

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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Subject—Harvesting and Storing the Year's Crops. Mail articles by August 4.
 Mail articles in envelopes marked "Diversification Contest," care of The Progressive Farmer.

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THE POULTRY YARD

Poultry Notes for August

MORE than ever, this is the time to clean up.

Watch that young chickens don't crowd together at night. As soon as possible, get them to go on roosts by providing low roosting poles of the right size for them, where they will be well sheltered from rain but have plenty of air.

Getting young chicks wet at this season of the year often starts colds. This is most apt to occur when they are crowded too closely. At the first sign of sneezing or snuffles give them drinking water, with camphor. (Use at rate of one-half teaspoonful spirits of camphor poured on one table-spoonful sugar added to two gallons drinking water.)

Be very careful, in feeding grain to poultry, to see that it is dry and sweet. Especially is this necessary in feeding corn. If any is fed at all this month look out for the presence of "green heart." It is deadly poison to poultry.

If not already done, weed out all surplus males and poor laying hens. If not in good condition put them in clean coops, giving them good clean straw litter. Feed regularly three times a day, a good moist mash, all they will eat in 10 minutes, with a little dry corn as grain in between feeds. Wet the mash with skim milk or buttermilk, and if available give plenty of milk to drink. Two weeks of this feed should put them in prime condition for market.

Have you separated the males from the females in your breeding pens? You cannot do it too soon now. The eggs laid will be better for table use, will keep better, and if you have a surplus and don't wish to dispose of them, will be much the best for packing in water glass for winter use.

Both feed hoppers or troughs and drinking vessels for poultry, especially young stock, should be under shelter, so that neither rains nor hot sun will prevent their getting their supply with comfort. Such little conveniences don't cost much, but they materially increase the comfort and safety of the fowls, and this means more profit.

Just now, be lavish in the use of lice and mite killers, for at no time of the year are vermin more prolific and young stock are especially susceptible to their attacks.

This is the time to plow up the runs, big or little, liming them first to correct sourness. Then sow them to rye, oats or rape, to provide good green feed for fall.

Don't make the mistake of having chickens of different ages occupy the same runs. The older and stronger will certainly drive the others from their feed and the quarreling will do harm to both. Somewhere, somehow, provide separate runs for the different lots unless you have land enough to use colony houses, and in that case, be sure they are well apart.

Are you raising sunflowers for your poultry? Every farm should have a row, or double row, around the poultry runs, both for shade and for seed. The large Russian variety is best. Sparrows and other birds are very fond of them, so, if you wish to raise seed, tie a common manila paper bag over each head as soon as seed get some growth. As sunflower seed, for poultry feed, sell at 10 cents a pound, they are worth saving.

This is the time to overhaul all poultry buildings. Batten all cracks, to avoid drafts. Whitewash well, in-

side and out, adding carbolic acid or kerosene oil to the wash. Probably the nests are getting old. Provide new ones of the trap kind. Roosts too must be made rain-proof. If the floors are of soil, remove four or five inches, refilling with good clean, dry sand or fine gravel to same depth. The stuff taken out will be good to apply on gardens.

Late Fall, Winter and Early Spring Pastures

(Concluded from page 5, this issue) ter the first picking of cotton. The amount of spring grazing obtained is large and the preparation for a corn crop most excellent.

Bur clover will not furnish as much grazing as crimson clover from March 1 to May 15, but having the habit of reseeding itself and growing on sod lands, such as Bermuda, it is invaluable as a spring pasture; for the sod permits the grazing of the bur clover without injury to the land even though it be quite wet, so wet in fact, that crimson clover or other annual fall-sown grazing crops cannot be grazed because the land is softer from the necessary preparation the fall before.

In sowing bur clover more seed should be sown than is generally used, but the high cost of sufficient seed to obtain a stand the first year may make it advisable to scatter the seed over a large area with the hope of making sufficient seed to give a good stand on this large area the second year. Fortunately, the discovery that boiling the seed in the bur for one minute will soften the hard seeds and greatly increase the germination, enables one to obtain a stand with much less seed than when untreated. We think the best use of bur clover is for spring grazing on the so-called permanent pastures, although many regard it highly for sowing in the cultivated fields in the early fall, to furnish spring grazing and for soil improvement.

For grazing alone without regard to their value as cover crops or for increasing soil fertility, we believe that oats will be found the best single crop for average lands. In early fall-sown oats we have a grazing crop that will be found valuable almost everywhere in the Cotton Belt. But for rich lands, rape mixed with either crimson clover, or red clover where it does well, will probably furnish more feed.

Of course, there are many other crops that furnish late fall and winter grazing, such, for instance, as velvet beans in the extreme South, but oats and bur and crimson clover have such a wide adaptation to Southern soils and conditions that they will probably give the best results for late fall, winter and spring grazing throughout the South as a whole.

The value of winter pastures comes more from the succulence furnished where there is no other green feed than from the nutriment secured; although, under favorable conditions, the actual feed secured may be considerable. When no silage is available green grazing crops are especially valuable for young animals like calves, colts, pigs and lambs. These animals do not do so well on dry feed alone, and the grazing of green crops not only supplies a considerable part of their feed, but serves to keep them in good condition and adds value to the dry feeds they consume.

For many reasons, late fall, winter and early spring pastures are well worth striving for and should become an important factor in the wintering of livestock, especially throughout the Southern half or two-thirds of the Cotton Belt; but for the man wintering any considerable number of animals the fact cannot be stressed too much, that "the only reliable winter pasture is a silo."