

# THE FARMERS

## WHY CHICKS DIE IN THE SHELL

A Timely Contribution on This Subject by A. W. Foley, Poultry Superintendent for Alberta.

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Many of the reasons that have been advanced for this trouble, says Mr. Foley, are, in my opinion, absurd. Poultry raisers in town and country are confronted every spring with the problem of saving the chicks in the shell. This trouble has been investigated through a long series of experiments by A. W. Foley, and he is convinced that the whole difficulty lies in the breeding stock.

Reasons for Debility. I might instance a number of ways that might lead to this debility. In the first place, breeding from immature pullets, pullets that have not fully developed under natural conditions. By this I mean the foods such as a liberal quantity of grain, meat, grit, succulent food, etc., that are necessary to build up the constitution of a bird. This may be found while on free range and supported by the approach of cold weather in the fall before the bird has completed its normal growth.

After they have gone into their winter quarters they do not reach that maturity in the strict sense of the word unless a sufficient quantity of the necessary rations are supplied. While maturity may be reached sufficient to produce eggs, yet at the same time the organs that supply food to the ovaries to produce eggs are not in a healthy, natural state, and the result that the same difficulty is transmitted to the germ in the egg. On the other hand, the difficulty may have originated during what we call the danger period, or the first three weeks of the chick's life. It may have received a chill in the rearing with either the hen or the brooder. The internal organs at this stage are in a very delicate condition, and while the effect may not be noticeable trouble has been caused just the same.

Caused by Too Early Feeding. Again, feeding chicks too soon after hatching, in my opinion, causes more disaster and mortality in chicks than any other treatment. You will readily understand that the chick when hatched has considerable unabsorbed yolk in its system. This sufficient to keep the chick at least from a week to ten days without suffering any ill effects. By feeding too soon the law of nature is counteracted, which causes a disarrangement of the organic condition of the chick, and the result is that the chick is smaller than last. Winnipeg prices are: Pullets—May 1.12; No. 1, 1.14; No. 2, 1.16; No. 3, 1.18; No. 4, 1.20; No. 5, 1.22; No. 6, 1.24; No. 7, 1.26; No. 8, 1.28; No. 9, 1.30; No. 10, 1.32; No. 11, 1.34; No. 12, 1.36; No. 13, 1.38; No. 14, 1.40; No. 15, 1.42; No. 16, 1.44; No. 17, 1.46; No. 18, 1.48; No. 19, 1.50; No. 20, 1.52; No. 21, 1.54; No. 22, 1.56; No. 23, 1.58; No. 24, 1.60; No. 25, 1.62; No. 26, 1.64; No. 27, 1.66; No. 28, 1.68; No. 29, 1.70; No. 30, 1.72; No. 31, 1.74; No. 32, 1.76; No. 33, 1.78; No. 34, 1.80; No. 35, 1.82; No. 36, 1.84; No. 37, 1.86; No. 38, 1.88; No. 39, 1.90; No. 40, 1.92; No. 41, 1.94; No. 42, 1.96; No. 43, 1.98; No. 44, 2.00; No. 45, 2.02; No. 46, 2.04; No. 47, 2.06; No. 48, 2.08; No. 49, 2.10; No. 50, 2.12; No. 51, 2.14; No. 52, 2.16; No. 53, 2.18; No. 54, 2.20; No. 55, 2.22; No. 56, 2.24; No. 57, 2.26; No. 58, 2.28; No. 59, 2.30; No. 60, 2.32; No. 61, 2.34; No. 62, 2.36; No. 63, 2.38; No. 64, 2.40; No. 65, 2.42; No. 66, 2.44; No. 67, 2.46; No. 68, 2.48; No. 69, 2.50; No. 70, 2.52; 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