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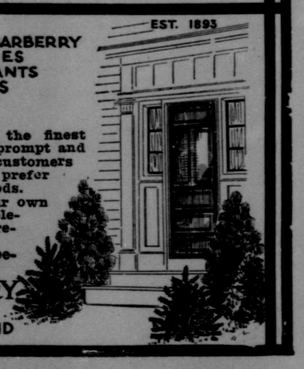
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DAIRY FACTS

SCRUB BULL IS FOUND "GUILTY"

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Scrub-bull trials, as a means of creating interest in improved live stock, have acquired many diversified features, according to reports received by the United States Department of Agriculture. Such a trial, recently held in Portage county, Wisconsin, as described by County Agent H. R. Noble, attracted an attendance of 3,500 persons. The trial occurred in connection with a dairy field day, a dairy bull being the prisoner before the bar. The judge pronounced the verdict of "guilty" following the presentation of evidence in which purebred and scrub sires were compared. But, contrary to the customary sentence of execution in such cases, the prisoner received a reprieve in the form of sale to officials of an adjoining county for a second trial, the sale price of the inferior animal being $17.50. Thus the bull has begun to acquire a "court" record as a local undesirable. A band which furnished music for the trial "drummed" him out of the county.

The bureau of animal industry, United States Department of Agriculture, has fostered such educational scrub-sire trials and on request furnishes an outline and guide for conducting them. In the outline the bureau recommends that persons who really desire to defend the scrub sire be given plenty of time and opportunity to do so. This stimulates the prosecuting attorney to his best efforts and greatly increases the educational value of the event.

Feeding Fresh Silage to Dairy Cow in Fall

With the emphasis, this fall, on more and better milk from the same number or fewer cows, most dairymen cannot afford to let any green feed go to waste at silo filling time, according to the animal husbandry department at the State College of Agriculture at Ithaca, N. Y.

When the silo is filled and allowed to seal itself by the heating and fermenting of the top layer, there is an appreciable loss of feed. If the silo is filled early in the fall while there is yet plenty of pasture or other green feed, it may not be practicable to avoid this waste. However, if the silo is filled later, when all the available green feed is needed, feeding from it should begin immediately. When this is done, the labor and unpleasantness of removing the surface layer is avoided also.

For a number of years, the men in the department say, the dairy cows at the college have been fed the green corn as it came from the machine when the silo is being filled and then fed the silage when it is heating and settling. So far as is known, no bad effects from this method have been noticed in the herd.

Dairy Notes

The "off-again-on-again" dairy farmer will never succeed.

* * *

In summer milk should be heavily watered—through the cow.

* * *

A cow cannot eat enough pasture grass to supply nutrients for 25 pounds of milk.

* * *

Most cream separators will do a much better job of skimming the milk when it is warm.

* * *

The feeding of hay to calves can be started at the same time that they are being taught to eat grain.

* * *

Most dairymen who own as many as a dozen cows should build a silo. It will pay for itself before long.

* * *

The University of Wisconsin has found through experimentation that sweet clover will not taint milk.

* * *

The organism that produces the tallowy flavor in milk, cream, and other dairy products has been discovered by the University of Illinois.

* * *

Cow testing association members feeding grain rations to cows on test see the difference between pasture and no grain and pasture with grain, and the difference is decidedly in favor of pasture with grain.

* * *

It is said that milk keeps sweet longer if cows have access to salt at all times. At any rate, they need the salt, and if a block, or a salt trough, is kept under a shady tree, they will be found around it often.

* * *

Some dairymen who are unfortunate enough to have good cows that are hard to milk, or that are kickers, utilize these cows to raise veals.

* * *

Dairymen who live near a cider press may profitably make use of apple pomace as feed, which is usually allowed to become a total loss.

* * *

Do not use the milk room as a junk room for the storage of all kinds of old equipment. Such things only accumulate dirt and encourage a general carelessness in handling the milk.

RADIO



Radio Chief Talks to College Editors.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Radio on the farm is yielding more dollars and cents return on the investment, developing a more prosperous American agriculture and bringing about a better contented, understanding class of farmers than any other single scientific contribution of the age, Sam Pickard, chief of radio, United States Department of Agriculture, told the convention of agricultural college editors recently at East Lansing, Mich.

