

Farming and Agriculture :-: Special Features :-: Interesting Observations

The National Dairy Council of Canada at its meeting on Nov. 27th reaffirmed its adherence to the principle of adequate protection for the Dairy Industry of butter and cheese.

Canada, Supplies of Dairy Products

The stock of creamery butter in the whole of Canada on February 1, 1929, according to the Agricultural Department of the Dominion Government was 10,369,270 lbs. which shows a decrease of 3,052,688 lbs. as compared with the same date of the previous month, and a decrease of 8,666,160 lbs. with a year ago, while the stock of dairy butter on the first of the month was 26,308 lbs. larger than on January first, and 168,897 lbs. in excess of February 1, 1928.

Have Brooder House All Ready For Chicks

CHICKS SHOULD RECEIVE FEED WHEN PLACED IN BROODER

It is a real problem to hatch strong, husky chicks, but possibly a bigger one is to raise them. Whether or not you will be successful depends, to a great extent, upon the attention you give to the details.

One of the first essentials is to have a good brooder house. For the average poultry raiser it should be of such size and weight so that it may be readily moved from one place to another. A brooder house ten by twelve will very nicely take care of 300 chicks and provide plenty of room for the pullets after the cockers are removed when broiler size.

Sanitation Important

The big advantage of a small portable house is that it can be moved to new ground each year. After the chicks have run on the same range several seasons they seem to have removed certain elements from the ground and oftentimes contaminate the soil. Soil contamination is a real danger. Better chicks can practically always be raised on new ground.

If you already have the brooder house, clean it and the equipment in your spare time and give the walls a coat of whitewash containing some good disinfectant. Set up the stoves so if any of the parts are missing or worn out you have plenty of time to replace them. Have everything in readiness when needed.

Two days before you expect to put the chicks in the brooder, start the stove. This will give you time to see if everything is working correctly and give you a chance to regulate the thermostat. The temperature in the brooder house for the first week should be 95 degrees. Place the thermometer about two inches from the floor and at the outer edge of the hover.

The chicks themselves are the best indicators you have with regard to proper temperature. When they encircle the brooder stove at the outer edge of the hover with bodies flattened, the heat is just right. If they stand with their mouth open they are too hot and if they pile in a huddle it is too low or you are troubled with floor drafts.

Feed Chick Starter

It is best to hold the chicks in the incubator or in baby chick shipping boxes until they are 48 hours old when ready to receive their first feed. Before putting them into the brooder spread newspaper over the litter and sprinkle some Chick Starter to which a small amount of granite grit has been added on the paper. Putting the

chicks on paper will help to teach them what is feed and avoid their filling up on litter. Litter eaters have usually little room for nourishment so ordinarily a great many die after the yolk has been absorbed. The paper may be removed after the third or fourth day.

Put the chicks in the brooder late in the afternoon. Place a half inch mesh wire or a galvanized iron ring or tar paper around the hover, allowing enough room for the chicks to get away from the direct heat when they desire. This makes it impossible for the chicks to get into the corners of the house and become cold or chilled. The fence should be moved out each day giving the chicks more space so that by the fourth day they have to run of the brooder.

Chicks must be fed when they are put in the brooder house. For the first few weeks they should be receiving nothing but a soft easily digested mash. Feed a good Chick Starter, preferably and oatmeal base mash. The first few weeks are commonly known as the critical period and a great deal depends upon the feed and care you give the chicks during that time.

Ceylon is having a road problem in the hoards of bullock carts which, with their heavy loads, narrow iron ties and wobbly wheels, destroy new auto highways almost as soon as they are laid.

That he had lived nine miles from a railway during the 18 years of his life and had never seen a train until recently, was told by a boy to a Williton, England, official.

With rooms for 150 guests, a hotel at Antrim, England, which is becoming a popular vacation resort, has not a single bathroom, and the town itself has no water supply.

For rescuing a parrot which got caught in a tree top and hung by a string tied to its leg, at Knowle, England, M. Barling has been awarded a medal.

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Davis & Fraser

NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

THERE'S COMFORT IN COMPANY

Some interesting facts were brought to light at the meeting of the National Dairy Council at Toronto, whose report is just to hand. As has been brought home to the agricultural interests of our Province, despite a bountiful harvest in 1928, seeing that prices were lower, money was stringent. It appears that the Old World, too, suffered, and of all countries, Denmark, wealthy little go-ahead Denmark, suffered as well. The report states: the data upon this point were compiled from complete operating accounts of some three hundred representative farms, of varying acreage and situated in different parts of the country (D. C., Denmark).

The average figures per acre for all the farms included in this compilation, show that for the year 1926-7 the investments in land, buildings, live stock implements and supplies, amounted to \$284.00 per acre; that the gross returns reached the sum of \$81.00, and the operating cost \$78.30, leaving a net return of \$2.70 per acre, or slightly under one per cent on the capital investment. The year 1925-6 yielded .9 per cent; but the year 1924-5 yielded 9.1 per cent and the year 1923-4 yielded 8.1 per cent on the investment.

By the way, how many farmers here keep "complete operating accounts"? No time, say you? Well, the Dane works harder than you do, and if he got no benefit from his "complete accounts", depend on it he would not keep them. More about him tomorrow.

CROWS VS. SONG BIRDS

It is universally admitted—and I mean all over the world—that birds are becoming scarcer, especially the smaller insectivorous species. Certain groups are increasing undoubtedly, but this does not affect the general issue. If two eggs only of other species of birds are destroyed in the rearing of a single crow, there is a decrease in the bird population, while the crow group is increased.

