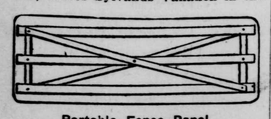
FARM STOCK

PORTABLE FENCE IS USEFUL

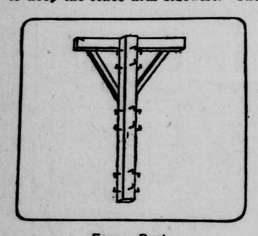
May Be Placed Around Rich Piece of Fodder and Pastured Off in Most Economical Manner.

Rather than cut a rich piece of fodder to be gathered and moved away to the sheep, hogs or other stock, it is often more economical to pasture it off, a small piece at a time. The lack of suitable fence often prevents this, writes Sylvanus Vanaken in the



Portable Fence Panel.

Orange Judd Farmer. A portable fence may be built according to the plan shown in the drawing herewith. It requires but a few panels of this to inclose sufficient field for a day's cropping, when it can be shifted to new ground for the next day. If sheep with lambs are to be folded in this way an extra board will be needed at the bottom of each panel. These panels mal be built 12 or 14 feet in length, and must be thoroughly braced to keep the fence firm from endwise motion. Cross-pieces at the bottom of the upright should be long enough to keep the fence firm sidewise. The



Fence Post.

upright used for the portable base should be two by four inches, with iron hooks driven or screwed in at proper intervals to receive the end boards of the panels.

DETERMINE AGE OF HORSES

Most Accurate Method Is by Observation of Teeth—Whole Story Told in a Nutshell.

To tell the age of a horse, says Prof. E. L. Potter, of the Oregon Agricultural college, notice his teeth, his ribs, flesh on his tail and the skin on his cheeks. In a young horse the skin on his cheeks is soft and elastic, and flies back quickly, while in an old one the skin is lifeless and goes back to place but slowly. There is a wider, more distant space apparent between the ribs of an old horse than of a young one, and with age the flesh on the tail shrinks, making the joints more distinct.

The most accurate method of judging is by the teeth. The temporary teeth come first, and then the permanent ones, and their development to maturity, change the shape on account of wear, coming of the "cups" and their ultimate wearing away, with the change in angle of meeting from perpendicular to an acute angle in age, are all the important indications of age.

The permanent teeth above and below come in at the same time, but the cups above do not wear away until all those below are gone. The changes begin at the center and continue at the rate of one pair a year. At maturity (five years) a horse has everything—all the permanent teeth and their cups. This is the whole thing in a nutshell.

LIVE STOCK NOTES

Good dry bedding for the hogs will save on feed.

Rye may be cut for hay and used for all classes of live stock.

Are your hogs going to have a treat of greens in a patch of fall rye?

Stock raising is the best insurance against an impoverished agriculture.

Just now the heavy steer is a much sought after article in the live stock markets.

With proper food and clean quarters there is very little danger of sickness among pigs.

Farmers of the present time can own no better stock than healthy growing pigs.

If you want the nicest and cleanest meat in the world dress a fine lamb and there you have it.

Maybe the sharp teeth of some little pig will need breaking off. You can tell if the sow is being hurt.

The localities where some sort of live stock may not be profitably maintained are few and far between.

Sheep are a good medium for increasing the fertility of the farm of the man who has limited means.

Let up on that exclusive corn ration you are giving the sows. Feed millstuff instead if you want good litters.

POULTRY



KEEP TAB ON CHICKS

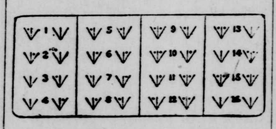
Toe Marks Valuable Where Line-Breeding Is Worked.

Considerable Time and Labor Involved, but It Pays Fancy Breeder to Pedigree His Birds and Eliminate Culls.

In practicing line breeding I use trap nests in my breeding pens during the hatching season. If I wish to keep a record of the chicks from individual hens, each hen's eggs are set under bantam hens. These little midgets are just the things for this purpose, as they will cover from seven to ten eggs, so you can set each hen's eggs before they are too old.

After the chicks are hatched, each brood is placed in separate coops with runs attached, and when a week old are toe-marked with a punch made for the purpose, which can be procured at any poultry supply house, or a harness punch may be used, writes Archie E. Vandervort of Delaware county, N. Y., in the Farm and Home. As will be seen by the diagram, a good many different marks can be made. The coops are placed in convenient places about the farm as far apart as possible, so if a chick happens to get out of the yard it will not mingle with the others.

After they are three or four months old they are leg-banded with sealed bands and then are allowed to run together. All the band numbers are carefully recorded, as well as the



Punch Marks Between Toes.

way in which the toes were marked. Of course, all this takes considerable time, but to the fancy breeder it pays to pedigree his birds, and he will have less per cent of culls.

If you do your hatching in incubators, you can get some pedigree trays to place in the incubator, instead of the regular trays. These are constructed with compartments so that the eggs can be kept separate, and also the chicks hatched therefrom. Before placing the chicks in the brooder they are carefully toe-marked.

GET EARLY LAYING PULLETS

First Egg From White Leghorn Chicken at Four Months and Fourteen Days at Ohio College.

