

ONE OF THE LARGEST commercial poultry raisers in Prince Edward Island is Woodrow Wheatley of East Royalty. Mr. Wheatley produces in the vicinity of 12,000 ready-to-lay pullets each year and ships them to other Atlantic Provinces. Mr. Wheatley has specialized in dual purpose laying strains but is gradually shifting to light type layers as there is an increasing demand for this type of bird. Due to a recent decision to extend the runway at the Charlottetown airport Mr. Wheatley's entire farm will

absorb the new 7,000 foot runway. At the present time he is looking over new sites for the re-establishment of his poultry farm. He will have the use of the farm for the present season. Shown above is a section of one of the floors in his four floor steam heated brooder house. The chicks in the picture are about four weeks old and are a small part of some ten thousand chicks currently being brooded at this establishment.

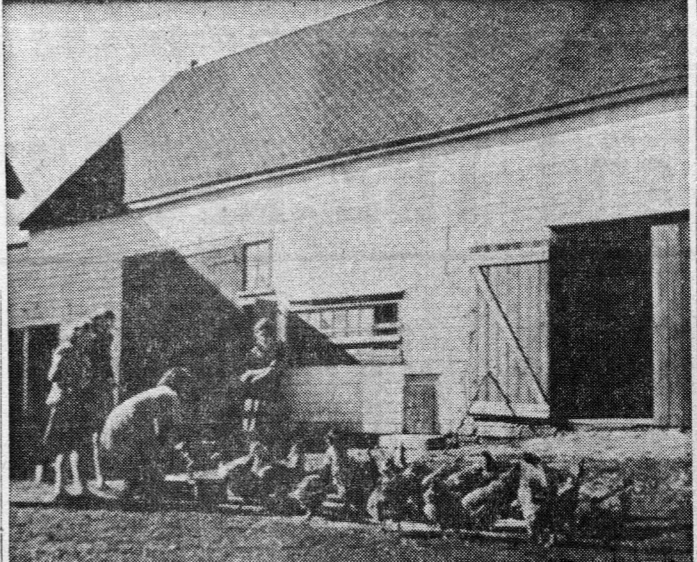
### Prolong Life Seed Drill

The life of the old type grain drill used by our fathers was upwards of forty years, whereas the life of the modern grain-fertilizer drill has been shortened to a mere ten years or less.

A circular just published by the Ontario Department of Agriculture entitled "The care and Adjustment of the Seed-Fertilizer Drill", points out that the addition of the fertilizer box and feed mechanism to the modern grain drill has resulted in a serious maintenance problem; that of preventing corrosion of working parts by the acids resulting when the fertilizer is damp.

To prolong the life and usefulness of the modern seed drill proper treatment to prevent corrosion is vital. The circular gives detailed instructions in the care and maintenance of the modern seed drill. The drill should be given a daily check to be sure that all bolts are firmly tightened, and the moving parts lubricated, and moving freely. A daily clean-up is recommended to be sure that all fertilizer and dust are removed from the machine.

Detailed instructions are given for cleaning and lubrication before the drill is put away after the seeding is done. No matter how carefully the drill is cleaned and maintained, normal wear of the machine will result in variations in the amounts of seed delivered. This is usually overcome by setting the sowing rate lever back. While this procedure will correct the total amount sown, the damaged runs will still be over-seeding, and the other runs will be under-seeding. The circular gives instructions for correcting this condition, so that all runs will be uniform in their seeding rate.



THE FARM poultry flock as seen above is gradually giving way to the highly specialized poultry breeding on a large scale. However many housewives still depend on the eggs to buy a large portion of the family groceries. Children are usually assigned to the task of gathering the eggs on the farm. (National Film Board).

### Fish By-Product Is Excellent Feed For Hogs

Fish visceral flour a new by-product of the fishing industry, was found to be a satisfactory protein supplement in the rations of growing and finishing swine, in tests at the Nappan, N. S., Experimental Farm, Canada Department of Agriculture. T. Cameron of Nappan's Animal Husbandry Division, says the swine had no objection to the fish flour ration and their rate of gain, feed efficiency and carcass grade, were quite satisfactory.

oats and minerals, plus visceral flour at the rate of 10 per cent by weight of the grain allowance, from weaning until the pigs reached a live weight of 100 pounds. At this point the fish flour was reduced to 4 per cent of the grain mixture and kept at this level until the pigs reached the market weight of 200 pounds. Fish flour is prepared by collecting fresh cod and haddock viscera on board ship. Sodium nitrite, a preservative is added to this material and the viscera are kept at a temperature of 80 to 100 degrees F., for several days. During this time most of the solids go into solution. The solution is then drum dried and the dried material is ground into flour.

