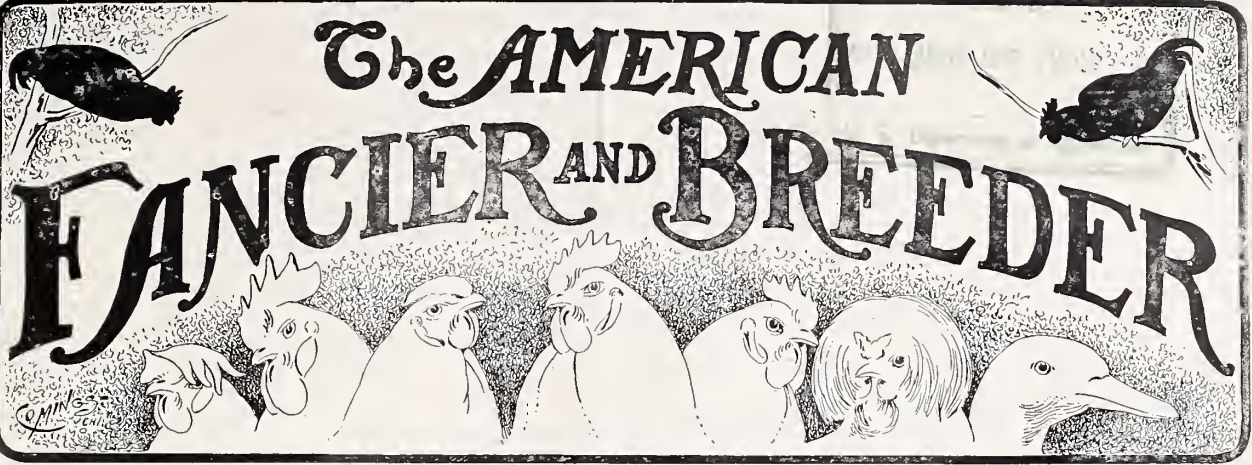


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The AMERICAN FANCIER AND BREEDER



Vol. 20.

De Kalb, Illinois, April, 1903.

No. 4.



A 95½ point Princess Strain Single Comb White Leghorn Hen, bred and owned by J. Cook Johnson, Omaha, Neb. Published by permission from Mr. Johnson's 1903 catalogue, entitled "The Winning of the Blue." Mailed for 6 cents in stamps.

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HOMES

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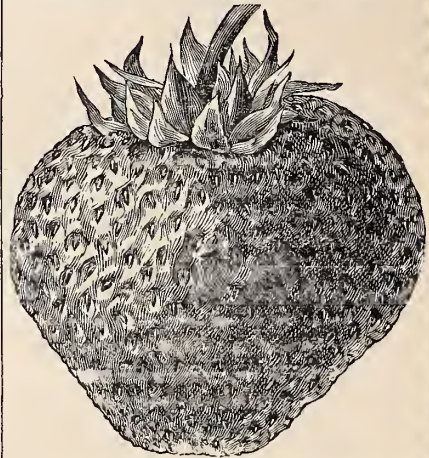
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The American FANCIER and BREEDER.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO POULTRY CULTURE.

Vol. 20.

DE KALB, ILLINOIS, APRIL, 1903.

No. 4.

Spring Planting.

In the spring planting of both trees and vines, we should bear in mind the probable drouthy season of the late summer and early fall, and plant with a view to off-setting the unfavorable period while our plantings are yet young and not fully set and strongly rooted.

This can be effected by a good mulching at planting time, and additional mulching in June or July. Any kind of mulching attracts and retains moisture; and prevents evaporation, or rather retards it. This is evidenced by the fact that, no matter how dry the exposed surface may be, the earth immediately beneath a plank, a cloth, or a bunch of straw is always moist.

And so, if we will take our cue from nature, and place a heavy litter of old straw, leaves, or dead weeds about the base of our newly set spring trees or vines, we will have done much towards insuring their living and taking good root during the summer. The mulching at the base of a newly set tree should cover a space about three feet square. It will serve a double purpose, as, in addition to conserving moisture, it will prevent the growth of grass and weeds about the young tree, as nothing of that kind can make growth up through the mulching.

The mulching about grape vines should consist of leaves, or forest-mould—which latter is chiefly decayed and rotted leaves. The same is also good for raspberry and blackberry vines. The strawberry thrives best, even in dry times, when cultivated frequently. This refers, of course, to newly set strawberry plants and not to fruited vines.

In July or early August it is advisable to cut down all the weeds among newly set fruit trees and rake the stuff up about the trees, which serves as a second mulching for the season, and clears the surroundings of the weeds.

How To Dress Chickens.

To Dress Chickens—Kill by bleeding in the mouth or opening the veins of the neck; hang by the feet until properly bled. Leave head and feet on and do not remove intestines nor crop. Scalded chickens sell best to home trade, and dry picked best to shippers, so that either manner of dressing will do if properly executed. For scalding chickens the water should be as near the boiling point as possible without boiling;

pick the legs dry before scalding; hold by the head and legs and immerse and lift up, and down three times; if the head is immersed it turns the color of the comb and gives the eyes a shrunken appearance, which leads buyers to think the fowl has been sick; the feathers and pin feathers should then be removed immediately very cleanly and without breaking the skin; then "plump" by dipping ten seconds in water nearly or quite boiling hot, and then immediately into cold water; hang in a cool place until the animal heat is entirely out of the body. To dry pick chickens properly the work should be done while the chickens are bleeding; do not wait and let the bodies get cold. Dry picking is much more easily done while the bodies are warm. Be careful and do not break and tear the skin.

The Hen on the Farm.

If there is any branch of activity that should engage the thoughtful attention of the average farmer it is that of Poultry culture.

