

PRODUCTION OF EGGS

Poultry Tend to Make Farm Self-Sustaining.

Every Southern Farmer Should Aim to Keep at Least Fifty Hens for Laying Purposes and Home Consumption—Few Essentials.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The farmer who has a well planned and well cared for garden has gone a long way toward supplying his family with healthy and economical foods. If he adds to the garden a fair size flock of poultry, he will do still more to make his farm self-sustaining. Early springs and mild winters make the production of eggs particularly profitable for the southern farmer. On many farms throughout the country

or buttermilk is excellent for poultry. Green feeds, such as cabbages, mangel beets, alfalfa or clover, should be added to these rations when grass is not available.

Young chickens should be fed from three to five times daily, depending upon one's experience in feeding. Great care must be taken not to over-feed. After they are thirty-six to forty-eight hours old, they may be fed.

The first feed may contain hard-boiled eggs, johnnycake (one dozen infertile eggs to ten pounds of corn meal; add enough milk to make a pasty mass and one tablespoonful of baking soda), stale bread; pinhead oatmeal, or rolled oats. Dry bread crumbs or rolled oats may be mixed with hard-boiled eggs, making about one-fourth of the mixture egg. Feed the bread crumbs, rolled oats, or johnnycake mixtures five times daily for the first week, then gradually substitute for one or two feeds of the mixture finely cracked grains of equal parts by weight of cracked wheat,

LIVE-STOCK-FRUIT-DAIRYING-GARDENING-FIELD CROPS-SILOS-PIGS

FARM AND FIELD

Making the Farmers' Business Profitable

TOLD IN AN INTERESTING MANNER EXPRESSLY FOR OUR READERS

HINTS FOR THE HORSE LOVER

Narrow-Chested Animals Do Not Possess Endurance of Broad-Chested Ones—Keep Things Orderly.

The horse that is "all legs" is not the one you want. Try to get those that are well set, neither too long legs nor too long bodies.

When a good horse lags don't put the whip on and make it go anyway. Stop and look into the matter. That horse is not well. If it were it would not lag. You do not like to be forced to work when you are sick. The horse is most like a man of any living animal.

It is foolish for the farmer to get the notion that he can win money on the track with his horses. It is all right to give the horses a chance to show what is in them, but don't do it for money ever.

Have the sides of your stalls well nailed to place. Horses sometimes find out that they can crowd the partitions out of place and once they get that habit they will make life miserable for you.

Some horses have a way of throwing their hay out on the floor the first thing they do after feeding. If you feed through a chute from overhead you will be free from this difficulty. If not, the best way is to build in front

PRUNING GRAPE VINES EARLY

Comparatively Easy Matter to Determine About How Much of the Old Wood to Leave on Vine.

By J. G. MOORE, Wisconsin Experiment Station.

Grape vines that were not pruned last fall should receive attention if a profitable crop is desired. The earlier the vines are pruned in the spring the better, as the grape vine "bleeds" badly when pruned too near the time of production.

As the grape produces its fruit at the first four or five joints on new growth arising from wood produced the year previous, it will be a comparatively easy matter, with the foregoing fact in mind, to determine about how much of the old wood to leave on the vine. Usually from thirty to forty buds will be enough to provide for the season's growth. A greater number of buds will likely result in more fruit clusters of an inferior quality.

If the fruiting wood shows a tendency to grow farther away from the main trunk, a good, vigorous shoot arising from near the base of the vine or near the head should be left to renew the fruiting area the coming year.

Too little pruning rather than too much is the common fault in grape culture. While to the average person not experienced in such matters, the removal of so large a portion of the vine may seem wasteful and injurious, nevertheless, it is a necessity in successful grape growing.

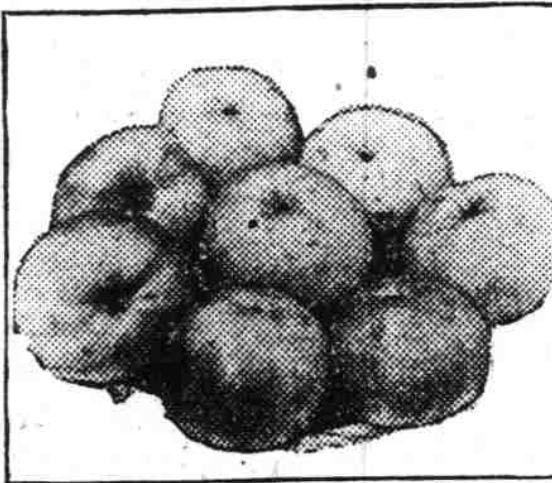
BLUNDERS IN THE ORCHARDS

Important to Guard Against Mistakes in Setting Out Trees—Ideal Location for Apples.

