

Introduction of Pure-Bred Sires

Various Plans Are Suggested by the Department of Agriculture.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)
The pure-bred dairy sire is the greatest single factor in increasing the average production of dairy cows. This fact is generally recognized; yet 75 per cent of the dairy bulls in service in the United States are either grades or scrubs. Furthermore, according to the bureau of dairy industry, United States Department of Agriculture, a survey of the 48 states has shown that those states or sections of states having the highest percentage of pure-bred dairy sires are also leading in average milk production.

Suggest Various Plans.

Various plans to introduce pure-bred sires are suggested by the department, such as countrywide and statewide scrub-bull-eradication campaigns, co-operative bull associations, bull clubs, better sire trains, and others. The first three of these plans are discussed in detail, and bull clubs are mentioned briefly in Circular No. G-C, Pure Bred Dairy-Sire Introduction, just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture.

A country-wide scrub-bull-eradication campaign is an organized effort within a county to inform every dairyman of the importance of breeding only to a good pure-bred bull and to make definite arrangements to replace inferior bulls with pure breeds that are well grown, of good conformation, and from dams with high yearly milk and butterfat records.

Organizing a Campaign.

The campaign is carried on in co-operation with the extension service of the state college of agriculture. Considerable time and effort are required to organize such a campaign. At least three weeks should be allowed for a survey of the bull population of the county and for organization of local committees to conduct the campaign. The circular describes the various steps to follow in planning and conducting the campaign. Suggested posters for advertising purposes as well as copy for business men's advertising are included.

When a majority of counties in a state are interested in better dairy-sire work it is often advisable to conduct a campaign on a statewide basis! A statewide campaign may require from several months to a year. Many suggestions of value and most interesting detail concerning scrub-bull-eradication work may be found in the circular, a copy of which may be obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Two General Classes of Feeds for Stock

There are two general classes of feeds. Corn, barley, wild hay and corn fodder are fattening and energy supplying feeds, and are classed as carbohydrate feeds. Oats, wheat bran, linseed oilmeal alfalfa hay and clover hay are growth producing and are classed as protein feeds.

The calf needs protein materials to make growth, but one should be careful in supplying these not to use feeds which are too bulky. If the calf has to eat a large amount of oats to get the growth material it needs then it will not be able to eat enough corn or barley to put on the fat or finish desired.

Calves fed at the South Dakota experiment station which received one-tenth oats in their ration did not make as rapid gains or develop as much "finish" as calves which got corn and linseed oilmeal without the oats. It will be a good practice gradually to take the oats out of the ration after the first two or three weeks and use a small amount of linseed oilmeal instead.

Feeding Sweet Milk

All of the successful growing rations found at the Wisconsin station have been built around milk. Professor Halpin says. He prefers feeding the milk in the sweet form, though many others differ with him. The experiments at Wisconsin indicate that chicks will consume more sweet milk than sour and will do better on it, he says. The fact that sweet milk put out in the morning may be sour by night should be no cause for suspicion or alarm.

Butter for New York

New York city, which is so big a market that it goes far in setting prices and standards, is showing a preference for light-colored, lightly salted butter. This may do away with the use of butter coloring and may lift the price of winter butter even higher over the yellow summer product than it is now. The reason is that some of the lighter-colored winter butter may have to be stored to take care of summer demand.

Goats for Milk

Goats bred for milk production produce from one to two thousand pounds of milk a year, with an average test of about 4 per cent. From two to four quarts of milk per day is considered very good production.

Goats are very rarely kept in this country for milk production under average farm conditions. They are more economical than cows and can be kept perhaps where cows could not.

Leafhoppers Cause Alfalfa "Yellows"

Insects Attack Other Legumes, Such as Clover.

Man's minute enemies, the insects, have been found guilty of one more crime against farm prosperity. Prof. A. A. Granovsky of the University of Wisconsin revealed in a paper presented at the meeting of the American Association of Economic Entomologists in Nashville, Tenn.

Professor Granovsky reported that it was proved last summer beyond a doubt that the common potato leafhopper is responsible for a damaging disease of alfalfa—"yellows" or yellow top.

"During the summers of 1926 and 1927 yellows was very common in Wisconsin," said Professor Granovsky. "It was observed that several species of small insects, known as leafhoppers occurred in great numbers over the affected alfalfa fields.

"Preliminary experiments conducted at the Wisconsin agricultural experiment station with caging these leafhoppers over the potted alfalfa plants under controlled conditions in a greenhouse, as well as in the field under natural conditions proved for the first time beyond a doubt that the common potato leafhopper is responsible for this old trouble."

In one week of feeding the leafhoppers produced the first symptoms of the disease—gradual yellowing of the tops of the plants. A few days of insect feeding often killed young plants entirely. Leafhopper attacks stunted new growth, weakened root systems and crowns of the plants, contributing to winter killing, and greatly reduced the yield of hay.

The hoppers affect many other legumes such as clover, soy beans, and garden beans, Professor Granovsky's experiments and observations indicated.

Leafhoppers, Professor Granovsky believes, introduce a virulent poison into the plant tissues. The poison is responsible for the severity of the "yellows" disease.

Warm Water for Layers Is Beneficial for Eggs

Warm water for the layers during cold weather is beneficial for egg production and the general welfare of the flock, and it costs less to heat water with coal or wood before it is given to the hens than to have them heat it with feed.

If the pail is insulated, filling it with hot water the first thing in the morning and at noon, and in extremely cold weather, again in the evening, will serve.