Most farmers prefer to give their attention and their labor to that particular branch of their calling that will yield them the largest amount of profit for the time and capital invested. If they fail to do this they can not compete with their brother farmers who take advantages of such opportunities. If there be doubts in the minds of any as to whether their hens will pay them for good care and attention, it might be well to make a comparison of the profits of the best cow on the farm and twenty hens properly cared for. Such an experiment will cause the most skeptical to appreciate the hen as a money maker.

We know that usually hens have been kept on the farm as a matter of convenience to supply food for the farmer's table rather than as a source of revenue. But people are wiser today than yesterday, and many things are, in these days, made to pay a nice profit, that a few years ago were considered of little or no value. These are the days of strict competition in all lines, and the farmer finds himself compelled to use the same business methods that are employed by the "business man of the city." Energy must now be directed to that particular branch of the enterprise that will bring the greatest reward, and that which requires the smallest amount of expenditure. This is why the "up to date" progressive farmer is giving his attention to the "business hen." Last year we imported large

quantities of eggs, and we produced thousands of dozens more than the previous year; yet eggs for the year brought a higher price than ever. These facts show us that we are yet in our infancy of this great industry, and here is something still more startling: The poultry industry of this country last year was greater by several hundred thousand dollars than the wheat, the wool and the sheep industries combined. The farmer must not think, however, that all that is necessary to become rich quickly is to have 100 or 500 hens, and let them take care of themselves—eating all the grain that is possible. It is better to think the subject over before you engage in the enterprise, and see if you are willing to give the thought and attention to the business that other men who succeed give to theirs. If you cannot meet these conditions we advise that you let poultry alone, for your success will depend largely upon your ability to apply best methods of care and food. There is no field open to the ordinary man that is more lucrative or more pleasant than poultry culture.—C. E. C. in Poultry Advocate.

Vigorous Breeding Stock Essential.

The raising of chicks is a very important part of the business. While the successful hatching and raising depends largely on the proper handling of incubators and brooders, as well as care and food, our experience satisfies us that the foundation of success is in the breeding stock. Strong, healthy birds properly handled will produce eggs that are fertile and chicks that will thrive and grow even under unfavorable conditions, while eggs from stock that is not in a healthy condition for breeding will produce chicks that with the utmost care and attention possible to give them, will mean loss and bitter disappointment to the breeder. Judging from articles written by poultry raisers and conversations we have had with many breeders the success or failure of raising chicks is laid too much to the method of incubating, brooding and feeding, and what we believe to be the foundation of success (the breeding of stock) is not given the attention by many that is necessary to give good results. In a poultry journal of recent date a raiser tells how he feeds to produce pullets that lay when four months old. If those pullets are used for breeding when the hatching season arrives, and are in a good, healthy condition and lay eggs that are fertile and produce good, strong chicks, it is the first time we ever knew of such being the case.—Ex.

Care of Brooder Chicks.

It is time to get out of the brooders and be ready for business. If you will use the same ones you did last year, the first thing to be done is, close them up tight, put in a pan of excelsior or straw well mixed with sulphur, and give them a thorough fumigating, leaving them closed for twelve hours, then open and air well. If your brooder has no light or air under the hover, put it there if possible. Fresh air is as necessary as heat and the lack of it causes more loss of little chicks than any one cause. The entire floor of the brooder is covered with sand and over it several handfuls of bran is scattered. When the thermometer registers 90 to 95 degrees, everything is ready for the downy little chicks, and they can now be let alone until the next morning. You will find them busy picking at the sand and bran and ready for their first meal of hard boiled egg and bread or cracker crumbs; both water and milk is now before them all the time, made fresh and clean three times a day. Once a week lime water is given them. We now feed five times a day, first hard boiled egg mixed with crumbs, second, bread soaked in milk or boiled rice; third, potatoes, cabbage or mangels chopped fine, all they will eat up clean; fourth, millet in chaff; fifth, oat meal dry. This is followed for the first week, then wheat takes the place of the egg. When they are six weeks old we feed but three times a day, and cracked corn is fed once a day. A change of feed daily is best. Do not keep too much heat in your brooder, let the thermometer drop daily until the tenth day it is about 70 degrees. Charcoal and oyster shell are before them all the time, and don't forget the little chicks love a dust bath as well as the old ones, especially if placed in a warm, sunny spot. Do not feed too much; the one who does the feeding must be the judge of the amount, and when they come flocking to you when you come with their feed, you may feel sure you are feeding right. A chick that is not glad to see you is over-fed. Keep them busy; take the spade each morning and turn over the ground for them; they soon learn what it means and are ready to grab the first bug or worm that appears.

A brooder house or shed is almost as necessary as the brooder for the health of the little chicks. How many fine broods have been lost by being confined in a close brooder for several days in the spring on account of rain. If no dry brooder house is to be had, gather up some of the old boards laying around and make a shed close to the west and north, if no more, with a good roof over it. Next year you will have a sunny brooder house built from the proceeds of the sale of chicks you would otherwise have lost. Put chaff of some kind in once or twice a week and feed your oat meal, millet, cracked corn and wheat in it a few handfuls of grit also; they will get the necessary grinding food along with the rest. My plan

may not be "scientific," but I never lost a hick last season from disease of any kind. What more can one ask for?—A. C. A., in Poultry Tribune.

How To Set A Hen.

The good or bad results of a hatch often depends on the way in which a hen is set, says a writer in Farmers Tribune. I suppose all poultry breeders have a favorite method of setting a hen as all the incubators ever manufactured will not rob biddie entirely of her propensity to set.

Years ago we had something like this: "To set a hen properly get a fresh sod and invert it in the nest, hollow out the centre, cover with fine cut straw, hay or chaff," etc., etc., and I carried sod after sod and pailful after pailful of fresh soil to put in the bottom of nests and all the effect it ever had was to make me very tired. It is not necessary to have fresh soil in the bottom of nests, as a hen will hatch just as well up in the hay mow as anywhere else and perhaps a little better.

