

The BACK-YARD FARMER

BY PROF. JOHN WILLARD BOLTE

When other things are equal, probably the safest form of agriculture for the inexperienced city man to take up is a combination of poultry and fruit. The logic back of this choice is simple, and, we believe, sound.

Chickens will thrive and produce profitably under proper management in every section of this country. They are hardy and stand abuse well, while the amateur is learning the ropes. Small capital is required to make a start, and they multiply rapidly. In fact, a shrewd old Yankee, "down in Maine," is credited with starting a successful poultry farm by borrowing a setting hen from one neighbor and a setting of eggs from another. After the chicks were hatched he kept the hen until she had laid a setting of eggs and then returned both, thereby discharging his debts without expense.

Any sort of well drained land will do for chickens. About all one man can look after profitably is 1,000 hens and their offspring, and he can count on a dollar profit per hen each year. In small flocks the profits often run much higher per hen. Housing 1,000 hens in colony houses holding 100 hens to the pen will cost from \$2,500 to \$5,000, depending upon the material and the location.

By scattering these houses over a ten acre tract of land there will be no need of inside fences and the flocks will keep separate. By planting this ten acres of good apples, provided it is located in an apple growing region, and handling same according to commercial orchard methods, one can make the land do double duty. It is known now that proper location and handling will secure a crop of apples every year. The secret is this:

- 1—Spray trees properly.
- 2—Prune trees properly.
- 3—Keep the ground cultivated all summer.
- 4—Pinch off all but one of the green apples from each fruit spur as soon as they set.
- 5—Use heaters during late frost.

The third item keeps the water in the soil, and the apples stay on the trees instead of blowing off. The fourth rule is one of the most important, as it evens up the strain on the tree and while the yearly crop will be smaller than the natural crop one year and larger the next, it will cost less to handle and the fruit will be much better in form, size and color, and it will bring in more money.

Such an orchard will bring in from \$300 to \$600 a year per acre, and the cost of handling will not exceed \$75. It will take from six to ten years to

bear profitably. Set the trees out in 50 foot squares. Between them set dwarf fruit trees in 50 foot squares. The dwarfs will bear quickly and are to be taken out when the large trees bear. The ground under and between the trees should be planted to a rotation of hoed crops, like potatoes, corn, root crops, garden crops, etc.

Succession of Garden Crops.

Our springtime enthusiasm starts the garden off in great shape and we plant some radishes and lettuce and peas. Later on we find time to plant corn, cucumbers and tomatoes. The class of vegetables which may go into the ground very early is likewise harvested very early. There is a big gap between this early harvest and the time of green corn and red tomatoes, yet we have to work just as hard during this hungry period as if we were getting a bounteous yield.

Why not plan the varieties of vegetables and their planting time so as to secure a continuous and ample supply of good, fresh green things? It's just as easy as any other method of garden management, and it's much more satisfactory. Instead of having only half your garden working after the early vegetables are gone, plan to put in other crops on the same ground so that the succession will be almost unbroken.

The systematic rotation of farm crops is an absolute necessity, in order to secure maximum yields, and to keep down pests. Various crops have entirely different effects on the soil, some taking more of one element, others feeding heavily on another. The legumes, such as clover and alfalfa, are heavy feeders, but they possess the peculiar faculty of transferring nitrogen from the air to the soil, and this makes them our most valuable class of plants, without question. Garden peas and beans belong to this family.

Potatoes and root crops, on the other hand, add nothing and use up a very great amount of plant food. Other plants vary in proportion and it is necessary to make frequent changes of the location of a crop in order to avoid using up all of any one element of plant food.

The problem of diseases and pests is a serious one, particularly in the east. After a certain related class of plants, like potatoes and tomatoes, have been grown on the same land for a couple of seasons, it becomes infected with their enemies and the only

way to get rid of them is to starve them out by using the land for a different class of plants, such as the various cucurbits—cucumbers, pumpkins, squash, gourds and melons.

It is impossible to lay down any set way in which to achieve the best results. We all have different ideas and tastes and this department must be satisfied with calling attention to rather general principles, leaving all details to be worked out by the individual.

Ground which has been used for the early crops can then be planted to late corn or cucumbers. By training tomatoes and cucumbers on supports, a much smaller amount of ground will produce the crop. Many combinations can be worked out to fit your particular crops and the main result to be achieved is to keep all of your garden working all of the time.

