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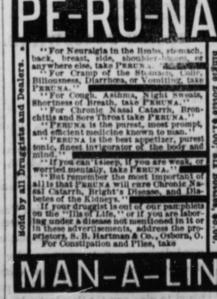
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The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE PA AGRICULTURAL.

NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS

THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLI

Every farmer in his annual experience discovers something of value. Write it and send it to the "Agricultural Editor of the

DEMOCRAT. Bellefonte, Penn'a," that other

communications be timely, and be sure that

farmers may have the venefit of it.

they are brief and well pointed.

Varieties of Fowls.

The varieties of fowls that claim the notice of the poultry farmer or cottager are considerable. Their value is differently marked according to the objects for which they are kept. Some breeds are reared for the table, while others are intended for laying and hatching alone. The amateur or cottager must make up his mind as to the exact object he wishes to carry out in keeping fowls, and afterwards it will not be difficult to choose the breeds. If he desires to rear fowls for table use some are not appropriate, as for instance, the Malays, which are slow in fattening. Others are yellow-skinned, and are not re garded with favor by the poulterer. Such are Cochins and game fowls. The Dorking combines the excellence of having a white skin and being a large grower, and is, therefore, in high request for table purposes.

When the production of eggs is the grand requisite in poultry, the "everlasting layers" should be provided, and these are found in Spanish, Hamburg and Polish, the latter being less inclined to sit than any other white, and the comb three-lobed. breed. As general useful stocks, Cochins, Brahmas, Surrey fowls are much as 41 pounds and grown birds found capital breeds. Dorkings are 8 pounds each. The Creveœurs have somewhat difficult to rear. They re black plumage and a peculiar twoquire to be brought up in a dry dis horned comb. The flesh is greatly trict, and to have a good range, while esteemed for its delicacy, and the Cochins reconcile themselves to the birds grow rapidly. most circumscribed limits.

The Dorking is one of the most excellent of the pure breeds. It is large, the flesh is excellent, and the eggs are of a good size and flavor. The seeds, instead of buying them every color varies, dark having the preference. The average weight of the cock is 8 pounds. The ben is slow in sitthis duty the game hen is best. The Dorking is chiefly valuable for table

The Spanish is a fine bird, wearing a variety of colors, but black is most in request. The cock is marked by a single comb of large dimensions, standing erect on his head. The breed is further known by a loke of white flesh behind the ear. The lien lays a large egg of good flavor, tapering at both ends, and generally weighing from 21 ez. to 31 ez. She belongs to the class of everlasting layers. She continues laying and manifests little inclination to hatch, and as hatching can be done by common hens, she is much prized for this dis.

The Brahma is a larger bird than either the Dorking or the Spanish The flesh is not delicate, but when young it is excellent. The pullets are full grown at six weeks. IIt does well in confined places, and is one of the most useful breeds we have. There are two kinds of Brahmas in this country, the white and the dark ; the latter is the most prized. The egg of the Brahma is small, weighing about oz., and is of a buff color. The hens are great layers, and being hardy, they give eggs in winter. They form very useful crosses for other breeds. The chickens are generally reared with very little loss. They require a wide range, but will thrive on smaller supplies of artificial food than some of the more delicate breeds.

The Cochin awakened a considerable amount of enthusiasm in this country when first introduced, and has been much wanted among poultry breeders. Their appearance is somewhat singular; they have a large size, and manifest a quiet disposition. The tails and wings are small, they have a remarkable development of feathers upon the thighs. The cock weighs about 10 pounds, the hen about 8 pounds. The Cochin lays year when they are most valuable. pigs. The chickens are hardy, and their chief recommendation is the number

They are profitable poultry stock, though they are not in so high request for the table as some other va rietics. The white birds, though highly ornamental, are not so valuable as the colored varieties; yellow, buff and crrimson are the colors most in

Hamburg fowls form two distinct varieties, viz: the penciled and spangled. The Hamburg never wants to sit except in very rare instances. No other fowl will produce so many eggs upon so little food; they are much given to straying, and will fly over almost any enclosure, and eat flowers as well as fruit and vegetables, but there is no based so well able to take care of themselves.

The Malay is one of the very largest breeds. The pullets commence laying early. The chickens when first hatched are very strong. They are rapid growers, but in this country their plumage does not grow as fast as their bodies, consequently they pre sent a half-naked appearance, and during this period they are sensitive to cold and wet. The cock bird weighs 10 or 11 pounds, and some times stands three feet high. The flesh of the Malay fowl is sor ewhat coarse with a brownish tinge, and they are not very good for the poul. try farmer.

The foregoing are some of the most strongly marked varieties, but the crosses in the various breeds that have taken place are of course al most countless. Of the French varieties, the Houdan has proved most successful in this country. It has been called the Dorking of France, The plumage is black spangled with Chickens of four months weigh as

Raising Seeds.

