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Three Points in Dairy Cows.

Since milk is secreted in the cow's udder from blood that passes through it, three points should be considered in buying a dairy cow, says an American authority—a girth to give room for a large pumping apparatus, the heart; large veins beneath the body leading back to the heart from the udder, to return blood from which milk has been secreted (this large vein, sometimes called the milk vein, indicates a large artery carrying blood to the udder;) and third, large nostrils and depth of lungs which assure a rapid purifying of the blood. No quantity of milk could be produced if there were not a large food receptacle, so the dairy cow has need of a large mouth and a good-sized paunch in which to store food.

An English experimenter, Robert I. Mond, from experience with milk at his own farm and at the Infants' Hospital, London, has decided that tuberculosis is not conveyed from cows to the human race by milk, and he further believes that sterilized or condensed milk is dangerous to infants fed on it. A number of kittens fed exclusively on sterilized milk died in two weeks' time.

POULTRY.

Which is the Best Breed of Poultry?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

To anyone connected with poultry educational work the question which is the best breed comes often and continually. It is put by all sorts and conditions of men and for all sorts of reasons. There is the farmer or the student, who is genuinely in doubt; there is the man who has a certain breed and hopes to receive an answer which will still further confirm him in his opinion that the breed he is championing is the best, and sometimes, but seldom fortunately, the question comes from one wishing to adversely criticize or start a controversy. This last class of questioner, who is nearly always a breeder in a small way, will generally hunt up the result of egg-laying contests, and also, perchance the arrangement of poultry show premium lists to prove that the choice of him whose opinion was asked is not correct, losing sight of the fact that those who are conducting the good work in connection with egg-laying contests do not claim to have found the best breed for all conditions, nor do they hope to do so for years to come. Again, no consideration is given to the fact that there may be special reasons for small classes of some particular breed in the arranging of a premium list, and also that he himself would be the first to put up a kick if the arrangement of said premium list did not happen to meet with his entire approval.

When the question, "Which is the best breed of poultry?" is put, many poultrymen will evade it, and it is questionable if this is wise, but before it can be answered a number of questions must be asked in return. What is your special object in view? How many hens do you think of keeping? Under what conditions will they be kept? Numerous further questions are also necessary, and not until these, or some of these questions have been answered, can any practical advice or information be given.

The same thing holds good in writing poultry articles for publication, or in lecturing. Always remember who you are writing for, or to whom you are speaking, so that you may hope to tell them something in which they are interested. Take for instance the case of the farmer, in this or the neighboring Provinces, who is anxious to know with what breed or breeds he is likely to succeed on an ordinary farm, if you would hope to help him you must know farm conditions by actual experience, and if you have actually lived on a farm so much the better; but at least you should have been continually out amongst the farmers, visiting from one to another, questioning and discussing poultry problems, helping to work them out and watching the results of suggestions made and acted upon. Practical experience along the lines on which you are working is what is wanted. For instance, no one with practical experience would commence by telling the farmer that all his poultry of whatever breed must necessarily be bred to standard in every point if he wished to produce eggs heavily, or meat of good quality, nor would he commence to discuss the question of double mating in the case of Leghorns or Barred Plymouth Rocks; that would be foolish. No, he would advise the keeping of a pure breed and breeding as closely to correct color and type as was compatible with the production of a good supply of eggs and a good quality and quantity of meat. In this case pure-bred birds mean those having established traits and characteristics which they are capable of passing on to their progeny, but which for commercial purposes do not necessarily need to

be bred to extremes of fashion in many cases set by judges.

When considering farm conditions we find that factors which must receive careful attention in all departments, are simplicity, the saving of time, and the saving of expense. Then, when it comes to the productiveness of our birds, two things stand out prominently and they are the season at which hens lay as against the number of eggs they will lay per annum; and how easy or difficult it may be to keep them laying at the time of general scarcity. Now, to refer again to egg-laying contests, careful study of these will reveal this, that strong demonstrations of the fact that the greatest egg production is not confined to the Mediterranean breeds have been made, and further that the general-purpose breeds have done their work during the very cold months of January and February and into a late, wet spring before the natural brooding season sets in with the advent of warm weather; and many of them did some excellent producing during the moulting period as well.

Actual experience has shown that with ordinary good management all round, it is easier under farm conditions to obtain high production from the general-purpose breeds, such as Barred Plymouth Rocks, White Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds and Buff Orpingtons, than from the Mediterranean breeds, during the winter season, and this is important. The popularity of Barred Plymouth Rocks all over this continent cannot be denied by any unprejudiced authority and this popularity has led to this breed being so much handled and bred with a view to heavy production that it is not difficult to obtain good stock for that purpose. The other general-purpose breeds mentioned are also excellent birds for farm conditions particularly.

As showing what the Barred Plymouth Rocks can do, I will quote from a report issued by the O. A. College Poultry Department at Guelph, for the year ending October 31, 1911, which is as follows:



"All that was left of them."