Nowadays when I want to set a hen I move her from her laying nest into a shed which is enclosed with a six foot wire netting. I do not wait until after dark, I just carry her out any time I take a notion, dust her well with good insect powder, put her on the nest with three or four "nest eggs" under her and place a board up in front of the nest to keep her there until the next morning, when I give the eggs and remove the "nest egg," and the board.

I use coffee boxes for nest boxes turned down on the side, a partition put in, and a four-inch strip nailed across the bottom of the front to keep the nest material from falling out and it is done. They are just the right size for two nests, are cheap, light and can be moved around anywhere, and madam biddie can step in easily and quietly without breaking the eggs.

If you wish to nail kegs or barrels for nests lay them down on the side, nail a four inch board across the bottom of the front and put in the straw or hay so the hen will not have to jump down on the eggs.

Never use any strong smelling liquid lice killers of grease on the setting hens or nests.

Once a whole batch of setting hen's eggs by using a liquid lice killer. I put it under the straw, too. The fumes simply smothered the chicks in the shell. Other eggs set at the same time all hatched. When the weather is very cold we sometimes folded newspapers and put them in the bottom and around the sides of the nest box, making the nest of coarse hay or straw, not fine cut straw, hay nor chaff as these materials are too soft and yielding, the eggs sink down into them and the hen cannot properly turn them, if at all. I have ruined more than one batch by using such material. Now I know better.

Sometimes I have lined nests with old pieces of quilt or worn clothing and when we lived in the South cotton and cottonseed.

For warm weather nests I use good straw, hay or leaves, always burning it after the hen hatches.

Many poor hatches can be accounted for by confining the hen on the nest with a cage or frame. I do not believe it is right to thus pen her in, as there are times when the chicks are growing in the shells that they get too hot to be comfortable for poor biddie's body and she knows just when to get off and cool them when left to her own inclination.

My setting hens have a shed and a wire run all their own grit, shelled corn and fresh water, and a dusting place are kept in the pen all the time and madame biddie can get off and rest, eat and dust herself whenever she feels so inclined. I have often noticed that they will come off three or four times in one day and then again will remain on the nest two or three days.

I go in the pen every morning and evening and change any that have got on the wrong nest but as there just as many nests of eggs as there are hens there will be none left to get cold and I never have had a hen leave her nest nor break her eggs since I have had this pen.

In fact I have had such good hatches that I had almost lost my desire to own an incubator.

Gravel and Egg-Shells.

Gravel as usually found in most soils has been rounded by the air, water and heat, through wear and tear. Unless sharp it is valueless. As soon as the fowls round off a sharp substance in gizzard it is voided; hence, hens prefer sharp shell to ground gravel. The reason they eat more shells when laying (or more sharp grit of any kind) is because (when laying) more food is required, and consequently there is better digestion, and assimilation. Because an egg has specks or flakes of lime on the shell does not imply that it is due to feeding shell, as the same thing occurs when no oyster shells are given. It may be due to the food, also. As a rule, such hens are fat. Some kinds of gravel are limestone and of the same composition as oyster shells. There are millions of hens that never saw an oyster shell, and they do not lay soft-shelled eggs. Soft-shelled eggs always indicate over-feeding. Maine Farmer.

Don't Your Eggs.

Don't set Brahma, Wyandotte and Leghorn eggs in the same incubator at the same time. The amount of moisture or ventilation required to hatch one will be too much or insufficient to hatch the other variety.

The continued high price of chickens and eggs has stimulated the poultry business. Many farmers are making arrangements to go extensively into the poultry raising business. The hen now instead of the goose lays the golden egg.

Get a Typewriter.

If the carrying on of your business calls for the writing of letters, by all means—by any means—get a typewriter.

I have in mind, in writing this, the thousands of young persons throughout America who are "being their own bosses," and getting rich, in a calm dispassionate, deliberate manner, in business.

Some of you have fairly well printed letter heads; most of you have not. Some of you write an intelligent "hand," most of you do not. Most of you write with purple ink in a scrawly, awkward, schoolboy chirography that gives you away right at the start.

And when a man receives a letter under a headline that is unmistakably the work of the most amateurist "amiture" printers (as one of them calls himself), and written in crooked, sprawly characters that betray inexperience, youth and "four flushing" in every stroke—when a man gets such a letter what does he think? What does he do?

If you are trying to sell him something he thinks pretty quick that he doesn't want to buy of any concern represented by such a letter.

If you want to buy something of him, he looks again to see if a remittance accompanies the order; and if it doesn't you get a letter from him requesting reference or a remittance.

Now a typewriter won't exactly remedy all these drawbacks, but it will help.

You can get a typewriter at most any price—\$3.50, \$5.00, \$10.00 and so on up to \$100. The \$3.50 ones are not so speedy as the \$100 sort but they print just the same. And even if they are slow, you can operate them about as rapidly as you apparently operate a pen—and you won't stick out your tongue in doing it.

Even a \$100 machine won't teach some of you how to spell—that is how to spell correctly—but any machine will undoubtedly help. And then there is a chance that orthographical mishaps will be attributed to the ignorance or carelessness of your stenographer, if your typewritten letters say "Dic." at the end of it.

By using a typewriter you will render impossible the lamentable combination of a very badly printed heading and a very badly written letter; and as it is possible that you may secure a well printed heading, there will be no risk of spoiling the effect of that by miserable "hen tracks" under it.

Plainly, the use of a typewriter increases your chance of success about a hundred fold. It is certainly better, if you are earnestly trying to make money in the mail trade, to do every thing possible to increase the probability of winning.

A typewritten will help you to conceal the true state of affairs behind the letters you sent out; and between you and me, we know that it is an advisable thing to do.

D'ont get mad about this: I simply happen to be in a position to see lots of correspond-

ence from young folks, and I am really trying to make you understand how your correspondence impresses people. Nothing personal is meant, of course; the shoe is intended for all whose feet it will fit.

Locating the Poultry House.