An inexperienced man is liable to make one or more blunders in setting out an orchard for the first time and as the trees are to occupy the same land for many years it is important to guard against mistakes, for they may be a serious handicap to success all the way through.

The ideal location for most varieties of apples is an elevated or sloping ground with at least a small mixture of sand in the formation to insure drainage and make cultivation easier. Or, if the land does not have natural drainage, it must be secured either by tiling or open ditches. Good orchards are possible on low flat ground, but the frost damage is greater, while the quality of the fruit is impaired; besides, it is noticeable that on low, flat rich soil there is an abnormal growth of wood and the tree short lived. Moderate fertility is best.

For the standard sorts set the trees not closer than 30 feet apart each way. It is a common practice to set them too close together, which greatly impairs the color of the fruit, makes more trimming necessary and gives the tree a greater tendency to run up tall, thus increasing the labor of gathering fruit. Some planters set the trees 40 feet apart each way using fillers between, such as Wag



Strictly No. 1, or Fancy Grade.



Do Not Buy Narrow-Chested Horses.

of the horses a rack of round, hardwood poles an inch or two in diameter, running from the manger overhead, firmly secured at both ends.

Narrow-chested horses have not the endurance that those have with good broad chests. Don't buy a thin-breasted horse.

Study your blacksmith, as well as your horses' feet.

Some horses can't eat straw without having impaction of the bowels, and that sometimes causes death.

A ration of good wheat bran once a week is a fine change for a horse. Wet it up good and he will relish it and it will act nicely on his bowels.

Hang up your dung forks. Don't stand them against the side of the barn, where they may be run into by a horse passing that way.

It is sometimes said that you can make any horse a good walker when you break him. That is not always true. You never can make fast walkers of some horses. It is not in them and you cannot put it in unless you do it before they are born.

It is easy to hang up your harness if you once get into the habit of it. How many friends do you know that drop them on the floor?

The reason the varnish is coming off your wagon or carriage may be that you keep it in the room where horses are stabled. The chemicals from horse manure and urine will do it every time.

MOLDY FEED IS DANGEROUS

Farmers Are Losing Cattle From Eating Acorns—Take Precautions to Keep Poisons Out.

It is dangerous to give moldy or spoiled hay and other feeds to live stock, especially horses. Such feed is apt to cause sickness and even death. We have heard of instances where farmers have lost a number of valuable animals from this cause. Care should be exercised to see that all feed is in good condition. Hay put up when too damp may mold, corn and oats often harbor various kinds of fungous diseases that may be poisonous to stock, and corn silage when improperly stored may cause trouble. The food an animal eats has a marked influence upon its physical well-being. We are informed that, in Wisconsin, farmers are losing cattle from eating acorns picked up in the pastures. Young cattle are particularly affected. Sheep and hogs can eat the acorns without bad effects, and milch cows seldom die from this cause, but young calves are poisoned and little can be done for them. It is the part of wisdom to take precautions to keep feeds known to be dangerous away from animals, and give them only that which is in good and sound condition.—Farmer's Guide.

Wintering Brood Sow.

Keep the brood sow in good, thrifty and healthy condition. Allow her plenty of exercise. Feed her green food in the winter. She is very fond of alfalfa hay and mangel beets with one feed per day of middlings and milk. Give her a dry, comfortable straw bed, also plenty of fresh water, and she will winter in prime condition.

Good Car Bedding.

Shredded corn fodder or rye straw provide good bedding for the hog car.

PROPER CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF SWINE



A Device to Prevent Pigs From Crowding and to Allow a Fair Start for All.

(By E. M. RANCK.)

To be a successful hog raiser one must keep his stock under the very best environment possible. Do not think any old thing or place is good enough for a hog. He should have access to good clean water to drink at all times, and not stale pond water or mud wallows. Clean, pure water will do more toward keeping hogs healthy than any other one thing. The hog has a peculiar skin, and under the skin is a thick pad of fat, so that he must get rid of his heat mostly from his lungs by breathing. In hot weather he needs some cool place to lie in, and if he can find mud he wallows in it. He prefers good, clean water, but if he cannot find that, mud is the best substitute. Shade is very essential in warm weather.