After visiting the principal radio stations and approximately 600 farmers on a farm radio survey tour through 20 agricultural states, Mr. Pickard stated that both college and commercial broadcasters are making an intelligent effort to anticipate the farmer's problems with interesting, helpful programs, and are winning large and faithful audiences of the most enterprising class of farmers.

Practical Application.

Concrete examples of how practical application of information gained through radio is helping the farmers' bank balance were cited. In districts 60 miles from a railroad he discovered farmers who had changed their farming to more profitable lines suggested by authoritative radio talks.

"The farm fan," he said, "has two chief criticisms of radio. The one most often voiced is the curse of not getting enough sleep. Most of them admit they sit up with their sets late into the night. Many others say that while they like to be neighborly they tire of the entire community dropping in every winter evening and then forgetting to go home."

A plea for the college to dramatize informational programs, injecting into them greater interest and more humor, was made.

Competition Is Keen.

"I know of no field into which educational agencies have entered that offers keener competition than that of radio. The day has passed when the mediocre speaker can hold a radio audience. The lecture of long difficult words and sentences must give way to the more friendly, natural dialogue presented by effective radio voices.

"Until educational institutions value the effectiveness of radio instruction highly enough to adequately finance a competent staff, trained in the technique of broadcasting, they cannot expect successfully to utilize this new invention, probably the greatest boon to education since the printing press was invented."

The United States Department of Agriculture's new policy of providing a staff of feature writers to weave timely information into dialogue material to be broadcast by trained announcers was commended to the college editors.

Why "Straight-Line Frequency" Is Wrong

In the course of an article in the Radio Broadcast Magazine, Zeh Bouck, well-known radio writer, points out that the expression "straight-line frequency" is incorrect. The right term is "straight frequency line," he says, for frequencies are not characterized by lines. However, there is such a thing as a "frequency line," which refers to the line of resonant frequency plotted against capacity variations in a tuned circuit. In future, then, let us refer to those condensers of the weirdly shaped plates as "straight frequency line" condensers. Incidentally, we must be careful though, in dubbing all condensers with unusually shaped plates as true "straight frequency line" ones for, as Mr. Bouck points out, there is now on the market a modified "straight frequency line" condenser, which is designed to give a straight frequency-line effect on the short waves and something approaching a capacity-line effect on the longer waves.

Wiring for Your Set Need Not Be Exposed

Outdoor aerials are not essential to good radio reception. Neither is any other exposed wiring required. In an attic, wire of sufficient length may be supported in zig-zag arrangement on ordinary porcelain knobs attached to rafters. The wire may be run down through the house wall and connected to an outlet receptacle. The ground wire may be brought up from the basement through the lower sill of the house and connected to the set. Thus no wire is exposed anywhere. The user plugs in his set just as he would connect up a floor lamp or any electric appliance.

Cushion the Set

The use of four small air-cushion feet, such as are used on typewriter machines, is an improvement to any set. Placing them under the receiving cabinet will stop undesired ringing noises from microphonic pick-up action and also prevent audio sound feedback through the table carrying the set and the loud speaker. The cushion feet can be attached without the use of screws.

Fixed Condensers

The fixed condensers in a receiving set should have mica dielectrics for best results. Do not use condensers in which the dielectric is paraffined paper. For the best operation of a set it is important to use the condenser of the proper capacity for the part of the circuit it is in.

FOR THE NOTEBOOK

Adding new electrolyte does not charge a storage battery.

Copper is most commonly employed in the winding of inductance coils.

With proper care, a vacuum tube should give from 700 to 1,000 hours' service.

Reverse the leads on the grid coil if signals are mushy and station hard to get.

A great many parts of a set can be bought cheaper than an amateur can make them.

Soft rubber sponges under the sockets will overcome noises caused by the vibration of tubes.

Because the building absorbs energy, do not run a lead-in from the front of the house to the rear.

The efficiency of a storage battery is measured by the ratio of an output to the input, generally in ampere hours.

Batteries will last much longer when used intermittently for short periods of time, rather than when used continually for long periods.

Heavy Wire Not Needed in Broadcast Receivers

There is no particular advantage in employing wire larger than No. 24 in any part of a radio set designed for broadcast reception. This size has proved to be the best for inductances, which are the most critical units as far as specified wire diameter is concerned, and it is plenty big enough to carry safely the current of the "A" circuit, which is the heaviest current in any part of any receiver.

