



MARITIME VIEWPOINT
Premier Matheson of Prince Edward Island addresses meeting of Nova Scotia Film Bureau Photo Inces in Province House, Halifax.

Caution Urged In Feeding Saluble Grit To Poultry

In the poultry world the term "grit" is used rather loosely, being applied to both the so-called soluble and insoluble grits. The former are the calcium bearing materials, such as calcitic limestone and oyster shells, which are fed primarily because of their calcium content for bone building and egg shell formation. The latter are the insoluble compounds, such as silica, and granite which are fed because of the apparent need of the birds for some hard material to grind the feed in the gizzard, or, in other words, to supply the birds with teeth.

EXCESSIVE GRIT HARMFUL

Practical poultrymen feed grit to hens, presumably to help them grind up the feed in the gizzard, and they have received encouragement in this practice from scientific poultrymen, despite the fact investigation frequently indicated that it was not necessary and, in some cases, might even be harmful. It is generally agreed that excessive grit may be harmful to young chickens particularly if the particles are sharp or very hard.

SUGGESTS STUPIDITY

The feeding of insoluble grit probably has its origin in the observation of early workers, who noticed birds picking up pebbles as they searched for food. The natural conclusion to this observation is that birds require some hard material to help the gizzard do its job. However, some observers do not credit birds with such intelligence and as early as the eighteenth century the Italian anatomist Spallanzani declared that "the collecting of pebbles was probably less the effect of choice than stupidity."

WHAT - NO GIZZARDS

It has been demonstrated that birds can live without gizzards, and ground rations poorly. Nevertheless the practice of feeding grit continues and aside from the fact that care must be exercised in feeding grit to very young chickens, little or no trouble is encountered. The need for grit appears to be more urgent where birds range on grass and there is a danger of impaction from the grass eaten.

CAUTION REQUIRED

The need for grit must not be confused with the requirements for a calcium supplement. Limestone, oyster shell etc. are primarily calcium supplements, although they do serve in the dual role as grinding materials also. The so-called limestone grits are supposed to serve this dual role. Such materials should be used with caution, particularly with growing stock which are receiving a balanced ration. The addition of a soluble grit to such a ration may result in excessive intake of calcium and deranged calcium metabolism. No trouble is encountered with laying hens. If birds require a grinding material, then the hardest and least soluble material obtainable should be most suitable. Most poultrymen agree that the feed-

ing, of insoluble grits to mature birds is beneficial. In the light of present knowledge this is a practice which can be safely continued. It is well to remember, however, that soluble and insoluble grits. Don't give your birds false teeth by feeding soluble grits, if you must feed grit, feed an insoluble material.

Farmer's Time Is Valuable

The average farmer is a thrifty soul. He has to be to make ends meet, even in good times. In hard days, he learned to practice a rigid kind of economy that is seldom seen in other industries, and generally the habit of taking the best of care of machinery and other equipment is standard practice.

A good many farms include among their buildings a small shop with the needed tools for routine care of most kinds of farm machinery, up to and including the tractor, and sometimes the owner can, and does, make fairly extensive repairs on his car or truck.

When the work in the bush is done, or the footing is too bad for sleighing, before it is time for Spring work, are usually chosen for such jobs.

OFTEN SAVED UP

They are often saved up for a suitable occasion from the season before. A life time of waiting for the sun, makes a good place to work, and the handyman is ready to tackle anything.

The care that can be given to the farm machinery is most profitable. A little examination and minor repairs now can save both money and long delays in the rush of Summer's work. But many farmers finish up jobs of this sort and take on more ambitious projects, if time permits.

MUCH EQUIPMENT

Plenty of wooden and some metal equipment for use on his farm comes right from the farmer's own shop. Such items as whiffletrees, ladders, even saw frames and the like, are not unusual. Sometimes articles of furniture for the house are turned out, very creditable items too, for only the best lumber is ever used for a job like that.

Perhaps the reason that work of this kind is attractive is because a life time of habit has made idleness distasteful at any time. Working at leisure at a job sufficiently novel to be a change from routine, and difficult enough to serve as a demonstration of a man's skill has its attraction. The saving in outlay for repairs and new machinery can make it worthwhile to obtain a modest assortment of tools and equipment. The hours spent in the farm shop can be among the most profitable of the whole year, and they are far from being the least pleasant.

HOW TO PROTECT

To protect fall-planted evergreen seedlings from heaving out in the spring, put a savdust mulch around the trees. Make sure seedlings are deep-rooted straight down. Pack the dirt tight both around the upper and the lower roots.

