

THE MAGAZINE GUARDIAN For Parents, Teachers, Pupils, Dairymen, Farmers, Horsemen

TO THE FARMER

Farmers and others interested are invited to contribute to The Farm, The Dairy, The Turf, and Good Roads departments of the Guardian either by question, correspondence or otherwise.

Contributors are asked to have their articles at this office early each week, as only a short emergency item can be handled as late as one p. m. Wednesday.

THE SCHOOL AND THE HOME

Contributors for this department should be addressed to President Teacher's Association, Guardian's School and Home, P. O. Box 188 Charlottetown.

FOR BUSY HOUSEWIVES.

To cool Jellies, etc., in a short time, take a handful of salt and the same of soda; put in a bowl of water, and stand the jelly mould in it.

When eggs are not required for immediate use, put the yolks in a basin and barely cover with cold water; place a plate on the basin to exclude the cold air, and stand in a dark, cool place until required for use.

When roasting a fowl in a gas stove put three tablespoonfuls of water into the meat tin at the bottom of the stove. You will find the steam will make the bird tender, and obviate the necessity for continually basting it.

After boiling a piece of ham or bacon the liquor should be allowed to stand until cold; the fat should then be skimmed off and the water pressed from it. It can then be used for pastry, which will be found beautifully light.

Should the knob come off the pan or kettle, a screw should be slipped through the hole with the head inside of the lid, and a cork screwed on to the protruding end; this will make a knob that will not get dirty and that can be replaced at any time.

Before wearing new kid gloves, if they are laid between the folds of a damp cloth for an hour they will be found much easier to put on. The damp causes the kid to become more pliable, so that it will stretch to the required shape without cracking or splitting, and if rubbed with a piece of stale bread every time they are taken off they will never need to be sent to a cleaner's. Gloves treated in this way will last a long time.

After using a gas stove for baking leave the door open a little while to allow the heat to escape. This will prevent sweating and rusting.

Fish should be very carefully examined and thoroughly cleaned. After being well washed, fish that is to be fried needs drying well in a clean cloth. If the fish feels slimy rub it well with a little salt. Scales should be scraped off with a knife, scraping from the tail upwards, and the fish well rinsed afterwards. If, sometimes the fish with fresh water, the scales are hard to remove, as is fish, dip the fish in boiling water for a moment.

The color of boiled poultry does much to commend it, or otherwise, displeases the eye. It should be white, and to obtain this result, put whatever has to be blanched into a small quantity of cold water; when it boils throw the meat into cold water for a few minutes; then cook it in the usual way. Boiled meats, as well as rabbits and chickens should be boiled in calico whilst boiling in order that they may come to table without discoloration.

When slicing bacon place it with the rind side down, and do not cut through the rind. When the slices are cut, slip the knife under them as possible.

To test butter, take a clean piece of white paper, smear a little of the butter on it, roll up the paper, and set it on fire. If the butter is pure the smell will be rather pleasant, but the odor is distinctly tallowy if the butter is made up wholly or in part of animal fats.

When cooking vegetables remember that all vegetables which grow above ground should be put into boiling water, and all which grow underground in cold water, with the exception of new potatoes.

Do not use too much force in polishing shoes. A gentle brushing with a soft brush than the vigorous work of the bootblack. Never allow a thick crust of blacking on your shoes. Wash it off occasionally and apply a little castor oil; then polish over in an hour or two.

Milk which has slightly turned may be sweetened and rendered fit for use again by stirring in a little soda.

Dish-mops may be kept odorless by having a solution of soda in a jar beside the sink, and placing the mops in this when they are not in use.

Corks boiled for five minutes before use, in the case of bottles, etc., can be easily pressed in, and then make perfectly airtight stoppers.

THE DAIRY

THE DARK DAIRY BARN

Dampness Forms Where Daylight is Excluded

While there are but few dairy barns that are really sufficiently lighted at any time, the number of dark barns during the Winter months are much

greater than during the Summer, since most dairymen, in their efforts to make the quarters snug and warm for the animals through severe Winter weather, bar much of the light by closing up all openings through which the sun's rays can enter.

The dark dairy barn is more apt to be damp since dampness is sure to form where the sunlight never is allowed to penetrate and this with the liquids passed by the cows, forms an ideal seedbed for establishing rheumatism and other diseases among the herd, while the absence of light further encourages the accumulation of all sorts of disease germs.