"It is a well-known fact that 200 eggs in a year from one hen is a splendid record and one seldom attained. Yet of 53 Barred Rock pullets of the bred-to-lay type, 13, or nearly 25 per cent., surpassed this high mark. The top record was 282, the showing of the first dozen birds being 282, 268, 256, 252, 243, an average of 259.5. For the whole 53 pullets the average for the year was 174, a total of 9,204 eggs. To this grand total the contributions were as follows: Thirteen of the pullets laid over 200 eggs; 12 over 180; 11 over 160; 10 over 130; 2 over 120; 1 over 110; 4 over 100."

White Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds and Buff Orpingtons are also excellent farm birds as has been proven by the results which they have given, and this article is not intended to be condemnatory of any breed. All breeds have their places and can be made to succeed under different conditions, almost without exception. Neither is it the intention to belittle exhibition breeding, which most assuredly occupies a position of great importance in the poultry industry and from which we can all certainly secure wonderful object lessons. The breeding of fancy or exhibition poultry has been, and is, a powerful factor in keeping up a keen interest in all departments of poultry culture, and many of us hope that the day will come when adjustments will be possible, which will bring the exhibition and general-utility classes of poultry closer together, and so even increase the great good which is being done by those responsible for the large poultry exhibitions held every year in all parts of the Dominion and other countries.

Now, if it is a question of wishing to keep more than one breed of poultry on the farm an excellent combination would be pure-bred Single-comb White Leghorns and one or other of the general-purpose breeds above mentioned, if care is taken to keep them separated at breeding time and maintain the purity, health and vigor of each breed by careful selection.

P. E. I.

T. A. BENSON.

Sources of Green and Vegetable Food.

From this time until spring the fowls will obtain little green food outside, so it is advisable to put forth an extra effort to supply them in their houses with foods that approach as near as possible to those received in the summer time.

This is an easier matter than one would think, for every farm has some roots, cabbages, clover and grains, and with these a most succulent, healthy ration may be prepared.

Clover or alfalfa is relished by the hens and may be fed steamed and mixed with the mash where one is fed or the hens will eat it dry out of a box. The leaves are the palatable part of this fodder, but if the stalks are cut fine they also will be consumed. It appears too common a substance to feed to the hens, but oftentimes ground alfalfa is purchased, perhaps under another name, at a rate that would exceed \$100.00 per ton.

Cabbage leaves are fresh and always welcomed in the pen, but the best way to feed them is to suspend the whole cabbage or make it fast on a large spike so the hens can reach it conveniently. Mangels or turnips are also good, and of these the mangels are the more palatable. They should not be fed too liberally or they might physic the fowls. Feed them in the same manner as the cabbage and be careful that the hens do not get much frozen roots or cabbage.

Sprouted oats are perhaps the safest and most beneficial of the green foods and they may be produced on the furnace or behind the kitchen stove. A quantity of oats soaked over night in tepid water and then put into warm soil will soon germinate and, if heat and moisture are available, the sprout will not be long in attaining a length of four or five inches. The small flats in which they are grown may be put into the pen, where the hens will soon devour the sprouts, but the same flat may be brought again into the house, where the small sproutlets will grow again. Oats may be germinated in a mass without being put into soil if plenty of moisture is provided with the heat. They are cut into blocks and fed grain and all after the sprouts become four or five inches long. Sliced or chopped apples are also relished by the hens and chickens and are an important part of the numerous foods that may be furnished to the poultry during the winter months to keep them in a healthy, vigorous condition.

Hens Should Work as Well as Eat.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

From September 1st until May 1st are the months when eggs command the highest prices, and the most difficult months in the whole year to keep the egg yield of the flock up to the standard. There are three reasons, I find, why eggs are always scarce and high during these particular months. First, in September, and in some cases October, the old hens are moulting, and unless at this particular time (or I might say critical time) they receive special attention and food, many weeks will elapse before they will get to laying again. Every poultryman has more or less trouble with his hens losing valuable time at this period, so it is no wonder that the price of eggs comes up so rapidly about this time, owing to scarcity. Second, then we all know that the pullets that we intend to winter must be really fat and be fed egg-producing foods very early in the autumn to get them laying in October when the price of eggs is steadily going up, which is evidence that the hens throughout the country are not doing their best. Third, then in March, April and May the price of eggs is still very high, although nearly every flock is usually laying well about this time. And why is it? Because, beside the usually large number needed for consumption, a great many must be used by the poultrymen for incubation, and during these months also the farmers generally eat more eggs, because their supply of fresh meat is exhausted. During the summer months when the flocks can have the range, or for even a part of the time, and when they can get all the green food they require and animal food in the form of bugs, grasshoppers or worms, etc., all the grit, pure water and the natural exercise in the open air and sunshine, we get eggs in abundance, therefore, the price drops. So if we poultrymen wish to make our money out of eggs we must have our hens lay the year round or particularly when they are in the greatest demand at the largest prices, namely from September until June.

I have experimented with nearly every breed of hens mentioned in the poultry book, beginning years ago with a flock of ten and increasing as I gained experience. As for breeds I would not condemn any, for they are all good enough for the purpose they were intended, but if one is going in for eggs chiefly he, of course, must select a good laying strain, but if he is going into raising chickens he must select a breed with due regard to size. In this writing, however, I refer chiefly to egg production.

In the early fall all the yearling hens I in-