Honey Regarded By Greeks As Energy Source

Many centuries have passed since man first discovered that the sweet substance which he gathered from wild bees' nests in virgin forests, was a delightful and nutritious food.

Over three thousand years ago honey was recognized as a source of quick energy by the Greeks whose athletes used it during their training period in preparation for the Olympic games.

Honey is almost wholly a carbohydrate food consisting chiefly of two sugars, fructose and glucose (levulose and dextrose), which account for slightly over 75 per cent of the total constituents.

EASILY DIGESTED

The sugars are in a condition in which they can be absorbed directly from the stomach without preliminary digestion.

When ordinary sugar such as cane and beet sugar are taken into the body, they must first be broken down into the simple sugars, fructose and glucose, before absorption can take place.

In addition to the sugars there are small quantities of minerals in honey which are known to be of value for growth and health of the body. The mineral content of honey at 0.2 per cent is not high but includes such elements as iron, copper, sodium, potassium, manganese, calcium, magnesium and phosphorus. The darker honey usually contains a slightly higher percentage of these minerals than light honeys.

IT ENERGIZES

Because of its high carbohydrate value honey is particularly beneficial for those participating in sports and for those engaged in strenuous work. It is also an excellent food for children and is recommended by many doctors as a sweetening agent for the milk of baby food. Honey is not surpassed by any other natural food for its rapid assimilation along with its high energy production.

Mink Like Whale Meat

No differences were found between horse meat and whale meat in mink rations in relation to the breeding or reproduction of comparable groups of standard mink. The horse meat and whale meat was included in otherwise identical mink rations, reports Dr. C. K. Gunn, Experimental Fur Ranch, CDA, Summerside, P.E.I.

Information was obtained in respect to mating activity of male and female mink. Similarly, other factors which might affect breeding, such as body weight, were checked. The number of female mink which became pregnant, as well as the number of kits born and reared were compared on each ration. Finally, the chemical analyses of the feeds, survival of mink kits during the lactation period, and the average body weights were studied.

In none of the above important phases of the mating and reproduction of mink were there any significant differences between groups of animals receiving whale meat in place of horse meat in otherwise identical mink rations.

Yes, There Is Difference Between Turnip And Rutabaga

"There are many things that can be said and implied about the thinning, hoeing, pulling and slicing of turnips," says a writer in the Indianapolis Star. If memory is correct and observation valid, the comments and implications have been thoroughly handled. A sweet, mild turnip is an excellent vegetable. Turnips are a favorite dish with many. To date, scientists are not certain of the origin of this root. NOT THE SAME.

The average citizen thinks turnips and rutabagas are the same; but the turnip has 20 chromosomes in its cell while the rutabaga has 38. Turnips were grown by the Romans at the beginning

of the Christian era and Pliny described, long, round and flat types. Carlier brought turnip seeds to this continent in 1541. Old records showed the Virginia colonists planted turnips in 1609. Father was partial to sliced rutabagas for the cows and a boy had the job of thinning, hoeing, pulling and then slicing the big yellow globes. The fearless blue root cutter, according to the catalog, was "fitted with gouge shaped knives, the best style knives for cutting roots and vegetables for cows, sheep, pigs and all other stock. Knives easily taken out to sharpen and will last for years. Sand and dirt escapes through perforated bottoms before roots get to the knives. Feed is cut fine to avoid danger of choking. Well painted and ornamented. Capacity 30 bushels per hour." MONOTONOUS CHORE.

Floor Price For Mill Powder Will Aid Industry

This year's floor price under milk powder will help restore the confidence of all sections of the dairy industry. This is the view of Gordon Loveridge, president of Dairy Farmers of Canada, who asserts that milk for manufacturing purposes has been selling at depressed prices and that the action will materially benefit this part of the industry. Dry skim milk powder will be supported on the basis of 17 cents a pound for No. 1 grade spray process powder and 14 cents for No. 1 grade roller process powder at storage points across Canada to be designated by the Agricultural Prices Support Board. Mr. Loveridge further stated:

"Assistance to the manufacturing milk producer will enable dairy men to plan their production to take care of the increasing demands of the Canadian people. If the dairy requirements of Canada are to be adequately taken care of by Canadian dairymen, small surpluses are bound to occur, and these have always had a depressing effect on the whole industry. With floor prices under skim powder and butter much of this will be removed.

The Dairy Farmers of Canada have asked many times for the more generous use of the Agricultural Prices Support Act, and realistic prices well above the distress level. It is gratifying that our requests have been acceded to in this case.

