

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. Other by question, correspondence, otherwise. Answers will be given by experts to all questions of general interest and space will be given to any article that will in any way help to advance Prince Edward Island interests.

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. All received after that hour cannot appear until the following week.

THE SCHOOL AND THE HOME

PRUNE WHIP.

$\frac{1}{2}$ pound prunes.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar.
Whites of 3 eggs.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of sweet cream.
Cook prunes in very soft, remove seeds and beat to light and foamy. Add sugar and the eggs beaten stiff. When ready to serve, put a spoonful of the cream, whipped and sweetened over it. This serves ten people.

A FRENCH DISH.

Brown in a spider 1 onion; when brown add $\frac{1}{2}$ pound hamburger steak; when thoroughly cooked add 1 cup cold boiled rice; put all in a baking dish. Pour over all 1 can tomatoes; sprinkle cracker crumbs on top and brown nicely in slow oven.

FANCY BAKED POTATOES.

Take six large baked potatoes, cut in halves lengthways, scrape out all the white part in a granite kettle, season and stir in enough hot cream to heat nicely. Add the well-beaten whites of 2 eggs and fill the potato cases. Glaze top with the beaten yolks of eggs and put in oven to brown. Serve hot.

NEW FRUIT CAKE.

$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. chopped dates.
1 cup seeded raisins.
1 tsp. soda dissolved in 2 tsp. warm water.
1 cup thick, very sour cream; stir this all together and then add 1 cup brown sugar.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup currant or blackberry jelly.
1 tsp. allspice.
1 tsp. cinnamon.
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour.
Beat thoroughly, add fruit, and put in square bread pan. Bake 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours in slow oven. Keep one week before cutting.

BUYING POULTRY

A Few Hints for the Housewife Who Has No Flock at Home

The farmer's wife should never have to buy poultry from a store, but for those less happily situated a knowledge of the necessary good points in a table bird will not come amiss.

What is usually desired in the poultry line is a chicken, and this rightly means a young male; the young female is a pullet and the old female is a hen, while the old male is a rooster. In dressed poultry, the chicken or cockerel is more usually found than the pullet because the latter is withheld from slaughter on account of her economic value to the poultry raiser, rather than because of any inferiority in the favor of her flesh or because of a weight of carcass that is less than that of the male.

Unless the intention of the buyer is to boil the meat, a young bird will be dressed and to make sure that no old hen or rooster is being substituted for the desired chicken, the breast-bone of the bird should be examined by the person who intends to eat it. The breast-bone of a young bird terminates in gristle which yields easily to pressure, and can be distinguished from the broken breast-bone, which must be looked out for, as this state is brought about frequently by dishonest vendors with the intention of deceiving the customer. The appearance of the legs helps to show the age of the male; no spurs indicate an age of not more than four months; a small spur will be present at six or seven months, but if the spur is half an inch long the chance is that the bird is an old one. The age of the female is not so easily determined as that of the male but the condition of the feet is a fair indication, in the case of the young bird, the scales on the feet are smooth, but in the old one, thick and hard. The old bird is also more hairy than the young, but its flesh being tougher stands plucking better and on that account is smoother than the flesh of a younger bird. A scalded bird, however, appears the same whether young or old, as regards the flesh, and should be avoided anyhow.

Capons are so rare on the Canadian market that only the very well-to-do housewife thinks of them; they can be recognized by the smallness of their combs or the entire absence of them. Signs of the male when the birds are of a weight and age that would necessitate a well-developed comb, if not caponized.

Turkeys

Because Thanksgiving and Christmas are over the reason that turkeys should not be eaten, so long as cold weather continues, provided any are to be found on the market. A hen turkey, up to ten or twelve pounds is more satisfactory than a

tom of the same weight, and as only a small proportion of the hens are kept for breeding the hens for sale are as numerous as the toms. If a large turkey is desired, then the tom is the better bird as it can remain young up to twenty pounds, while the hen gets too old in making more than twelve pounds.

