HORSES PIGS and CATTLE

FOR STARTING BALKY HORSE

Common Bamboo Fish Pole With Electrical Contrivance to Give Shock Is Quite Effective.

Take a common bamboo fish pole and cut it into lengths of about five feet, writes Edw. E. Herbert in the Popular Electricity. With a three-foot bell hanger's bit bore a hole through the center of the pieces. Join the sections with brass or steel tubing. Insert two insulated wires through the pole, terminating at the larger end in two small binding posts. On the other end of the pole place a brass or copper tube that will fit snugly, and flatten it out slightly. Bore a hole through the middle of this and bolt a wooden piece about three inches long across the tube.

At the outer ends of the small cross piece fasten two brass or copper washers about an inch in diameter and attach the two insulated wires

Electrical Starter.

running through the pole, one to each. If a metal cross piece is used, one terminal should be insulated by a rubber or fiber washer. By means of a flexible wire attach the secondary of an ordinary shocking coil to the terminals at the near end of the pole. The coil and dry batteries of two or three cells can be carried in a small box on the wagon. When the horse is balky all you have to do is to turn on the battery, place the two terminals at the outer end of the pole back of the ears of the animal and it will go at once. This apparatus has been tried out by the writer on some of the worst balky horses and has never failed yet.

EXPENSE OF HANDLING EWES

Every Farmer Should Figure Out Cost of Feed—Pays Better to Wean Lambs Before July 1.

Prof. E. W. Sheets of the West Virginia experiment station, in discussing the question of breeding ewes, said that he believed every flock owner should sit down and figure out the cost of the feed.

In the fall he feeds breeding ewes once a day on oats and bran; feeds no corn whatever to the breeding ewes. Uses clover, cowpea and mixed hay and corn fodder for roughage. The latter it pays to shred or cut. His Southdown sheep eat about six pounds of silage apiece a day, two pounds of hay and one-half pound of grain, but he does not give the ewes so much silage as this before lambing.

He feeds the lambs with the ewes starting with about half a pint of grain to the lamb at eight weeks old, and getting up to a pint of grain at about twelve weeks old. This feed is continued throughout the season. After the lambs are weaned he puts the ewes on a stubble field to decrease the flow of the milk. He gives tobacco, which he raises himself, in the feed each day as a preventive of stomach worms.

He thinks it pays better to wean lambs the 1st of July than at any other time. It costs him $3.06 to keep a sheep a year, but he did not charge present market prices for his feed, adopting a scale of prices that would run about the average for a series of years.

LIVE STOCK NOTES

Individual farrowing pens are money-savers.

The early pigs will need much more attention than the late ones.

Drain the hoghouse floors. A little slip may lame a hog for all time.

Peelings from scabby potatoes should be boiled before being given to pigs.

A pig in hand is worth two in the scrap pile. Try and save the little fellows.

When bad quarters are given the hogs they can't be expected to return good dollars.

See that the barn rooms are in good shape for the ewes that are to bear early lambs.

ing sheep unless he is willing to sit up nights in all kinds of weather during the lambing season.

A blanket of fat on a horse, like charity, is a mantle that often serves to cover a multitude of defects.

Be sure the flock has plenty of fresh water. If the sheep drink from springs, keep the approaches dry.

Avoid the elephantine hog or steer—they are freaks that cannot be relied upon to give carcass of great value.

ERRORS OF BEGINNER

Element of Common Sense Often Is Woefully Lacking.

Having Blundered in Initial Move He Now Proceeds to Crowning Folly of Purchasing Cheap Stock—Way for Success.

Practically all beginners are honest in their belief in the business, but it seems at times that the simple element of common sense is woefully lacking in the majority of cases—perhaps because common sense is not so common after all, writes W. B. Thomas, in Utility Pigeons.

Having blundered in his initial move, he now proceeds to the crowning folly of which he can be guilty—he buys cheap stock because it is cheap. He is either victimized by the proverbially conscienceless dealer, or he takes the stock of some fellow who has already demonstrated himself a failure; in either case he gets a sorry lot of birds.

Now suppose that instead of committing the usual folly, the beginner applies a little of that golden specific that I mentioned above,—common sense. Instead of an old shack, suppose he provides a good rat-proof house, built on plans approved by experienced breeders; then suppose he looks up some good, reliable breeder



Squabs One Week Old.

and invests in a few, well-mated working birds. Then, having posted himself as fully as possible by reading good pigeon literature, let him give his stock that careful attention indispensable to the well-being of all living things, and it will not take a very talented prophet to predict a result quite at variance with the one first outlined.

Squabs die in the nest or are found on the floor or do not fatten up properly, when the old birds are not fed properly. A young squab is not to be compared with a young chick. A very young chick can run about and help itself to food and water and the other necessities of life; whereas the squab is utterly helpless at its birth, and is unable to walk and must be fed in the nest by the parent bird and with whatever the parent birds may feed it.

The watchful pigeon man is the one who gives his flocks the best of care. He keeps them in health by noting the first signs of ailment.

Hay Should Not Sunburn.

The feeding value, as well as the market value, and palatability of hay is lowered by being sunburned. The feeding value is probably hurt most by the loss of leaves. Sunburned clover and alfalfa lose a large part of the leaves in handling, and this is the best part of the crop.

