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EARLY SPRAYING OF THE ORCHARD IS URGED

T. B. SYMONS,
Maryland Agricultural College.

The man who wins in the orchard business is the man who prepares for the harvest in the early spring. Trees should be pruned properly, and all dead wood and brush removed from the orchard. Both apple and peach orchards should be sprayed with the concentrated lime sulphur at a dilution of one part of the solution to nine parts of water. Growers can buy this material and make it themselves using 100 pounds sulphur and 50 pounds stone lime, 55 gallons water and boil for one hour. The home-made solution had better be diluted at the rate of one to seven or eight parts of water.

The above treatment will control the San Jose Scale, and aid in preventing leaf curl, a disease especially bad on the Elberta variety of peaches. All spraying apparatus should be gone over and put in good shape for work. It is expensive to stop work in the field to fix up parts or mend hose, etc.

Be sure that the spraying is done thorough, that is all parts of the trees should be hit especially the terminal twigs for it is on the tender wood that the scale settles. Trees can be sprayed with this dormant solution until the buds begin to swell.

Small Orchards.

It is the small growers that sometimes neglects this treatment. There are many home orchards in the state that are not producing a revenue. Now is the time to make their fruit good by first giving them a severe pruning and good spraying. In many places, such as towns, a group of people should get together and employ some one to spray their trees. In this way the work can be done more cheaply and satisfactorily, buy using a good barrel pump, than if the individuals attempt to do the work with small pumps. Orchardists who have been troubled with scab in apples should prepare to spray with Bordeaux mixture just as the bloom shows pink. Persons desiring further information should communicate with the Extension Service, College Park, Md.

EARLY HATCHED PULLETS MAKE WINTER LAYERS.

Poultry Keepers Are Advised As To Best Time And Methods of Hatching.

ROY H. WAITE,
Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station.

In order to get a flock of pullets that will produce well in early fall and winter the chicks must be hatched early enough so that they will have time to mature. A partly matured pullet cannot grow, keep warm, and lay eggs in cold weather. The time to get her matured is during the natural growing season when the weather is most favorable.

The period required for maturity varies with different breeds and it also varies with the way the chickens are cared for and fed. Two flocks of the same breed, hatched at the same time, may look very different when they are a few months old. Some flocks under favorable conditions may even mature twice as quickly as others poorly cared for.

Five or six months is usually considered about the proper time to allow for maturing the Leghorn varieties. They can sometimes be grown in a shorter period but it is not considered good practice to force them too much.

The heavier breeds like the Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, etc., require more time. Six or seven months should be allowed for them and with some of the extremely large breeds like the Light Brahmas an even longer time is required.

Hatch In April.

White Leghorns hatched during April will usually commence laying a few eggs about the first part of September and be laying in "full blast' in October. April is an ideal month in which to hatch this breed for the weather is usually such as to give the chicks a good start and they mature in time to fill in part of the gap between the moulting and the starting of the old hens to lay. White Leghorns hatched even as late as June sometimes begin laying about December and June hatched Leghorns are usually considered successful.

March is considered an ideal month for hatching the large breeds but it is often difficult, especially to those on farms, to have things in shape for such early hatching. In any event chickens should be hatched as early as possible.

Where one can make use of an incubator the problem is considerably simplified. An incubator is broody any time the lamp is lighted and the machine regulated, but it is often difficult to get hold of sitting hens before April.

OUR FARM BOYS AND GIRLS.

The boys of today will be the men of tomorrow, and the girls of today will be the homemakers for tomorrow's men. Wherefore let every one, now careless concerning the boys and girls on the farm, wake up and go to work to solve the greatest of all the questions before the American people: how to save the bright, wide-awake youth for the land and for the right kind of living, and home-making and farming in the country.

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The Kind You Have Always Bought
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Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup is reliable. Why try an unknown medicine when this known remedy gives good results.

DAIRY HERD IN WINTER

First Essential Is That Cows Be Kept Comfortable.

Right Kind of Feed Goes Long Way Toward Bringing About Contented State of Mind—Several Important Factors.

(By W. M. KELLY.)

Good stable management is an important factor in determining the profits from the dairy herd during the winter. The first essential is that the cows be comfortable, because a cow kept otherwise can never do her best.

She must have a comfortable place to lie down, stand up, move and stretch her limbs and lick herself all over the body. She must have sunshine and plenty of light. She must have pure air to breathe, and this means that the stable must be provided with some system of ventilation to give a frequent change of air.

This need not be expensive, only a little forethought and a few dollars' worth of material and labor. She must have good pure water at least twice a day, or better still, have an automatic water basin at her side.

The stable should be cleaned daily, and be thoroughly disinfected. The ceiling, floor and sides should be all smooth and of concrete construction, and the fixtures largely iron. It is not expensive, and they are sanitary and permanent.

