

Our Farm Department

Devoted to the Interest of Those Who Till the Soil

CONDUCTED BY J. M. BEATY

The Egg Trade of the United States.

The Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture has just issued a circular by Milo M. Hastings presenting the results of a study made during the past year of the conditions surrounding the production and marketing of eggs, with a view to determining the causes of deterioration in quality and consequent loss. It appears that there is an enormous loss due to the spoiling of eggs, which could be largely prevented by improved methods, and in this article the causes of such loss are pointed out and suggestions made for remedying them.

According to Mr. Hastings, the bulk of the poultry wealth of the United States is to be found on the general farms of the Mississippi valley. Some idea of the growth of the poultry industry on these general farms is shown in the case of the state of Kansas, where exclusive poultry farms are practically unknown, yet the value of poultry and eggs sold has increased over a million dollars each year for the past five years.

The total loss to the egg trade caused by needless deterioration runs into large figures. The causes of the losses and their estimated proportion to the total crop value are summed up as follows: Dirty eggs, 2 per cent; breakage, 2 per cent; chick development or heated eggs, 5 per cent; shrunken or held eggs, 5 per cent; shrunken or held eggs, moldy or bad flavor, 0.5 per cent; total, 17 per cent.

The loss from chick development or heated eggs is probably greater than from any other source, and is especially heavy during the summer in the south and west, where it amounts to 25 or 30 per cent of the eggs produced during the heated season. The responsibility for heated eggs is almost wholly with the farmer, although the rural buyer and the freight handler are in nowise innocent.

"To save the millions of dollars which are carried down our sewers in the shape of bad eggs," says Mr. Hastings, "we must have, first, a campaign of education among egg producers that will show every farmer's wife that when eggs are allowed to remain in damp nests, under broody hens, or in hot kitchens, there is a loss in quality which means an actual loss in money to herself and to her neighbors; and, secondly, a system of buying eggs that will as nearly as possible recompense every producer who sells eggs exactly in accordance with what those eggs are worth. Above all else, the infallible rule concerning the marketing of eggs is for the farmer to sell his eggs as soon as possible after they are laid."

The profits of the city retailer are by far the largest item in the marketing of eggs. An approximate idea of the profits of the various handlers of eggs may be obtained from the following figures showing the elements of cost of a dozen eggs purchased by a New York consumer.

Cents.	
Paid to the farmer in Iowa.....	15.00
Profit of the country store.....	0.00
Gross profit of the shipper.....	00.75
Freight to New York.....	1.5
Gross profit to receiver.....	00.5
Gross profit to jobber.....	1.25
Loss from handling.....	1.5
Gross profit of retailer.....	4.5

Cost to consumer.....25.00
In the opinion of Mr. Hastings, the greatest handicap to the egg trade is the general store, with its custom of bartering merchandise for eggs. The storekeeper reckons his profit on goods as more than his loss on eggs. He does not try to enforce improvement upon his patrons by buying on a quality basis, and with the advantage his peculiar position gives him he keeps the other egg buyers from doing so.

The circular discusses quite generally the various phases of the egg industry, and may be obtained free of charge by addressing a request to the Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington, D. C., for a copy of Circular 140.—A. D. Melvin, Chief Bureau of Animal Industry.

Smashes All Records.

As an all-round laxative tonic and health-builder no other pills can compare with Dr. King's New Life Pills. They tone and regulate stomach, liver and kidneys, purify the blood, strengthen the nerves; cure Constipation, Dyspepsia, Biliousness, Jaundice, Headache, Chills and Malaria. Try them. 25c at Hood Bros.

Lunar Superstition and Potatoes.

After exhaustive experiments in potato planting, the United States Department of Agriculture has to say that, in season, one time is as good as another to put potatoes in the ground.