A single-comb White Leghorn pullet, that laid her first egg just four months and fourteen days from the date of her hatching, is one of the results of breeding for early maturity obtained by the Ohio Agricultural college. The usual age at which pullets begin laying is about six months. This extraordinary fowl was one of a group of 720 that were hatched at the same time. Five or six others from this group began laying much earlier than ordinary fowls, showing that it pays to breed for early maturity. They were from the Yesterlaid strain of single-comb White Leghorns, that had been bred especially to develop early laying.

It may be interesting to know just how this flock was fed. From the first day to the sixth week they received twice a day a grain ration of two pounds fine cracked corn and three pounds cracked wheat. Up until the twenty-first day they also received three times a day a moist mash composed of four pounds rolled oats, three pounds cornmeal, three pounds wheat middlings, six pounds wheat bran, four pounds sifted meat scraps, two pounds alfalfa meal, one-quarter pound bone meal, one-quarter pound fine charcoal. This was mixed with skim milk or buttermilk and fed in shallow trays. From the sixth week to maturity they received a grain ration of two pounds cracked corn and two pounds whole wheat, fed in open hoppers. From the twenty-first day to maturity they received a mash composed of one pound rolled oats, one pound corn meal; one pound wheat middlings, two pounds wheat bran, one pound sifted meat scraps, one-half pound alfalfa meal, two ounces fine charcoal. This was fed dry in open hoppers. In addition they were given green foods and grits.

Duckling and Chick.

A duckling does not know how to get out of danger. Instead it will become panic-stricken and remain an easy prey for the enemy. On the contrary, a chicken is always on the alert, scampering off to some hiding place the moment that it hears some strange noise.

FARM POULTRY

START IN POULTRY BUSINESS

Initial Step Should Be to Determine on Breed of Fowls Adapted to One's Locality.

The first thing to do in taking up poultry as a business is to find some breed adapted to the locality, then stock up with that breed and study it, says the Poultry Journal. Personality enters into the success of the poultry industry to a large extent. A man must be good-natured, for one thing, and willing to give his time and patience to detail work. For these reasons a man who takes up this business for pleasure often succeeds much better than the man who goes into it for purely the money it brings him. Success in this business comes slowly. It must be built up. It requires patience, but when success does come everything after that is easy and the profits are good.



Excellent Specimen.

To the man who wishes to enter the poultry business at a small expense, I would advise stocking with a dozen hens of some good breed. It is not well to try to do too much until the beginner has learned how to make a small flock pay. I have had very good success in getting eggs from my hens all the year round. I hatch the chicks as early as possible in the spring. The best time to market chicks is when they weigh about two pounds and fowls just before molting. I find it profitable to market eggs where they must be guaranteed fresh, working up a good trade for the produce at a fair price.

CAUSES OF MANY FAILURES

Endeavor to Save In Expenses by Cheapening Cost of Houses and Space Is Enumerated.

The Illinois station gives among the causes of failure in the poultry business the following:

Endeavoring to keep too many fowls where room for one only can be obtained, that is saving in expenses by cheapening cost of houses and space.

Buying fowls from other farms and thus bringing disease and lice into the flocks.

Overfeeding, the fowls being supplied with greater abundance under the supposition, the more feed the more eggs.

Cold draughts over the fowls at night, with a view to supplying fresh air, when the temperature is low.

Wasting time with sick fowls instead of destroying all birds that can not be cured quickly.

POULTRY NOTES

Pekins lay from 120 to 170 eggs a year.

Forcing for eggs out of season is unprofitable.

Keep the hens' nests clean and provide one for every four hens.

If fowls are compelled to roost in foul and damp houses it causes illness.

The earlier the maturity, all other things being equal, the greater the profits.

Sell off your old rooster and get a better one than you ever had of some neighbor.

The chick that is alive ten days after hatching has most of its dangers behind it.

If a fowl becomes sick, separate it from the others and doctor it, as the disease may be contagious.

Laying hens drink a very large amount of water if it is clean and kept constantly before them.

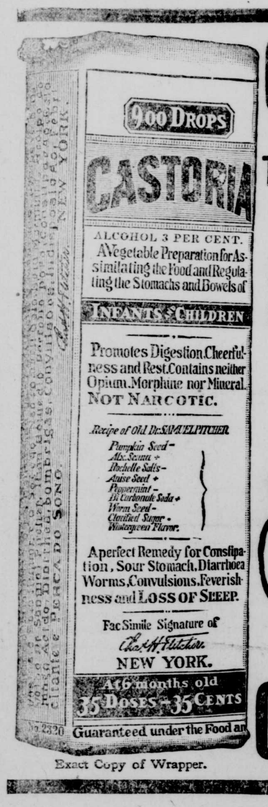
The old rule of improving the human race by beginning with the grandparents applies also to poultry raising.

For hatching purposes take the eggs from the hens that lay best. Build up, never let the standard down.

A shelf a couple of feet below the roosts is handy to catch the droppings and handy to clean. And don't forget to clean it.

Breeding stock should be carefully selected by the poultryman and then given the best care, plenty of fresh air, sunshine and exercise.

A few nails thrown into the drinking pan will give poultry all the iron they need, but they should not be allowed to remain there. Clean the vessels every day.



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