

HOME GARDEN
FRUIT CULTURE

THE POULTRYMAN

The Men That Pay.
The hen that pays is not always a young one. When we take stock it is well to bear this in mind. It is true generally speaking that it is not profitable to keep utility stock after eighteen months of age. Where one depends upon hens for hatching, it will pay to keep a good mother hen as long as she will live. A hen that was prize winner the first year or three years of her life and that has bred prize winning chicks will be found profitable to keep for a long time. She may be so old that she will produce but one or two clutches of eggs in a season, but if her progeny will be found valuable. It is but a few years ago that the prize winning brown leghorns at Madison Square for three or four years in succession were bred by one breeder from a hen over ten years old. Now, does this apply to the purely fancy alone? In every flock of vealers there are some that will pay to keep over. The proportion of such hens will depend largely upon their vitality. They were vigorous chicks, bright and thrifty, and if at no period of growth were checked; if at no time in life they have had any serious ailments and with all, have been continuous layers from an early age, it will be found profitable to keep such birds for breeding.

If one has taken careful note of all stock kept through the laying season proper—say from February to July—it will be noticed that some hens in each flock will lay but a few eggs, perhaps fifteen or twenty, and become utterly sterile. It will seem to matter little what devices are resorted to to break them up and get them laying again. Such persistent layers should be marked and about July 1 sent to market. The July and August market is nearly always good for such hens, when they may bring as high as 16 to 20 cents per pound. Live weight is not always a good measure of these persistent layers, as they seldom make good hatchers and very rarely large for their variety and are almost always clumsy. Observation will teach one to select a medium sized hen, regardless of her weight, for results in laying, hatching or brooding the chicks. There are many common hens that are excellent layers. The best we have ever seen were about the size of the Wyandotte. They will be found active and vigorous with many sized combs and always with bright, very red eyes. A common chick that grows rapidly, is hardy and broods well, and generally lays into an early layer. Some times they will begin to lay at five or six months of age. We have seen some that begin laying in November and lay steadily all winter until about the first of February, when they become entirely broody and worthless for egg production the balance of the year, with perhaps a short interval in the middle of August. That is about as good and even better than the average for common fowls. If one makes a selection from sixty to one hundred eggs per annum per bird and be able to market these eggs at an average price of 20 cents per dozen, that would represent a gross profit of from \$150 to \$240 per bird. Such birds are worth for their keep besides a margin of profit, and they will require just as much care and attention as a pure bred, brood-to-lay hen. A hen from 150 to 200 eggs per annum, which would yield a margin of profit of from \$210 to \$270 per bird more than the common hens, per annum. It will not require much figuring to determine definitely which hen will be the best to keep even at the difference in cost of birds, that is the first cost, for it does not cost any more to raise a pure-bred when, once we have the stock, than it does to raise a mongrel. It is therefore extremely doubtful if any farmer or any one else engaged in poultry culture in this age of artificial incubation can afford to bother with hatching with hens. The results are so inferior to what may be attained with even a small incubator and two to three brooders that the additional cost of the machines is hardly worthy of consideration. When one considers the saving in time of fussing with hatching hens, the freedom from lice and their attendant ills, the increased output of healthy, vigorous chicks, and the fact that they will lay continuously all the year through, it will be readily seen that under such conditions it is not profitable to keep a hen that will not become broody at any season. If you raise the non-brooding hen, you are enough to suit—that you prefer the larger breeds, like the rocks or Wyandottes—you may have such birds that are almost as good as the pure-bred strain of white Wyandottes, that would average nearly 200 eggs per bird per year, and you may know from such an egg yield there was very little time left for broodiness. It is therefore quite safe to state that under the present conditions of poultry culture, it will not pay to keep a hen that will not become broody at any season. This applies to utility only. It will take the average chick six months to get ready to become of value as an egg producer. Such a period is the period of real value. When that year is ended it is a good rule to follow to keep the hen for one more year to make room for the younger layers that are coming on. We believe by judicious handling of such birds that enough may be realized in disposing of them at market prices to pay a little more than the cost of the hen from the time hatched until sold, leaving the value of the eggs produced by her in the balance. With proper management a flock of pure-breds may be made to yield a profit of from \$240 to \$300 per annum and in some localities considerably more. In summing up, then, we believe the hen that pays is the old hen in the strictly fancy and for brooding, and the layer from six to eighteen months old for market purposes. In the fancy very few putlets will be found to yield good results unless bred in line.—C. S. Gorline, in "Desert Farmer."

Keep Chickens Busy and Also Hungry.
The common error in feeding young chickens is to pamper and overfeed them. Chickens have quick, active digestion, which if continually gratified, will result in a very rapid growth as long as the digestive system can stand it. Then they go to "pieces" because they have been "fed off their feet." It is said, "Loss of appetite, enlarged liver, etc., result. This statement is not intended to encourage insufficient feeding. Chickens frequently suffer in this respect also. They must be fed with good judgment, according to their appetites. They should be compelled to hunt for all their grain in a litter of chaff and sand on the brooder floor until they are three or four weeks old. If they are not hungry enough to do this, food should be withheld until they will scratch for it. Young chickens should be kept in such a condition of hunger that they will come flying for their food. They should be fed enough to satisfy them, and then come hungry for the next feeding. Chickens will not grow quickly if they are overfed. They will be forced feeding, but the mortality among them will be far less. If the chickens have thrown their first feathers, one feeding a day of soft, moist food, such as cornmeal, will be found profitable. Some ground food must be given if rapid growth is desired, in order to produce early market broilers. At this age and for this purpose the feeder can take chances on overfeeding for a short period.