Move the crops around from year to year so as to give the soil a chance to recuperate. Where a number of successive plantings are desirable, as with peas, it is an excellent plan to plant a third or fourth crop between the rows of the first crop as soon as the peas have been picked.

DREHER.

Dreher, April 17.
Richard Gilpin and Arthur Welsh are about to embark in the chicken and egg producing business and are erecting a stone and frame chicken house, fifty feet long by twelve feet wide. It is to be an up-to-date building in the line of convenience for the work and for the comfort of the fowls. Mr. Welsh was an employe of the Pennsylvania car shops at West Philadelphia years ago and is a wood worker of experience.

J. B. Kranter has a neat store on the flats, where he has on sale fresh meats, fish, oysters and fresh vegetables.

A. C. Angel and David Hause are erecting an additional chicken house twenty-four feet long and sixteen ft. wide to accommodate their increasing poultry business.

Miss Josetta Angenstein, of Panther, Pike county, was the guest of Elya Angel on March 12 and 13th.

The supervisors of Dreher township have started to do some patch work on the public roads, and it is badly needed.

S. Ward Gilpin, of Duluth, Minn., is visiting his mother, Mrs. Sarah Gilpin, and brother, F. L. Gilpin, of Dreher.

Ira Heffley is seriously ill with pneumonia and under the care of Dr. Simons.

Herman Fribble is on the sick list suffering from a severe attack of indigestion. Both doctors, Simons and Bielin, were called to give medical aid.

J. W. Kerr is still a sufferer from asthma and unable to perform any labor.

Charles Edwards is erecting a dwelling on his lot in Sterling, where his home was destroyed by fire about a year ago.
A. E. Hause went to Philadelphia

on Friday last after spending a three weeks' vacation in this vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. Morrel Searle will move to the Carrie Lamm house near Newfoundland this week.

Vernon and Sarah Martin, Elva and Edgar Bates, all of Dreher, Emma and Mildred Selig and Agnes Heberling, all of Greentown, Pike county, are arranging to take a short course of study in Perkiomen Seminary.

The Ladies' Aid society of the M. E. church of South Sterling, gave an entertainment in the church Sunday school room on Saturday evening, April 12, entitled "The Old Time District School." It was thoroughly enjoyed by a well filled house. A lunch followed the entertainment.

John Hazelton is a grippe victim and is off duty.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Newfoundland, April 17.
The farmers in this vicinity have been delayed in their spring work on account of so much rain.

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Gilpin and Mr. and Mrs. E. Hause visited friends in Scranton last week.

Mrs. Sara Burrus is visiting her son, Clyde, and family.

Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Searle are moving on Carrie Bortree's farm.
Chris Wolzgen spent last Wednesday with Phillip Eck.

Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Haynes, of Arkville, N. Y., who have spent the winter in Virginia, are spending a few days with the latter's brother, R. C. Pelham, and family.

H. Trively and Ira Heffley are suffering with pneumonia.
Miss Mae Haffley, who has had the grip, is able to be around the house again.

The Bird brothers are recovering.

PLEASANT MOUNT.

Pleasant Mount, April 18.

Pleasant Mount is planning to arrange for a special Memorial Day exercise this year. Formerly the day was of special interest to the town and vicinity, and it is hoped the former interest may be manifest this year. A committee, appointed under the direction of the Village Improvement society, will have opportunity to arrange and submit plans to the general public.

A musical and literary entertainment will be given in the High school hall on Wednesday evening, April 13. Mr. McGowen, reader and entertainer, will give numbers between musical selections. Full program will appear later.

Rev. Mr. Hunter left to-day for the spring conference at Wilkes-Barre.
Charles Kennedy, of Creamton, is driving for Payne brothers.

Report has it that Leon Bills has sold his property here to Ruel Wilcox. Possession given at once.

Rich Mills has sold his farm to John Brooking of Poyntelle.

Misses Minnie and Annie Tiffany and Winfield Tiffany of Endicott, were guests of relatives here last week.

Mrs. John Brain, who submitted to a surgical operation at Emergency hospital last week, is reported as improving and is expecting to return home this week.

Bessie Moase spent Sunday in Binghamton.