Buildings for hogs need not be very expensive. We advise colony houses of the A shape, with both sides open with hinges on the top. This type of house furnishes shade, ventilation, and sunlight in summer and when closed, a very comfortable farrowing pen in winter. These houses are erected on skids and can be moved from place to place with a pair of horses or mules. They are so constructed that they are ideal farrowing pens. A sow about to farrow can be placed in a lot in which is one of these colony houses, and she will make her nest in the house if some hay or straw is placed there. Fenders should be arranged around the sides of the house so that the sow will not be able to lie close to the sides and in that way crush the young pigs in the nest.

These colony houses can also be used for the boars and growing pigs, although some prefer permanent quarters for the boar and those pigs intended for the market. It is a great advantage to feed hogs on concrete or tight board floors, especially if one is feeding ear corn, as there will be no waste. Feeding in muddy or dusty lots is a very dangerous practice.

It sometimes becomes necessary to

good, pure water for them. In sections where running water cannot be secured through pipes, it can be hauled in barrels. Many hog raisers provide a sled or drag on skids on which a barrel is fastened on a water-tight floor with sides to it so that the pigs can drink all around the barrel, the water coming out of the barrel about three inches from the bottom through a small hole, which automatically flows according to the water consumed.

Running streams of water are very satisfactory when they originate on the farm, but if they travel long distances and through several farms and across public roads, they are very likely to be contaminated and may spread diseases such as anthrax, and hog cholera. Keeping hogs healthy is much more important than trying to cure them when sick.

UNCLEAN HOUSE MEANS LOSS

Fowls Require Abundance of Free Breathing Room—Keep Sleeping Quarters Free From Filth.

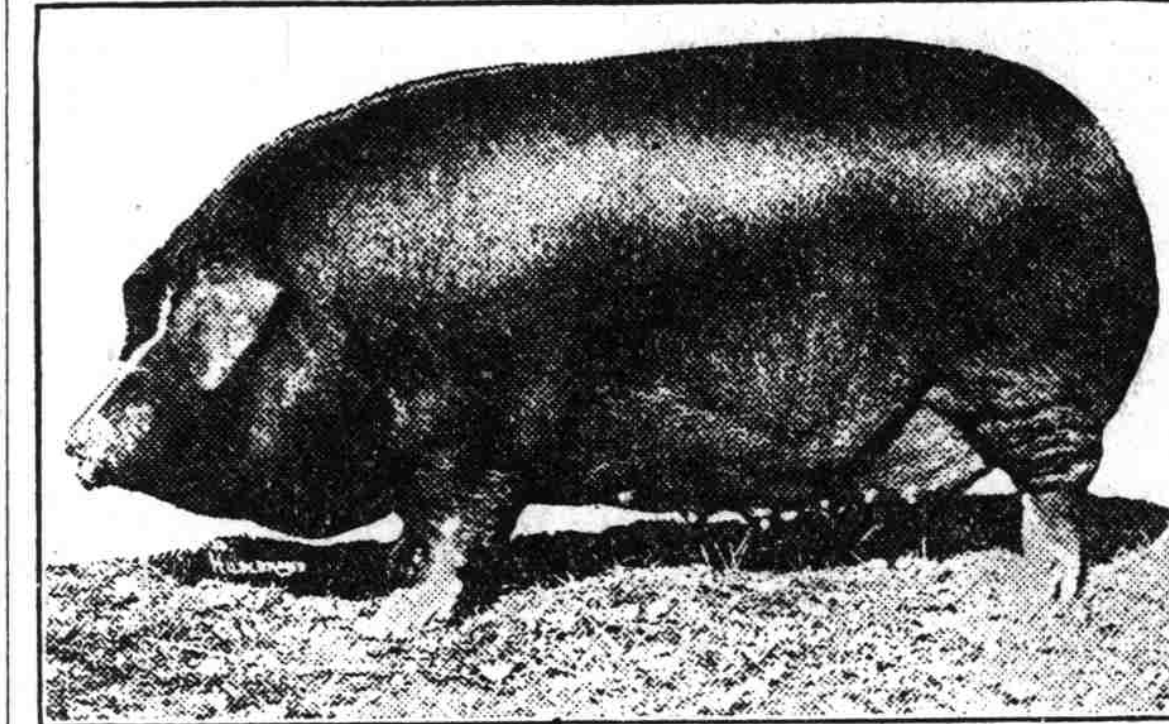
(By H. H. SHEPARD.)

