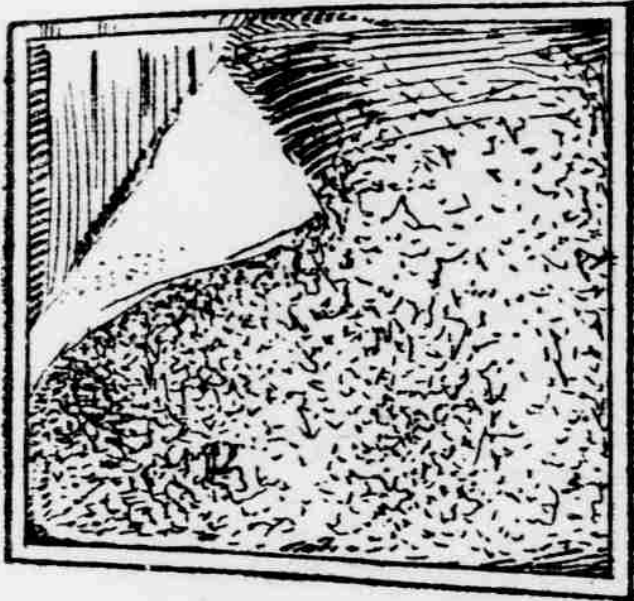


Sprouted Oats for Winter Feed

There is a general unanimity of opinion among experienced poultrymen that poultry do best upon some form of green or succulent food during the winter months. The function of such succulent food is probably largely in the nature of a digestive stimulant, rather than as an addition

to the actual food constituents of the ration.

A green winter feed that is greatly relished by fowls is sprouted oats. Experience has shown that in order to make a satisfactory green food, however, the oats must be grown very quickly. In order to get quick growth



Oats Started to Sprout.

it is necessary to have three things: first, warmth; second, plenty of moisture; and, third, sunlight.

By sowing oats in shallow, flat boxes about two inches deep, and by sprinkling and keeping the box in a warm, sunny place, the oats will sprout very rapidly, making a growth of from 4 to 6 inches in a week or ten days.

The flats in which the oats are sprouted must be thoroughly scrubbed with half water and half formalyn every time before they are used, or the oats will mold in the sprouting.

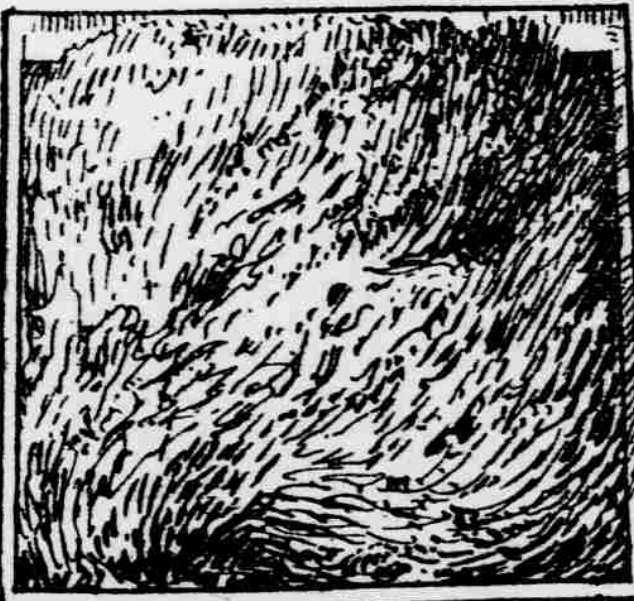
The best way to sprout oats is to build a small closet into which the flats can be slipped on cleats and supply the closet either with a steam-pipe or if that is not feasible, a small stove, either for wood or kerosene, or sometimes a large kerosene lamp may be used to maintain heat.

Soak clean and sound oats overnight in a pail of water. Next morning fill the flats about two inches deep and put in the sprouting closet. Place the freshly filled flats near the top of the closets, so as to get the maximum amount of heat and in that way start the sprouts quickly.