Almost everyone, even if he were not reared in the country, has heard of the idea about planting potatoes in the dark of the moon. The field workers of the Department of Agriculture have been investigating the matter, and have found that seventy-five per cent of the farmers of this alleged enlightened country put in their crops and do a good many other things about the farm governed solely by the moon's phases. Many farmers will tell you that if you plant potatoes in the dark of the moon they will run to tubers, and if in the light of the moon they will run to tops, and crops are planted accordingly.

There is usually a basis in fact for any superstition; and the moon superstition is so deeply rooted, that a number of experts from the Department of Agriculture, while going up and down and across the land, have made it their business to study the question, and see whether there might not be a germ of truth or, at least some reason for the general belief that the moon's phases have an effect on animal and vegetable life. They have concluded after patient investigation that the moon myth is one of the comparatively few myths that date back to pure savagery, and has absolutely not an atom of scientific foundation on which to stand. The agricultural experiment stations all over the country have been defying this superstition for several years and raising just as good crops when the moon was one way as when it was the other. Therefore, once and for all, it is conclusively decided that there is nothing to the theory that potatoes should be planted in the dark of the moon.

All of this may not seem very serious investigation for a great government to undertake, but the work nevertheless has been interesting to the scientists, and if they have succeeded in weaning a few from the old superstition about planting potatoes, they have been well paid for their work.—Scientific American.

A Renter of the Right Kind.

Many renters think they cannot afford to use fertilizer liberally on another man's land. The best way would be for them to farm just as though the land was their own. While over in Anderson county we learned of a renter named J. E. Reynolds who made it profitable to pursue the course of deep plowing and liberal use of fertilizer. In 1907 he came to the man whose land he was cultivating and asked him if he would pay his share of 600 pounds of guano per acre. On being told to go ahead he used 600 pounds per acre on ten acres of cotton and made eleven bales weighing 500 pounds each. Of course he broke this land deep with two-horse plow. In 1908 he proposed to his landlord to use 1,000 pounds per acre, and though seasons were not so good as in 1907, he made thirteen bales on eleven acres. They believe in deep plowing and a liberal use of fertilizers over in Anderson, and renters in other sections can well afford to follow Mr. Reynolds' example. In fact few things please us more than to see a renter doing good farming. We know the demands upon him of rent, guano and family expenses, and we like to see him have something left to show for his year's work. As to how Mr. Reynolds fared we have only to say he is now plowing two good miles of his own instead of his landlord's stock.—Southern Cultivator.

CHILDREN WHO ARE SICKLY.

Mothers who value their own comfort and the welfare of their children, should never be without a box of Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children, for use throughout the season. They Break up Colds, Cure Feverishness, Constipation, Teething Disorders, Headache and Stomach Troubles. THESE POWDERS NEVER FAIL. Sold by all Drug Stores, 25c. Don't accept any substitute. A trial package will be sent FREE to any mother who will address Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

Mr. Isaac S. London has bought the Siler City Grit. He is the youngest son of Maj. H. A. London, who for thirty years, has been editor of the Pittsboro Record.

Terracing—The Revival of American Farms.

Referring to "Soil Erosion," or washing of soil, as set forth on page 82 of the Year Book, issued by the agricultural department, we see that it is estimated that 1,000,000,000 tons of sediment is poured into the seas off the farms of the United States annually; also that this erosion, or washing away of the cream of our farms, exceeds in value all the land taxes. If this is true, and no doubt the above estimate is very low, is it not time that the American farmers stop and begin to think along on these lines? In fact would it not be wise on the part of the agricultural department to ask for an appropriation to put a corps of demonstrators in the field to show a few farmers in each county in each State how to prevent this wholesale waste of our source of wealth?

The people of Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina learned how to prevent this washing away of their source of wealth many years ago.

About 25 years ago the editor of the Southern Cultivator, Rev. J. B. Hunnicutt, and the writer, each owned a farm in Coweta county, Georgia, and both of us terraced our farms about the same time. Since coming west, about twenty years ago, the writer has visited Georgia several times and watched with interest the progress made.

Recently on our way to Washington we passed through Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina and noticed from the car window that almost every farm was terraced.