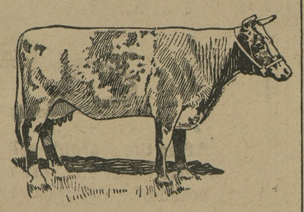
Large, smooth concrete mangers for feeding are about the best we know of today, Judgment and common sense must be exercised in the methods of feeding and handling the cows. Fixed rules in feeding are not practical.

Overfeeding is wasteful; underfeeding is unprofitable. The cows must be well nourished at all times, but if given more than they need for maintenance and production, they waste it as a rule.

Never stir up dust or foul odors at milking time. If you do a lot of it is sure to get into the milk.

Whether to feed the cows just before milking is a much debated question. It is not at all dangerous to feed them a little grain, provided you stir up no dust or disagreeable odors.

As a rule, the cows will give down their milk more freely when they have



Profitable Dairy Type.

contented minds, and a little of the right kind of feed goes a long way toward bringing about this contented state of mind. Never clean the stables just before milking, for it will stir up a tenfold worse odor than any feed the cows will eat.

Surrounding conditions have much to do with the milk-producing value of any ration.

Dairy cows cannot make as good use of whole grain as they can of grain that has been ground.

In the generality of cases, heifers with their first calf do not show as high a test of butterfat as they do at a more mature age.

A period of rest before freshening will usually produce a larger flow of milk than where the animal is milked close up to calving.

A man can better afford to sell butter at the cost of production than to sell grain, that is, when the selling price of the butter includes the feeds and labor at their market value.

HOW TO GROW BLACKBERRIES

Fruit Will Not Thrive In Dry Places, Plenty of Moisture Is Needed—Cultivate Constantly.

Blackberries need plenty of moisture and it will not pay to plant them on the top of some dry knoll; for the fruit will not grow to perfection in such dry places, and it will be hard and sour. Choose a place where the ground is of good quality, and where there is plenty of moisture.

Prepare the ground thoroughly by plowing and harrowing before planting, and make the ground mellow down quite deep where you set the plants. You cannot be too particular in this respect—remember you are setting them out for profit and not simply to see whether they will grow or not. They should be set about four feet apart one way, and eight feet the other way.

Keep the ground loose by constant cultivation, and the sooner you can get a good large bush, the sooner you will get fruit, and keeping the ground loose will help to keep it moist.

Hurt Milk Business.

Before anyone condemns the dairy business, he should make an effort to keep real cows and feed and care for them so they will make a profit. A few of the "weak sisters" meandering around in cows' hides are what put the kibosh on the dairy business.

The Dry Cow.

Some cows should go dry longer than others, but every cow will need a season of rest of at least a month or six weeks. It will be better for her and her unborn calf.

RECIPE FOR GRAY HAIR.

To half pint of water add 1 oz. Bay Rum, a small box of Barbo Compound, and ¼ oz. of glycerine. Apply to the hair twice a week until it becomes the desired shade. Any druggist can put this up or you can mix it at home at very little cost. Full directions for making and use come in each box of Barbo Compound. It will gradually darken streaked, faded gray hair, and removes dandruff. It is excellent for falling hair and will make harsh hair soft and glossy. It will not color the scalp, is not sticky or greasy, and does not rub off.

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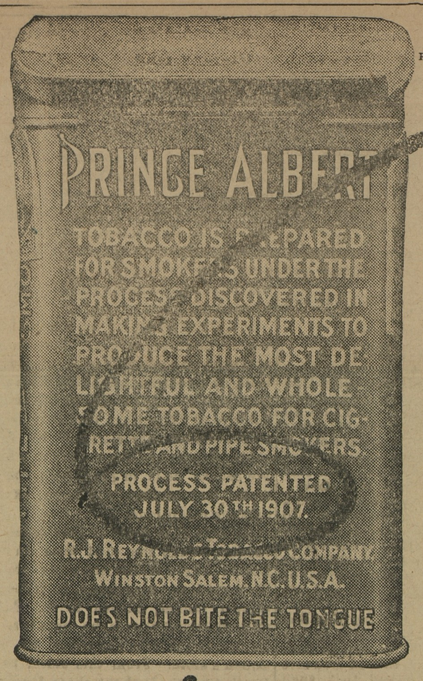

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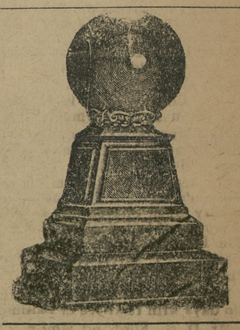

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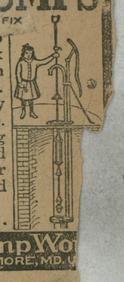

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