

Plan to Control English Sparrow

Nest Destruction on Community Scale Is Most Effective Means.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

If English sparrows are overabundant it may be the result of carelessness. The sparrows are canny foragers and flock to a locality offering abundant feed. There they multiply at an alarming rate. Carelessness in feeding poultry, a knot-hole in the granary floor, open doors and windows in farm buildings, or openings at the eaves create conditions that attract sparrows. Block the entries to their favored nesting places, and the birds are less likely to be troublesome.

Destroy Nests.

The next step in sparrow control recommended by the bureau of biological survey, United States Department of Agriculture, includes the destruction of sparrow nests. Because the birds are active breeders it is necessary to make the rounds and destroy the nests every ten or twelve days throughout the breeding season. Nest destruction on a community-wide scale is more effective than on isolated farms.

Insects for Young.

Nesting sparrows help the farmer for a few days. Before the birds begin to fly the parents supply them with many worms and insects. But once they are well grown they fall into the habits of the adults and become vegetarians with keen appetites for grains and garden products as well as for weed seeds. If the grains are housed carefully the sparrows are likely to be less numerous and will eat more weed seeds, and in this way may even prove helpful to the farmer.

Skim Milk Useful to

Cheaper Cost of Eggs

Skim milk in the poultry ration has reduced the cost of producing eggs 5 cents per dozen for five Shackelford county (Texas) poultry demonstrators. The milk permitted a cheaper grain ration and resulted in a feed cost of 7.7 cents per dozen for eggs from these flocks as compared to an average cost of 12 cents per dozen in five other demonstration flocks where no milk was used.

It is pointed out by A. C. Magee, county agent, that 100 hens will consume with profit about three gallons of skim milk daily, and that when this amount is available, the expensive protein feeds in the mash may largely be omitted. If cows are good, 100 hens to each dairy cow is a good balance to maintain between the dairy and poultry branches of the farm business, he says.

Culling Low Producers

Reduces Big Feed Bill

While only 2 per cent of the dairy cows in New York state belong to members of dairy herd improvement associations, these cows produce 30 per cent more milk than the typical New York state cow, says G. W. Talbot of the New York State College of Agriculture. The typical cow is gaining, for in 1922 the average was 5,000 pounds of milk for each cow and in 1923 the figure was 5,334 pounds for each cow. The cows in the Dairy Improvement association average 7,707 pounds. The return for a cow giving 5,500 pounds is about \$70 above feed cost; for the 7,700 pound cow it is \$120, while for a 10,000 pound cow the return above feed cost is \$153. The big return above feed cost is the best argument in favor of culling out low producing cows, says Mr. Talbot.

Determine Proper Time for Cutting Soy Beans

The Missouri station reports results of investigations to determine proper time of cutting soy beans for hay to obtain maximum yield. The development of the bean pods, together with the degree to which they have been filled, serves as the best index for obtaining maximum yields of soy bean hay. When the pods are well formed and are approximately one-third to one-half filled is the best time for harvesting. Cutting at this time also results in a maximum of protein in the hay as leaves and minimum as woody stalks.

Keep Hog Flu Out

Attacks of hog flu on brood sows and fattening shoats, feared and dreaded more than cholera by many live stock men, take a heavy toll every year with the coming of cold and stormy weather. Unlike cholera investigations, studies of flu in hogs have not yet revealed the exact cause of the disease. Veterinarians and live stock specialists find from observation and experience, however, that certain precautions in caring for the herd will greatly lessen the danger of sickness and death.

Making Silage

A method of making silage, known as the Ronning method, has come into use in the last few years and is considered the easiest known method of making silage. The standing corn is harvested and cut into proper lengths for the silo by a machine drawn and operated by a tractor. The cut corn is delivered to a wagon box drawn alongside. It is then hauled to the silo and pushed off into a blower which elevates it into the silo.

Dry Stack of Hay or Grain Artificially

Excess Moisture Driven Out by Means of Blower.

At a conference held at Purdue university, Indiana, the matter of drying hay or grain artificially was discussed by W. C. Aitkenhead of the department of agricultural engineering. He explained that a stack of hay or grain can be artificially dried in from five to ten hours, depending upon the size of the stack and the amount of moisture contained in the material, by means of a tractor-driven blower forcing air, heated by an oil burning furnace, into a hollow centered stack of hay or grain. He told of having driven out excess moisture from stacks at a nominal cost. The heat was generated by the burner and forced through the stacks together with all the gases of combustion. This was made possible by placing a spark arrester between the furnace and the blower.