As young chickens grow they soon make crowded conditions in their coops and colony houses. They will not grow and keep healthy when too many are confined at night in a limited space. Separate them and get them into larger and better ventilated quarters as they increase in size. The stuffy, unclean coop will result in losses.

Many fall with chickens and other poultry because they do not stop to consider that fowls, above all animals, need abundance of free breathing room and that their sleeping quarters must be free from filth.

Without cleanliness and the furnishing of abundance of fresh air to the birds at all times, no person can succeed in the poultry business.

Provide clean and roomy quarters for the young poultry, as they come



A Champion Poland Sow From Missouri.

feed pigs separate from the sows, even when nursing. This can be done by building near the colony house a temporary fence which will allow the little pigs to get in, but will keep out the old hogs. If this plan is adopted the pigs will practically wean themselves without inconvenience either to themselves or to the sow. We prefer feeding the small pigs and in fact all our hogs in either iron or concrete troughs, with round bottoms. V-shaped troughs can also be used.

Fences play a very important part in hog raising. A poor fence will produce a breachy hog as quickly as it will a fence-breaking cow. We prefer any strong close woven-wire fence at least 58 inches high for the outside fence. In smaller lots either woven wire or wooden fences temporarily placed will be cheaper and can be used a number of times. Temporary fences need not be over three feet high and should be so constructed that they can be carefully stored when not in use. Woven wire used as temporary fence is very difficult to stretch after it has been used several times, although it can be used to advantage when lumber and help are not plentiful.

In planting forage crops it is an advantage to plant in long narrow strips so that the temporary fences can be placed across the narrow part of the field. It is also an advantage to arrange the crops so that one section is in such alignment with the other sections that the cultivation may be done without turning at the end of each section, and when the crops are laid by the temporary fence can separate one crop from another.

When plans are made to establish hog pastures one must not forget the very important factor of providing

into maturity. This will mean healthier and better developed pullets for fall and early winter laying. Dispose of the cockerels as soon as they will do to market, to make more room for the pullets.

Clean the droppings out of the winter house frequently, and use white-wash, kerosene and other insecticides freely to keep down the lice.

Lice breed in filth, hence the cleaner the house is kept the better it will be for the birds. Most poultry troubles and losses can be traced directly to unsanitary conditions and to insect pests.

