A Page for the Farmer and His Family

DAIRY FACTS

BUTTER FROM SWEET CREAM

Because of Its Better Keeping Qualities Larger Use of It Is Urged by Dairy Division.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The dairy division, United States Department of Agriculture, advises a larger use of sweet cream butter, because of its better keeping quality.

The United States navy is a large consumer of this kind of butter, made according to the navy specifications from unripened or sweet cream, instead of from the cream ripened to sourness, of which most creamery butter is made. For several years past it has been the practice of the Navy department to contract for butter made of sweet cream in large amounts to supply the officers and sailors. This butter is packed under the supervision of the dairy division of the United States Department of Agriculture. During the war, the personnel of the navy being enlarged, a much greater quantity of butter was needed.

The principal reason the navy desires sweet cream butter is that it keeps better. As the larger part of the butter supply is made during the summer months, it is necessary to put some of it in cold storage in order to have enough for winter, and in the course of time it develops various more or less undesirable flavors, due to long storage. Butter made from sweet cream does not develop such flavors for a much longer time, if at all. Many months after it has been made it is equal to fresh butter, provided it has been kept under proper



Inspecting Butter.

conditions; hence sweet cream butter is especially suitable for shipping to distant countries, and for long voyages.

Sweet cream butter is gradually coming into wider favor in the domestic market, the Department of Agriculture says, because some consumers prefer it. It has not so pronounced a flavor as ordinary butter, but it has a mild creamy flavor.

WASHING AND RINSING CANS

Much of Deterioration of Milk Supply Is Due to Contamination in Big Receptacles.

Much milk that is good when it leaves the stable is poor milk when it reaches the city dairy plant. The deterioration is due to contamination in the cans. In almost all cases the city dairy plants wash and sterilize the cans that they return to the farmers. The farmers, assuming that the cans are clean, fill them and return without further attention. As a matter of fact, the washing is usually well done in a city milk plant. After the sterilizing with live steam, however, the cans are capped almost immediately and almost always there is some moisture left in the can. The bacteria are never all killed and in this moisture they multiply immensely and by the time the cans are used again there are enough bacteria in them to seed the milk to the extent of many thousands of bacteria per cubic centimeter.

PROPER CARE OF YOUNG CALF

May Be Permitted to Graze With Other Cattle on Pasture, but Feed Grain Separately.

The calf may graze with other cattle on pasture, but should be fed grain separately. A bull calf should be separated from the heifers when about three or four months old. He should be kept with other bull calves or older cattle for company except at feeding time. The calf should then have a separate stall or pen.

DEHORNING IS RECOMMENDED

Operation Results in Quieter Cows and More Milk—Best Plan Is to Prevent Them.

Dehorning results in quieter cows and more milk, but horns are better prevented than removed. It is more humane to apply a little caustic to the calf than to dehorn a mature animal.

POOR INCUBATOR BAD INVESTMENT

Advisable to Buy Machine Used With Best Success in Immediate Neighborhood.

DETERMINE SIZE BY NEEDS

Special Cellar or Incubator House Should Be Provided If Equipment Is Extensive—Important to Keep Air Fresh.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

After the poultryman has made up his mind to buy an incubator, he is confronted with the question of makes and sizes. As a general rule, a cheap machine is a poor investment, requiring more attention than a good one and wearing out quicker besides being less dependable. The value of the machine is small compared with that of the eggs used during the normal life of an incubator. It is poor economy, therefore, to buy a machine which is not reliable. Whenever possible it is well to select the kind of incubator that has given satisfaction in your neighborhood, so that you may get the benefit of the experience of other operators near by.

Varies With Needs.

The best size of incubator to buy varies with numerous circumstances, say poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. About as much time is required to care for a 60 as for a 360-egg machine; it is usually advisable to get one of at least 150-egg capacity. Special conditions, though, often exist which make smaller machines valuable.

A small machine is often used in connection with a larger one, all eggs being placed in the large machine after the first or second test. Many poultrymen believe that it pays to have an incubator large enough to hatch the bulk of their stock in two or three hatches, so that much time is saved in tending to the incubators and brooders. In addition the chickens are more uniform in size than those hatched when the incubating period extends over a longer time.

A fair estimate for a poultry farm is an incubator of one-egg capacity per hen, provided that about one-half of the flock is to be renewed yearly and no outside hatching is carried on. The larger machines cost less in proportion to their capacity than the smaller ones.

Good Results in Cellars.

Incubators are operated in a great variety of places with success. Where only a few small machines are used they are usually located in a room or the cellar of the house. A special cellar or incubator house should be provided if the incubator equipment is extensive or if mammoth machines are



Given Intelligent Care Good Incubators Will Turn Out a Successful Hatch.

used. It is important to have a well-ventilated room not subject to wide variations in temperature. If built above ground the walls should be double and the entire building well insulated.