Corn in a crib, he explained, can be dried with the same sort of equipment, if a passage for the air is provided through the corn. It was suggested that by drying hay containing a considerable amount of moisture, one can frequently avoid a lot of trouble. This is especially true of the season's first alfalfa crop, which is cured during a time when we normally have a good deal of rain.

Factors in Economy of Producing Good Swine

Swine producers living in the same community usually get about the same price for their hogs. Some swine producers make more money from a given number of hogs than do others even on the same selling price basis. The difference is in the costs of production.

We have a report from an Iowa hog production study in which 15 farmers averaged to produce hogs for \$6.16 a hundred over a period of three years, says a writer in an exchange. In the same county were 15 other farmers whose costs averaged \$14.02 a hundred for the same period of time.

General conditions of climate and available feeds were about the same for both groups. Feeding methods, sanitation, ventilation, diseases, parasites, and death losses were large factors in determining costs of production. Of these, the lack of sanitary management in its relation to the control of parasites and diseases was one of the largest factors contributing to high costs.

Dry Rendered Tankage Holds Much Protein

A method of manufacturing tankage by what is known as the "dry rendered process" has been developed within recent years. The dry rendered tankage made by this process has a pleasing rather than a disagreeable odor, and is lighter in color than the ordinary steam rendered tankage. Up to the present time practically all the dry rendered tankage produced has been mixed with bone in the manufacture of meat and bone scraps for poultry, but it is claimed in time all but about 5 per cent of the tankage will be made by the new method. Since water, which washes out some of the ammonia, is not used in dry rendering, the tankage produced contains more protein than does steam rendered tankage.

Paralysis of Ewes

Paralysis of pregnant ewes is not common in range ewes because they do not usually get as fat as the ewes kept on farms and in small bunches. Where small flocks of ewes are kept they may get too fat even though they live only on the waste feed that they pick up about the place. When this condition starts in a flock the amount of feed should be cut down and if the ewes are constipated they should receive a dose of epsom salts.

FARM NOTES

Horses and sheep when grazing alfalfa injure the stand more than do other animals because they bite off the young buds at the crown.

A good ration to feed the cockerels is essential if they are to get to market in fewest possible days. A good growing mash should be before them at all times.

At the South Dakota station millet seed was successfully fed to cattle, sheep and hogs, but more grain was required to make 100 pounds gain than when corn was fed.

It is a mistake to crowd 200 pullets into a house sufficiently large for only 100 birds. From three and one-half to four square feet of floor space should be allowed for each bird.

Every precaution should be taken to prevent stagnant pools from forming on the poultry range. These areas often are contaminated and become breeding places for flies and mosquitoes.

Any change in feeding and management of pullets should be made before production starts. Pullets beginning to lay without sufficient size and weight are likely to quit and molt soon after production commences, college specialists say.

Community Building

"Blighted" Areas Due to Imperfect City Planning

The causes and cure of "blighted" urban areas were reviewed at the Toronto meeting of the National Association of Real Estate Boards by Harland Bartholomew of St. Louis, noted city planning engineer.

He said the symptoms of such a condition are frequent vacancies in property and a general appearance of decay, with little prospect of a renewed market for the district. The cause he attributed to uncontrolled large scale growth. Skillful city planning, he said, is both the cure and the prevention.

"Much is said and written today upon the subject of decentralization of cities," Mr. Bartholomew said.

"As the access to the downtown districts becomes increasingly difficult, new growth will undoubtedly take place in outlying areas, but before we advocate and encourage too extensive decentralization of our cities we need to know very much more about them. Our blight districts are largely the result of opening up new areas of unlimited size."

Remodeling Offers No Problem to the Wise

Many old houses over the country, built long simple lines and kept in good condition, are excellent for remodeling. There is hardly a city or town where there are not fine old places waiting for some architect with taste to make them into modern attractive homes.

The owner is most fortunate who recognizes the right kind of old house before he buys it for alteration purposes and who knows what to do with it after he has bought it. There are two important factors in remodeling. First, to get a house with possibilities; second, to rearrange the exterior and interior with the necessary plumbing, heating and lighting in an effective way without excessive cost or unnecessary tearing down or destroying.

These results are not hard to accomplish after a little study and every owner who contemplates remodeling should give consideration to the problem before he buys a place, not after.

Matter of Remodeling

Louise Bargett, home builder editor of the Chicago Tribune, predicts 1930 will be the greatest rehabilitation year in the history of the country. "We see remodeling made simpler and more profitable for the home owner every passing season; that is, remodeling when a house has successfully passed two tests. For usually a home must be adjudged structurally sound; it is worthy of being remodeled, and also not require more than one-third of its interior to be torn out. There are exceptions to this general rule, as to most rules, but on the whole, it is a fairly safe one to go by. Indeed, in most remodeling campaigns, as little as possible is torn out of the old place but much is added to it instead."

