

LIVE STOCK NEWS

BETTER CRATES ARE NEEDED

Many Breeding Animals Used in Improving Herds and Flocks Are Not Properly Handled.

Very many of the breeding animals used in improving herds and flocks are shipped from place to place in crates. Good crates are easy to handle, reduce shipping costs, and save heavy losses.

Because shipping is often a source of much loss and great annoyance, an attempt has been made by the Wisconsin College of Agriculture, the Forest Products laboratory and the Wisconsin Live Stock Breeders' association, to establish a standard type, of live-stock crate that can be easily and cheaply built. Practical tests have been made and in every case these standard crates withstood the treatment encountered in actual shipping operations.

"Better Shipping Crates for Live Stock," a free circular issued by the College of Agriculture, Madison, not only tells of the trials and tests but also suggests how efficient crates may be made.

Crates have been made for three classes of live stock—cattle, sheep and hogs. The cattle crate will comfortably accommodate mature cows of all breeds of dairy cattle. The same proportions may be used in building a larger crate to accommodate animals of the beef breeds. Similarly, a smaller crate may be built on



Sheep Properly Crated for Transportation.

the same lines in which to ship animals of the smaller dairy breeds.

The sheep crate is best made in three sizes, designated as lamb, sheep and buck. It is of prime importance that the crate fit the animal.

Hogs, like sheep, require different sized crates. A crate that is too small may cause many blemishes which will ruin the animal from the breeder's viewpoint. A table of the sizes of crates, based upon the size of the hog to be shipped, will aid the shipper in avoiding waste and, at the same time, provide the most comfort.

PUREBRED RAMS GAIN FAVOR

Thirty-Six Animals in One Kentucky County Where Seven Years Ago There Was One.

Thirty-six purebred rams in a county where only one was owned seven years ago, when the agricultural extension agent first began his work there, is reported to the United States Department of Agriculture as the record in Humphreys county, Tenn. Twenty farmers in the county bought purebred rams this season.

SELECT PIGS FOR BREEDERS

Important to Choose Most Thrifty and Growthy Females—Determines Size of Litter.

It is just as necessary, or even more so, to select the most thrifty and growthy sow pigs for breeders, as it is to breed them to a choice boar, for the fact that upon the thrift and capacity of the sow will depend to a large extent, not only the size of the litter, but their food during the suckling period.

PRODUCTION OF FEEDER PIPS

Business Growing Rapidly as Cholera and Other Swine Diseases Are Being Controlled.

As cholera and other diseases of swine are coming under control, the business of producing feeder pigs is growing. All feeder pigs should be young and should show good breeding. If such pigs are healthy they will make rapid gains when placed in the feed lot.

Good Mixture for Sows.

A mixture of slacked lime and salt should be kept before the sows at all times and it is also well to feed three-fourths of a pound of good quality alfalfa hay per sow daily, or one-third of a pound of tankage.

Feeding Raw Potatoes.

Raw potatoes should not be fed to live stock in too large quantities because of the solanine, which, if consumed too liberally, is apt to produce harmful effects. This crystalline compound is lost in cooking.

POULTRY

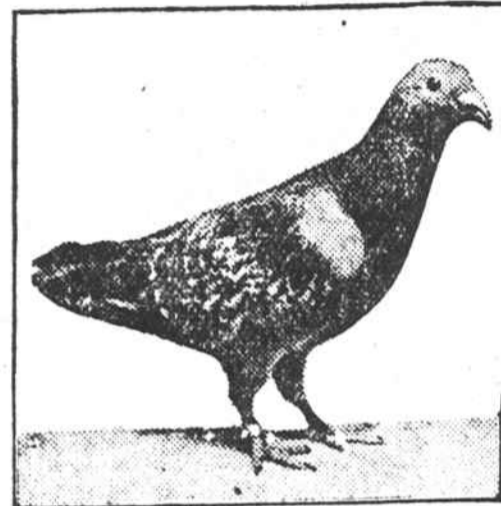
POINTS FOR SQUAB RAISERS

Owners of Successful Plants Always Find Plenty to Do in Winter in Caring for Birds.

Managers of successful squab-raising plants always find plenty to do in winter taking care of their breeding pigeons, seeing they are properly mated, culled, housed and fed. If large plump squabs are to be produced next spring the breeding pigeons must be kept in a good thrifty condition or the percentage of hatch will be low. The problem of growing a large strain of squabs depends on the kind of pigeons you select to keep in the breeding pens. By culling out the small, weak birds, with undesirable color of skin and other such points and disposing of the discarded ones the feed bill will be greatly reduced.

The birds should be looked after closely during the mating season. Odd or unmated males must always be removed from the breeding pens. Pigeons are usually mated at the age of five or six months, and in some cases they are not mated until they are eight or nine months old.