Good results in hatching are secured in incubator cellars and in incubator rooms entirely above ground level, but the cellar is more commonly used. Incubators may be operated in buildings with single walls, especially in regions which have a mild climate, but a well-insulated room is preferable.

The incubator room or cellar should be large enough to allow the attendant to work around the machines conveniently. Many incubator cellars are provided with some system of ventilation in addition to the windows. This is not always necessary, however. The chief point is to keep the air in the room fresh. Muslin screens on the windows provide good ventilation without draft and at the same time keep the sun from shining on the machines. Many incubator cellars have cement floors, which are easier than dirt floors to keep clean and neat.

HIGHEST PRICES FOR DUCKS

Market Usually Remains Unchanged From July Until September—Best Market in May.

Prices for green ducks (young market stock) usually remain unchanged from July to September. The best prices are realized about May. From then until July the prices gradually decline until they pick up for the holiday trade.

BIRDS AID GREATLY IN WAR ON INSECTS

Of 27 Species Examined 25 Were Grasshoper Eaters.

Farmer Should Form Defensive Alliance with Aerial Cavalry to Obtain Necessary Protection Against Enemies.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Special investigations to find how far the various bird species aid mankind in his perpetual war on insect enemies are being carried on by the bureau of biological survey, United States Department of Agriculture. In the western states the grasshopper is particularly troublesome, so far as the farmer and the ranch owner are concerned. Specialists found that of 27 species of birds examined 25 were grasshopper eaters. In 19 of the species all of the individuals collected had given grasshoppers place on their menu. The birds having the best records were the lark sparrows, meadowlarks, Franklin gulls, Arkansas kingbird, crow blackbird, and the common kingbird.

Probably there are not birds enough in the country to clean up a full-



Meadowlark.

strength invasion of grasshoppers such as the western farmers have come to dread, it is said, but the birds assist materially in the efforts made by man to control the pest.

Specialists say that poisoning campaigns are among the best weapons used against the grasshopper. From time to time reports are sent in, saying that many birds have fallen victim to the poisoned mixtures placed for the insects. Such charges were associated with the gypsy-moth spraying campaign in New England and with the laying of poisoned mashes for cut worms and other insects. Careful observation, made by experts, shows that the bird losses from such causes are insignificant. Some birds, it is said, are not harmed at all by the presence of poison placed for insects or vermin; the quail in California were not harmed by the baits that were set out to kill ground squirrels—though the campaign was a general one and was conducted with much intensity. In the Dakotas a few birds succumbed to the arsenic mashes placed for grasshoppers, but the number killed was so slight as to be of no consequence, it is said.

By killing stray cats and chasing off unscrupulous hunters the farmer can become a party to a sort of defensive alliance with his birds, so that when his crops need protection against insect enemies he will have a squadron of aerial cavalry to help him repulse the raid, specialists say.

SEED-TESTING PLEASES BOY

Work Is Admirably Adapted for School Room—Equipment Necessary Is Inexpensive.

In order to prevent Jack from becoming a dull boy as a result of all work and no play, many hours can be spent profitably in the schoolroom by forgetting books and lessons for a time and testing seeds. Seed testing is a diversion that is as practical as it is enjoyable. It is admirably adapted for exercise work in every schoolroom whether or not a systematic course in agriculture is given. Little equipment is necessary. A study of samples of farm seed to be sown by the pupils' parents, to determine the percentage of germination and the extent of impurities in the seed, offers a means of connecting the school with the home with benefits to both. Impurity tests can be made by an examination with a magnifying glass. The only apparatus necessary for germination tests of small seed consists of two plates, and a piece of blotting paper. Write to the United States Department of Agriculture for Farmers' Bulletin 428, "Testing Farm Seeds in the Home and in the Rural School." It gives complete directions.

SALT IMPROVES COWPEA HAY

Enhances Palatability and Where Crop is Not Entirely Cured Prevents Fermentation.

The use of salt has been recommended by many successful growers in the mowing of cowpea hay. Although not essential, undoubtedly the hay is improved in palatability, and it may, in the case of hay not entirely cured, assist in preventing fermentation. About eight quarts of salt are used to one ton of hay.

