

# AGRICULTURAL NEWS

P. E. I. Department of Agriculture



S. C. WRIGHT

It is at this time of year that we stop and think about the full meaning of the scene which took place in the manger. No other event in history has been so thought-provoking, inspirational and filled with Faith and Hope for the future. The Star is still shining in the East and Peace on Earth, Good-Toward Men is still in the hearts of those who follow that Star.

May your Christmas be bright and Merry, may your heart be filled with joy at the sight of your family gathered around.

Some will also entertain sad memories, some tragedy and disaster - behind and around all, however, there is the comforting Peace, Faith and Hope which found birth many years ago in the crude manger in Bethlehem.

May I, on behalf of the members of the Department of Agriculture, wish our many friends throughout the Province a Joyful and Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,  
S. C. WRIGHT,

Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

## ANIMAL BREEDING

Geneticists tell us that when two animals are mated, their offspring may be one of a multitude of different possible combinations and it is this factor which causes so many surprises in Animal Breeding.

Many times a breeder will cross two outstanding animals, feeling that he should get a product which is much superior to the parents. Sometimes his anticipations are correct and the end product of such a mating is superior, other times it is not. However, it is this continual struggle for improvement which makes the breeding of pure bred animals such a fascinating game.

By a process of careful "select-

ion" which entails the rigid culling out of inferior animals and the keeping of the more desirable type animals, blood lines in breeds have been established which can usually be traced back to some outstanding bull or cow which was prepotent, as to desirable type and production. In other words, male and female descendants of the prepotent animal not only looked like the animals, they inherited and exhibited its desirable characteristics as to production.

## DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS

In order for a blood line to be "great" these descendants, in turn, must be able to transmit, or give, to their offspring the desirable characteristics as to type and production which they inherited.

Generally, when two outstanding blood lines of the same breed are crossed, the offspring shows hybrid vigour and in some cases outstanding animals are produced, but those animals in turn do not generally breed true to the characteristics of type and production which they exhibit.

Some bulls, although not desirable in appearance themselves are able to transmit the desirable type and production characteristics of the blood line to which they belong and therefore make a valuable contribution. However, the truly great contribution is generally made by bulls which are outstanding individuals themselves.

## THE LAYING HOUSE

The first consideration in providing hens with congenial surroundings is the laying house. To lay well the birds must be comfortable and, to keep them comfortable, they must be given protection from extreme temperatures from drafts and from dampness. They must also be protected from animal enemies, parasites and disease. Sunlight and fresh air are necessary. From the standpoint of the owner, the house should be conveniently arranged for the care of the flock and be as inexpensive as is consistent with efficiency and permanence. Hens will lay well in a wide range of temperatures but egg production is affected by the extremes of both heat and cold.

When the temperature rises much above 90 degrees F. it is not uncommon to have deaths in the laying pen and when the combs, ear lobes or toes of hens become frozen, egg production stops for a period, the length of which depends on the severity of the freezing. In cold houses, more of the feed eaten is required to maintain body heat and less is left for production. The heating of poultry houses artificially has not proved very practical. It is much easier to ventilate a house when the inside temperature is higher than outdoor temperature.

An insulated house, rather than

an artificially heated one, comes nearer to providing conditions that are ideal than any type that has yet been devised. It meets the requirements mentioned above and, if sufficiently well insulated, water will not freeze within, which is a decided advantage.

## INSULATION

The most practical method of insulating a poultry house seems to be the placing of sheathing on the inside of the studding, filling the spaces between the studs with dry planer shavings and putting a layer of the same material, from four to six inches deep, over the ceiling. This retains much of the body heat of the hens and a building that has, in addition, a concrete floor resting on the ground will be reasonably frost proof.

## VENTILATION

Hens breathe rapidly in comparison with animals. It is estimated that in proportion to weight, hens breathe two to three times as much air as other farm animals. Moreover, since hens do not sweat, they give off much more moisture in breathing than do other animals. Getting rid of moisture is a much greater problem in poultry house ventilation than the provision of sufficient fresh air. If a poultry house ceiling is high enough that the caretaker can work comfortably in it, there is little danger of the hens getting insufficient air.