Another most undesirable feature of the dark dairy barn is its detrimental effect on the eyesight of the herd. The animals are confined in their dark quarters for several hours, perhaps several days at times, which somewhat accustoms them to the gloomy atmosphere. Being turned into the open sunlight again, the sudden change strains and paralyzes the optic nerves, thus seriously affecting the eyesight. A limited amount of light admitted in front of the cows in their stalls will rectify this great mistake. The opening of the manure holes—if you are not equipped with a modern litter carrier—may be resorted to immediately when the weather is clear, but there are times when the practice would expose the herd to severe weather, the light supply must be made ample and permanent by the installation of regular frames for holding glass to admit the proper amount of light required for the general well-being of the herd.—H. W. Snowe, Danville, Pa.

And while you are making the barn lighter, see that it is equipped with modern stalls, stanchions, litter carriers, etc.—Farm Life.

THE GOOD MILKER.

Some cows, it will be noticed, have the escutcheon extending from the outside of one thigh to the outside of the other, while in other cows the ascending hair barely reaches over the hump of the adder to the inside of the thigh. The condition of the hair varies, too, and also the color of the skin under the hair. These things all help to indicate the usefulness of the cows for milking or butter purposes, and must be noticed when studying her different qualities and points. For example, if a cow has a fine hair on her udder with a very fine hair on it, you may be sure she is a good milker. Again, if the skin is yellow and found to have greasy scales on it, the cow will be a rich milker whether she belongs to a butter breed or not. Now, on the other hand, if the hair is narrow and long and the hair coarse and long and not particularly thick, the cow will be a poor milker with poor quality milk. Hence it will be seen that the internal capacity of the udder is indicated by the escutcheon.

MILK FOR BUTTER-MAKING

High-grade Butter—Needs Good Quality Milk. The impressions is general among farmers that the milk used in butter-making is of little consequence. Any fluid outfit for utilization in the natural condition is also unfit for use in butter manufacture. Quality in butter is directly due to the attention given the milk during the drawing process, and the method of handling it is possible for milk to be so impregnated with food taints as to render it worthless for butter-making. The feeding of strong flavored foods, as cabbage and soured milk, will cause the milk to become objectionably flavored.

Quaint stable odors in milk intended for butter. There is much butter that has the characteristic flavor of every stable smell. Pure air produced by perfect ventilation will do much to free butter of its objectionable tastes. The cows, too, must be kept clean and brushed and the floors and gutters well cleaned. If there is the slightest possibility of stable odors gaining admittance to milk, cool and aerate it immediately after drawing. If the separation of the cream is not to take place for several hours after milking, hold the milk in a temperature below 50 degrees.

It is just as important to exercise every care in the handling of milk for butter-making as for fluid milk, and to this end the milking itself, the utensils used in conveying and holding the milk, and the storage place must be clean. The utensils should not only be washed thoroughly after using, but they must also be exposed to live steam or boiling water before using. On most farms milk for butter-making is kept where it can absorb these odors and holding them, imparting them to the ultimate product, butter. Keep the milk from the time it is drawn until ready for churning in an atmosphere that is sweet and pure.

No matter how carefully butter is made, it will be of good quality only if the milk is held in high temperature. The first essential in the production of high-grade butter is quality milk, and the production of quality milk involves the selection of healthy cows, feeds maintenance, clean stables, utensils properly cleaned and sterilized, careful handling of the milk, its holding at a low temperature and an immaculate storage compartment. Better butter can be made on every farm if more discretion is exercised in the production and caring for the milk from which the butter is made.

POULTRY

DRESSING THE FOWLS FOR MARKET.

When the chicken is singed, pluck and draw in the usual manner, taking care not to burst the gall bladder of the entrails. The giblets, consisting of the heart, liver and gizzard, should be cleaned at once and put into salt water until ready to deliver. For splitting the chicken down the back there is nothing better than the French kitchen carver of medium size—a tri-

angular shaped knife, which should be very sharp. The wedge shape of the blade makes it a good one with which to cut through the bones. The neck should be removed close to the breast and put into the center of the place where the neck was attached to the backbone, and cut down on top of the latter through the skin and flesh only. This will guide you in making the second cut through the bones, and enable you to cut straight, the result will be ragged and unsightly. After you become skilled in cutting open a chicken in this manner, you will be able to do it before it is drawn. The oil gland above the tail should be cut out, and the chicken laid skin down on the table. In order to make it flat on the broiler, the curving ribs are scored twice with the French knife; they can then be broken through by being bent back with the hands. Those who broil chickens will appreciate this.

