**WHEN IS THE BEE AT HER BEST?**

Answers are given by Apiarists in Gleanings in Bee Culture.

"In a queen at her best in her first or second year." The foregoing query was recently answered by some of our best apiarists as here set down.

J. A. Green, of Illinois, said: "In her first full season of egg laying." F. H. Ellsworth of New York, said if R. R. Boardman of Ohio considered the first year of a queen's life as most valuable. Prof. A. J. Cook of Michigan, replied, "For always; they may and usually do last two years." Dufant & Son said, "Generally good queens are as good the second and third years as the first." James Robbins answered: "I do not know. She is just as good as she can be the third year. I think this point as to the value of a queen is not fully settled. Many queens will do equally well for three seasons; others will be superseded by one, and both lead under the most favorable circumstances." A. I. Root, editor of Gleaning in Bee Culture, commenting on the foregoing remarked: "I have at different times decided in favor of the first year, and then again in favor of the second. For some purposes a young queen may be preferable, and perhaps the great popularity of the five-banded queens has come from the fact that if they are late enough reared they are always young; therefore the purchaser has a right to expect at least two years of service. My impression is that most queens begin to fail during the second season. At the same time it is true that we have queens exceptionally that seem to be worth just as much during the third season."

**The Laying Hen's Mess.**

B. Benjamin gives in The New York World his idea of a laying hen's food. He says:

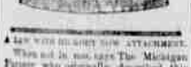
While wheat, oats and corn are suitable grain foods for poultry, the laying hen craves and requires a variable diet, one that will not only provide the egg producing elements, but act as a tonic and alterative. In winter especially is the hen since a fondness for fruit and green vegetables, hence the apple pomace, spoiled and otherwise imperfect fruit, turnips, parsnips, cabbage, tubertive potatoes and the like, ought to go to add zestness to her daily mess. To a cabbage head to some support that will hold it off the ground, but within reach of your birds, and see the expression with which they will devour it, or cut a pumpkin in two and place where they can conveniently hatch from it. These delicacies are cheaper than medicines, and will reward you in the end with an unusual supply of eggs out of season. Do not forget a little bone dust now and then, and when it is practicable give an occasional feed of milk. The pig is by no means the only animal that thrives on milk.

**When to Sell Hogs.**

When to sell hogs is a mooted question among farmers. One writer advises to sell hogs when the most money can be got for them at least cost. The age and shape of pigs are cannot control, but by careful attention to feeding and the use of scales we can tell closely whether we are making corn into pork at a profit or not. If not, there ought to be a change of ration or an immediate sale of marketable stock. It doesn't pay to hold beyond the time of profitable growth and fattening. Most successful feeders believe it pays best on year with another to sell the pork when the highest point in gain has been reached, letting the question of probable higher prices alone. Corn is in keeping over fattened hogs will make twice as much pork if given to other animals. It is a losing game to hold for an increase of price as a rule. Make all the pork you can out of your corn in just as little time as possible and then market to the best advantage, is the advice of the Cincinnati Commercial.

**A Farm Convenience.**

The Farm in the annexed cut shows a convenience for those who saw wood alone. It is simply a hickory bow fastened at one end by a short bolt and flipped over the saw at the other end, and held in place by the handle.



A SAW WITH HICKORY BOW ATTACHMENT.

When not in use, says The Michigan Farmer, who originally described this convenience in a Philadelphia exchange, the bow can be slipped off and allowed to straighten. This bow stiffens the saw, adds a little to its weight, and is said to be about equal to a good boy at the other end of the saw.

**Points to Observe.**

Before disposing of animals select such as have shown merit to be retained for breeding purposes. Selection will largely assist in the work of improvement.

For manure the Southdown is one of the favorites. The quality of its wool is not excelled, and as a hardy breed that is well adapted for nearly all farms it holds a high place.

The plan of keeping brood mares and raising mules or colts, breaking at 2 or 3 years of age and selling at 4 or 5, will be found the most profitable. But to do this to the best advantage it is necessary to breed and raise what the market demands.

By using a thermometer when you think you may perform the work in a shorter time, but in attempt to cream without knowing the temperature is to sometimes work an hour.

Linseed oil meal is a favorite feed with horses and stockers.

The tomato is easily and greatly improved by selection.

**Fences in the States.**

"Will James," observed the gentleman, "I hear you got a situation as a waiter recently?"

"I did, sir," replied James, "but it was too blamed much for my self respect. What do you think the boss asked me to do the very first morning? Wanted me to hide his dress."—Alabama Grocer.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JUST HOW TO COOK A ROAST QUITE WELL,
THAT'S WHAT ALL DO NOT KNOW.
THE FIRST THING'S TO GET YOUR MEAT,
AND THEN THE FIRE MUST GLOW.
DONT SPOIL THE MEAT AND WASTE THE FIRE
BUT HAVE A WIRE GAUZE DOOR
PUT ON YOUR RANGE AND ROASTS WILL TASTE
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I desire to inform all country and city purchasers of Dry Goods that I shall slaughter my entire stock of Heavy Winter Goods, commencing Friday, December 27th, and continue the sale all through January. It is impossible to enumerate the many desirable goods I shall offer, but it will embrace everything in my store known as seasonable choice goods, consisting of Boys' Clothing, Flannels, Blankets, Dress Goods, Shawls, Wraps, Cloaks, Newmarkets and Underwear. I shall also offer a lot of goods in all departments, of which I have a surplus, at sacrificing prices, to make room for new Spring Goods, which will be opened early in February. I am anxious all should reap the great benefits I propose bestowing upon my patrons and the public generally during this sale.

**R. K. THOMAS.**

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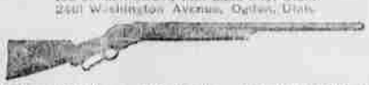

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