FARM NOTES

BRIEF ITEMS THAT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO OUR KENT COUNTY AGRICULTURISTS

Turkeys.—Turkeys, where there is plenty of range, are a profitable side line upon the farms of Kent county, for the cost of raising them is small and the profits are large. The number raised in the United States is gradually decreasing, however. This is due to a number of causes, a serious one being the high mortaity among the young poults. Careful management will greatly reduce this loss, according to the United States Department of Agriculture poultry specialists. The average number of poults raised under ordinary conditions is about 50 per cent of those hatched out, or about seven poults for every turkey hen. By far the greater part of the loss occurs when the poults are under a week old. Seldom are any lost after they are a month old, unless there is an outbreak of disease. The high mortality among young poults is mainly caused by exposure to dampness and cold, improper feeding, close confinement, lice, predatory animals, or inherent weakness. The last-named cause is the result of carelessness in selection of parent stock. As soon as the hatch is completed and the poults begin to run around outside the nest the hen and brood are ready to be removed to the coop provided for them. The coop should be built to keep out rain; it should be well ventilated, capable of easy movement, and be sufficiently roomy for a turkey hen to stand erect and walk about. There should be a separate coop for each hen and brood and the coops should be scattered about the farm. There are many thousands of dollars worth of turkeys raised every year in Kent county.

Farm Notes.—He that by the plow would thrive, himself must either hold or drive.—Benjamin Franklin.

Potatoes from diseased seed always produce diseased tubers, so make sure and don't use diseased seed potatoes.

The man who neglects his buildings on the farm is profiteering, just as much as the man who refuses to fertilize his fields and who cuts his woodlot without making provision for the future.

A good pasture reduces the feed bill, but little is gained from reseeding an old pasture unless the land is at least ploughed and put in good condition.

The Farm Loan System, in less than three years of actual operation, has enabled farmers to borrow over $320,000,000 at fair rates of interest and with ample time for payment.

Have you stopped growing clover? If so, why not try again? Lime, it is said, will insure success.

Legumes will not grow any more than other crops under unfavorable conditions. Make the conditions favorable and insure success.

Getting Back To The Farm.—The big cities are full of men who are longing to "get back to the farm." A large number of these men are especially desirous of some day buying a small farm and going into the poultry business, the bee industry or some other like industry. I have met many of this class of men during my city life who literally long for the country life and the green, growing things of the open. This is natural. We are a natural agricultural country and nature will hark back to days gone by. Each year a number of these men do leave cities to enter the field of agriculture and poultry raising and many of them make a success of it too. No doubt many more would do so if they had sufficient practical knowledge of the industry to formulate a definite plan of procedure. Many of these city men have failed—and country men do so also, by the way. Many of them do, however, make a success of farming and would not go back to the city life again for gold piled mountain high.

Geese On Small Farms.—It is a question sometimes what one can do on one of our small Kent county farms and make a living. What can we raise where the output will not exceed the profit? One man will say cows are the most profitable, but the farm will not keep many, and when one has to buy both hay and grain, the profits are soon greatly diminished. Another will say pigs, but they must be fed with a liberal hand, and the farmer is met at the markets with the cry, "pork has taken an awful drop," and the margin of profit is very small. An exchange, in an article on raising geese on small farms says, in part: "Three years ago we began keeping geese. We kept through the winter five or six geese and three ganders. They averaged in the spring about forty eggs each, although a record kept of one goose the year before showed fifty-two. We set five eggs under hens, using as fresh eggs as possible. We dip eggs in warm water once a week the first two weeks and twice the third week, and three times the fourth, even after the eggs are pipped. It will not hurt them to dip them if they are hatching too slow. As soon as a hatch is complete, which is often 100 per cent, we put hen and goslings into a green run, with a shallow dish of water. They will not eat much the first day, but the second day finds them strong and hungry. We give them equal parts bran and meal, mixed with some sand. They grow rapidly and soon start to feather, and when the nights are warm, we take hens away and put several flocks together, and let them run and forage, and you can almost see them grow. They need a little oyster shell for lime and they will eat it greedily. Care must be taken that before they feather they must be kept dry; if they get wet and chilled they will die, otherwise they are very hardy. They are very interesting and very tame and easy to manage. Of course they must be kept out of the garden, but the grass grows rich and green where they have been pasturing. I hatch what I can in April and May, and then sell the surplus eggs."In Kent county geese are mostly raised on the large farms, where large meadows afford them abundant pasture.