In selecting a location the poultryman ought to look around and get some place that will be found suitable for business. He should select a place that will be healthy for his flock, convenient to market and where the business can be carried on economically by being able to get feed cheaply.

With the farmer it is different. As the Journal of Agriculture says, he has his and its equipment, and method of sustaining himself to other conditions he has to suit his conditions to the breed he selects. He may select a breed that has will do best in his hands and suitable to his needs on his farm. He will also will be called upon to select the best place suitable for his flock rather than in "any old place," which is very often the case. It is no uncommon thing to see the house site, the place for the barn and other outbuildings selected with the utmost care, but the poultry house can be placed anywhere where it "will be out of the way" The idea is too much prevalent that chickens are a nuisance any way and should be only permitted to stay on the place to please the "women folks." This is all wrong. If the poultry business is of sufficient importance to give a place at all on the farm it certainly is worthy of good quarters and fair treatment.

It is not always a good plan to have the poultry house attached to barn or stable, and yet it may be well to locate it so it will have the protection of such buildings. The poultry house should have some protection from the northwest winds and should be located with reference to other buildings and fences, so it will not be subjected to too much snow drifting about to be in the way of the flock. Very often snowdrifts will interfere a grate deal with that indifference shown toward poultry on some farms there is likely to not be much scooping of snow.

Where there is a choice of locations the poultry house should have a southeast frontage. A south front is all right and a east front is very well, but by having a southeast frontage there can be a combination of these good qualities and it will be found well. In winter the front will have the advantage of the morning sun and will get the good of it for the greater part of the day. It will have the rear part of the house set exactly against the quarter from which comes the most cutting winds. In building the house the front should be higher than the rear and should be free from openings.

Fences and lots should be provided with reference to the advantage to be obtained from them. One person will need no lots or fences, while another will not attempt to get along without them. We believe some lots can be used to advantage on every farm

where poultry is kept. The vigor of the flock can be kept up to much better advantage by selecting the breeding fowls each spring and raising all the from the stock. This is much better than breeding from the entire flock at large. It requires less care to breed indiscriminately, but it is not the best thing to do.

Locate the building with reference to getting as much good from it in summer as in winter. While it is most necessary to select a warm site for winter it will be as necessary to see that it is made cool in summer. A grove of trees might be selected as such a place. Next to this may be employed sunflowers or something of that sort for shade. If the house is in an exposed place it might be well to pile a lot of corn stover on the north and west sides in winter. We must learn to protect our houses against cold in winter heat in summer and against dampness at any season of the year. This can be done by giving the matter a little attention and perhaps a little artificial drainage to help out the natural location—Commerical Poultry.

Early Hatched Chicks.

We find by experience that early hatched chickens are always best. We set our incubator early in April and in November the pullets began to lay. In the later part of the summer, pullets are as large as the old hens. Early pullets make our best winter layers, and the eggs from them are much better for hatching purposes than from late hatched chicks. The eggs are larger, with more vitality in them. They will hatch a larger per cent. of chicks that will live and grow well, than will eggs from late hatching. A late hatched chick will never attain the size of an early one. The weather is warm and the forage is abundant, but the late one has to make the finish in the winter on dry food and confinement. Nothing grow so well in confinement as when left to run at will. Late hatched chickens grow very nicely while they have a chance to run but winter comes on while they are yet growing and they go into the house and stay rather than wade in the snow. The change is so sudden and unnatural that the rapid growth stops and they become stunted; never getting so large as they would had they got their proper growth during warm weather. I believe if the plan of keeping late hatched pullets for breeders was followed for a long term of years that the fowls would become smaller from year to year until they would become worthless.—Epitomist.

If the poultry yard is inclined to get muddy at this time in the year it will pay to fill it in with sand, cinders or even clay until it is about the general level. In any case it should be drained so as to dry quickly after wet weather.

There is always a market for the best of everything.

Use whitewash freely. It goes a long way toward making things sweet and clean.

The AMERICAN FANCIER and BREEDER

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COUNT THE DOTS.

The American Fancier and Breeder new dot counting contest seems to be taking like hot cakes. Already many have taken advantage of our offer in connection with the Successful Farming, of Des Moines, and several have paid two years ahead on the paper in order to get the privilege of counting the dots, and getting a chance to secure a piano, or some of the cash prizes offered to the nearest guessers, or counters, who do not receive a piano. The American Fancier and Breeder is the only paper offering this opportunity to its readers in the county. Read the conditions and go to work to count the dots. Two pianos and \$800.00 in cash are to be given away. You stand a chance of getting some of them.

A letter from the May R. Poultry Plant, breeders of White Plymouth Rocks, Connerville Ind.

Mr. W. F. Chamberlain,
Kirkwood, Mo.

Dear Sir,

I send you by same mail a copy of my latest catalogue. Kindly look over article entitled "From Shell To Show Room." I was very glad to give you this free advertisement, because the results we have had in raising my young stock since using same have been so good that I felt a pleasure in recommending it.

Nowadays when I get a chick in the

brooder he belongs to me, and barring accident, I expect to raise it. Bowel trouble is a thing of the past.

With best regards, and with hopes that you may have a successful season, I remain,
Fraternally yours,

D. T. Roots.

The Wild Garden.

The following is taken from an article in the DELINEATOR: A portion of the garden proper may be given over to the development of a nondescript of collection bearing the name "wild garden." Numberless hardy perennials as well as annuals lend themselves admirable to this feature of gardening. Especially adapted are aquilegia, achillea, anemones, antirrhinum, Canterbury bells, foxglove, platycodon, cleomes, hardy delphinium and moon-penny daisys. Attention must be paid to the height of the flowers; they should be graded down to the foreground, with harmonious colors adjacent. Added to a careless, free hand style of sowing the seeds, the plot of the ground should be irregular in outline. There may also be wild, apparently neglected corners devoted to a mass of a single flower—a wilderness of hollyhocks or a thicket of sunflowers. In larger grounds rugged slopes corners and by-paths, given over to masses and tangles of wild roses, sweetbriar, vines and shrubbery, require no care beyond first planting and become in time a wilderness of beauty.