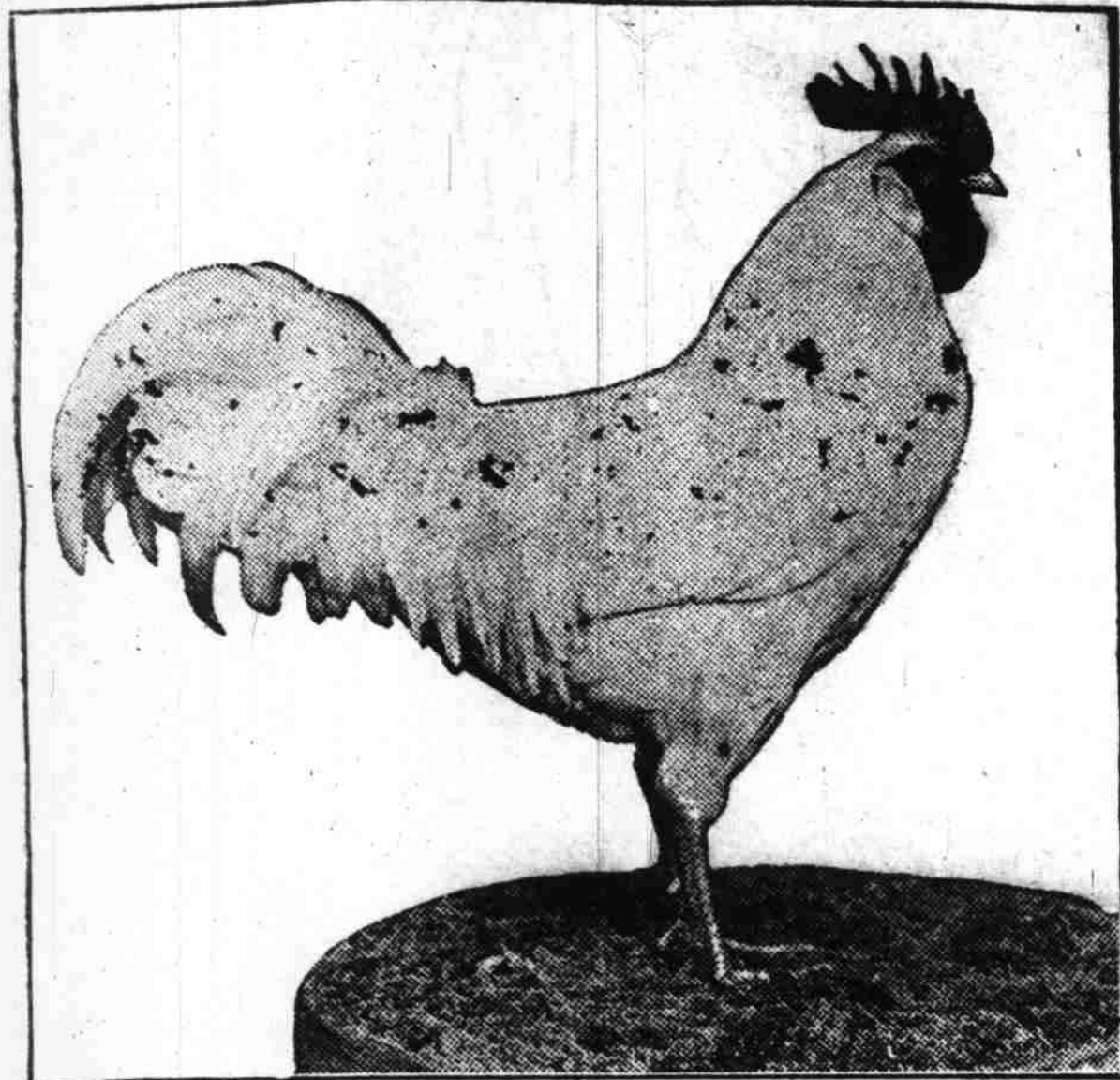
Let the house for the coming laying pullets be amply provided with openings for sunlight and ventilation. The full open front house is proving best for all seasons, as it provides for unlimited quantities of fresh air for the sleeping birds.

Silo Is Necessary.

Nearly all of the best dairymen like to supply some feed to their cows even when on the best of pastures, both for its food value to the cows and for its manurial value to the pastures and nothing is more convenient for this purpose than good silage. Every farmer who feeds live stock cannot well afford to be without a silo. Just a little experience in the use of silage will convince any man that the silo is an absolute necessity.

Experiment With Electricity.

Experimenters in the stimulation of plant growth by electricity have discovered a queer thing. The wire blows their current away, but a wire screen surrounding the plant of ground tends to hold the electric charge in place regardless of the wind.