THE DAIRY

FRESH AIR FOR STOCK

Visit dairy barns where stock have been kept overnight or during the day and notice how much fresh air is allowed each head of stock. There is ample reason why often dairymen should not buy or do not buy high-priced feeds, but there is no reasonable excuse why dairymen should not use all the necessary fresh air which is just as essential to economical milk production as are the high-priced feeds which they hesitate to buy. Too frequently the stable windows are closed with no possible chance for ventilation. This means in a very short time in most barns where several head of stock are kept that there will be a larger proportion of foul air than of fresh air.

Furthermore the various other gases which will be given up, such as ammonia, will make the air so foul that the health of the animals will be greatly impaired if kept under such conditions long. Why not put a ventilating system in your barn to keep your cows in good health, so that they will be able to consume large amounts of feed and consequently produce more milk? Open your windows, taking proper precautions not to allow drafts to blow on stock, and even though the air is lower in temperature the stock will be better off and will give as much milk if properly cared for.

POULTRY

SORTING EGGS

The best quality of poultry and eggs will command the highest prices in the right markets. The man or woman who keeps 50 hens or more should constantly strive to put her products up in the best possible way. To do this eggs should be gathered frequently during the hot weather, as well as in the cold weather. When gathered they should be placed in a cool, dry cellar, where they should be graded ready for market. Even if just doing a small private trade it is well to do this, as it establishes a good habit for future bigger business. This sorting should be done with great care. First all cracked and soiled eggs should be removed and sold at home. We all know what a variety of colors and sizes we get in a basket of fresh gathered eggs from one breed. These different colors and sizes are better to be graded in order to have a uniformity of appearance. Of course all very small and abnormally large eggs should also stay at home.

SPROUTED OATS FOR HEN FEED

In purchasing oats, with the intention of sprouting the same to provide green feed for poultry, the poultry man should satisfy himself that the oats will sprout. This kind of grain is sometimes treated with sulphur to make it more attractive, and such a treatment will not sprout. Green feed is essential in keeping hens in a healthy condition, and where provision of green vegetables has not been made, sprouted oats are most satisfactory on account of the good small amount of space necessary for keeping quality of the grain and the fact that they will sprout.

The only requirement in the sprouting of oats is a warm, moist atmosphere, for they will not grow satisfactorily in a temperature below 60 degrees. They will grow to a height of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches in 10 days if they are kept at a temperature of 60 to 65 degrees. A place near the furnace in the cellar is very desirable, providing there is a sufficient amount of light to keep the oats green. The oats should be soaked for 12 hours in warm water and then spread out in a layer of one inch on a flat board or floor in a tray or tier of flats which have openings or holes or a 3.16 inch mesh wire bottom, so that the water drains freely. They should be sprinkled daily with warm water and allowed to sprout without stirring.

SOME POULTRY POINTERS.

Even though the weather should set in cold—and we may expect it to do so now—never shut your fowls up too closely at night. Give them plenty of ventilation, but see that they do not roost in a draught. Close, stuffy houses are a certain cause of colds, leading to bronchial complaints and roup. A canvas covering over the window of the house will afford ample protection even in

the most severe weather. Lime in some form is indispensable to laying hens, and most poultry-keepers provide it in the form of crushed oyster-shell. But this material, it should be borne in mind, is of no use to male birds or to hens that are not laying. It merely provides material for shell formation, and does not perform, as many imagine, the function of flint grit. The latter is indispensable to fowls at all times to enable them to digest their food.

To readers interested in geese it may be of advantage to know that old geese lay more, larger, and more reliable eggs than young ones, that there is less risk in using young geanders than old geese for brooding, and that the proportion of fertile eggs produced by a goose in the second year of laying is always greater than the first. It is also worth noting that geese which are moved about from place to place do not lay satisfactorily.

Many poultry-keepers do not realize the necessity of giving the fowls green stuff in winter. It should be remembered that green food is to fowls what fruit and vegetables are to us. Cabbage is particularly valuable because it contains a large proportion of nitrogen and thus balances the carbon of grain foods.