The Live Stock Department of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition was virtually organized only since the first of the year, and hence its plans are far less advanced than is desirable. Work on the classification and the rules regulations governing exhibits is now, however, being energetically pushed by the Department's chief, Mr. F. D. Colburn, who is placing himself in closest possible touch with breeders of improved stock everywhere with a view to utilizing their best ideas for making their features of the great exposition what it should be.

The cost of the Worlds Columbian Exposition at Chicago was about 19 million dollars; estimated cost of St Louis World's Fair is 40 million dollar. The Live Stock interests at the Louisiana Exposition are likely to be given proportionate attention.

Classifications will include all recognized improved breeds. It is expected the friends of all the varieties of live stock, pigeons, poultry pet stock, as well as horses, cattle, and other ruminants and swine, will find at St. Louis much greater recognition than has been given them on any previous occasion.

DECODATIVE POSSIBILITIES OF VINES

Vines lend themselves with facility to many and varied uses. Walls pillars and embankments may be clothed in them; walks exposed to the burning sun may be covered; and a back porch, a post sunk in a neglected spot, a sunny back door, all furnish oppor-

Incubator Buyers! ATTENTION!

Before purchasing your incubators, write to me for catalogue of 12 of the leading incubator manufacturers of the U. S. and make yourselves familiar with the different kinds of machines, prices, etc. **H. L. Squires,**
Wading River, New York.

tunities for thrifty vines. For permanent effect, nothing surpasses the Boston or Japanese ivy. It is hardy and luxuriant, climbs firmly and does not run across openings of doors, windows etc. For flowering effect clematis paniculata is supreme, and when intermingled with the scarlet, ever blooming honeysuckle the effect is dazzling in the extreme. For the thrifty home maker, whose is planned with a view to utility, the grape-vine appeals with two-fold interest, and for picturesque effect the wile-grape vine is especially adapted.—From the Delineator.

BEING ROBBED.

Two bandits, Prastination and Lost Opportunity, are carrying on their nefarious operations in our locality and our people are being robbed in broad daylight. These two unprincipled individuals may yet steal \$500 from you. Will you not interfere with heir designs.

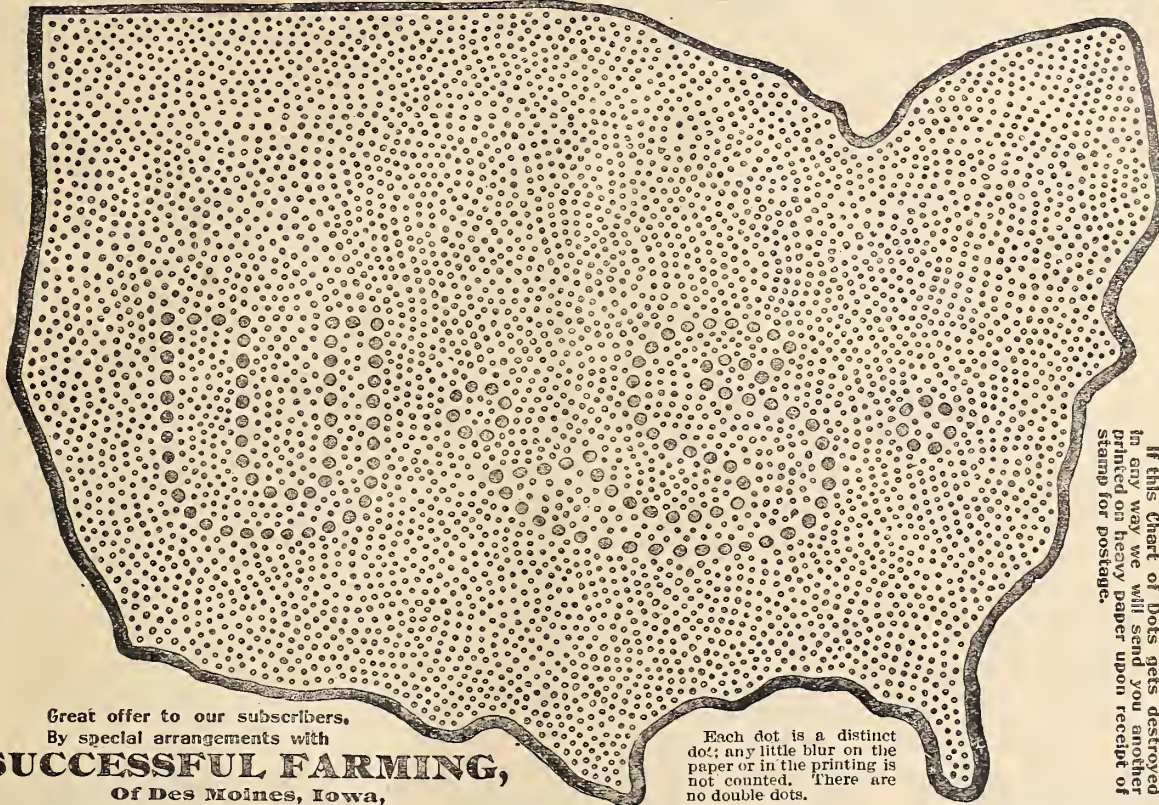
By special arrangment with the Successful Farming we have offered you \$1500.00 in grand cash prizes, the first prize aggregating \$500 and you are losing it by putting off counting the dots and when the contest is over you will be mourning over the lost opportunity when perhaps your next door neighbor is enjoying \$500, \$350, \$200, \$150 or some of the various cash prizes we offer. Don't put this off another minute. You can, you will, you must count these dots, because you may win \$500. If some one made you a present of \$500 would you refuse it? Don't refuse our offer.

Animal Food.