F. E. Spencer and family are expecting to return from their winter quarters at Leesburg, Florida, this week.

The burial of Helen Ruth Welmer took place in the cemetery here last Sunday morning, the body having been brought by Miss Welmer from Springfield, Ohio. Helen was the youngest daughter of the late Oscar Welmer and leaves one sister in the Home at Springfield, and one brother who lives with the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. K. P. Welmer of this place.

J. H. Kennedy was appointed delegate to Presbytery from the Presbyterian church of this place.

Helen Tiffany has been visiting in New York, Newark and Rutherford for two weeks.

Frank O'Neill has moved from Carbondale in John Riley's hotel.

PAUPACK.

On Friday night a few of the young folks gathered at the home of Henry Fowler to give a surprise party to Mr. Dapper. The night being stormy, not a very large crowd attended. Dancing was the main feature. Those present were: Mrs. Arter, Mrs. Fowler, Anna Steinman, Hilda Vetterlein, Louise Vetterlein, Gertrude Fowler, Anna K. Gumble, Blanche Fowler, Ralph Williams, Gerald Gumble, Harold Gumble, Arthur Trivelpiece, Harold Arter, Geo. Gumble, Jacob Brown, Henry Vetterlein.

Mrs. C. E. Williams spent part of last week with her daughter, Mrs. Gilpin, at Hawley.

Miss E. B. Killam returned home Saturday from a business trip to Scranton.

Mrs. Deacon spent Thursday with Mrs. H. Fowler.

There will be no church next Sunday as the minister has gone to conference.

Arthur Trivelpiece of Swamp Brook, visited friends at this place last week.

School was out last Friday. Those who attended every day were: Edith Gumble, Gertrude Fowler and Anna Gumble.

Mrs. Arter and son Harold, of Swamp Brook, have been visiting Mrs. Fowler for the past week.

Gerald Gumble started for the West on Monday morning.

SOUTH STERLING.

Business is on a standstill. Geo. H. Lancaster is only running short hand and one-fourth of the time this month so far. The LaAnna Manufacturing company is running only part of the time.

I. H. Gilpin made a flying trip to Milford last week. He took Miss Cora Gilpin, Myron Gilpin, James M. Gilpin and Leroy Gilpin.

Ward W. Frey spent a few days in Stroudsburg last week with his sister, Mrs. E. B. Carlton.

James R. Smith is on the sick list. The Ladies' Aid society held their 20th anniversary Saturday afternoon and evening. There was a large crowd. They gave an entertainment and supper which was enjoyed by all. The receipts were \$85.00.

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Ideal Dairy Farm—Located in Cherry Ridge township about one mile from the Hoadleys station on the Erie road on the Wyoming division. Two separate parcels of land with only public highway as a division. First known as Isaac R. Schenck farm, contains 123 acres, 50 of which are improved and the balance second growth of timber. Brook runs through property, which is also well watered. Good farm house and barns. The second tract or what is known as the Apollas D. Schenck farm contains 101 acres, 51 improved and balance in fine young growth of hickory. This is a valuable asset to the farm. This farm corners in the Bonear farm lake. It is well watered. Good fruit orchards on both farms. Terms easy. Bargain for spring buyer.

Property in Heart of Summer Boarding District—Located in Sullivan county, New York, one mile north of Eldred and between Eldred and Ulan. Contains 130 acres, 10 of which are cleared and balance in timber. Elevation 1,500 feet. On proposed State road. Eight-room house, good barn and chicken house. Water near house. Good fruit on premises. Place occupied, but in case of sale immediate possession will be given. Rare bargain. One-half down, balance terms to suit purchaser.

Farm in Texas Township—Lies between Sandercock and Murray roads. Contains 180 acres, 125 of which are first and second growth timber. Part of farm extends into Calaw Lake. Forty acres in pasture, balance well cultivated. Six-room house and barn 30x40 feet on premises. All kinds of fruit, berries, etc. Good water. Good dairy farm. Located within a mile of Honesdale. One half down, balance on easy terms.

Excellent farm, consisting of 184 acres, 44 of which is water, 50 acres under cultivation and the balance pasture land. On farm is a good dwelling, barn, wagon, spring, chicken and ice houses. Good site for summer boarding house. Bargain awaits purchaser.