When the sun is shining very brightly the alfalfa or grass should not be left in the swath long. A large part of the curing should be done in the windrow and the cock. Most of the hay is then shaded and so the damaging effect of intense sunshine is reduced to the exposed portion. And a stock cover will still further lessen the injury from the sun as well as from rain.

POULTRY NOTES

There is nothing the matter with the hen that shows a bright eye and a red comb.

Exercise is a better laying stimulant for the hens han heat-producing condiments.

Establish, if possible, a brand of eggs which will in itself be a guarantee of good quality.

Green food of some kind is necessary to make hens do their best in the line of egg production.

Eggs ought to weigh a pound and a half to the dozen or fifty-five pounds net to the thirty dozen eggs.

It is poor policy to change the quarters of hens or pullets while laying, for it usually checks or stops egg production.

Experiments show that chickens with strong vitality and plenty of masculine characteristics make the largest gains.

The best place for the incubator is the one where the temperature is most nearly uniform from day to day, under natural conditions.

Collect the eggs regularly at least once, better twice, a day in moderate weather and more frequently in very warm and very cold weather.

Where green cut bone is fed, about 4 ounces a week fed in small quantities at a time is a good average allowance per hen. It need not be fed every day.

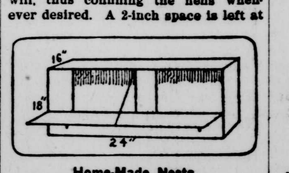
If taken at a very early age chickens can be taught to come and go at certain times, to feed in a certain way and do other things that will save time and annoyance.

USING PACKING BOXES

Farm Poultryman Will Find Them of Much Convenience.

Portable Colony Houses May Be Employed for Part of Hatching With Hens—Coops Can Be Made That Are Easily Cleaned.

Where packing boxes can be bought from the stores at reasonable prices they can be used in different ways by the farm poultryman at a considerable saving in material and labor. We do part of our hatching with hens and set them in a portable colony house 8x10 feet. The house has a shed roof, open front, a six-sash window in one end and a door with both a wooden and a wire sash in the other, writes Thomas L. Bayard of Green County, Pa., in the National Stockman and Farmer. Nests for the sitting hens are made from grocery boxes that are not less than 24 inches long, 18 inches wide and 16 inches deep. The top of the box is removed and made into a partition dividing the box into two halves, each 12x18x16 inches or larger. An inch board 6 inches wide is nailed lengthwise on the top. The box is then set on its side and makes two nests. A board 12 inches wide is hinged on this 6-inch board and raised and lowered at will, thus confining the hens whenever desired. A 2-inch space is left at



Home-Made Nests.

the top of this hinged front for light and ventilation. By putting the boxes the one on the other quite a number of hens can be accommodated in a small house. See illustration.

Boxes smaller than this can be made into coops. The top is removed and the ends sawed slanting. A removable top is made and covered with two-ply felt roofing. It can be hinged if desired. The bottom is removable. If desired a door can be cut in the side and hinged on. This makes a coop that is easily cleaned and can be stored in a small space.

Colony houses for universal hovers are made from drygoods boxes 3x4x3 feet and larger. The top is removed and placed in a slanting position by elevating one side of it on a superstructure. A door and a window are cut in front, being careful to nail cleats before using the saw. The bottom is removable. The top, back and sides are covered with two-ply felt roofing. If this is painted every year with a roofing paint, costing twenty-five cents a gallon here, it will last many seasons and can be used for sheltering poultry during the winter.

Return From Use of Manure.

The net return realized from a ton of yard manure under general farming conditions depends upon the soil method of cultivation and crops grown. The Ohio experiment station has obtained an increase amounting to $4.69 per ton from yard manure used at the rate of eight tons per acre in a five-year rotation of corn, oats, wheat, clover and timothy; four tons being applied to corn and four tons to wheat, this return being the average for the third five-year period; the average return from yard manure used in all tests in which rotation is practiced has been $2.97 per ton for the whole time.

Do Not Feed Moldy Corn.

Moldy corn will produce blind staggers in horses, and it should never be fed to them. Every year there is considerable trouble with this disease in the west, and in almost every case the cause is moldy corn. If this corn does not produce blind staggers, it will tend to injure the physical condition of the animal. So don't feed it, and be careful about pasturing the horses in stalk fields where there is moldy corn.

GENERAL FARM NOTES

Sweet corn is a very profitable crop. One reason for this is because it is so easily handled.

Don't wait until June to set your plants. Do it just as soon as you can get the ground in good tilth.

The best garden seed is not always found in the packages on which are found the prettiest pictures.

Thick neck onions are usually seen during such seasons as have wet weather at the usual time of ripening.

On a small scale, vegetable seeds may be started in small boxes or flats, placed under the kitchen stove.

One of the secrets of successful gardening is the thorough preparation of the seed bed and its cultivation.

Fill in about the houses and barn wherever there are low, wet places. No matter what the weather, go dry shod.

Don't plant the large varieties of cucumbers, expecting to raise as many as if the cluster kind were used.

When it is seen that the lima beans are rotting, replant the hills immediately, to make sure of a perfect stand of plants.

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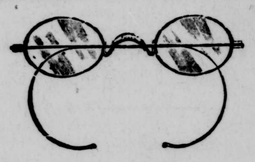
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