It is the aim of the Dairy Farmers of Canada that if the dairy industry is given assistance such as is accorded most other industries in Canada, in one form or another, that the production and marketing of dairy products can be carried on with the minimum of government assistance and intervention."

Millions Of Cords Of Timber Are Lost

Forest fires, which reduce thousands of square miles of Canadian forests to ashes each year, have an ally which is more formidable than fire itself. It is a foe you can't see as you drive along a cool woodland road and one infinitely more difficult to fight than a raging forest fire. The reference is to that great army of forest insects which destroy millions of cords of our precious timber annually.

The spruce bud worm has attacked 300,000 square miles of forest land in Canada in what is considered epidemic proportions. In the last 10 years this significant looking caterpillar cost the country 12,000,000 cords of wood. In the same 10-year period the spruce saw fly destroyed 1,000,000 cubic feet of timber over an area of 150,000 square miles. The birch dieback infested some 300,000 square miles — an area as large as New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Alberta and Prince Edward Island combined.

INSECT LIFE

Queen ants may live as long as 16 years as adults, while the adult life of the mayfly lasts only 30 minutes according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

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Bees Evidently Lead Sad Lives

Bees, by and large, lead sad lives. Most young queens are killed by the reigning queen before they reach maturity. All the mature drones (males) are killed or starved by the workers (sterile females) before winter comes. Most drones die celibate; only one in thousands, manages to mate with a virgin queen — then pays with his life when she tears his genitals away.

NEW PERSONALITIES

Now, reports Time Magazine, it looks as if bee scientists have learned to deprive them of even these few tender hours. In Britain's Journal of Experimental Biology, C. R. Ribbands of Bee Research department, Rothamsted Experimental Station, told how he and colleagues anaesthetized worker bees by putting them in jars of carbon dioxide or nitrogen. The bees soon recovered, but with changed personalities.

Young workers tending the baby bees forsook their charges and started gathering nectar, to be stored up in the combs and made into honey. Older workers, gathering both nectar and pollen (for baby bees) usually gathered nothing but nectar thenceforth. The gassing caused both age groups to ignore the colony's system of co-operative reproduction. Only one emotion remained: greed for more and more nectar.

MUST WORK HARDER

Beeman Ribbands is well pleased with his discovery. In some localities, he says, bees pay altogether too much attention to raising their young, and produce too many of them. He thinks that if whole colonies are dosed with carbon dioxide, they will stick more strictly to business, gather more nectar, lay up a bigger crop of profit making honey.

P. M. Sees No Cure In Policy Of Parity Prices

By HAROLD MORRISON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

REGINA (CP)—Prime Minister St. Laurent raised the question Tuesday night of whether there is much use in Canadian farmers producing more than they can sell. In the concluding speech of a 12-day Western election campaign, the prime minister said the Liberal government has held fruitful meetings with farm groups concerning farm policy.

"Sometimes we disagree, as for instance in the question of establishing a clear-cut system of parity prices for agricultural products."

"I can understand that it would be very satisfying for a farmer to be assured of a fixed price for his produce. But all that glitters is not gold. Is there much use in the farmer producing more than can be sold in the markets?"

NO RIGID CONTROLS

Mr. St. Laurent said that if his party is re-elected in the June 10 election it will continue to do its best to keep Canadian agriculture prosperous. But it would not impose any rigid controls or tell farmers how to operate their farms.

"We are sometimes told that the government should exercise a much more rigid control of agriculture in Canada, tell the farmers what to grow; and then, having made them follow our instructions, take it upon ourselves to guarantee a set price for their products."

"That is just not the Liberal way of doing things. And I don't think it is the Canadian way, either."

"We don't feel the Canadian farmer wants to be regimented and told how to operate his farm. We think that if he has all the facts before him he can very well

decide for himself what crops he should grow and expect to market."

His statements were included in the text of an address issued to the press before delivery.

Mr. St. Laurent expressed his personal belief that Canada's wheat surplus will not be wasted and that producers will receive a fair return for their efforts, even though surpluses in the United States were creating marketing "headaches" for Canada.

"Our friends south of the border embarked on some sort of system of guaranteed prices and these

have been accompanied by surpluses which have been embarrassing to them, and then, when thrown on world markets, have become a headache for Canada, too. "Now I gather the U.S. authorities seem to be searching for some way to return to our sort of system of letting the farmer decide, after making expert advice available to him, just what he should produce. Secretary of Agriculture Benson said to Canada recently in this regard: 'We are paying you the compliment of imitation.'"

While the Liberal government disagreed with some farm organization proposals, there were others the government already had accepted.



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