To prevent loss of heat and provide warm water throughout the day it is necessary to insulate the water pail. This is done by placing the pail in a box or other container of such size as to permit one or two inches of insulation beneath and around the pail. The insulating material may be straw, excelsior, or newspapers packed firmly. To keep the material dry it is covered with tin to fit closely under the top rim of the pail and sloped slightly to outside of the container so as to turn the water off.

It is surprising how long the water keeps warm when the pail is insulated. The pail can be easily removed and one packing should serve for the season.

Good Mash Hoppers Are Most Desirable Features

The consumption of mash has a direct bearing upon the rate of growth of young stock and the egg-production of adults. Without a continual supply of mash located conveniently for the birds, maximum results from either young or old stock cannot be realized. Mash hoppers, their construction and location are, therefore, an important feature of any poultry house.

The desirable features of a good mash hopper are as follows:

- Large enough to accommodate most of the birds at one time.
- Feed readily accessible, even when hopper is practically empty.
- No chance for the wasting of feed.
- Easy to clean, move, and refill.
- As close to the floor as possible.
- Located conveniently for the birds.
- Located in a good light.

Agricultural Notes

Only good cows have milk fever.

Diseases and insects take an annual toll of one-fifth of the possible crop yield in America.

Green feeds are an important part of the winter poultry ration. Sprouted oats may be used or leafy alfalfa.

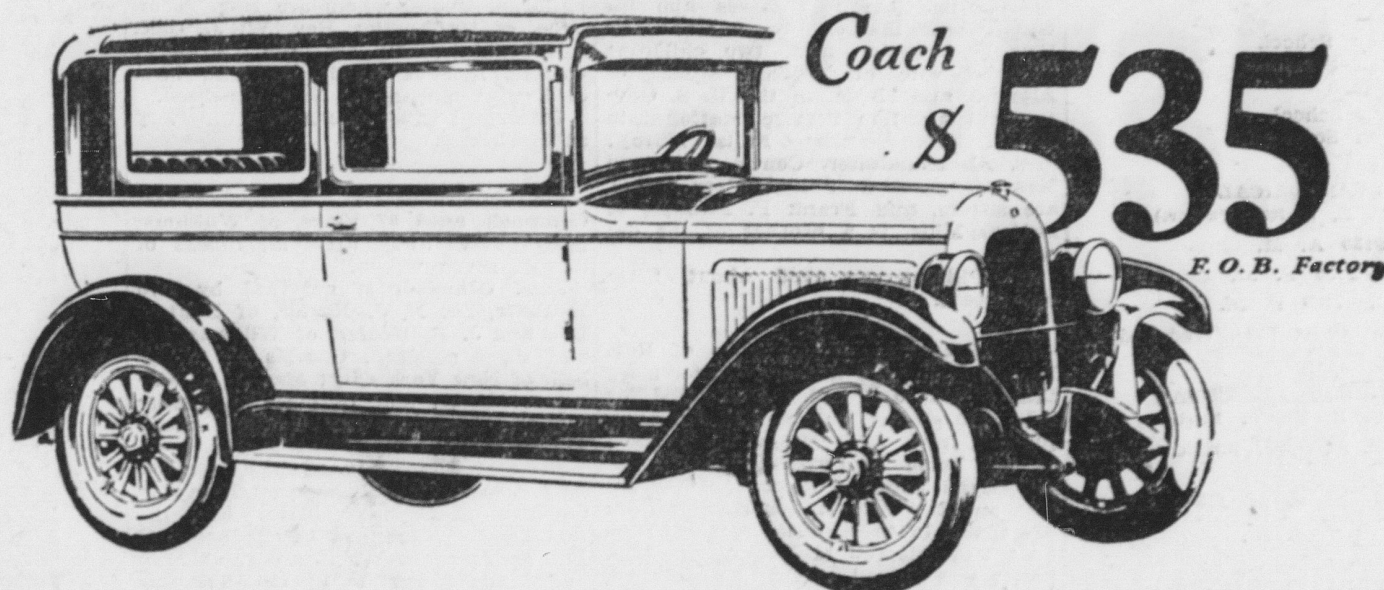
The best way to prevent a hog from overturning his feeding trough is to build it out of concrete. It will then be too heavy for him to push it over.

New York state lambs marketed at the Buffalo stockyards this year showed better feeding, better breeding, and better management than usual.

Ventilation can easily be arranged in a poultry house by having a window on the south side, with a shutter for it, and a burlap curtain inside to let down at night.

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Kissed by a Queen

An eighty-year-old army veteran, whose name is McCoy and who lives at Ballymoney, in northern Ireland, claims to be the only soldier who was ever kissed by Queen Victoria. Mr. McCoy joined the Forty-fifth regiment of the foot guards as a boy of sixteen, and was stationed at Aldershot when Queen Victoria inspected the regiment. The queen asked his age, and he replied that he was seventeen.

"I think you are too young to be a soldier yet," said the queen. "It's at home with your mother you should be!"

No Cure, No Hide

Knock-knees cannot be cured, asserts a Philadelphia physician. Worse than that, though, they apparently can't be concealed.

Large hopes from small foundations grow.

Has Many Applications

There are three different meanings to the word "yankee." It was first applied to natives or citizens of the New England states, particularly those of old New England families. Then it was applied by people of the Southern states to all the people of the Northern states, in general. Lastly, it is applied by the people of other countries to all citizens and inhabitants of the United States.

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