Rake the sprouts thoroughly two or three times a day until they have become from half to three-quarters of an inch long, then do not disturb them in any way. The oats should be kept quite wet. They must be sprinkled at least three times a day.

As the oats grow, the flats are moved to different positions in the closets. The taller the material gets, the nearer the flats are moved to the floor, as they then need less heat.

Feed when the sprouts are from 4 to 6 inches in height, at the rate of a piece of the matted oats about 8 or 6 inches square for each 100 birds per day. Break up so that every bird in the pen may have some.



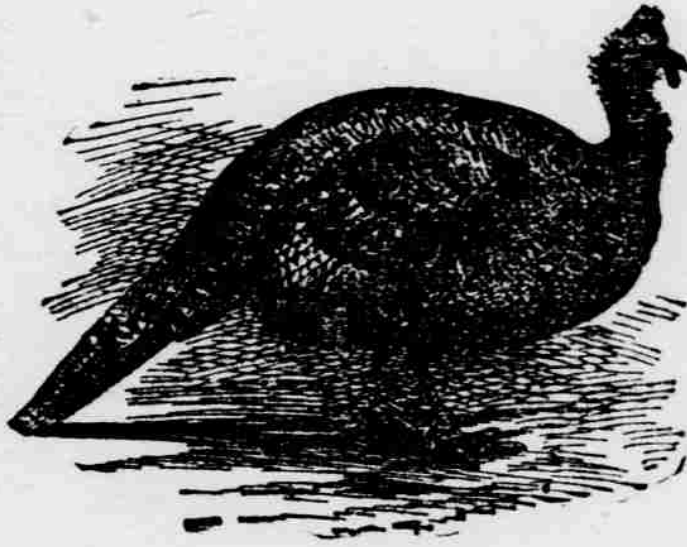
Sprouts Two Inches Long.

It should be clearly understood that the purpose for which green sprouted oats are fed is their tonic and stimulative influence on the digestive organs. They are not fed for the food value of the oats themselves. If one wishes merely to feed oats they can be most economically fed not sprouted. The point of sprouting is to furnish fresh, succulent, green food during the winter months.

It seems strange that Southern farmers who have always been thought by many northern farmers, to be unprogressive, are the first to take up co-operative selling. The Farmers' Union has among its members over 5,000 co-operative concerns, big and little, and they are getting more for their produce than ever before. This movement is spreading over the entire country slowly, but surely, and farmers of the north and west ought to give it more thought than they do.

THE OCELLATED TURKEY.

The wild species of turkey, known as the Ocellated or Honduras turkey, was originally a native of Honduras and other parts of Central America. Some describe it as most beautiful in coloring, equal to the Inpeyan pheasant, if not richer. The head and neck of this wild variety are naked and no breast tuft is present. The caruncles of the head and neck differ somewhat from those of other turkeys.



The ground color of the plumage is a beautiful bronze-green, banded with gold-bronze, blue and red, with some bands of brilliant black.

It is to be deplored that this variety cannot be bred successfully as a domestic fowl in northern climates. The writer cannot learn that it has ever been successfully bred outside of its native heath.

DECEMBER ON THE FARM.

I haven't a very high opinion of the month of December from the standpoint of active farm operations. While not usually a wet month and immediately preceded by one that is usually even dryer, yet my observation is that the subsoil in clay lands is usually too wet to plow deeply. The days of December are the shortest of the whole year and the sunshine and sunheat are correspondingly short. It is moreover the month that has only three weeks work in it—the only one of the twelve so distinguished, for who works much during Christmas week—from December 24 to January 2? Yet there is much that may be done by the active, energetic farmer. The old year's work must be rounded up and got out of the way. Indeed, I used to start on the new year's work early in December. For a number of consecutive years I contracted with regular wages laborers from January 1 to December 1, retaining when practicable, one man for each pair of plow teams, so that the winter plowing might be finished if not closed up by the last of November. There is nothing, in my judgment, that may be planted in the field to advantage in this month. Some belated farmers, it may be, have not yet finished sowing oats and some may have sown no wheat until now. According to my observation those who defer sowing, either wheat or oats until the last month of the year do not habitually make fine crops of either. It is too late to sow cover crops of any kind—excepting rye, and no great things may be expected of even rye; but by heavy seeding on rich soil, say 1½ to 2½ bushels per acre, beneficial results in moderate degree may be expected. If one has not sown oats before December, better wait until after the middle of February and then fertilize and seed heavily on well prepared soil.