Paint as Protection

Moisture, the root of all trouble with lumber and metals, is the enemy of every property owner. In sections of the country where the temperature varies with the seasons, excess moisture in the air is inevitable. For this reason, building materials must be protected from the weathering it causes, and paint, in this connection is the ideal preservative. It seals the pores of the wood and forms a protective coating over metals, thus preventing the entrance of moisture, and the progress of weathering and rusting. Used on concrete and stucco, paint prevents surface cracks, dampness, and subsequent crumbling and flaking off.

Towns to Avoid

The joke of the road is the "Welcome" sign and follows it up with another announcing a speed limit of "twelve miles per hour." That is no welcome to the tourist. And there are other injunctions concerning cutouts and the like. Most towns admonish the motorist to protect his children but the town fights every effort to protect those children by routing the highway outside the city limits.—Lincoln State Journal.

Improve Home Grounds

Old lawns should be gone over carefully. Unsightly depressions which cannot be removed by rolling can be eliminated by lifting the sod, filling with good soil, and replacing the sod. Where this is impracticable, fine loam can be spread over the lawn to a depth of three inches. The existing grass will force its way through the new soil.

Value of Face Brick

Many old houses have sturdy frames, despite the shabby and old appearance of the exterior. Given a veneer of face brick, these houses will put on an appearance of new and will give service that compares well with an entirely new home, for the brick exterior provides protection against the elements and takes on added beauty with the years.

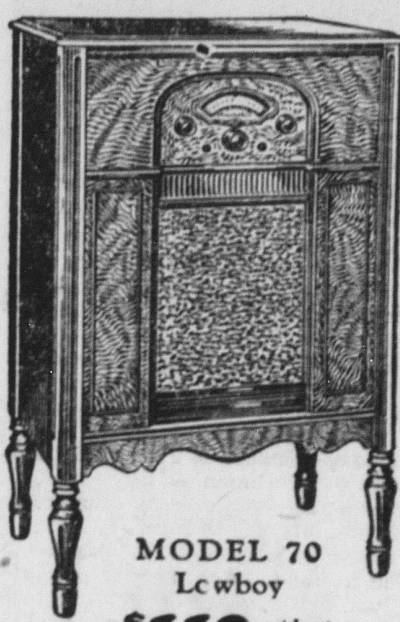
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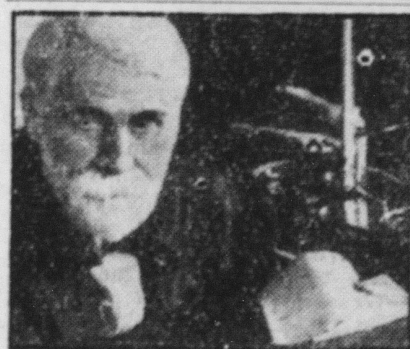
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Took Mankind Long to See Value of Chimney

Stoves are not very old. The three-legged specimen which Mr. Ford has added to his Americana attained antiquity quickly, even though generations have already arisen who only feel heat and never know the joy of watching red coals fade behind the draft or of seeing orange isinglass glow in darkness—that friendly welcome home of the old-time sitting room. There was something benevolent about a portly baseburner, something lively about the reassuring snap and crackle of the little wood stove in the bedroom on mornings when the pitcher on the washstand was half full of ice. They do seem now to belong to a far-off day, and yet it was uncounted ages before the invention of the chimney followed the discovery of fire—before, so far as we know, any solution of the problem of having fire without smoke was even sought. Rome had hot water heating in some baths, but no chimneys in the home.

Auto Company in Luck

A wallet containing \$748 belonging to a New Haven automobile company, reported missing to the police of that city, was found on the running board of a company car that had been driven all over New Haven for three days by one of the company's employees. It is thought that the money was dropped on the running board of the machine shortly before the employee was to take it to the bank for deposit. In three days of exposure the wallet was not stolen, nor did it drop off.

Statues for Living Men

Spain has become so enthused over the dramatic and other works of the Brothers Quintero that, although the men are still alive and only middle-aged, statues to their honor have been erected in Seville. Among the more recent plays of the Brothers Quintero is "El Centenario," which has just been translated into English.

Her Name Was Lena

A stout woman drove up to a filling station. "I want two quarts of oil," she said. "What kind, heavy?" asked the attendant. "Say, young man, don't get fresh with me," was the indignant response.—The Wheel.

Coin Not "Penny"

One-cent piece is the official designation for the lowest denomination coined by the United States government. The term "penny" is often used colloquially, but incorrectly, to designate the one-cent piece.

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