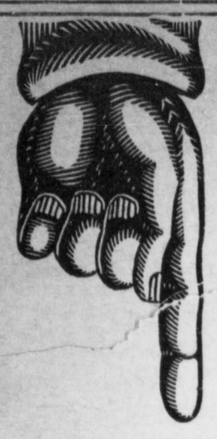

WE WISH TO THANK OUR Many Friends

For their patronage during the past year, especially the great Xmas trade. We had the best Xmas trade in the history of our business and of these things we are deeply grateful. there will be no let up in our business. atch this space next week for our New Year's nouncement. We wish one and all a Happy nd Prosperous New Year.

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THE SHORT COURSE AND THE FARMER

Preserving Fertility In His Soil Is One Of the Lessons He Learns At His Agricultural College.

H. J. PATTERSON,
Maryland Agricultural College.

With the beginning of the annual winter short courses in improved farming methods at the Agricultural College the farmer who has not hitherto attended them is inclined to question what benefit is to be secured from them. Perhaps no more striking lesson is taught than the preserving of fertility in the soil, which is beyond doubt the foundation of all successful farming. Particularly is this true in the matter of properly handling the manure made on the farm.

How Manure Is Wasted.

Even though manure is regarded highly by farmers in all sections of the State, there is, nevertheless, no product of equal value which is so much neglected and poorly cared for. It has been found as a result of experiments that fresh manure during decay will lose from 20 to 70 per cent. of its weight. In losing weight, manure also loses in fertilizing value, sources of such loss being due to the incomplete absorption of the liquid manure, which, by the way, is richer both in nitrogen and potash than the dung; to leaching, as when manure is piled against the side of the stable or in a yard where rains wash out much of the nitrogen and potash, which is seen in the dark brown liquid oozing from the pile; and to heating and fermenting while in the pile which breaks down the organic matter, causes loss of humus, and the giving off of ammonia, compounds, containing the most valuable element in manure, the nitrogen.

How To Handle Manure.

Steps to be taken in preventing such losses are to provide sufficient bedding or litter in the stable to absorb all the liquid manure; to check fermantation by mixing the cooler cow manure with horse manure; to make piles compact so as to exclude air and lower the temperature; to use chemical absorbents such as plaster, kainit, phosphate rock, etc., sprinkled over the manure in the stable, thus preserving it and preventing loss; to prevent loss from leaching by piling the manure under a roof or still better hauling it directly to the field and spreading it as fast as it is produced.

This last practice is without question the most economical, both in the saving of labor and in preserving the fertilizing qualities of the manure. Manure should be spread as soon as it is hauled to the field. The practice of putting it in piles is objectionable because of the loss that is likely to occur. The placing of it in piles also requires additional labor. The manner of spreading will depend on the equipment of the farmer, but where the distance is relatively short and it is desired to have the manure evenly spread, a manure spreader will prove a valuable investment.

The proper handling of farm manure is only one point among many that the farmer will have the opportunity to hear discussed at the winter short courses. The mixing of fertilizers, their application, the securing of superior seed, the use of lime, the growing of clover crops, spring fertilization of grass, proper drainage, and the many other factors in successful soil building and crop production which every farmer ought to know furnish endless food for thought and future application in the improvement of methods and the increasing of yields. What information his Agricultural College can give is freely his; it lies with the farmer himself to make the most of his opportunity to become acquainted with his Agricultural College and gain help from its instructions.

MARYLAND STATE GRANGE IN SESSION AT SALISBURY, DECEMBER 6-9.

Farmers and farm women belonging to the 80 subordinate granges of Maryland are in session this week at Salisbury where they are being entertained as guests of the Wicomico County Pomona Grange. Subjects of vital interest to all Maryland farmers are being discussed by well known speakers, among them being Governor-elect Emerson C. Harrington on "The Agricultural Development of Maryland;" Congressman David J. Lewis, on "Cheaper Telephone and Telegraph Service for the Farmer;" Dr. Wm. E. Palmer, Board of Health, Baltimore City, on "Co-Operation In Milk Production;" Prof. F. B. Bomberger, Maryland Agricultural College, on "Better Financial Credit for the Farmer," and Miss Katherine A. Pritchett, Maryland Africultural College, on "Home Demonstration Work In Maryland."

The representatives of local granges, presided over by State Grange Master B. John Black, of Baltimore county, will discuss a number of questions of especial interest to farmers such as better roads, the support of the Maryland Agricultural College, the employment of County Demonstration Agents, agricultural teaching in the rural schools, the representation of the agricultural interests of the State before the Legislature, the securing of a simplified land registration, and the establishing of rural credits. The session concludes with the biennial election and installation of officers on Thursday, Dec. 9, when National Grange Lecturer Edw. E. Chapman, of Massachusetts, will address the grangers.

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TWO THINGS NEEDED IN COUNTRY LIFE

State Prize Winner In Maryland Week Essay Contest Urges Education and Organization.

JESSE M. HUFFUNGTON,
Wicomico County.