FARM STOCK

CAMPAIGN FOR BETTER SIRES

Nearly 400,000 Head of Stock Enrolled—Large Number of Females Shown in Records.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In the three months' period ending December 31, 1920, more than 93,000 head of live stock and poultry were enrolled by 486 owners in the "Better Sires-Better Stock" campaign now in progress to improve the quality of domestic animals in the United States. This is a large increase over the number enrolled during the previous quarter. Of the stock listed, 5,379 were males and, in accordance with the provisions of the campaign, all these were purebred. The female stock numbered 87,703, and the owners have pledged themselves to breed this stock to purbred sires only.

The county showing greatest activity in the campaign for better live stock during the quarterly period was Saline county, Neb. Next in order are Stafford county, Va.; Tippecanoe county, Ind.; Pulaski county, Va.; Fauquier county, Va., and Platte county, Neb. Craig county, Va., stands out as the principal county, since the beginning of the campaign, in which there appears to be a strong tendency for crossbreeding. During the quarter just ended 17 "Better Sires-Better Stock" emblems were issued to live stock owners in Craig county and all of them owned crossbreds. Crossbred animals were impartially distributed among all classes of stock, including poultry.

The records of the better-sire campaign continue to show that persons using purebred sires for all classes of animals owned have a large number of purebred females as well. In fact, of the 87,703 females recorded during the last quarter 61,504 were purebred. The remainder, arranged according to number, were grades, crossbreds, and scrubs.

Significant figures in the progress of the nation-wide campaign to increase the use of purebred sires are the following:

Up to December 31, 1920, the total number of persons enrolled was 3,243. Of these 1,075 are in Virginia, which is the highest state in number of enrollments, and 446 are in Pulaski county, Va., which retains its place as the foremost county.

The total stock listed is 394,954, of which 238,122 are poultry and 156,832 larger animals. Among the latter cat-



Good Type of Bull Being Used in Better Sire Campaign.

tle lead, with 63,663, followed by sheep and swine in order. Smaller numbers of horses, goats, and asses make up the remainder.

As regards quality of the female stock, fowls are first, with 70 per cent purebreds, and swine next, with 65 per cent, while 37 per cent of the cows are purebred. Grade female stock ranks highest with horses, sheep, and cattle in the order named. Crossbreeding is much more prevalent with sheep than with any other class of stock. Only 2 per cent of all the female stock recorded as being bred to purebred sires are scrubs and the lowest proportions of these are found in sheep and swine.

PROPER EXERCISE FOR SIRES

Many Valuable Animals Are Injured by Being Kept Continuously Confined to Barn.

Animals used for sires on the farm should be given an opportunity to exercise properly. Many valuable animals are kept continuously in a barn in winter and become injured merely from lack of opportunity to exercise.

FEED SHEEP SOME ROUGHAGE

Animals Are Fond of Silage, Fodder, Hay and Pasture Grass—Need Some Concentrates.

Sheep are well adapted to grazing, as their stomachs will hold much roughage. They have an appetite for such feeds as silage, fodder, hay and pasture grass, but cannot thrive without some concentrates.

Hog Fattening Food.

Oats do not make a very satisfactory fattening food for hogs. Tankage would make a much more satisfactory and cheaper food to feed in connection with corn.

Main Object With Pig.

The main object in the first few months of a pig's life is to produce bone, muscle and growth. Sort of get him in shape to carry a big load of corn to market.

MODERN BARN IS FARM NECESSITY

Type Shown Here Has Advantages That Will Appeal.

LATEST DEVICES INSTALLED

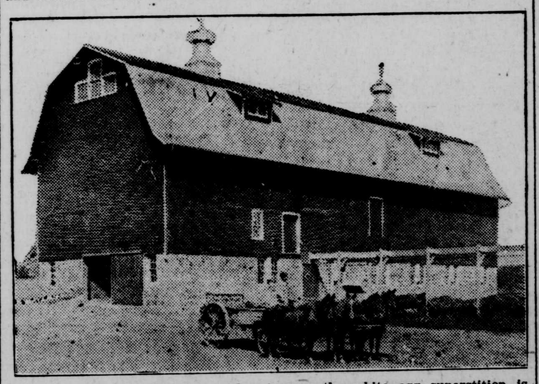
It Is of Gambrel Roof Frame Construction With Hollow Tile Foundation and Will Accommodate Horses, Cows and Calves.

By WILLIAM A. RADFORD.

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building work on the farm, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 1827 Prairie avenue, Chicago, Ill., and only inclose two-cent stamp for reply.