A No. 1 Farm—Contains 104 acres, 70 cleared. No stones and ground very productive. Ideal place for truck farm. Located at Indian Orchard on Main road between Honesdale and Hawley. Well built farm house and barns. Young and old apple orchards; also quantity of butternut trees on premises. Well watered, brook runs through farm. Most of land on flats. Will sell stock if purchaser desires. One-half cash, balance on easy terms.

Productive Farm Located at Ustick—57 acres, 35 of which are cleared. Twenty tons of hay cut last year. An exceptionally good farm. House and barn in good condition. Plenty of water on place; small trout brook on premises. Place known as George Ouler farm. Sixteen hundred dollars buys the place. This is an exceedingly low price for so productive a farm.

Farm at Ariel—In first-class condition containing 50 acres, 30 of which are under cultivation and 2000 pvt. owned by owner on land. Fruits of all kinds, orchard and cultivated berries. Seven-room dwelling, basement barn, good poultry house and outbuildings. Never failing spring near house and several springs in pasture. Located 1 1/2 miles from Ariel station on Erie railroad. Graded school and churches in vicinity. Rural delivery, telephone connection and first class road. The farm is located in a valley and is warm in winter. Road does not drift. A bargain for spring purchaser. Must be sold at once.

Fine farm located at Girdland containing 134 acres, good tract of timber valued at \$1,000, 90 acres improved. Twelve-room house, the cel-

lar being flagged. Barn 36x50 with 9 foot basement and an annex 18x26 feet, three stories high. Upper story is sealed, granary and wood-house. Place well watered. Star route nearby. 100,000 feet of hemlock lumber joins above property. Tract consists of 96 acres. Trout brook 1/2 mile in length flows through this tract. Bargain for somebody.

Five houses, two barns, excelsior mill, granary, cattle, farming implements, gasoline engine located at Equinunk overlooking the Delaware river. Buildings in good shape. Home of owner is 20x24 feet with a two-story addition 12x18 feet and summer kitchen 12x30 feet. Water in house, equipped with all modern appointments, acetylene gas and electricity, steam heat, etc. One of best country homes in Wayne county. Will sell stock if purchaser desires. There is also a developed water power on the premises. An exceptional bargain. Seven acres of land are included.

Fine summer home located on the Honesdale, Dyberry, Damascus and Rileyville roads, R. D. route, near school and church. House contains several rooms and has a porch eight feet wide and 65 feet long. The

building is heated by steam, ceilings 9 1/2 feet high, with running water in the house. Seventy-five acres of good tillable soil, practically level and all cleared. Three apple orchards. \$3,000 spent on house last year. Good bargain for quick buyer.

Double House in White Mills—Located in village. Twelve rooms and arranged for two families. In good condition. Acre of ground, fruit, and small barn. Terms easy. Would make good investment for young man.

Poultry Farm—One mile from Beach Lake and 4 1/2 miles from Narrowsburg, near the Erie railroad. Plant equipped with modern and complete contrivances for conducting farm on large scale. Rare bargain. Easy terms.

Small Farm in Prompton—Good property. House contains 12 rooms. Barn is 26x36 feet. Acre and one-half of ground. Ideal place for small chicken farm. Close to D. & H. station. Bargain for spring buyer.

Sixty-Acre Farm—Located within two miles of Honesdale. Will sell whole or a few acres of same to party wanting small farm. Very productive. House and barn and well watered. Another good bargain.

Desirable Farm—Located at Milanville—110 acres, 75 cleared, balance well covered with timber. Two-story dwelling, barn, and other buildings. Living spring on farm, brook flows through premises. Elevation 1,200 feet. One of healthiest places in Wayne county. Ideal place for summer boarding house. Excellent view over picturesque Delaware river. Three quarters of a mile from Erie station and milk depot. Eleven roads center at place. Easy terms to purchaser.

Situated in Berlin township there is a farm consisting of 108 acres, 18 of which is cleared land and 25 acres first growth timber. There is an excellent orchard, good spring water and buildings. Upon premises is a seven-room house, barn 30x40 with concrete basement and numerous outbuildings. Stock included.

Eight-Acre Farm—In Berlin township for sale cheap. Three acres cleared, balance in woodland. House and barn on premises. Good spring and fruit on farm. On main road between Bunnelltown and Beach Lake. Farm about three miles from Honesdale. Owner, poor woman that needs the money. Bargain for spring purchaser.

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