To promote laying many resort to spicy condiments, some of which are most harmful. The following egg-producing mixture is, however, quite innocuous and efficacious: Ground linseed oil, 1 lb.; ground sulphate, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; and 4 lbs. of locust meal. Mix well and add one teaspoonful to the soft food for each three fowls.

Many have failed in trying to produce a strain of fowls possessing a combination of exhibition laying, and table qualities. It cannot be done. The fowls must be bred year after year for one definite object alone. If one has egg production in view the strain of layers. Such birds may cost more than those from haphazard sources, but they are the cheapest birds should emanate from a fixed line in the end.

HINTS ON CHICKEN-RAISING

(By a Special Correspondent.)

When chickens are fully feathered, that is when they are from six to eight weeks old, they should be taken from the hen and put in a separate part of the field, or better still, in a separate grass-field at some distance from the farm buildings. They should be at such a distance from the farm buildings that they will not find their way back to their old ground, nor mix with the general flock of hens. The best time to move them to their new quarters is when it is nearly dark. If kept shut up in the house all next day and only let out at dusk for a feed, they will usually return quietly to their new house. If not, and if inclined to wander back to their old ground, a ring of wire netting may be put round their new house for a day or two in the form of a run.

The chickens should be put in movable wooden houses or "Night Arks," measuring about 4 feet long, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, and 3 feet high, with sloping roof. This size would hold about 40, but it could be made smaller for a less number of chickens. It is not advisable, however, to crowd more than 40 together, nor to make larger houses, as they would be rather heavy to handle easily. The house should be either mounted on low wheels, or fitted with a handle of wire netting, so that it may be moved a little every day to fresh ground. It can be made of any rough, inexpensive boards, as long as the seams are close or covered by laths to exclude rain and draughts. Draughty houses are dangerous and cause colds, stunted growth, or even death. The floor of the house should be well ventilated by holes bored in the ends quite close to the roof. The roof can be covered with a piece of old linoleum, or roofing felt, to make it waterproof.

The floor should be in the form of a grating, made of wooden bars about one inch square, and fixed six inches above the ground. This allows the droppings to fall through. The sides and ends of the house should come close down to the ground. There should be an opening in front, measuring two feet each way, with a sliding or hinged door to close at night. There should be no roosts or perches; fowls must never be allowed to sit on roosts till fully grown, or it would cause deformed breast-bones.

The houses can be easily and cheaply made on the farm as they are, and if given a coat of tar or creosote, and taken indoors all winter, they will last for years.

As before, the grass-land must be fresh and clean, so that the chickens may pick up worms, grubs, green food, etc., to ensure sound, healthy growth, and also to help reduce the food bill.

The food from six to twelve weeks old may continue for a time much the same as before two soft "mash" and one feed of dry grain a day. The first feed of the day, so as to provide the chickens with scratching exercise, hunting in the grass for it.

AMONG THE HORSES

It is said that over in Sheboygan, Maine, the farmers are buying oxen for use in their work next spring. The high price of horses is the cause.

Royal McKinney, 2.07 $\frac{1}{2}$, Miss Rilda, 2.08 $\frac{1}{2}$, Sis Blingen, 2.19 $\frac{1}{2}$, and a half sister to Joan, 2.04 $\frac{1}{2}$, by Silko, 2.08 $\frac{1}{2}$ are recent additions to the Murphy stable.

Irving Pottle, the Maine teamster, who had such success last season, has a black pacer, by Joe Patchen, 2.01 $\frac{1}{2}$, eligible to the slow classes, that is expected to win some races in 1916.

Hot Metal, a four-year-old pacer by Cochato, 2.11 $\frac{1}{2}$, out of Ace of Hearts, by Elector, recently died at Oak Ridge Farm, Sandwick, Ont. The young stallion was bred by Arthur H. Parker, of Boston, owner of Shaw-sheen River Farm, Bedford, Mass.