To have our hens lay well in winter we must see to it that a substitute is provided for the animal food that they get in summer. There are many kinds of animal food that may be made use of, such as cut green bore, animalmeal, beef-scrap, dried blood, and dried meat-scrap. First of all, whatever you may use have it sweet and free from bad odor, for if the animal food used is not well flavored and good for food you will find that the bad odor of the food will be noticed in the flavor of the eggs these hens lay, and if enough of it is fed and the flavor bad enough the flesh of the fowls that eat it will taste of it. If any amount of fish or onions is fed to the hens their eggs will soon have the flavor. For these reasons have the animal food, of whatever kind you use, of good quality.

But few men have the knack to handle more than a hundred fowls and care for them properly.

\$1,500.00 FREE TWO \$350.00
IN GRAND PRIZES SCHILLER PIANOS.



Great offer to our subscribers,
 By special arrangements with
SUCCESSFUL FARMING,
 Of Des Moines, Iowa,

One of the best 32-page illustrated farm papers published, we will give to those who count the dots in the above diagram correctly or nearest correctly, or in case of tie suggest best plan, **TWO \$350.00 PIANOS AND \$800.00 IN CASH.** Read offer carefully. **Greatest offer ever made!** You may lose \$500 by not entering contest.

Two \$350.00 Schiller Pianos as first prizes—one to a lady and one to a gentleman; second prize, \$200.00 in cash; third prize, \$100.00; fourth, \$50.00; fifth, \$25.00; next, \$10.00; next, \$5.00; the next twenty-five, \$3.00 each; next thirty-five, \$1.00 each; two special prizes of \$150 each (see below). Surely out of this immense list you can win. If you can count and plan you can.

AWARDS WILL BE MADE AS FOLLOWS: The person giving correct or coming nearest the correct number, gets first prize, next nearest second prize, and so on down the list. The Pianos will be awarded to those who count correct or nearest correct—one to a lady, the other to a gentleman. If there should be a tie in the count for any prize it will be awarded to the one of those tying who suggests best plan of counting the dots. It is likely the person giving nearest the correct count will win as it is no easy matter to count these dots.

GRAND SPECIAL PRIZES—To the gentleman and lady winning the Pianos will be given an additional **Cash Prize of \$150.00 each** if they have three advance subscription counts entered. That is have paid two years in advance to our paper and Successful Farming at \$1.50 for the two years. If you win the piano and have paid one year at 75c the judges will give you the piano only. If you win the piano and have two years paid you get **\$150.00 extra.** It will pay all to have the three advance counts.

CONDITIONS—Subscriptions must be at 75c per year which pays for one year to both Successful Farming, and our paper and entitles you to one count; \$1.50 pays for two years and entitles you to three counts and makes you eligible for the grand \$150 Special Prizes.

TWO ELEGANT \$350.00 SCHILLER PIANOS FREE. These are fine prizes and in order to give ladies and gentlemen each an equal opportunity, one will go to a lady and one to a gentleman. Mark your subscription blank below stating whether you wish to enter "ladies' contest" or "gentleman's contest." Two different members of a family may compete, one in the ladies' and the other in the gentleman's contest, if they wish. 75c pays for one year's subscription to both papers and entitles you to one count, or \$1.50 pays for two years and entitles you to three counts, and by taking one on each side of what you think is the correct number you are more likely to win and besides if you win you get the grand special prizes of \$150 each, which you do not get if you only have one year paid in advance. See above in regard to special prizes.



She Won a Piano For \$1.00.
 "You may say to all the world, I received my piano, an elegant Schiller. I never heard of you until I answered your ad., so you have no favorites. I will answer any body sending stamp.—Daisy Keller, Belle Plain, Iowa."

A Check For \$150.
 "Oh I am so glad. Just received your check for \$150. It proves to me that you deal fairly with all. I paid the \$150 on our place.—Willis Sheirbon, Merrill, Ia."

First Prize She Ever Won.
 "I won \$100, all my own. It pays to enter your contests. They are surely conducted fairly. E. M. Hall, Montrose, Mo."

We will send names and addresses of dozens and dozens who have won bicycles, watches, sewing machines, besides many larger premiums, to anybody writing for them.



Please Note—There is no element of chance, of guess work or lottery about this. It is a test of skill pure and simple. If you can count the dots correctly you can win. The number of prizes is so large you are bound to hit it somewhere.

State Treasurer Gilbertson, Mayor Brenton and a Banker, They Will Select, to Award Premiums

To Whom It May Concern: We know the publishers of SUCCESSFUL FARMING and can assure anybody interested that they will pay every premium they promise and treat every contestant fairly, showing no partiality. They have asked us to act as judges to award the prizes, and we will gladly act in that capacity.—G. S. Gilbertson, Treas. State of Iowa, and J. M. Brenton, Mayor of Des Moines.

Nobody connected with our paper is allowed to compete. Surely with such judges all may be assured fair treatment. You are as likely to win as anyone.

Key to Dots—To all who wish it and will write on separate sheet of paper "Send me key to dots," and sign your name and P. O. and enclose 10 cents to cover expenses, we will at close of contest send you a key to the dots showing just how many there are. Every contestant should order one, but it is not necessary unless you wish one. No key will be sent out until close of contest. Contest closes April 30, 1903, but get your counts in at once, the earlier the better. Contestants having three advance subscription counts entered may enter additional counts at 25 cents each. Address,

Publisher American Fancier & Breeder, De Kalb, Ills.

I enclose \$..... for years subscription to both SUCCESSFUL

FARMING and your paper, and I wish to enter the..... (write ladies' or gents') Dot Contest. (If \$1.50 is paid send three counts; if more than \$1.50, send one additional count for each 75c over \$1.50; if only 75c is paid send ONLY ONE count. The \$150.00 special prizes go only to those having THREE or more counts entered.

My Count is: (1)..... (2)..... (3).....