December is a good time to "clean up" generally—repair fences and clean out ditches and make new ditches, recover out buildings, stop the cracks. A good time to get in a good supply of wood for fuel, although it were better to have done this work in November, or even earlier. Some farmers have not yet made provision to protect their mite livestock from snow and sleet, wind and rain. The open shed, or lined with cracks, is still occasionally in evidence.

December in Garden and Orchard.

In the garden everything should be got in readiness for sowing seeds as early in the new year as the season's may permit. The manure from stables may be spread and be permitted to freeze, and to be turned under whenever the ground is not too wet. Seeds should be sown only in hot beds, or cold frames—except in the extreme South. Fruit trees may be pruned, or a beginning may be made, where there are large areas to be attended to. Scuppernon vines should be pruned, if needed, before Christmas, if we wish to be safe against bleeding. Immediately after the leaves have commenced to yellow and fall is the proper time, although it might have been done immediately after the crop ripened.

If not already done the raspberry and blackberry bushes should be cut back to about three feet in height, all laterals cut to six or eight inches, all dead canes removed and a forkful or two of good stable manure heaped around each bush, or cluster of canes, to be spread and worked in in the spring.

R. J. REDDING.

A Remarkable Corn Grower.

(Kinston Free Press.) One of the most remarkable corn growers in this section is Mrs. Patsy Brown, aunt of Rev. S. W. Sumrell, of Contentna Neck township. Mrs. Brown lives with Mr. and Mrs. Sumrell at their home. She is in her ninety-second year and enjoys good health, with a mind as clear as a bell. Last July she planted a roasting ear patch in an onion patch. She did all the work herself, opening and covering the hills and dropping the corn. During the weeks following she cultivated her crop. In an early week of this month she gathered the corn, then in roasting ear condition. Not content with that, she shucked and cleaned it and got it ready for cooking. And that was not all. After it had been cooked, she ate of it freely, seeming to enjoy it as much as anybody else did.

Geese may be plucked for the "live geese feathers," so-called, at the end of the breeding season and again when the feathers are grown out and become so mature that there is no blood left in the quills.

Good Farming

(Wadesboro Ansonian.)

A good yield of corn is reported by Mr. M. L. Horne, who has a farm, including a part of the valuable Brown Creek bottoms. This year he raised 75 bushels of corn on one and one-half acres of land with no fertilizer at all. The expense was the labor and this amounted to only \$6.50. He raised two bales of cotton on an acre of land with 600 pounds early drained, it would add a million dollars to the value of Anson county dirt.

WOMANLY WISDOM.

(December Farm Journal.)

"The halls of knowledge have both roofs and floors, But Wisdom trains her experts out-of-doors."

An old rule for roasting turkey is "an hour for each year."

Before chopping raisins, rub a little butter on each side of the chopping-knife.

When tea is spilled on the tablecloth, as soon as possible cover the stain with common salt. Leave it on for a while, and when the cloth is washed all the stain will have disappeared.

Stuff the breast of your Christmas turkey with pared sweet potatoes. They will get a fine flavor from the juices. Use seasoned bread-crumbs and some fried sausage for the rest of the stuffing.

Roast some nice wheat in the oven, add a little good butter and New Orleans molasses, grind it in the coffee-mill, and have some of the finest cereal coffee you ever drank. Some money, too.

Corn-cobs make excellent fuel, but they also make a dirt if kept in a basket, as the loose particles sift through. It is better to put them in a box. The cobs from table corn can be dried for kindling or fuel, although the cattle enjoy chewing them when fresh and tender.