During winter months if the moisture given off in the hens' breath comes in contact with cold walls, floor or ceiling, it condenses creating a damp condition that is difficult to get rid of. Cotton, wool, fluff and fan types of ventilation have all been used with varying degrees of satisfaction. The slot type of ventilation seems to give the best results but it operates well only in an insulated house and its efficiency depends largely on the skill of the caretaker in operating it.

## FLOOR SPACE

If hens are to be contented they must have sufficient room. The general rule is that 3 1/2 square feet of floor space should be allowed for each Leghorn and 4 square feet for each bird of the American and English breeds. For pens of more than 100 birds, these amounts can be reduced somewhat, but danger from feather pulling, cannibalism and egg eating increases as floor space per bird is decreased. The provision of proper ventilation and sanitation also becomes more difficult in a crowded pen.

## SIZE OF PENS

Labor in caring for the flock is greatly reduced by having pens of large capacity. For farm flocks, pens usually hold from 100 to 250 birds but in commercial flocks they may be housed in pens of 300 to 500 or even 1,000 birds in some cases.

## LAYING HOUSE EQUIPMENT

The laying house will need nests, feeders, water fountains, roosts and broody coops.

Nests can be of either the individual or the community type.

About sixteen nests of the individual type or one community type nest 8 feet long by 2 feet wide will meet the needs of 100 layers.

## FEEDERS

For dry mash, there should be two feeders, each being 5 feet long and with feeding space on both sides, for each 100 birds. If grain is fed from hoppers or troughs these should provide similar feeding space. There should be one small hopper for grit and one for shell for each 100 birds and a larger one with slatted or coarse mesh front if grass and clover are to be fed either in the green or dried form.

## WATER FOUNTS

One hundred layers will require about 6 gallons of water daily. Two 3-gallon founts or a trough type waterer 5 feet long will provide ample drinking space.

## ROOSTS

It is natural for birds to roost at night and while roosts have been eliminated in some cases, most poultrymen prefer using them. The required roosting space is about 7 lineal inches for each Leghorn or similar-sized bird and 9 lineal inches for each bird of the medium weight breeds.

## BROODY COOP

Each pen should have a broody coop which should be raised from the floor, should have a slatted or wire bottom and have provision for feeding and watering the imprisoned birds.

## FLOOR LITTER

Straw and planer shavings are the litter materials most used. Both are satisfactory and they can be used either singly or in combination. Peat moss litter is desirable from many standpoints, although inclined to be dusty. It is becoming a common practice to use what is called a built-up litter which is removed from the house only once yearly. Where this practice is followed, a layer of straw or shavings, is put in the pens before the pullets are put in their winter quarters and additional material is added during the fall and winter until the litter has reached a depth of about one foot on the floor. Where deep litter is used, the logical time for removal and renewal is before the pullets are put in the laying house in the late summer or fall. Litter soon becomes too damp to be very satisfactory in non-insulated houses and frequent removal is necessary. The litter used should be free of mustiness and decay.

## ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING

The use of artificial lights in the poultry house during the short days of fall and winter pays off in increased egg production at that season. Three methods of lighting have been used - morning lights, evening lights, and even-... lights. The latter is preferred by poultrymen and appears to give the best results. Lights regulated to give a thirteen-hour day appear to be most economical and efficient.



## LONE GUIDES' OPERATION TOYLAND

Patsy Ives and Barbara MacInnis, two Lone Guides, arrange toys made by Lone Guides from all over the Province at the Cerebral Palsy School.

The "Lones" have made and sent in some 40 stuffed toys, bean bags, cuddly toys, candy men and animals, doll bedding and so forth

for the children of the Cerebral Palsy School to take home for their own.

The Lone Guides live a distance from centres where Guide Companies are organized and carry on the program on their own, under the general supervision of Mrs. Fred G. Osborn.

Barter's Film Lab.

## HUNTER RIVER W.I.

The December meeting of the Hunter River Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. C. H. MacGuigan on December 5th, with an attendance of 24 members and two visitors.