Name.....
 (Have paper addressed to head of the family)

P. O..... State.....

Remarks: My plan of counting is

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I have 16 varieties of strawberry plants, all large, and carefully selected with reference to their "business" qualities. Also raspberry and blackberry plants. No fancy varieties and no fancy prices. White, Buff and Barred Rock and S. C. W. Leghorn eggs. Send for price-list. **H. L. SQUIRES,**
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BANTAMS

My Bantams are bred from the best imported stock and are mated for best results. Eggs \$3 per 13, \$5 per 26.
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CARDS of 30 words or less, in card column,
1 insertion 50 cents, 3 insertions \$1.00,
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Cards with small illustration, of 20 words or less at the above rates. Over this number of words in plain or illustrated cards, 2 cents for each extra word. All cards must be paid for in advance.

CHICKENS, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys, Guinea Pigs, Rats, Mice, Dogs, Cats, Ring Doves. Eggs for hatching State wants. **Wm. A. Bartlett, Box 34, Jacksonville, Ill.**

Poultry Breeders send 50c for a 20-paged monthly devoted to poultry, etc. Sample 3 cents "Michigan Poultry Breeder," Battle Creek, Mich. Or send 55 cents and receive "Michigan Poultry Breeder," and **THE AMERICAN FANCIER & BREEDER** both 1 year.

PIGEON Book, illustrating, describing all varieties, arranging loft, feeding, breeding, caring for, 5 cents. 1,000 Pigeons for sale, prices sent free. **Wm. Bartlett & Co., Box 34, Jacksonville, Ill.**

BUFF WYANDOTTES AND BUFF Leghorns. Eggs from first-prize stock at Erie, Painsville and Warren at \$1.50 per 15. **Geo. Sapper, 154 E. 21 St., Erie, Pa. R. 2.**

EGGS FROM TWO PENS OF BLACK Javas, the coming utility fowl, scoring 185 1/2-183 1/2 at \$2.00 per setting; also from one pen of Buff Rocks at \$1.50. 2 good Buff Rock Cocks for sale; also 2 fine Buff Leghorn Pullets at \$1.00. **C. F. McLain, Bevidere, Ill.**

The Silver Wyandotte.

The Silver Wyandotte is the original of the Wyandotte family and it will come as near as any to meeting the requirements of the practical poultryman.

It is an easy keeper and is very hardy and it is well adapted to cold climates both because it is well feathered all over and because of its low rose comb. Its comb is nearly frost proof.

When eggs are high in price, there is no bird in the standard will lay more than the Silver Wyandotte. Then again, there is no variety that make a better market fowl. It is good at any time in its existence, from the broiler stage to the roasting stage. Its body when properly fattened, is always plump and attractive. Its plump breast, nice yellow legs and rich meat and skin give it a claim over most other varieties.

From a fancier's standpoint the writer does not believe that anything can equal the Silver Wyandotte when bred true to color and it certainly is a very beautiful fowl. What can be more attractive than the fine black center and the silver edging in the hackle of the male with its large white center is certainly also beautiful. The large greenish black tail free from purple barring together with the large open center in the breast completes the make up of the beautiful Silver Wyandotte male.

In the female both the breast and back should be open laced with silver white centers and distinct black edges free from gray or mousing.

In order to get the highest quality in the Silver Wyandotte you also want the fluff of the hock to show distinct lacing. To get this will keep the best breeders guessing, but it can be accomplished.

To breed fine specimens select such birds as have white where the white belongs and black where the black belongs, get a good cock bird of rare merit, breed to six or eight of the best females and then inbreed this same bird to four or five of his own pullets and note the results. They ought to be pleasing to you.

Hatching With Hens

The hatching season is again at hand and the broody hen and the incubator are both busy fulfilling their mission. Incubators are now used quite generally as hatchers and will be used still more widely, yet many chicks this year will owe their existence to mother hen. I use both incubator and hens for hatching but I shall confine my remarks to our way of managing sitting hens. Our way of handling sitters has given us very satisfactory results and I shall attempt to explain it, hoping that some reader may get some helpful ideas therefrom.

I have a room partitioned off in a barn where the sitters are kept. For nests I have found nothing better than orange boxes, which can generally be had at the grocery or fruit store for the asking. They are about the right size and each box holds two

hens. These boxes are made in a way to allow a free circulation of air through the nest which is essential to the comfort of the hen in very warm weather. I fit each box with a hinged or slide door so that each hen may be shut on the nest and let off handily. Leaves are good for nest material but they are hard to get in quantity. I use oat straw.

As I am a breeder of non-sitting variety I have to depend upon my neighbors for sitters. I gather these hens at night and place them in the nests on china eggs and shut them on. The second day after they are put on the nests they are let off and fed in this manner once every day, and returned to the nest again in about fifteen minutes and shut. This prevents them from leaving their nests and fighting with other hens which results in broken eggs and poor hatches. I darken the room for I find that the hens are more quiet in a dark, quiet place.

By this method I have had hens hatch two sittings of eggs and come off looking well. I have bought from 25 to 40 sitting hens each season for the past three years and by this method of handling them I have had only three which positively refused to sit. I have had an average hatch of eleven chicks per hen the season through.—
C. A. D.

NOTES.

Place your order for eggs for hatching early, so that you may get them when you want them. Our advertisers may be rushed with orders later in the season, and as a result your chicks may be late.

Green food, grit, meat and a variety of grains fed now will mean plenty of eggs if the hens are in a sound healthy condition. Fresh water is also a necessary ingredient in the manufacture of eggs.

Improve the quality of the poultry on the farm by introducing pure-bred males. One pound added to the weight of each chick will make a handsome increase in the profits from an ordinary farm flock.

The breeding of poultry is not a fad, but a business, and should be conducted in a businesslike way. Use the best stock obtainable, mate intelligently and give the breeding fowls and your stock every possible attention.