A nice home-made candy for the children is made as follows: Boil two cupfuls of sugar and one cupful of corn syrup until crisp when dropped in cold water. Add to this the whites of two eggs well beaten. Beat this for five minutes until nearly stiff. Drop by spoonfuls on oiled paper.

If you have been unfortunate enough to tear a dress of thin material and are at a loss how to make the rent invisible when mended, try threading a hair into your needle. I know of a new brown mohair skirt that was mended in this way, and the skirt rounded out a long and useful life without this scar upon its smooth surface being detected. A hair is strong, fine and pliable, and if reasonably long can be used to advantage by skillful fingers.

A Missouri Story.

Near Exeter, Missouri, a farmer discovered a large gray eagle, swooping down upon one of his lambs. He ran toward the bird but arrived just as the lamb was being lifted off the ground, firmly clutched in the eagle's talons. He grabbed the lamb by the legs and struck at the eagle, but was CUT dragged along the ground more than fifty feet and into a barbed-wire fence which so lacerated his hands and face that he was obliged to let go his hold. The eagle never wavered in its determination, however, and sailed away with the lamb and soon disappeared from sight.

Good Corn Yields in Moore.

(Southern Pines Tourist.)

Mr. J. M. Hussey, of Ritters township, on Deep River, raised ninety bushels of corn on a measured acre. The soil is a clay and sand mixture. The land was broken to a depth of 11 inches.

Mr. J. M. Thomas, of Jackson Springs, Mineral Springs township, raised 110 1-4 bushels of corn on a measured acre. His soil is the orthodox sandy soil of this region. Mr. Thomas broke it up in the fall of 1910 to a depth of 9 inches, following a cover crop of rye with a spring plowing 15 inches deep. He planted Biggs' Prolific and in spite of the long drought reached the fine figures already given.

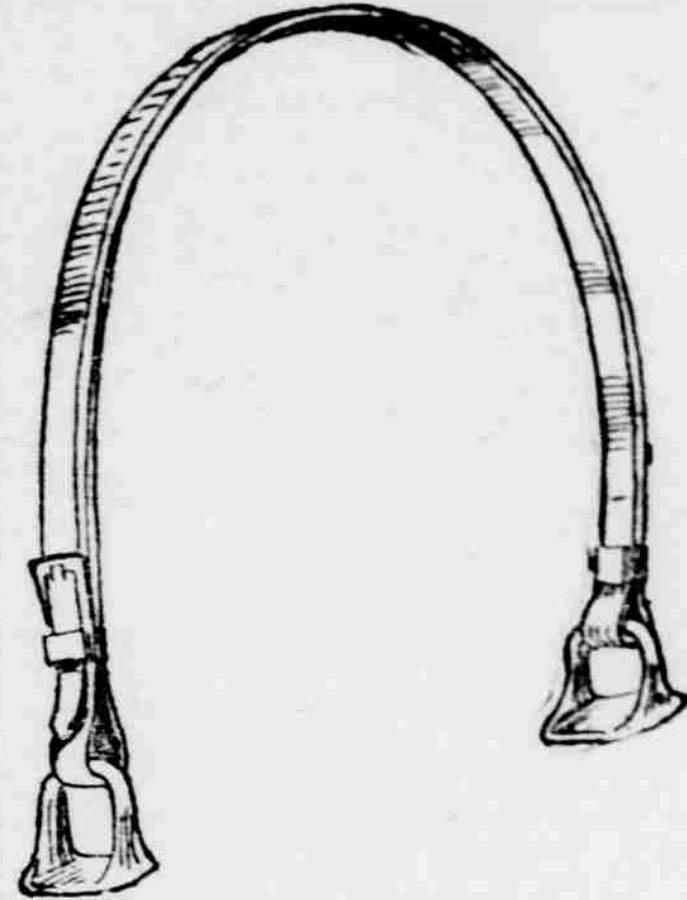
Another Jackson Springs man who has done a fine thing in corn growing this year is Mr. L. J. Hinson. He had the sandy soil of the sandhills to work with, plowed deep, cultivated often and shallow and followed the modern methods that have become so well known as hardly to need repetition. As a result he gathered 121 bushels of as fine corn as can be found anywhere from his one acre.

