

# Manitoba Agricultural College

WINNIPEG :: CANADA

## Poultry Department

### IMPROVING THE FARM EGG

It is estimated that one and a half million dollars are annually wasted in the Canadian egg trade on account of the improper methods followed in producing, handling and marketing the farm eggs. A large percentage of this loss could be done away with if the farmers would follow a few simple rules.

The first and most important thing to do is to remove or separate the roosters from the hens, or kill them off, as soon as the hatching season is over. Hens will lay just as well, if not better, when the males are removed. The eggs also will be better, as they are non-fertile. If the eggs are fertile and a broody hen sits on them overnight the eggs begin to hatch, or if the weather is warm the eggs will also start to hatch. The greater part of the "bad eggs" on the market are eggs that have started to hatch, so by removing the roosters but very few "bad eggs" will be sold. Fertile eggs cannot under the present system of marketing reach the consumer in first class condition during the months of July, August and September; the weather is too warm and it takes too long from the time they are laid until they reach the consumer's table. They become heated and spoil very quickly. Then again, if these eggs go into cold storage they will not keep but have to be candled out during the winter season as "mouldy eggs" and "spot rots." Thousands of dozens are annually wasted in this way.

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