Roll call was answered with an exchange of Christmas gifts and decorations for Christmas trees at the Sanatorium. The president, Mrs. Allan Smith presided. It was decided to give school children and shut-ins the usual Christmas treats.

Reports were heard from the committees and the following were appointed:

To pack boxes for shut-ins were: Mrs. H. Spence, Mrs. E. Bolger and Mrs. A. Smith.

For school children: Mrs. E. Bernard, Mrs. C. Moase and Mrs. R. Ford.

It was decided to have the following committee arrange the

ent.

Light intensity does not have to be great, one forty-watt bulb, or its equivalent, for each 200 square feet of floor space being adequate. Lights are most effective when employed in conjunction with good feeding and management practices. Care should be taken to see that fed and water are available to the birds when the lights come on in the morning.

program for the year: Mrs. I. MacKay, Mrs. C. Moase, Mrs. E. Bernard, Mrs. C. Matheson, Mrs. A. Smith and Mrs. C. H. MacGuigan.

The sum of \$5.00 was voted for T. B. League as well as \$5.00 for Care. Arrangements were made for Shur-Gain concert to be held in the hall, December 14th. Films are to be shown in the school for children.

The next meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. H. Spence on January 9th. The refreshments committee will be: Mrs. L. Carew, Mrs. E. Cousins, and Mrs. E. Bernard. Roll call is to be answered by a suggestion for program. Lunch was served by the hostess and committee in charge.

## IT MAY BE YOUR LIVER

If life's not worth living it may be your liver! It's a fact! It takes up to two pints of liver bile a day to keep your digestive tract in top shape! If your liver bile is not flowing freely your food may not digest... gas bloats up your stomach... you feel constipated and all the fun and sparkle go out of life. That's when you need mild gentle Carter's Little Liver Pills. These famous vegetable pills help stimulate the flow of liver bile. Soon your digestion starts functioning properly and you feel that happy days are here again! Don't wear away your health! Always keep Carter's Little Liver Pills on hand.

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GENERAL ELECTRIC irons, pans, steam irons, Junior food mixers. The Brown Electric.

MILK-FED CAPONS for Christmas and New Year's delivery. Orders taken now. Hammond Reid, Victoria Cross.

THE BROWN ELECTRIC have an attractive array of electrical gifts for every member of the family.

HOYT'S BEAUTY Salon Specials on Creme Cold Permanent Waves and Machineless Creme Permanent Waves. All experienced operators. Dial 6311, 183 Queen Street.

THIS CHRISTMAS give an Un derwood portable typewriter. R. Ivo Cudmore, 35 Queen Street.

PIPES — CIGARS, Cigarettes at Fred Lambros, Tobacco Store Open until 10 every evening.

CHRISTMAS CONTATA, Tryon United Church, December 25th, at 8:30 p.m.

TOY FAIR OPEN — Lay away for Christmas. Firestone Home & Auto.

HOBBY SETS for the whole family, oils, water colors, wood burning, numbered painting, etc. Sherwin-Williams Co. Ltd.

KEITH CARMICHAEL'S plumbing and heating. Agent and service man for McCulloch Chain Saws. Dial 6423.

PACKERS PARTY—The annual dinner-dance of the Canada Packers staff was held at the Charlottetown Hotel on Thursday, the 15th.

Make this a **Christian Christmas!**

In Family Rejoicings In Social Festivities

Remember Whose Birthday We Celebrate

Honour Him by regular, personal Church attendance | In giving to others, let your best gift be to Christ Himself

Recapture the true Joy of Christmas WITHOUT the use of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

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LIBBY'S DILL PICKLES LARGE 24 OZ. JAR 49c

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL

STORE HOURS: Wed. 9:30; T hurs., 9:30; Fri., 9:30; Sat., 6:00

LG. PASCAL CELERY 21c	Stalk	RED RIPE CELLO Tomatoes 23c	Box	AVON APPLE CIDER Gallon ..... 1.19
SWEET POTATOES 2 lbs. .... 29c		ALL SIZES CHRISTMAS SUNKIST ORANGES IN STOCK		MAPLE LEAF MINCEMEAT 2 lb. tin ..... 49c
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