oats, wheat and rye, are good for intensive duck farms.

It is advisable to have a pond or reservoir for the breeding ducks, as they usually give better fertility under these conditions, although on some successful duck farms the ducks are always kept on dry land. The young green ducks on some duck farms are kept in a small flock of hens in four pens, which may be rotated and a pond are not allowed to go into the water except to bathe and clean their feathers just before marketing. Other growers, however, allow the green ducks free access to ponds or streams until they are marketed.

CHEAP COOP FOR BACK YARD

Inexpensive House Will Prove En-
tirely Satisfactory Where Small
Flock Is Kept.

It is not necessary to spend much money for housing if you are going to keep a small flock of hens in your back yard. Indeed, it is unwise, say poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. One or two piano cases or a large packing box may often be made into an acceptable house. But whatever you build should be made dry and free from drafts, and have good ventilation. The United States Department of Agriculture has numerous bulletins giving directions for the kind of construction, and any of these are available for the asking, or for a very few cents where a charge is necessary. A card to the division of publication, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. will get you what you need.

EGGS PRESERVED WITH LIME

Will Be Found Quite Satisfactory
Where Water, Glass Is Dif-
ficult to Obtain.

If water glass is not obtainable, lime may be used for preserving eggs, say specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. It is not considered so good as water glass, as in some instances eggs preserved by this method have tasted slightly of lime, although at other times lime-water has proved entirely satisfactory.

To preserve with lime, dissolve two pounds of unslaked lime in a small quantity of water, and dilute with five gallons of water that has previously been boiled and cooled. Allow the mixture to stand until the lime settles, then pour off and use the clear liquid. Place clean, fresh eggs in a clean earthenware crock or jar, and pour the clear lime-water into the vessel until the eggs are covered. At least two inches of the solution should cover the top layer of eggs.

Pickers Bring berries to Packing
Sheds for Grading and Packing.

ume, of berries that have been seriously damaged from any cause.

When packed and shipped in crates, the boxes should be well filled and the following information plainly and neatly marked on the end of each crate: The grade name—U. S. Grade No. 1, or U. S. Grade No. 2—the name of the variety, and the grower's name and address.

Strawberries that do not conform to the specifications of one of these two grades ordinarily are not high enough in quality to be shipped. When stock that does not meet the requirement of the U. S. Grade No. 2 is shipped, it can be sold only on the basis of the general quality of each individual shipment. The wide variation in value of the different lots of such undergrade stock would preclude the possibility of placing them in definite grades. In the determination of grades for strawberries the factors to be considered are size and quality.

The size of strawberries varies widely with the section and with the variety. However, as size normally would be considered as much as, or more than, any other factor in connection with grades, the minimum size for the No. 1 grade must be definitely stated. In districts where two grades are recognized, size is usually the main difference between them, while it is not practicable to separate all the different sizes in the same manner in which boxed apples or oranges are sized, more careful attention is needed in order to prevent boxes filled with small berries from being mixed with those of desirable size in the shipping crates.

Berries that are water-soaked or have the least indication of decay should not be shipped, and those which in any way have become bruised, crushed, cut, or otherwise damaged for shipping should be kept out of the boxes.

SOIL FOR RASPBERRY PLANT

Will Thrive Best on Sandy or Clay-
Loam If Well Drained and Given
Plenty of Plant Food.

The raspberry plant will grow on almost any soil; yet it has its likes and dislikes and will do best on a rich, sandy or clay-loam soil. It is not so hardy as supplied with plenty of plant food and manure. It will fall if planted on soil that lacks proper drainage and on which water stands for any considerable time at or near the surface.