Advantages Of Hatching Early.—This is the time of the year when every poultry breeder should be busy hatching chicks. It is the early hatched pullets that will pay the feed bills next winter. If this is done, the baby chicks can be grown out normally and will commence laying early enough in the fall to be profitable. If, on the other hand they are not hatched until summer they will not lay until the following spring, at a time when eggs are usually low in price.

Incubation Periods—We are often asked the different periods of incubation of our domestic fowls. The following will make the matter plain:

	Days	Variation
Goose	28	28-33
Duck	28	27-33
Guinea	28	25-32
Turkey	28	25-30
Pheasant	24	24-25
Hen	21	19-24
Pigeon	17	16-20

WITH THE KENT HUNTERS

Muskrat Season Over Next Week—Big Fox Hunt Held At "Bushfoot"—A Profitable Marsh

One of the most profitable marshes we have heard of in Kent county is the one in Morgnec belonging to Mr. Marion Malcomb. Over eighteen hundred dollars worth of muskrats were trapped off the marsh this year by Mr. Malcomb's workmen. Mr. Malcomb turned the marsh over to them last fall and told them they could have all they made off it. One colored man caught over $500 worth of muskrats.

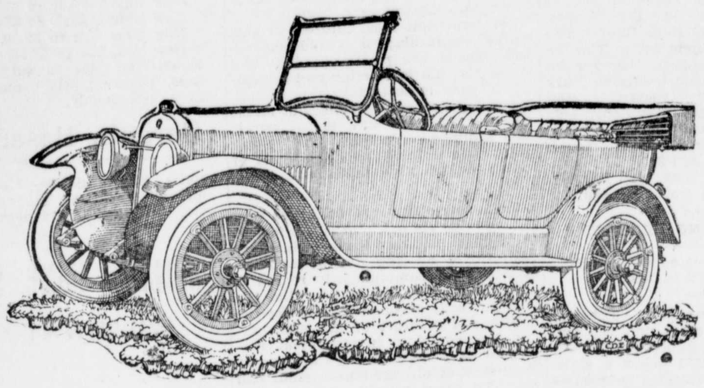
We have had fine foxhunting weather in Kent county this week and several big hunts were held. On Tuesday a big hunt took place at "Bushfoot" in which about twenty-five fox hounds and ten horses and riders took part.

The muskrat season will end in Kent county next Wednesday, March 31. More money has been made by the Kent county trappers this year from the trapping of these little marsh inhabitants than ever before in the history of muskrat trapping in the county.

The report that a number of foxes have been killed in Kent county in open vioaltion of the law has caused much talk among hunters and an investigation by the game warden is probable.

A Queen Annes county boy caught a large white owl in one of his muskrat traps one night last week. The owl had been making nightly trips to the marsh and robbing the boy's traps.

Young rabbits will soon be making their appearance. You hunters who have dogs that are in the habit of running loose and killing them would do well to keep them up if you want rabbits to gun for next fall.



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25c Men's Heavy Grey Hose....19c
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$50.00 Exclesior Cook Stove....39.00
$2.00 Round Back Chairs, each....1.50
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(Weather Permitting)
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(In effect 2.45 p. m. March 26, 1920. Express Service.)
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, steamer will leave Port Deposit at 6.30 a. m., Havre de Grace at 7.00 a. m., Betterton 8.15 a. m., Tolchester (except Saturdays) 9.45 a. m.
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, steamer will leave Baltimore at 2.45 p. m. for Tolchester, Betterton, Havre de Grave and Port Deposit.
SASSAFRAS RIVER LINE
(In effect 2.45 p. m. March 27, 1920.)
Mondays and Wednesdays, steamer will leave Fredericktown at 6.30 a. m., Betterton 7.45 a. m., Worton Manor 8.45 a. m., Tolchester 9.45 a. m.
(Special Trip, Thursday, March 25, leaving Baltimore at 7.00 a. m.)
Tuesdays and Saturdays, steamer will leave Baltimore at 2.45 p. m. for all the above landings. (Does not stop at Tolchester on Saturdays.)
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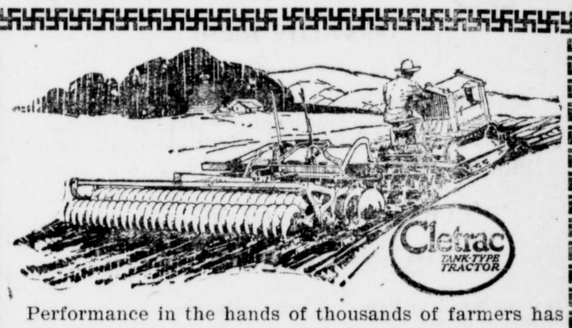

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