The No. 14 copper-tinned busbar which enjoys wide use among home constructors is not a bit better than the much more flexible No. 24. If bent nicely parallel with or at right angles to the panel it makes a set look rather spectacular, but direct point-to-point connection is undeniably better from the electrical standpoint.

Battery Charge Gauge

A hydrometer permits the operator to know the condition of charge that exists within the battery. A full charge will float the graduated tube high, and when the battery is discharged it will sink.

No Piker

"Man, you ain't gettin' no distance a-tall, is you?"

"Say, brown gal, heah dat whistlin'? 'Ems de Canary Islands!"—Princeton Tiger.

POULTRY

BALANCED RATION NEEDED FOR HENS

Students of hen science believe that an ordinary bird should be able to produce a thousand eggs if we knew how to give her a fair chance.

She is a wonderful machine, with the embryo of more than a thousand eggs in her make-up, but so many things combine to prevent her from doing her best that she generally falls away short of such production during her few years of life.

If you like to count eggs before they are laid, you may figure the matter out to suit yourself—so many pounds of grain, meat, lime, fat, fiber and water to each dozen eggs—and there you are.

All would be well, and you could begin at once to count your eggs, if it were not for the fact that "something always happens" to prevent the regular machine-like production desired.

Certainly we must be careful to supply the needful ration so that fat, protein, nitrogen, fiber, ash or mineral and water will be fed. This is necessary, because no eggs can be produced if one of these elements is lacking.

The fowls must be kept in condition or they will not "shell out." This is one of the most difficult parts in our whole plan of egg production.

The grains are high in nitrogen and protein. Meat scrap, bone and meat meal are high in fat and protein. When the flock is out on the range, young and old pick up what they instinctively seek as needful.

Some of the prepared feeds are mixed so that just about the right proportion of each needed element is in the ration. Sometimes the birds do not seem to like the ration as mixed for them, so the plans of the scientists do not work out.

Molting Period Is Good Index of Value of Hen

Hens that are in the midst of molting do not, as a rule, lay. The time of the year when molting takes place is, therefore, a reliable index of the value of the hen to the flock for the reason that a hen molting in wrong season, when she should be laying, can deprive the flock of more profit than would be the case had she molted early enough to be laying at the peak of high prices.

The "early molter" is not, however, a good layer, as a rule. Molting usually starts with the neck, then the body and finally the tail and the wings. It takes, usually, three months for the molting process to be fully completed. While it would seem that the early molters would be the best winter layers, actual experiments have proved that such is not the case.

These texts held by various experiment stations have brought out the fact that egg production controls the molt rather than the molt controlling the egg production. So long as laying is continued the molting will be postponed. And it is quite universally conceded that the late molter is the best layer. In fact, it seems to be a standard rule on commercial farms now and in the experiment stations to discard the hens which have completed the molt in late September and are in full feather and to hold those molting in October and November.

Soy Bean Meal for Hens Is Most Excellent Feed

A number of feeding tests at various experiment stations have shown the value of soy-bean oil meal as a poultry feed. From these tests it was concluded that soy bean oil meal could replace rolled oats in chick feeding. Poultrymen in the Pacific coast states have used soy-bean oil meal for several years and consider it a most excellent feed for growth and egg production.

Another series of experiments showed that soy-bean oil meal when fed with a suitable mineral mixture is a better supplement to corn meal than scraps and is nearly as good as condensed buttermilk when fed to chickens for short-time intensive feeding periods.

Way to Make Hens Sick

Feeding moldy cornmeal is rather a sure way of making hens sick. Spoiled feed will ruin either young chicks or ducklings in a short time. Always sort carefully any corn containing moldy or decayed ears and discard all that are not fit for food. Dogs can disgorge material that proves harmful to them but when a hen or chick eats spoiled grain or decayed meat it must pass through the entire digestive system and often it kills the bird.

Feed Value of Chess

There are no feeding tables giving the food analysis of chess. But it is safe to say that it has a fair feeding value. Many times it has been fed with satisfactory results. It is best to grind it and mix it with other grain. Chickens are shy about eating a new grain. If you bring your chi up on wheat, and then sudde change to corn, they will at firs fuse to eat the corn, but in a time they learn to eat the readily.

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