The decrease in our birds is a serious menace to the farmer, though he does not yet recognize it—more's the pity. Man has exterminated many species of birds, and beasts, and even threatens the fishes; but since the world began, he has not killed out a single race of insects. And if it had been for his neglected little helpers, the birds, man himself must have given way before the vast fecundity and voracity of the insect tribes.

The Colorado potato beetle is a striking example. We have no bird here which appears to relish this insect in any stage so that in order to save a very valuable part of his crop, the farmer has been obliged to employ much labor and equipment against this one enemy, and his vigilance must never flag.

However, there are other insects in this Province which would be just as troublesome were it not for the natural checks to their multiplication—chiefly the birds.

It follows then in protecting the smaller birds, we are protecting ourselves; and here is where we come into contact with the Crow.

It appears that the General Headquarters of the crows on this Island are in the densely wooded area of the Victoria Park. Thousands of them collect there in the fall, hold their conventions, and thereafter somewhat probably the younger crows go South. But great numbers are left, and these

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have learned to fit themselves to an unpromising environment, and can pick up a living in all but our hardest winters. They must live near town at that season.

It is futile to attempt to shoot them in their winter quarters; the crow is a very wary bird, and the effect would be to disperse them from the Park into some other thickly wooded area. Force is no remedy in this, as in many other cases; but what force cannot accomplish strategy can. The remedy is trapping in the winter season. Jack Miner, by a trap of his own invention, captured them by the hundred. Jack's trap is a large structure of chicken-wire and iron-pipe, but he says an effective trap may be constructed of old fishing net and poles, at a cost of five dollars, and he is prepared to send the plan of it to anyone interested.

This then, is the means of keeping down the numbers of this destructive bird, in the winter time; in the spring the problem is different. Then the crows are dispersed throughout the length and breadth of the land; food is plentiful—especially the eggs and young of other birds—and under such conditions trapping is impossible.

However, the apathy of the general public, and those who should be interested in the preservation of our bird life, is so great that I do not think any thing will be done, until it is possibly too late.

Improvement In Our Herds

(By C. E. MacKENZIE)

ARTICLE II.

In a previous article a way was laid down how the average farmer might improve his herd by the purchase of two or more heifer calves—and I purpose in this article to show how he can still improve at a small cost namely: by the keeping of records of all the herd over a period of years, so that the unprofitable cow may be eliminated, and as like begets like, by keeping only the heifers of the best producers he may, in say five years, increase the revenue from his herd by at least one third, which would be almost clear profit. This cow-testing work is absolutely essential if we are going to build up high producing grade and pure bred herds in Prince Edward Island. And, after all, we should be interested and extremely anxious to improve our herds, because a proper system of farming is really dependent on our milking herds for the monthly cash to enable us to carry on under present conditions. Let me say that the average herd can be improved considerably if the owner would get the habit, and take the small amount of time necessary to keep individual records. Too many low producing cows are to be found in the average herd in this province, and yet a great many farmers are content to be the slave of these poor cows and do not use the means at hand to improve their conditions, notwithstanding both local and federal departments are ready to render valuable help.

I do not know how many farms are keeping records, but the percentage of the total is small, and they are not getting the quick, substantial improvement that is the reward of work with the scales and Babcock test.

If we could have in this Province twenty percent or one-fifth of our milk cows under systematic test in place of about one half of one per cent, as at present, I would not doubt for one moment but that the production of our cows could be increased by one third in five years. It would mean much to the dairy industry in particular, and to every branch of business in the Province. The revenues from the farm would be increased by many thousands of dollars and it would be accomplished with very little extra expense, because there would not necessarily be any increase in the number of dairy cattle kept on each farm.

Splendid results have been accomplished by farmers of other provinces in adapting a good cow-testing system and I feel that we should be able to do likewise and I would like to see Island dairymen get behind a progressive system for this Province. It seems to me that, until our dairymen organize themselves for the purpose of individual cow-testing with the aim for better production, this work will never be permanent enough to give the best results.

Improved herds cannot come in one year or in two, but a great improvement can generally be made over a five or six year period. It is up to the dairy farmers to get organized in each and every dairy district and support the work in every

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In correcting mineral nutrition cod liver meal practically eliminates the common mineral deficiency troubles such as poor soft bones, paralysis, and thin weak shelled eggs. It makes possible the raising of good chicks at any time of the year and in any kind of weather.

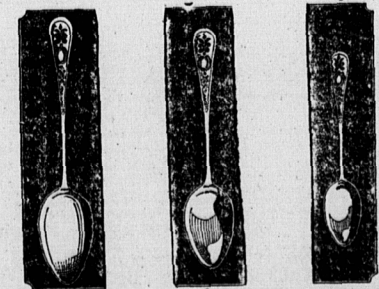
Helps Purify the Blood

While cod liver meal is fairly rich in Vitamin D, that is not its most valuable property. Cod liver meal in common with all the other tissues has the property of very markedly improving the condition of the blood. You are probably familiar with the fact that calves liver costs from three to four times as much today as it did five years ago, because the doctors are recommending the use of it in the case of anaemia or as a regular part of the diet to keep the blood in the very best condition.

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It also provides some unknown factors that have a direct effect on the hatchability of eggs. If you figure on hatching eggs from your flock or sell hatching eggs, you cannot afford to overlook this feature.

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