For those who fry the broilers, the chicken should be gibleted, with the giblets in the absence of special instructions; two wings with tips removed; two legs; two second joints; boned if desired; the wishbone piece; the rack, flattened by scoring with the knife; the back, split down the middle; and the breast divided, unless you are asked to leave it on with the wings. To pack the broilers for delivery, use waxed paper of suitable size. Lay the chicken with the inside surface together, fold the paper neatly, making a square package. The giblets should be packed inside the chicken. To deliver the cut chicken for frying, nothing is better than the three-pint ice cream box, used by the grocers for delivering many things. It can be bought in the flat cheaply.

The roasters, which come into season late in the fall, should also be dry-plucked and cleaned. There are many variations from established customs, except that housewives generally desire to have them trussed as well as cleaned. They look better on the dish when trussed before roasting. Use great care in making the vents at front and rear, and in roasting. The vents should be made with the cut of a sharp knife, and not longer than absolutely needed. The neck vent should be neatly sewed after the chicken is cleaned, a coarse linen thread or fine cord being used. Long ends should be left so that the thread can be pulled out easily by the neck when the chicken is ready to be served. You should aim to locate all the internal organs of the chicken by the sense of touch. This will enable you to work in a very small vent. Remember that the appearance of a food product makes a great deal for its sale. The purchase, and to sell pan-dressed chickens, they must be daintily prepared.

SETTING A HEN.

In these days of the incubator possible, very few people set hens, but the small poultry keeper will find it necessary at some time or other to set a hen. For the benefit of those who are making a start or are inexperienced, it may be said that if a box is selected it should not be too large. It should be just big enough to contain the hen comfortably.

A handy size is a box fifteen inches long, fifteen inches wide and sixteen inches high. It will be an advantage to fit it with a wire netting door, and to nail wire netting over the bottom. A good plan is to place a sod of turf at the bottom, arranging it so that there is a slight hollow in the middle and on top of this build up the nest of hay.

Before putting the hen on her eggs it is desirable to give her a good dusting with insect powder, taking care to get it well under the wings. Unless the hen is a very big one, do not put more than nine or ten eggs under her if early in the season. She should have a big feed of maize before starting her labors, and there is no better grain than this for her regular diet. Wheat and barley may sometimes be given for a change.

She should come off her nest at the same time every day (the morning is the best time) and remain off it from ten to twenty minutes, and in cold weather a shorter period. A hen sits best in partial darkness, but is provided with this it should be remembered that ventilation is a necessity. Most hens make good sitters, but bad ones are sometimes met with and require coaxing to return to their nests. Patience will generally overcome difficulties of this character.

SCORE CARD FOR EGGS.

Here is one of the best prepared score card for eggs that we have yet seen. The standard size for an egg is that it should weigh two ounces or one dozen eggs should weigh one and one-half pounds. The shape is oval and it should be smooth in surface:

Table with 2 columns: Attribute and Score. Attributes include Size, Cleanliness, Shape, Shell Color, Shell Texture, Fulness, Quality and Firmness of Yolk, Firmness of White.

PIGS

SANITATION IN HOG RAISING

It may be a bit far-fetched to say that cleanliness is akin to godliness in the hog pen. At the same time the general rules of hygiene that apply to all classes of live stock, apply just as strongly to the hog, and intelligent use of these rules is repaid by success in the business of pork production. The hog is not a dirty animal. If given a chance, he gets lice, mange, cholera and tuberculosis because his owner compels him to live, and expects him to thrive, under unhealthy conditions. Pure air, pure water and sunshine, and plenty of all, with exercise, are

the simple and cheap tonics that are most needed in the feeding ration and habit of Mr. Hog. How many of you hog raisers have so constructed your hog houses so as to give the hog a chance at these most necessary provisions of Nature? Do your hogs have to huddle a quarter of a mile over rough and frozen ground to get a drink of ice cold water? If they do it is a certainty that they are not getting as much water as is needed for healthy growth and the best gains for early maturity. Put as much of the water in the food in the form of slops as possible during the winter, and serve it in clean troughs without the chill of ice.

Most of you who feel the nip of weather clean razors 40 degrees below zero may scout that the idea of the hog not being able to get plenty of fresh air these winter days. Where proper quarters are provided the hog will have no trouble getting his share of air, but many farmers who keep but a few hogs allow them to pile up in a cavity under the eaves, where they wallow in dust which is breathed by the hogs causing them to cough and wheeze and become an easy prey to pneumonia and tuberculosis. Plenty of fresh, bright straw that is changed often enough to make the bedding dry and clean all times, the idea of the hog not being able to get plenty of fresh air these winter days. 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