Do not buy inferior stock for breeders simply because it is cheap. It is time lost and money wasted, when a few dollars more would buy good stock, of a reliable dealer, that would produce high-class chicks that would readily sell for a good price.

Plant vines of some sort around your breeding yards, if you have no shade. This will not only protect the plumage of your fowls but will keep them in better health. Some sunshine is absolutely necessary to the fowls, but there should be a shady place where they can go during the warm hours of the summer days.

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When we have placed with our customers the amount of treasury stock of any company necessary for its development, our labors and responsibilities have but just begun. We must stay with the property and our customers' financial interests therein; must see that it is intelligently, economically and honestly operated; and, having a conditional interest in the profits of the property, secondary to the interests of our customers, if we followed any other policy than that of keeping strict supervision of its management, even although it might take a much longer time than was anticipated to demonstrate the actual value of the property and place it upon an independent dividend-earning basis, we would most assuredly be negligent not only of our customers' interest, but of our own as well.

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Send for our free Booklet "Why you should Breed Belgian Hares." Don't buy until you read this book. Those who start now will make big money the next two years. The demand for good breeding stock will be larger than the supply.

GROVE STOCK FARM,
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Wanted To Sell.

500 of my Barred and White Plymouth Rocks, Silver Laced Wyandottes Light Brahmas. To readers of this paper I have show birds, also breeders. I guarantee to please every customer or his money back, try me and see. J. A. ROADRUCK,
Tripp Co. Buck Creek, Ind.

The Fancy Egg Trade.

I think I am safe in saying that thousands of dollars will change hands in this country in the coming two months for the eggs from thorough-bred fowls, and I think I am also safe in saying that it certainly is the most satisfactory part of the business both to the buyer and seller.

The majority of buyers except a hatch proportionate to their interest in or money expended in that particular setting; unfortunately, a hen is just as liable to let a \$5 setting of eggs get chilled, or break, or besmear them as she is a setting of the most inferior kind.

The expressman too causes a cold creepy creep, to go up your spinal column when he coolly tosses a basket of your choicest packed eggs as though they were dry goods, then the buyer himself enters in, in nine cases out of ten in helping make a failure out of his purchase, first in not properly wiping the eggs, (if packed in bran) second in not giving them sufficient rest after receiving them before starting incubation, third in not providing a suitable place for the hen to set in and last through anxiety, continually disturbing the hen, "to see how she is doing."

The seller too oft times very unscrupulous, first in not selling eggs are fertile or not. A good plan to follow, is if you have decided which variety you want, ascertain by reading advertising pages in your Poultry papers (for we take it for granted you take one or more poultry papers) who are your nearest breeders, select one that has some reputation not only for keeping good stock but also for honesty, write him stating just what you want and to let him know you mean business and are not writing through idle curiosity enclose a stamp, he will give you his terms when you can let him know about when you want the eggs; when the time comes find a good setting hen, have a room, pen, box or box stall, or some place that she can have to herself, fix her a good clean neet and not so deep down in, that in flying down off the edge she will be apt to break the eggs. In this room, boxstall, or whatever it may be, have a box of fine dirt for her to wallow in, have sulphur mixed through the dirt; in the room also have plenty of good sound corn and drinking water, get some half dozen eggs of any kind and after dusting your hen with insect powder put her to work, after she has set sufficiently long for you to be sure that she is going to prove a "good sitter" give her your high priced and prized eggs, and other than seeing she has food and drink and an occasional look to see that none of the eggs are broken keep away from her and let her alone; one thing more don't let the difference of 50 cents or \$1 in price of eggs influence you in taking the cheaper ones, for as a general thing the man who asks a good price endeavors to keep good stock and charges accordingly.—Geo. W. Weed.

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Corn. The Earliest Field Corn in existence Ripens up sound in 90 days from planting. It is a pure and distinct variety, has deep grains and small cob and yields 90 to 100 bushels per acre. Has taken first prize at all the leading fairs in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. I will send a trial package of seed by mail for 10 cents in stamps. By express or freight, \$1.25 a bushel.

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Poultry Culture is the oldest poultry paper published in Kansas City. Full of poultry news and has a large circulation in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma.

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Barred and White Plymouth Rocks, Silver and White Wyandottes, White and Brown Leghorns, Bronze Turkeys, Bantams, and Pearl Guineas.

HERE IS A GOOD RECORD.

What our patrons say:

January 3d.—The two Barred Plymouth Rock Cockerels you sold my friend, scored 93 and 94 by B. N. Pierce. I have changed my mind and want to know what you will send me a cockeral breeder for. The youngest cockeral had the finest hackle I ever saw, and also clear yellow legs, nice comb and a strong bay eye. They were well barred to the skin, let me know soon. Yours truly,

A. N. HILLS.

UNIVERSITY PLACE, NEB., Feb. 17, 1901.

F. M. MUNGER, De Kalb, Ill.

Dear Sir:—I bought some eggs of you some years ago, I like the stock better than from any I have been able to get since. Please send me catalogue and prices. Yours truly,

W. H. INGRAHAM.

Have won the grand Sweepstakes at Chicago and Rock Island shows, 1887 to 1894 on greatest number of birds scoring 90 points and over; 504 birds scoring 90 to 98½, a record never equalled by any breeder. We shall, in the future as in the past, constantly try to please our friends and patrons and also spend much time and a large amount of money each year in improving our stock of high, pure-bred fowls. Our matings for the past year have proved very satisfactory—as a reference to the scores of the young birds will show—and our breeding yards for



Wing of "Match Mark Prince" at the head of one of our breeding pens.

Match Mark Prince is a most remarkable bird in color and markings, clear, even surface color and nearly perfect in Eye, Comb, Legs and Shape. We value Match Mark Prince at \$100.00 on account of his valuable breeding qualities, mated with high scoring "Blue Bird" hens and pullets. A limited number of eggs from this mating at \$1.00 per 13; \$7.00 per 26.

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