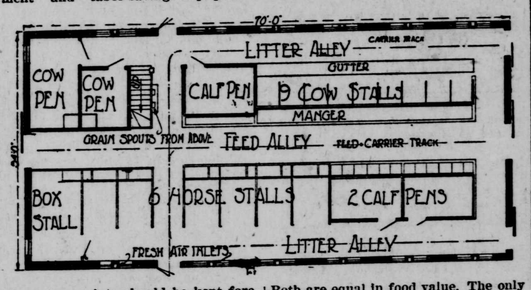
When planning a new barn the average farmer has to consider his limitations in the way of cost and utility. On the larger dairy farms the dairy barn is built for the exclusive use of the dairy herd and no provision is made for other animals. On the general-purpose farm, however, where the farmer has a small herd and also a few horses he generally wants a barn that will take care of both. The general type of dairy barn is needed with pens for horses. Such is the barn shown here with floor plans.

A handsome looking structure, built of frame, with a substantial hollow tile foundation, it has been designed to accommodate nine cows, six horses and several calves. The roof is the



familiar gambrel shape with modern roof ventilators and roof dormers providing excellent ventilation for both lower floor and hay mow. Fresh air intakes located at the proper intervals about the lower barn floor furnish a continual supply of fresh air, while foul air flues carry off the impure air which is so dangerous in buildings where animals are housed. While barns are built more for utility than appearance it is wise to make them appear somewhat attractive. This building is an excellent addition to any farm.

Modern barn construction lays particular emphasis upon interior arrangement and labor-saving equipment.



These two points should be kept foremost in mind when designing the buildings. Upon them depends the efficiency of production and the satisfaction of help. That is why carrier tracks for litter and feed carriers have been installed in feed and litter alleys. The track running through the feed alley runs to the grain spouts at one end of the building. The carriers are filled from these spouts which tap the grain bins on the floor above. The litter track connects each litter alley with the manure pit on the outside of the barn. These carriers have helped to lift a very heavy burden from the shoulders of the farm help and the farmer's boys who take an active interest. It is less liable that they will seek the alluring positions of the city if modern labor-saving conveniences on the farm make their work more pleasant and give them more time for amusement and pleasure.

All cow stalls, horse stalls, pens, etc., are divided off by modern steel stall equipment. The floor is concrete with sanitary manger troughs and gutters. Stanchions and water cups are an essential part of this barn equipment. At one end of the barn are the cow pens and box stalls. The effect of this sanitary and efficient equipment has been demonstrated in the increased production of the animals. Contented cows will not only produce a high-grade milk, but plenty of it. Drinking cups provide a continual source of fresh clean water, which is an important factor in milk production.

Because of the many factors entering into farm production at the present time, it pays the farmer to install the best equipment he can procure at the very beginning. While the initial expense is larger than if he had used old material, the results will soon pay for the difference in cost. Not only will he get better products, but more of them and at the same time he will be protecting himself against future desertion of the property which he has worked so hard to build up. The younger generation has become educated to the advantages of modern conveniences and if they cannot get them on the farm they will go to the cities and towns. Undesirable conditions heretofore have been largely responsible for this exodus which threatens the very foundations of our social order. Progressive farmers have learned the lesson of well-built buildings and modern equipment. In time all of the farmers will demand the best buildings and the best equipment.

SUPERSTITION OF WHITE EGG

Hard to Account for Widespread Fallacy That the Brown Shell Contains Inferior Product.

Of all the food superstitions that cause high prices—and there are many—the white egg superstition is editor of the Forecast Magazine, as one pointed out by C. Houston Goudiss, of the most curious.

"In nearly every section of the country," says Mr. Goudiss, "there is a difference in the price between the brown and the white egg. On a motor trip through New Jersey recently I noticed that white eggs were bringing as high as 22 cents per dozen more than brown eggs. Why, the gods, who play with our fears and prejudices and laugh at us, only know.

"The white egg costs no more to produce than the brown egg. Exactly the same feed is used to produce both eggs. Both are equal in food value. The only reason for a difference in price is a greater demand on the part of housewives for the white egg. I once heard a Jewish housewife say it was more sanitary and on another occasion an American with no religious leaning informed me that the white egg was a better egg, even the shell felt nicer. Producers and dealers have been quick to capitalize this superstition.

"Curiously enough, in some of the large cities of the country, brown eggs bring a higher price than do white ones. I have heard this explained in these cities with the sage information that the brown egg is 'stronger' and more 'meaty' than the white egg."

True.

"There's one thing about our work."

"What?"

"It makes you enjoy your pleasure so much more."

FEATHERS FIGURE IN PRAYER

To the Indian Their Religious Importance Is of Far More Value Than as Ornaments.

Feathers have an intense religious significance for Indians, and are valued for this far more than for their value as ornmanets. To a Hopi a feather is tantamount to a prayer, and the use of one or two feathers in his prayers is considered sufficient to ensure a favorable reply.