It will be noted that the man who raises a big crop of corn plows deep and cultivates often and as near the surface as possible.

San Jose scale will attack an apple tree irrespective of its age. It is just as serious a pest on seedlings as it is on trees seventy-five years old. The only effective means of controlling San Jose scale is the lime-sulphur mixture. The ready-made lime-sulphur preparations, as a rule, are very effective in controlling this insect. Likewise are the miscible oils.

A Simple Saddle.

The stirrup-saddle is one of the most convenient things to have about the farm, as it comes in mighty handy where there is no other saddle left in the barn in a time of emergency. It is simply a pair of stirrups



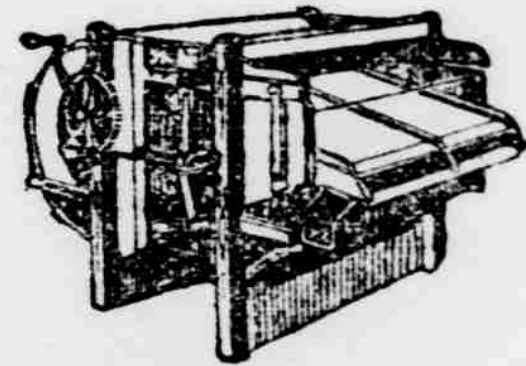
buckled to a strap. Put a blanket on the horse, throw the strap with the stirrups over this, and get into the saddle. It's a good sight better than riding bareback. Try it and see.

STICK TO THE FANNING MILL.

No farmer can get any one to take the same pains in grading his seed that he would himself. Some farmers claim that it does not pay to clean grain.

It is a fact that it does not pay very large returns to clean and grade grain before selling it, but by grading our own seed we can materially increase the yield of our small grain crops.

The corn crop of this country has been increased millions of bushels by intelligent seed selection. All other grain crops can be improved by grad-



ing the seed, so that only good, plump, healthy grains, free from all foul weed-seeds may be grown.

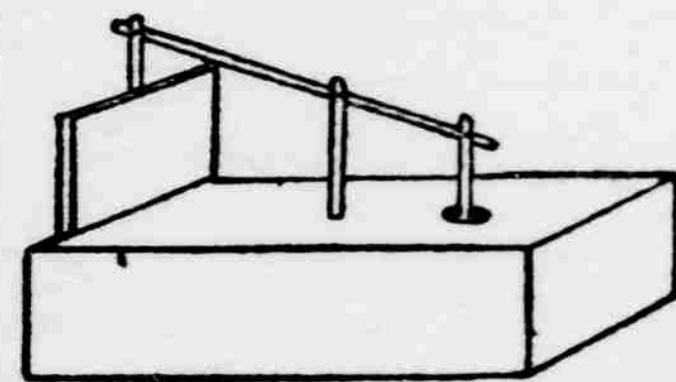
The fanning-mill, judiciously used, will do much to increase the yield of every small-grain crop and assist in keeping our fields free from noxious weeds.

It will take cockle out of wheat, buckthorn, plantain out of clover, in fact it can be adjusted so as to handle all kinds of grain and weed-seeds.

If you decide that it pays to sow good seed and to keep your fields free from noxious weeds, then do not hesitate to invest a few dollars in a fanning mill.

AN OLD-FASHIONED RABBIT TRAP.

Make a box with a sliding door to work up and down easily. Run a stringer over the centre peg and fasten the trigger which has a little notch in it to hook behind the top board and to hold up the trap-door.



When the rabbit gnaws at the bait he pushes the trigger back, which slides through the hole and lets the slide-door fall. This can be made out of any strong box, by a boy who is handy with tools, in half an hour, and it never fails to work.

Pick out the very smoothest and most likely shoats for the winter killing, keep them in clean quarters and feed so as to make well balanced meat—not too much fat.

Don't think that you can peg away, day in and day out, and then some time come to the spot where you can have a good time. It is much safer and better to take a little at a time as you go along.

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