



Grit Boxes.

Every well regulated poultry house ought to have a grit box. This is easily made out of a cracker box, and the self feeding kind is the best. Make three apartments and fill them with grit, charcoal and oyster shells. Hang this box on the wall just within reach of the fowls and you will be surprised to note the amount of grit the fowls will consume. Anyone with a hammer and saw and a little ingenuity can make a box that will last for years. By hanging it on the wall it is out of the way and the grit and oyster shell keep clean and are not wasted. If you have a large flock of fowls you will need several of these boxes. If you have several pens, one must be supplied to each pen. This plan is much better than to supply the grit in an open box which soon becomes mixed with the dirt and scratching material of the floor.—Wisconsin Agriculturist.

How to Drive a Hen.

When a woman has a hen to drive into the coop, she takes hold of her skirts with both hands, shakes them quietly at the delinquent and says, "Shoo, there!" The hen takes one look at the object to convince her that it is a woman, and then stalks majestically into the coop. A man doesn't do that way. He goes outdoors and says, "It is singular nobody can drive a hen but me," and picks up a stick of wood, huris it at the offending bird. "Get in there, you thief." The hen then loses her reason and dashes to the other end of the yard. The man straightway dashes after her. She comes back with her head down, her wings out, and followed by an assortment of stove-wood, fruit cans and clinkers, and a very mad man in the rear. Then she skims under the barn and over a fence or two, and around the house and back again to the coop, and all the time talking as only an excited hen can talk, and all the while followed by things convenient for handling and a man whose coat is on the saw buck and whose hat is on the ground, and whose perspiration knows no limit.

By this time the other hens have come out to take a hand in the debate and help dodge missiles, and the man says every hen on the place shall be sold in the morning, and puts on his things and goes down the street, and the woman has every one of those hens housed and counted in two minutes.—Northwestern Agriculturist.

Fruit Trees Exhaust Soil.

In considering the reasons why apple and other fruit trees do not bear as many or as fine apples as they did in the early days, writes Professor Garman, of Kentucky station, "I have been impressed with the importance of supplying the trees with fertilizers as the soil becomes exhausted, and am satisfied that the greatest relative difficulty experienced nowadays in keeping fruit trees in good condition is in part due to an exhaustion of the soil. Trees forage more widely than smaller plants, and may not show the effects of starvation as suddenly or as soon, but they must show it in time if grown long on the same land without anything being returned to the soil to replace materials removed by the trees. In this relation I was struck recently by a statement which I encountered in Professor Voorhees' interesting little book on fertilizers. He says that twenty crops of apples of fifteen bushels per tree, and thirty-five trees to the acre, equal 1337 pounds of nitrogen, 319 pounds of phosphoric acid and 1805 pounds of potash. Twenty crops of wheat, of fifteen bushels per acre, equal 660 pounds of nitrogen, 211 pounds of phosphoric acid and 324 pounds of potash. Therefore, according to Professor Voorhees, twenty crops of apples remove more than twice as much nitrogen, half as much again phosphoric acid, and nearly three times as much potash, as twenty crops of wheat. A good farmer would hardly think of growing twenty successive crops of wheat on the same land, no matter how good it might be, and it would seem to be still greater folly, according to the figures given, to attempt to grow twenty crops of apples without returning anything to the soil.

A Farmer's Creed.

The following farmer's creed, formulated nearly three-quarters of a century ago by Henry Ward Beecher, the famous patriotic and pulpit orator, and one of the first editors of the Indiana Farmer, holds good today as well as then: "We believe in small farms and thorough cultivation. "We believe that soil loves to eat, as well as its owner, and ought, therefore, to be liberally fed. "We believe in large crops which leave the land better than they found it—making the farmer and the farm both glad at ease. "We believe in going to the bottom of things, and, therefore, in deep plowing and enough of it. All the better with a subsoil plow. "We believe that every farm should own a good farmer. "We believe that the best ferti-

lizer for any soil is a spirit of industry, enterprise and intelligence. Without this lime and gypsum, bones and green manure, marl and guano, will be of little use.

"We believe in good fences, good barns, good farm houses, good stock, good orchards and children enough to gather the fruit.

"We believe in a clean kitchen, a neat wife in it, a clean cupboard, a clean dairy and a clean conscience.

"We firmly disbelieve in farmers that will not improve; in farms that grow poorer every year; in starving cattle; in farmers' boys turning into clerks, and merchants; in farmers' daughters unwilling to work, and in all farmers ashamed of their vocation, or who drink whisky until honest people are ashamed of them."—Indiana Farmer.

A White Leghorn Egg Farm.

In New York State, on one of those breezy hills which are to be found in almost every county, Mr. Wyckoff many years ago, started out to make a living for himself and his family from the soil. His only capital was his ambition, good health and a wife full of cheer and encouragement. In looking about for a farm, he found an old man who was so anxious to sell that a man without money was able to buy. Mr. Wyckoff's father went security for the first payment and loaned his son cash enough to purchase a team, a few cows, some tools, seed and twenty-five scrub hens.

The buildings were for the most part in a tumble-down condition, and as the new farmer hadn't a cent to make any improvements with, he determined to develop the poultry end of the business, as it required no expenditure of capital. He housed his flock in one of the old buildings; they laid fairly well, but recognizing the advantage of having thoroughbred stock, he soon replaced them with Brown Leghorns. From the eggs laid by these he saved in one winter and spring \$75, and with it bought White Leghorn eggs. The next year, the third on the place, he had a flock of 180 White Leghorn hens. That winter eggs were unusually high, and his flock returned him \$90 in eggs laid. This money was invested in buildings, the hens paying for all the improvements made.

Mr. Wyckoff never invested an outside dollar in his poultry since the day he bought his first twenty-five scrub hens. Every cent his hens made was put back into new buildings and yards. It took five or six years to get the business well started owing to lack of capital, but since then he has sold about \$4000 worth of produce from his farm annually, of which about \$3500 is from eggs and poultry. He always kept a few cows, and for many years depended on the dairy to pay the interest on the purchase price of his place. It may interest some to know what sort of a ration was fed on this farm. In the morning a mash was compounded as follows. One bu. corn, two bu. oats, ground fine; to each 200 pounds of this mixture add 100 pounds bran and five or six pounds beef scraps; moisten with milk. This is fed in troughs, the feeder returning in ten minutes to take up any more where needed. At noon, green food was given, either mangels or cabbages in winter, clover or kale in summer; sometimes a light feed of mixed grain in the litter. Night feed was usually mixed grain; in winter two bushels each wheat, oats, buckwheat and corn; in summer the corn in the mixture is reduced one-half.—E. K. Parkinson, in the Country Gentleman.

Breeders' Notes.

Shake the hay well out before feeding. Do not compel horses to drink warm water.

No farmer makes money raising inferior horses.

Take the dirt off the legs with a rag or soft brush, rather than with the currycomb.

The farmer who has his surplus capital invested in good horses has a draft which he can draw at any time.

Keeping the skin of the work horses clean enables them to sweat freely and thus is essential to their health.

Get rid of the surplus horses that are not growing into money. There is no advantage in keeping enough extra horses to eat all that useful ones can.

It is not good policy to force the growth of colts by giving them stimulating foods and overfeeding them. The overgrown horse is seldom a durable one.

A horse, especially if he is nervous, is much more likely to be alarmed by the sound of a noise he cannot see than by the sight of things he does not understand. The origin of many diseases among horses can be traced directly to filthy stables. It is, therefore, good economy to keep the stables scrupulously clean.—Boston Cultivator.

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