Education is a most important matter in our country life. Our farmer boys and girls should be trained in country industries. Our boys should be taught the general principles of farming, farm management, crop and animal production, and the like. This work should be started in the elementary grades, continuing throughout their school days. Our girls should learn household economy and home sanitation. With such training in childhood, any country girl is better fitted for the many problems which confront her in later life.

A consolidated school in each rural community instead of so many small one-teacher schools would meet an urgent need in many communities. Advantages gained by having a consolidated school are more competition, better equipment, and more specialized instruction. Our high schools ought also to be provided with means for giving agricultural courses, particularly, winter short courses for the benefit of the older farmer boys. They should also have classes for training rural teachers, as many of our teachers do not understand the needs and problems of country life. Our normal schools should train teachers especially for country schools. Our Agricultural College ought to be looked up to as the greatest institution in the State devoted to teaching agriculture. Students either intending to be teachers or farmers should be encouraged to attend it. The agricultural short courses held there are of immeasurable value to the agricultural interests.

We need also to promote local organizations in our rural communities. Local improvement associations work effectively for improved roads, better schools, and a more effective local government. Women's clubs are useful in aiding our country mothers to become better home keepers, and secure necessary recreation. Boys' and Girls' Clubs give the boys enthusiasm for farming, and teach them improved methods, while they create in our girls an interest in household economy and give them the social life they need. The local grange has rendered valuable services in promoting improved living conditions, better agricultural methods, the elimination of unnecessary middlemen, economy and honesty in government, and satisfactory educational facilities.

In Maryland, particularly, the Affiliated Agricultural Societies, promoting the Maryland Week Exhibition, have been particularly helpful in affording an opportunity for the State's agricultural resources and a meeting place for our city and country people. The Essay contest for the boys and girls of the public schools, which they supervise, is an inducement to us to study our agricultural problems and help us become more useful men and women. It is a good thing that we have these societies and associations in our State. They are much needed. We should have them in every community in Maryland.

WHERE DO YOUR FOWLS ROOST ON WINTER NIGHTS?

ROY H. WAITE,
Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station.

Do you ever look into your hen house to see how the fowls are spending the night? It will pay you to keep track of how your birds arrange themselves for the night, especially during the cold winter months. This is one phase of poultry culture that seems to be overlooked by most writers.

We hear about colds being caused by all manner of things, but did it ever occur to you that isolated cases of colds might be caused by birds roosting apart in a drafty portion of the house? I have seen hens roost on nests, feed hoppers, cross braces and even on drinking vessels. What is worse, I have seen many take cold apparently from no other reason than that they were in a very cold and drafty place. The best way to keep them off such places is to provide sloping tops so that the birds cannot obtain a foothold.

It is especially important to look after this situation when you have more than one male in the pen. Have you ever puzzled over the fact that one male bird seemed to stand the cold weather better than the others? It might be interesting for you to watch proceedings about roosting time some cold night. This may be about what happens: The more timid "rooster," gets on the perches early and settles down to enjoy the night's rest. A little later, up jumps the boss "rooster" (there is always a boss), and drives them off. They vainly try to get back a few times and then give it up, finally contenting themselves with most any place they can find. They are somewhat heated up and ready to take a cold and on extremely cold nights are in a fair way to get a frozen comb.

The "boss" sits up among the flock, their animal heat helping to keep him warm and comfortable. Those roosting apart are lucky to get off with simply a frozen comb, they sometimes in addition have their toes frozen.

Are your hens laying winter eggs, or are they "soldiering" on you? Then attend the annual short course in Poultry Keeping at your Agricultural College, January 17-20.

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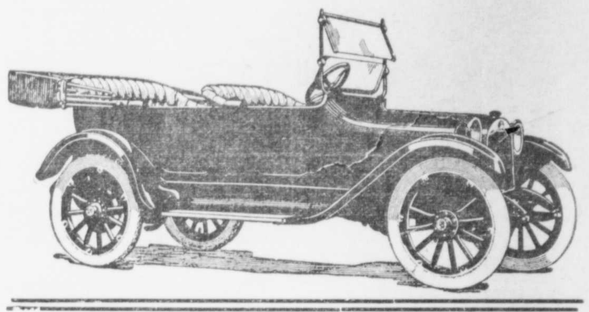
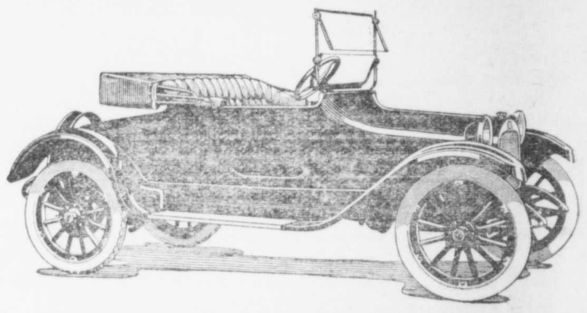
Yours very truly,

MARION T. MILLER,
Rock Hall, Md.

THE DODGE AUTOMOBILE





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