J. J. Lillis, from the Marrone stable ran a fast mile at New Orleans last week, covering the distance in 1:37.45, breaking the former track record of 1:38 $\frac{3}{4}$. The American record for the mile is 1:36 $\frac{1}{4}$, made by R. T. Wilson's Amal made at Syracuse in 1914. The Canadian record for the distance over a Canadian track is 1:37.35 made by Cliff Edge owned by Dick Watkins at Fort Erie in 1911. J. J. Lillis is a brown gelding by Bannockburn-Tooty Mack, and is five years old. J. J. Lillis ran with considerable success on the New York and Maryland tracks last summer.

Charlie Barrett of Parkhill, Ont., has sold his crack trotter, Maggie Bond, 2.17 $\frac{1}{2}$, to George Hance of Toronto, for \$2,000 and the mare will race at Ottawa and Montreal under the new ownership. Maggie Bond started four times at Toronto, winning the quartette of races, by taking into camp a smart field each time.

Jacob Ruppert, the New York horseman, who died last May, left personal property valued at \$6,000,000, according to his will. Of the personal property at the Hudson River Stock Farm at Poughkeepsie, the horses are valued at a total of \$51,672.21. Some of the most valuable animals are the stallions Guy Axworthy, one-half interest \$1,250; Wurttemberg, \$1,000 and Blueglock, \$1,000.

An interesting race was contested at St. John last week between Pearl Pick, owned by Emery Campbell and Happy Lad, owned by William Lawson. The race was for a side bet of \$25 and was best three out of five heats. Pearl Pick won the first two heats, and Happy Lad took the following three and the race. In the second heat Pearl Pick covered the half mile in 1:11 $\frac{1}{2}$, which is exceptionally good time under the circumstances.

A fire at Dundas, Ont., last Sunday, was the cause of the loss of one of Canada's most valuable harness horses, owned by Billy Brink, b. h. 6, by Wild Brino, Jr. Billy Brink was the most sensational pacer last winter over the ice tracks, and won so uniformly over the Michigan short-spur circuit last summer that his owner, Mr. Crow, of Chatham, refused an offer of \$5,000 at Detroit, where he carried a mark of 2.07 $\frac{1}{2}$ over a half mile track.

THE MARKETS

TORONTO	
Hogs Off Cars	\$9.85
Cattle	8.00
Lamb	11.75
Barley	.60c
TORONTO	
Butter	33c
Eggs	35c
Cheese (large)	19c
MONTREAL	
Hogs Off Cars	\$10.25
Cattle	8.00
Lamb	10.00
MONTREAL	
Butter	35 $\frac{1}{4}$ c
Eggs	52c
Cheese (large)	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ c
BUFFALO	
Hogs Fed and Watered	\$7.25
Cattle	9.00
Lamb	11.00
Barley	.86c
NEW YORK	
Butter	34c
Eggs	43c
Cheese (large)	18c

Butter Market.	
Farmers, Creamery Separator, Prints	
This week	30 38
Last week	30 33
Two weeks ago	30 33
Same week 1915	27 29
1914	26 29
1913	26 27 $\frac{1}{2}$
1912	26 35
Egg Market.	
New-Laid	
This week	45
Last week	45
Two weeks ago	48
Same week 1915	35
1914	37
1913	27
1912	40

Grain Market.	
Wheat	Oats
This week	\$1.10
Last week	1.06
Two weeks ago	1.05
Same week 1915	1.30
1914	92
1913	97
1912	97

Sheep Market.	
Ewes	Lambs
This week	\$8.00
Last week	7.75
Two weeks ago	7.50
Same week 1915	6.00
1914	6.75
1913	6.00
1912	5.90

Cattle Market.	
This week	\$8.00
Last week	7.75
Two weeks ago	7.80
Same week 1915	9.00
1914	9.00
1913	7.00
1912	6.80

Hog Market.	
Top price off cars	
This week	\$8.85
Last week	9.50
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