

Agriculture, &c.

HOW TO FATTEN CHICKENS.

We make the following extracts from an article on this subject in the London Cottage Gardener:

It is hopeless to attempt to fatten them while they are at liberty. They must be put in a proper coop; and this, like most other poultry appurtenances, need not be expensive. To fatten twelve fowls, a coop may be three feet long, eighteen inches high and eighteen inches deep, made entirely of bars. No part solid—neither top, sides nor bottom. Discretion must be used according to the sizes of the chickens put up. They do not want room: indeed the closer they are, the better—provided they can all stand up at the same time. Care must be taken to put up such as have been accustomed to be together, or they will fight. If one is quarrelsome, it is better to remove it at once; as, like other bad examples, it soon finds imitators. A diseased chicken should not be put up.

The food should be ground oats; and may either be put up in a trough, or on a flat board running along the front of the coop. It may be mixed with water or milk; the latter is the better. It should be well soaked, forming a pulp as loose as can be, provided it does not run off the board. They must be well fed three or four times per day—the first time as soon after daybreak as may be possible or convenient, and then at intervals of four hours. Each meal should be as much and no more than they can eat up clean. When they have done feeding the board should be wiped and some gravel may be spread. It causes them to feed and thrive.

After a fortnight of this treatment you will have good fat fowls. If, however, there are but five or six to be fatted, they must not have so much room as though there were twelve. Nothing is easier than to allot them the proper space; as it is only necessary to have two or three pieces of wood to pass between the bars and form a partition. This may also serve when fowls are up at different degrees of fatness. This requires attention, or fowls will not keep fat and healthy.

As soon as the fowl is sufficiently fattened it must be killed; otherwise it will get fat, but will lose flesh. If fowls are intended for the market, of course they are, or may be, all fattened at once; but if for home consumption, it is better to put them up at such intervals as will suit the time when they will be required for the table.

BITTER BUTTER—"G. W. S." of De Kalb Co., Ill., writes: "I have just finished churning for my wife, and the butter churned is quite bitter; the cream was bitter as well as the butter. She keeps it in the cellar. When the cream is skimmed it is sweet. She has to set it by the stove in order to become sour, and as it becomes sour it also becomes bitter. Can you tell the cause and remedy?" In all probability the cream stood too long before it was churned. At this season it is not worth while to keep milk in cold cellars. The cream rises much better if moderately warm; a temperature of 60° is about right. Keep the cream-pot covered with a towel, and at about the same temperature. Stir the cream as often as new is added. Keep both milk and cream where they will not absorb kitchen or other odors, especially smoke of wood fires or of burning grease, and churn as often as once a week. See that the cows have salt and do not eat decayed turnips turnip leaves, or cabbages. Sound turnips, and cabbages impart very little flavor, especially if fed at milking time.—Exchange.

CONDENSED FOOD.—Experiments have recently been made with satisfactory results to test the practicability of supplying the North German army and navy with compressed or condensed food. The principal object was to ascertain the best means of furnishing the soldier in the field with a three days' stock of provisions reduced to a minimum of weight and bulk. It has been found that a sort of neat-bread is admirably adapted for this purpose, as it may either be eaten dry in the form of cakes or can be converted with very little trouble into soup. Similar attempts have been made to compress hay and other provender for horses.

The sunflower, from its supposed value as a disinfectant of the miasma causing intermittent fever, is to be extensively planted in the fever-stricken districts of Italy.

MESSENGER ALMANACK.

January, 1870.

New Moon, January 1st, 7h. 51m. afternoon. First Quarter, " 9th, 4h. 45m. afternoon. Full Moon, " 17th, 10h. 31m. morning. Last Quarter, " 24th, 6h. 5m. morning. New Moon, " 31st, 11h. 26m. morning.

Table with columns for Day, SU, MOON, High Tide, and Low Tide. Rows list days from 1st to 31st with corresponding moon phases and tide times.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Position gives the time of high water at Parrsboro', Cornwallis, Horton, Hantsport, Windsor, Newport, and Truro.

High water at Pictou and Cape Tormentine 2 hours and 30 minutes later than at Halifax. At Annapolis, St. John, N. B., and Portland Maine, 3 hours and 44 minutes later, and at St. John's, Newfoundland, 1 hour earlier, than at Halifax.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE DAY.—Add 12 hours to the time of the sun's setting, and from the sum subtract the time of rising.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE NIGHT.—Subtract the time of the sun's setting from 12 hours, and to the remainder add the time of rising next morning.

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May 27.

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