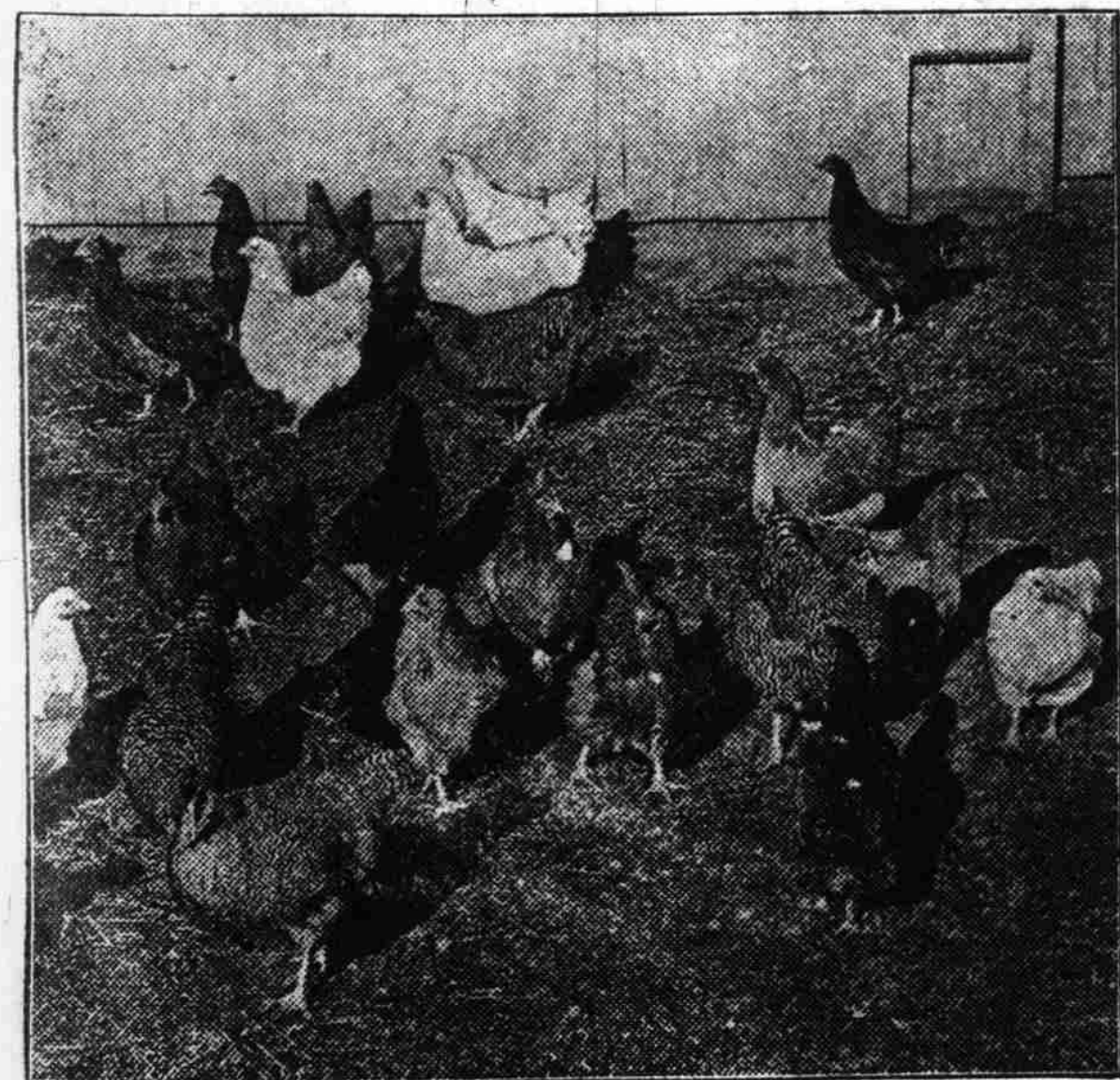


White Leghorn Cockerel.

the money derived from the sale of poultry eggs buys the groceries and clothing for the entire family. Every southern farmer can do as well, and should aim to keep at least fifty hens for laying purposes and home consumption. Select some of the American breeds, such as the Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, or the Rhode Island Reds. The Orpingtons are also a good general-purpose breed.

On almost any farm there can be fitted up, with very little, if any, cost for new material, a poultry house that will answer all the purposes of more expensive buildings for keeping poultry. The essentials to success in housing are fresh air, sunshine, a dry floor, and a building that is free from drafts. The house must be free from drafts or the birds will catch cold. Colds are forerunners of roup and other diseases.

It takes a healthy, well-fed flock to produce eggs. Fowls must not be allowed to become too fat, as but few eggs will be laid by hens in such condition. To prevent their getting overweight, it is best to make them work for



A Mixed Flock on a Government Experiment Farm.

most of their feed by scratching in a litter composed of about four inches of dry straw, leaves, or chaff. The following rations will give good results when proper care is given to their feeding:

Grains: One pound oats, two pounds corn, and Mash: Two pounds corn meal, one pound rice bran or wheat bran, one pound cottonseed meal.

Grains: One pound oats, two pounds corn, kafir corn, or milo, maize, one pound broken rice or peanuts, and Mash: Two pounds corn meal, two pounds rice bran, one pound cotton seed meal.

Grains: One pound oats, one pound wheat or barley, one pound of kafir corn, and Mash: Two pounds wheat bran, two pounds wheat middlings, two pounds corn meal or corn chop, one and one-half pounds cottonseed meal.

Ten per cent or less of beef scrap may be added to the mash in all the rations with good results. Skim milk

to wait until the chicks are ten days old. Chickens confined to small yards should be supplied with green feed, such as lettuce, sprouted oats, alfalfa or clover, but the best place to raise chickens successfully is on a good range where no extra green feed is required.