With the increasing demand for plump squabs many of the squab-raising plant owners have been labor-



A Blue Checker, Another Coming Type of Homer.

ing to get larger pigeons. The Maltese, the Wing King, the Cornish, the Tumbler, and the Mondaine have been extensively produced in some sections. Many of the old-time squab-raisers cling to the Homer. It is hardy, prolific, a hearty eater, and raises a high percentage of squabs.

The pigeon house should be cleaned once a month or oftener, and then sprayed with some of the preparations that are used to kill lice.

EPSOM SALTS CHEAP REMEDY

Useful to Keep on Hand to Tone Up Poultry Flock That Has Access to Spoiled Feed.

Epsom salts is a cheap remedy to keep on hand to help in toning up a poultry flock that has had access to spoiled feed. The occasional use of the salts is to help in reducing losses from sour crop or indigestion due to overfeeding. A hen that has been crop-bound is benefited by epsom salts.

The usual dose is half a teaspoonful for a mature hen. The salts can be dissolved in warm water and poured down the throat of the bird. Then you know the hen has received the dose. She may not eat enough of a mash containing the salts. A flock can be allowed to go hungry about half a day followed by a moist mash containing epsom salts for every bird.

POULTRY NOTES

Disinfectants are cheaper than disease.

Fowls in confinement, to do well, need a variety of food.

Crowding induces disease and lowers the vitality of fowls.

A breeding pen is usually made up of from six to fourteen females and a male.

A stewing chicken weighs about three pounds and a rooster four or more pounds.

Nests should not be too deep or the hens jump down on the eggs and break them.

When a chicken weighs between two and three pounds it is called a spring chicken.

A setting of eggs is usually counted at twelve, although many poultrymen give fifteen eggs.

A broiler is a bird weighing two pounds or less and which is six to twelve weeks old.

A poultard is a pullet deprived of the power of producing eggs, with the object of great size.

There seems to be a value to feeding milk that cannot be expressed easily in cash. It has the vitamins which produce growth and vigor.

Breeding stock that have milk in their ration seem to produce more hatchable eggs than hens which get all their protein through beef scrap or fish scrap.

Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

MARY GRAHAM BONNER

SERGEANT STARLING SPEAKS

"Now Starling Sisters and Brothers and Cousins, listen to what I have to say," said Sergeant Starling. "General Sparrow told his family the other day to be sure that they didn't let us get ahead of them. They want to be the worst fighters and the worst birds. But, ah, they're going to be second-worst for all of that. We will get the better of them. In the long run we always have."

Sergeant Starling closed his long yellow bill, gave a funny jerk to his short tail and raised his long black and green wings.

"We're better looking than they are," he continued. "We have purples and green in our glossy black feathers, and our ladies wear white spots as their own fashion. And we're a good deal larger than they are. We, too, will eat anything, we will stand any climate. Little starlings pop out of the eggs in sixes and sevens every four or five months. That is splendid, for it means that so many little starlings are constantly coming into the world.

"Some people say they cannot make up their minds whether we do more harm than good. And when I say 'some people' I mean people who make a study of birds.

"There are people who make a study of birds, who talk about birds and lecture about birds, and who know all we do. They watch us and find us interesting.

"I don't blame them in the least. I should think people would like to study birds, and how we nest and how



"Along Rushed Fire Chief Starling."

we act and what we eat and how we chirp or sing and what we do in the winter time.

"There are so many different kinds of birds and we do such different things.

"It is as interesting in the Bird family as it is among people. There are lots of different sorts who do different things in different ways.

"As I've said, these people who know all about birds haven't made up their minds whether we're of more use to them or of more harm to them—in the work we do I mean. I suppose they will decide it for themselves one of these days.

"But in the meantime we've plenty to do in seeing that we run matters in our own way. A great help to us is the fact that there are so many of us.

"With all the little starlings coming out of the eggs we train them to be good starling children and there are huge colonies of starlings almost everywhere now.

"Just think! Six little starlings at a time and, too, the mother starlings watch over three broods a year—or at the least two.

"People have not decided whether they like us or not as I've told you. But no matter, we're a clever lot. We can whistle so that we sound like people and they'll turn around to see who was whistling. How that does make us laugh! And then we gurgle and they wonder what sort of a sound that is. We warble, too. We're smart."

Sergeant Starling raised his head high. "So with our cleverness and our fine powers of winning any good scrap if we're given a long enough time—we will win over the sparrows. And if we're not given a long enough time, we can always take a long enough time."

As the Sergeant was talking along rushed Fire Chief Starling. He had been so named because he had always said that should there be a fire he would remember that he was the chief one to be saved.