We are asked why we do not en-

courage people to raise their own

year. Seed raising is an art, and requires more care than the average farmer can afford to give it. Seeds ting, therefore her eggs are common. men have their seeds raised by men ly entrusted to foster mothers. For who make a business of it, who grow but one variety of a kind, and avoid all chances of mixing or crossing, One who has a garden can hardly be persuaded to select his first ripened tomatoes or Lima beans for seed; he wishes these for the table. Unless a vegetable can be kept up to its best condition it will deteriorate. Take tomatoes for example: the plants should be raised expressly for seed. As soon as they come into bearing, every plant that does not have fruit quite up to the best in form and productiveness, is pulled up, and all mal formed fruits on those that are left, are cut away. Then only the earliest clusters are allowed to ripen, those which set late are cut off, and the whole strength of the plant directed to ripening the first fruit that is set. Take squashes for another example, and it is the same with melons, cucumbers and all the family. Few who have gardens content themselves with the single variety of squash. There are few plants so likely to mix through the agency of bees. We know of a case in which the Hubbard squash has been grown in the same garden with other squashes for several years, and the seed was yearly saved and planted. At the time we saw the squashes they were mostly yel low, instead of the pointed end, so characteristic of the Hubbard, many of them had the broad, flat, blossom end belonging to the other kinds; indeed, there was not a typical Hubbard in the lot. If seeds are to be raised, that should be the leading object for which the plants are grown. It is poor economy to sow seeds of doubtful purity, in order to avoid a small outlay for those of good quality - American Agriculturist for July

It is no use attempting to keep fowls unless they are well attended to Many farmers, who complain that poultry is unprofitable, should consider whether they have given their fowls the same attention so generous medium-sized eggs at a period of the ly bestowed on the horses, cows and

It is claimed that "sway-backed" horses keep in better condition on of winter eggs laid by the pullets, the same feed than the high-baked.

Creen Food for Pigs.

Vast numbers of swine, and especially in the more lately settled States where permanent pastures of the tame grasses have not yet been provided, suffer, and make but a poor, unsatisfactory growth in the summer season, because they are deprived of green and succulent food, and, in too many instances, receive for months but dry corn and water. In fact, from the time they are weaned many of them are total strangers to any other diet. Corn, at best, is a very imperfect food, lacking, as it is, so largely in both muscle and bone forming material, and young animals confined to its use continuously develop but tardily, and are lacking in stamina and thrift, as well as size.

With many who have raised hogs for years there seems a failure to comprehend that the pig is a grass-eating animal, or that he appreciates and pays as well for a change and variety of diet as any other animal on the farm, and will utilize and turn to good various plants that none of the other stock will eat, and which, instead of having to be cultivated, come volun tarily and with such vigor as to be a pest. It is a small farm that, with the best of tillage, does not produce enough of these weeds to afford, for the gathering, healthful green food for a dozen shoats, and generally We have known persons who would

consider it small business to be seen gathering purslane, lambs quarter and like persistent pests for their pigs, and yet would allow these same pigs to almost perish in the summer months for the want of just such elements as would be afforded by these despised and omnipresent plants against which such a constant strug. gle has to be maintained. To such persons, if they will keep pigs, and will not or cannot provide pasturage, we would say, by ail mesns plant a patch of early sweet corn as near the pig-pens as circumstances will allow : plant it early and cultivate it well, and if you have no other green food to use, begin cutting it close to the ground and feed out as much of it, morning and evening, as the pigs will eat up reasonably clean. It will soon work a change in their appear eance, and later on, when roasting ears have formed, and they with the stalks and blades are used liberally, the most satisfactory and profitable growth of all the year will be realiz, ed. Except for use during the first two or three weeks, it is policy to plant mainly of some of the varietics that are a little later and much larger in growth, as they afford much more feed on the same area of ground. If, when the corn is planted, a seed of some thick-meated, sweet pumpkin or squash is put in about every eighth hill, of every eighth row, on good soil and enormous quantity of much relished and wholesome food for both hogs and cattle will be obtained after the corn has ripened or been consumed, and all, too, without any appreciable cost.

For fattening purposes corn is, and is likely to remain the staple food, but during a large portion of the year, less of it, and more of something not so expensive can be used to wonderful advantage in building the framework of the future porker. Pasture grass is what every hog-raiser needs, but if he cannot have these, he can, with small outlay, have an ex. cellent substitute throughout the summer by using weeds, and better yet green rye, cloves and green corn, and later on plenty of pumpkins, which may be made to last well into the winter, and be fed as an adjunct to and after every feed of corn until the day of slaughter.

SWEET corn is valuable to feed green to stock. The ears should be allowed to grow, as they are the most profitable part. In order to get them the corn should not be planted so thickly as when stalks only are wanted. It is said that an acre will feed forty cows ten days.

A CHICOPEE, Mass., man bought seven and one half acres of land for \$93.75; sowed it to pine, chestnut and oak, and in twenty-five years sold the recovered acres for \$750.

THE young ornamental trees about the house, and along the roadside, will repay a very liberal application of manure upon the surface about the trunks as far as the roots spread.