

## KEEPING UP ON FARMING

With Uncle Walt

I never thought I'd live to see the day when the grocery stores in North Carolina didn't have a bin full of Irish potatoes for sale. But I guess I've lived longer than I figured 'cause I heard the other day that some of the stores didn't have 'em. In fact, I seen it with my own eyes.

Sid Smith told me the other day that he'd been out of potatoes for over two weeks and seemed like everybody goin in his store wanted some. Well, you could've knocked me over with a tooth pick for I thought they'd be the last thing in the world to get scarce. Sid looked sorta worried tell me about it.

"Here, just a few years ago," he said, "we were dumpin potatoes by the truck-loads—just dumpin 'em out to rot," he shouted in sort of a crazy manner. "And now, I can't even buy a bag—not one measly little bag of 'em to sell to my customers."

I figured he was gittin pretty upset about it so I tried to change the subject. But it didn't work. So I told him I had a few left from last year but they probably weren't the kind that he wanted for sale. He said he didn't figger they were either.

Then he commenced askin me what I thought was causin the shortage. And I was quick to tell him he oughta knock better than ask me. I told him I didn't even know they was scarce 'til I walked in his store.

He 'lowed though from what he had heard, he could figger on bein able to buy some in a few days. He said he wrote a feller Bailey Rich, who he used to know, to find out when he could expect to git some potatoes.

This feller Rich is one of them marketin men in the Agriculture Department in Raleigh and he wrote Sid that this was jest a temporary thing

which should clear up sometime in June. The way he give it in to Sid, it ain't but a few days before the farmers in South Carolina will start diggin potatoes. And about that time our farmers right here will begin too. By the time they git goin pretty good, they'll start up in Virginia.

I guess this feller Rich pretty well sized up what to expect when he wrote Sid. The way he give it in was that South Carolina planted more potatoes this year than they did last year. And prospects there now point to a mighty good yield when they start diggin about the 20th of May.

Our crop here in North Carolina is sorta spotted, he wrote, but it's comin along pretty nice right now and some diggin will start during the week of May 26.

His letter went on to say our neighbors up in Virginia report a fair to good crop this year with plans to start diggin about June 5. And about the time these three states git goin good, there will come shipments from far away California. Then in July will come Maryland, New Jersey and Long Island.

So I reckon from the middle of June on through the rest of the year, Sid ought to be able to keep his potato bins filled to the brim. But this feller Rich closed his letter by sayin that he didn't want to lead Sid to believe that potatoes would be a surplus commodity or at bargain prices for many weeks yet.

Sure glad I got a few at home.

### Cull Frequently State Poultrymen Are Urged

Strict culling at frequent intervals is a "must" for poultrymen who expect to make a profit on their laying

flock, says R. S. Dearstyne, head of the Poultry Department at North Carolina State College.

As the end of the laying year approaches, says Dearstyne, many birds will begin going out of production. Good business practice demands that the culls be removed promptly.

Many poultrymen use stimulating practices to prolong the production of their birds. Among these are use of lights, wet mash, and pellets. It is not advisable to use more than one of these practices at the same time. And any such practice that is started must be continued.

According to Dearstyne, lights are by far, the most commonly used stimulant. The use of lights, he explains, affects the pituitary gland. Located at the base of the brain of the chicken's skull, this gland, when stimulated, liberates substance known as hormones. These hormones stimulate the ovary to manufacture egg yolks, thus speeding up egg production.

All-night lights may be used as a stimulant to prolong late spring and early summer production. If the birds have not been under lights, it is well to take several days for a gradual change-over to all-night lights.

If wet mash or pellets are not in use, either of these may be used at about midday. The birds should be given whatever quantity they can consume in 20 to 30 minutes. This practice merely increases mash consumption. It is the mash in the chicken's diet that furnishes the bulk of the materials from which eggs are built.



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