We made it a point to talk with different farmers that got aboard at various stations. We asked them how this system of terracing spread so rapidly in those States. They told us that they used on an average of \$3.00 per acre of fertilizer on their crops, and that they discovered that when they had heavy spring rains, that a large per cent. of these fertilizers were leached out of the soil and they lost largely. Many of these farmers told us that this terracing and deep plowing had been the salvation of all that country. That lands that would not produce more than one-quarter of a bale of cotton to the acre was now making a bale to the acre. From my own experience and observation along these lines we have come to the conclusion that all who own lands that are undulating and inclined to wash have not good title to their land that do not have them terraced.

The cost of terracing is very small. Two men with a theodolite or leveling instrument, and a man with a team and good plow can terrace 100 acres per day. In order to disseminate correct information, would ask all who read this to write this paper very briefly, giving information as to how they lay off their terraces, how they make their terraces and how they lay off their rows to make each row a terrace, the benefits terracing has been to their farms, etc.

This matter of terracing to save the source of our wealth is of such vast importance that we believe the national government should take the matter in hand just as they have taken in hand the enterprise of irrigation and teach our farmers that every drop of muddy water that runs off his farm impoverishes his land, and that when he utilizes the water before leaving his farm he thus enriches that farm. Untold millions of dollars can be saved the American people annually along these lines.—Southern Cultivator.

What Are You Doing About Pasture?

What are you doing about pastures for your cows this summer? Have you made any provision for them to have a pasture worthy of the name, one where they can find enough to eat without having to go miles and miles after it? Is there a fence about this pasture so that they can not get out and stray off or damage the crops? Don't you think it would pay to have a pasture the cows could find shade and water and grass and thus increase their production of milk and butter?

What are you doing, too, about pastures for the pigs? Are you going to try to make pork this year by letting the hogs run wild until "fattening time" and then feeding them altogether on highpriced corn, or by keeping them in a little filthy, ill-smelling lot or pen and risking their dying by disease before the summer is over? Don't you think it would pay to prepare some lots where they can eat cowpeas and rape and soy-beans and sorghum and peanuts and corn and fatten all summer long, so that there will be need for only a few weeks of dry feeding next fall?—The Progressive Farmer.

Easily Explained.

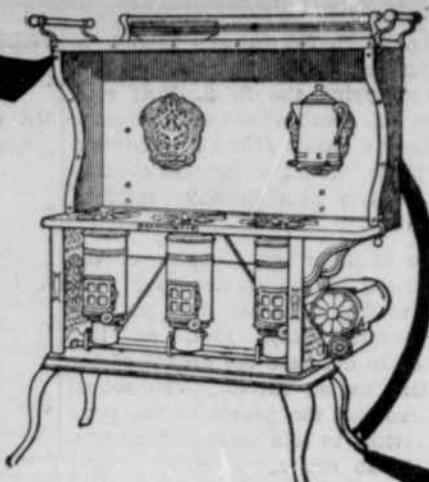
Miss Chatters—"It surprises me to see what a small man your brother is. He's no more than half your size."

Mr. Patters—"Yes; but he's only my half-brother, you know."—Judge.

For the Summer's Cooking

No kitchen appliance gives such actual satisfaction and real home comfort as the new Perfection Wick Blue Flame Oil Cook-Stove.

Kitchen work, this coming summer, will be better and quicker done, with greater personal comfort for the worker, if, instead of the stifling heat of a coal fire, you cook by the concentrated flame of the

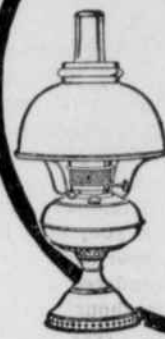


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Wick Blue Flame Oil Cook-Stove

Delivers heat where you want it—never where you don't want it—thus it does not overheat the kitchen. Note the CABINET TOP, with shelf for warming plates and keeping food hot after cooked, also convenient drop shelves that can be folded back when not in use, and two nicked bars for holding towels.

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