"Starlings," he cried, "the sparrows who built their nest under one of the eaves of a house, had an accident to their nest. They had all left the nest some time before but it had become very dry and a spark from a bonfire below went up and caught fire and almost made a big fire in the people's house."

"Gracious!" said Sergeant Starling. "You bring important news, Fire Chief. We must build a nest under some eaves and then leave it to dry so it may some day help start a fire."

"Let us not allow the Sparrows to get ahead of us," the Starlings all shouted. "Let us take from them their right to boast of being the worst. The second worst for them!"

Sky Lying on Ground. One foggy morning little Edgar looked out of the window and exclaimed, "Oh, look, mamma, the sky is lying on the ground!"

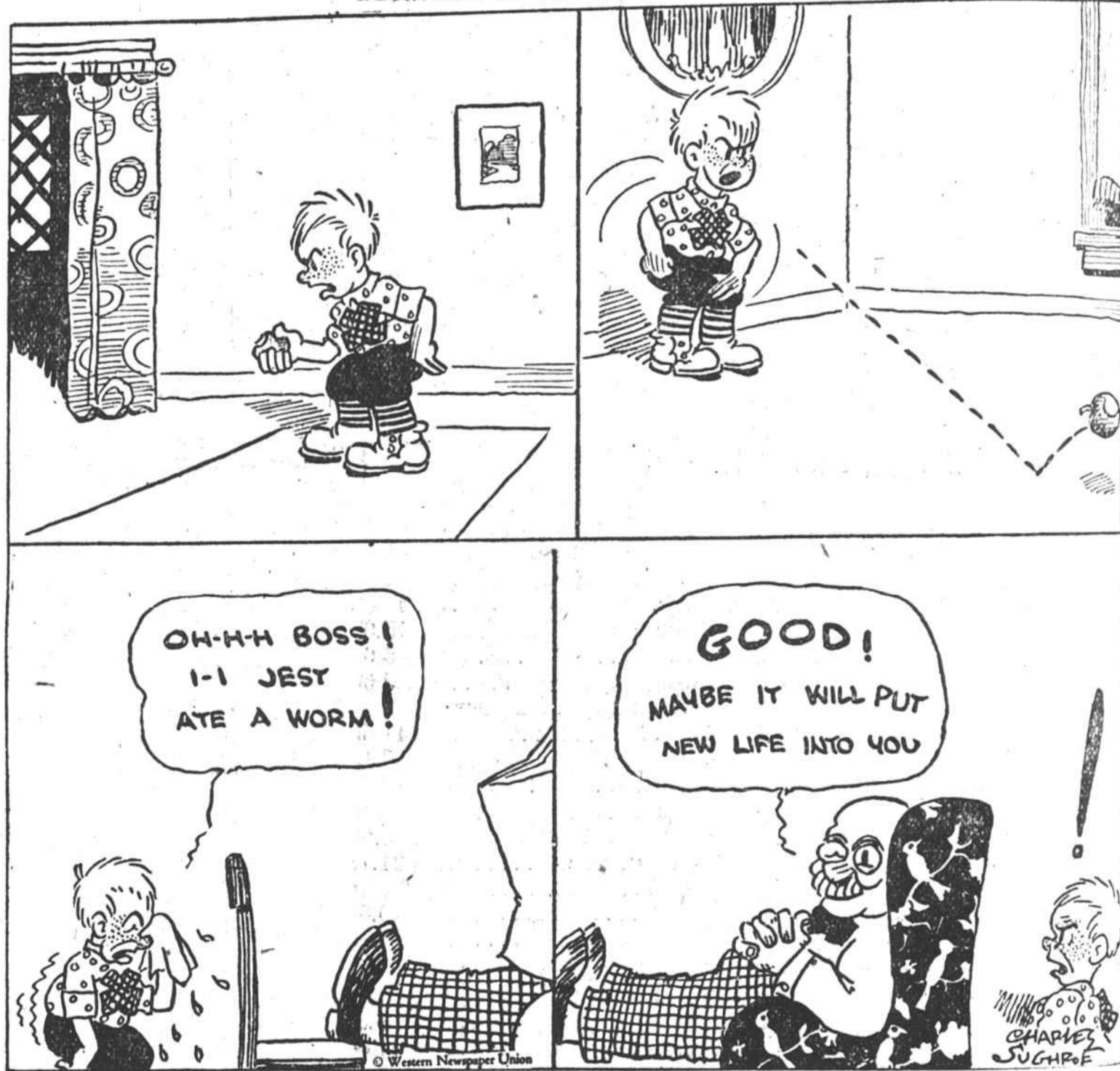
OUR COMIC SECTION

Nothing Doing



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Hearken to the Frivolous Boss



Oh, You Cheater, Felix