When an Indian desires something urgently he will tie a feather to a stick and conceal it in a shrine which he himself has constructed. This is considered extremely efficacious. Small fluffy feathers dangling from the ceilings of huts by strings are common sights. They represent prayers for trifles. Indians are always careful to keep a stock of prayers or feathers on hand, so that they will not be caught empty-handed when an occasion for prayer arises.

It was a departure from this custom which accounts for the use of feathers in costumes. Squaws of tribes whose habitat was Virginia, wore mantles fringed with feathers, and the Colonial records also tell of coats made of blue feathers sewed so close and thick that the coat looked like satin.

Speed.

Airman De Romanet's new speed record—between three and four miles a minute—led Lieut. R. W. Maynard, the air champion, to say at a dinner in New York:

"The new era that is upon us will be an era of unbelievable speed. Like the anecdote.

"A young man of 1950 A. D. was giving his girl an airing, so to speak, in a swift and powerful 2,000-horse-power airplane.

"'That's England we're approaching,' he said. 'British Isles, you know. Pretty little group they make, don't they?'

"'I don't see them,' said the girl anxiously. 'Where are they?'

"'Oh,' said the young man, 'we've passed them now.'"

POULTRY

GIVE BREEDERS FREE RANGE

Most Desirable for Production of Fertile Eggs Intended to Be Used in Incubator.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Hazards which sometimes accompany the incubation of eggs are largely avoidable. Fertile eggs from vigorous breeding stock are necessary in order to obtain good hatches.

Free range for the breeders is most desirable for the production of fertile eggs with vigorous germs, but all eggs produced from such hens should not be used for incubation. Eggs that are abnormally small and poorly shaped or those having thin or very poor shells should be eliminated. Dirty eggs or those badly soiled should not be used. If it is found necessary to set slightly soiled eggs they may be cleaned by rubbing lightly with a damp cloth, care being taken not to rub off any more of the natural bloom than is necessary.

It is never advisable to use for hatching eggs that are more than two weeks old. In freezing weather eggs should be collected two or three times a day so as to prevent their being chilled. Neither a hen nor an incubator will hatch strong chicks from eggs containing weak germs or from those which have not received proper care.

In preparing the nest for the sitting hen, put from three to four inches of damp earth or a piece of grass sod in the bottom of the nest before the nesting material is put in to provide moisture. When the hen becomes broody, and before she is transferred to the nest for sitting, she should be dusted with insect powder or sodium fluoride. In doing this hold the hen by the feet with the head down, working the powder well into the feathers. This should be repeated about the eighteenth day of incubation so as to be sure that there are no lice present when the chicks are hatched.

The hen should be moved at night from the regular laying nest into the nest where she is to be set. The latter nest should be in some out-of-the-way place where the hen will not be disturbed. In order to make sure that the hen will continue to stay in the new nest, she should be started with one or two china nest eggs. If, at



Provide Comfortable Quarters for Poultry Flock.

the end of the second day when the hen should be permitted to leave her nest for flood and water, she returns in a short time, the nest eggs may be replaced with the eggs that are to be incubated.

Throughout the period of incubation the eggs and nests should be kept clean. Sometimes it will be necessary to change the nesting material. Eggs should be tested twice during the incubation period, preferably on the seventh and fourteenth days, and all infertile eggs and those with dead germs should be removed. When the eggs begin to hatch, the hen should be confined and not disturbed until the hatching is complete. If she becomes restless remove the chicks as they are hatched and keep them in a warm place until the hatch is complete, when all should be returned to the mother hen.

INCREASED EGG PRODUCTION

Highest Number of Eggs Obtained From Mash Composed of Meat Scrap and Cornmeal.

The highest egg production in poultry-feeding tests conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture were obtained from a pen receiving a mash composed of four pounds bran, four pounds middlings, 26 pounds meat scrap, and 66 pounds cornmeal.

This ration has been one of the best mashes, giving consistent high production over a period of several years, and is not distinctly different from the mash used in the wheatless ration, which has also given very good production.

SIMPLE HINTS FOR POULTRY

To Keep Young Brood in Healthy Condition Supply Clean Water and Plenty of Grit.

A successful poultryman offers a few simple hints for keeping the young brood in health, as follows: Give clean water; supply plenty of grit; feed a variety of cracked and whole grain, mostly in a dry state; keep chicks out of the grass when wet with dew or rain.

Clean Drinking Vessels.

Keep the drinking vessels of both the chicks and the old fowls scrupulously clean. Replenish the water supply several times a day.

Hens and Ducklings.

Ducklings are quite easily raised by chicken hens and require much less care to raise than chicks.

Renew Sitting Hens' Nests.

The nests for sitting hens should be renewed every time a fresh batch of eggs is set.

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