### P. E. I. Blueberries Show Value Of Burning - Over

The effects of burning over blueberry patches on fruit yield is indicated in the results of tests on the Illustration Station, Canada Department of Agriculture, Alliston, P. E. I. For the period 1952-1957, comparable average yields from different treatments were: no burning—468 pounds of fruit per acre; burned over once in three years—1,299 pounds; burned over every other year—1,600 pounds.

### Reason Often Obscure For Poultry Cannibalism

Causes of cannibalism in the poultry flock are often obscure, and according to T. M. McIntyre of the Experimental Farm, Canada Department of Agriculture, Nappan, N.S., the cure for such a condition is unknown.

When an outbreak occurs preventive action must be taken at once. All affected birds should be removed from the flock, and if possible, other birds showing a strong tendency towards picking should also be removed. Anything that might possibly contribute to the condition such as poor nests, insufficient hopper space, etc., should be corrected.

deficiencies are rarely responsible for outbreaks. In general, good poultry management will undoubtedly keep the flock healthy and productive, and do much towards holding cannibalism down to a minimum. Anti-pick ointments have been tried with some success but are considered messy to handle and require constant observation of the flock. Also, spectacles have been recently found quite effective, and many flock owners are now using them on their birds.

**ONE PREVENTATIVE**

At present, however, the one effective and sure way of preventing or controlling an outbreak of cannibalism is to de-beak the birds. This is done by cutting off about one-half the upper beak between the tip and the nostril. Debeaking may be done with a knife or shears but the electric debeaker is more efficient since it cuts and cauterizes at the same time. If the birds are debeaked at housing, or just before coming into lay, further debeaking is usually not necessary during the laying year. However, this operation may be done at any time and generally does not affect egg production.

plant. The extra initial cost over several small units is likely to be more than repaid in a few years by savings in fuel and labor. The risk of fire involved in brooding can be practically eliminated by proper installation of the central heating plant in a fire resisting section of the building.

Electric brooders of various types have become popular with small or medium size producers. One type, in which soil heating cable is embedded in the concrete floor, has been used at the Experimental Farm, Fredericton, N.B., since 1949. This method of brooding is very convenient and gives satisfactory results but the cost where the entire floor area is heated, is likely to be high. Electricity required for one hatch using this type of brooding, has varied between 4 k.w.h. per square foot of floor space for mid-summer brooding to 11 k.w.h. per square foot for mid-winter brooding.

Commercial broiler growers usually allow one square foot of floor space per chick. With this method, it would be necessary to brood two or more chicks per square foot of floor space for the first two to three weeks, in order to keep costs within reasonable limits. After this period the chicks do not require so much heat but more floor space is required.

**SATISFACTORY RESULTS**

Infra-red heat lamps are also giving satisfactory results for brooding at the Fredericton Experimental Farm. Electricity required has been about one k.w.h. per square foot of floor space for mid-summer brooding and up to 6.7 k.w.h. per square foot of floor space for mid-winter brood-

ing. The incidence of crooked toes has been reported from some sources to be very high under infra-red lamps but there is no clear evidence at the Farm that there are appreciably more crooked toes under infra-red brooding than in pens with floor radiant heating.

Results of a survey conducted in the United States indicate that the average cost of fuel was slightly over five cents per chick with chicks started in December. The tests were taken in various parts of the country with different types of brooders.

Satisfactory results can be obtained with many different methods of brooding. Cost of equipment and cost and convenience of operation with consideration of the fire hazard involved, are likely to be the deciding factors in the method selected.

### Broken Machine Hinders Farmer

Spring is here and now is the time to check farm machinery and equipment and obtain any necessary replacements. There is probably no more forlorn figure than the farmer who has just gone to the field to seed, hay or harvest, only to find that his machine has broken down. Next in line for disappointment is the farmer who starts his repairs on the day he should have started his field work.

In checking over machines all dirt, grease, and oils should be thoroughly washed away, using kerosene or gasoline where necessary. All bearings and other moving parts should be carefully oiled, and those showing signs of excessive wear should be renewed. All bolts and setscrews used in a d u s t m e n t s should be checked for broken castings. These are often indicated by the presence of wire. While it may be true that the machines were running fine the last time they were used, it is equally true that time spent checking them over during the off-season will eventually save time during the busy summer season.

Polar bears are the largest types of living bears, the males sometimes weighing as much as 1,600 pounds.

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### Cost, Fuel And Fire Considerations For Chicks

Important considerations in brooding chicks include such things as cost of fuel, fire hazard, and efficiency of operation. Where individual brooder stoves are used which burn wood, coal, oil or gas, some chance of fire exists, although modern oil and gas brooders do have valuable safety features. For this reason many operators consider it wise to use brooder stoves only in colony houses. Thus if fire should start it can be usually confined to one small house and the loss is not too serious. Large operators however, find that labor efficiency is reduced with this type of brooding because automatic watering systems cannot be easily installed in colony houses and more labor is required for several small units than for a large one.

A large brooder house can be heated with a central heating

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