Johnny-cake is a rich, stimulating food, and is more easily digested than any other food. It should be fed with good judgment. It must be thoroughly baked in a "slow" oven, and the food is not to be fed in condition when done. Incompletely baked, pasty Johnny-cake is a dangerous food, and should be given in small quantities. It should be made in various ways; the bulk of the mixture in any case, is cornmeal. The following is a satisfactory recipe. Mix thoroughly 4 parts (by weight) of wheat, 1 part wheat bran, 1 part wheat middlings, 1 part wheat millings. Take 1 quart of water, 1 egg, 1 tablespoonful of salt and 1 teaspoonful of soda. Into this mix the meal until it forms a stiff dough. It will not pay to keep one of these persistent layers, as they seldom make good hatchers and very rarely large for their variety and are almost always clumsy. Observation will teach one to select a medium sized hen, regardless of her weight, for results in laying, hatching or brooding the chicks. There are many common hens that are excellent layers. The best we have ever seen were about the size of the Wyandotte. They will be found active and vigorous with many sized combs and always with bright, very red eyes. A common chick that grows rapidly, is hardy and broods well, and generally lays into an early layer. Some times they will begin to lay at five or six months of age. We have seen some that begin laying in November and lay steadily all winter until about the first of February, when they become entirely broody and worthless for egg production the balance of the year, with perhaps a short interval in the middle of August. That is about as good and even better than the average for common fowls. If one makes a selection from sixty to one hundred eggs per annum per bird and be able to market these eggs at an average price of 20 cents per dozen, that would represent a gross profit of from \$150 to \$240 per bird. Such birds are worth for their keep besides a margin of profit, and they will require just as much care and attention as a pure bred, brood-to-lay hen. A hen from 150 to 200 eggs per annum, which would yield a margin of profit of from \$210 to \$270 per bird more than the common hens, per annum. It will not require much figuring to determine definitely which hen will be the best to keep even at the difference in cost of birds, that is the first cost, for it does not cost any more to raise a pure-bred when, once we have the stock, than it does to raise a mongrel. It is therefore extremely doubtful if any farmer or any one else engaged in poultry culture in this age of artificial incubation can afford to bother with hatching with hens. The results are so inferior to what may be attained with even a small incubator and two to three brooders that the additional cost of the machines is hardly worthy of consideration. When one considers the saving in time of fussing with hatching hens, the freedom from lice and their attendant ills, the increased output of healthy, vigorous chicks, and the fact that they will lay continuously all the year through, it will be readily seen that under such conditions it is not profitable to keep a hen that will not become broody at any season. If you raise the non-brooding hen, you are enough to suit—that you prefer the larger breeds, like the rocks or Wyandottes—you may have such birds that are almost as good as the pure-bred strain of white Wyandottes, that would average nearly 200 eggs per bird per year, and you may know from such an egg yield there was very little time left for broodiness. It is therefore quite safe to state that under the present conditions of poultry culture, it will not pay to keep a hen that will not become broody at any season. This applies to utility only. It will take the average chick six months to get ready to become of value as an egg producer. Such a period is the period of real value. When that year is ended it is a good rule to follow to keep the hen for one more year to make room for the younger layers that are coming on. We believe by judicious handling of such birds that enough may be realized in disposing of them at market prices to pay a little more than the cost of the hen from the time hatched until sold, leaving the value of the eggs produced by her in the balance. With proper management a flock of pure-breds may be made to yield a profit of from \$240 to \$300 per annum and in some localities considerably more. In summing up, then, we believe the hen that pays is the old hen in the strictly fancy and for brooding, and the layer from six to eighteen months old for market purposes. In the fancy very few putlets will be found to yield good results unless bred in line.—C. S. Gorline, in "Desert Farmer."

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The Best Winter Layers.

A prominent poultryman last March decided to make a test of eight or ten different breeds of fowls, to determine which variety was best adapted for winter laying. The results were as follows:

Fowl	Average per hen
S. C. White Leghorn	15.5
S. C. Brown Leghorn	15.5
S. C. Black Minorca	14.8
Barred Plymouth Rock	14.5
S. C. White Leghorn	14.5
Barred Plymouth Rock	14.5
S. C. White Leghorn	14.5
S. C. Buff Leghorn	14.5
S. C. Pyle Leghorn	14.5
S. C. White Leghorn	14.5
Silver Wyandotte	14.5
White Plymouth Rock	14.5
S. C. White Leghorn	14.5
White Wyandotte	14.5
S. C. Rhode Island Red	14.5
S. C. White Leghorn	14.5
S. C. White Leghorn	14.5

As will be seen by the preceding table, the Rhode Island Red laid the largest number of eggs. The largest eggs were laid by the Rhode Island Red. As eggs are so much the dozen, and not by the pound, looking at it from a purely commercial standpoint it would appear that the Rhode Island Red was the most profitable fowl to keep for supplying the demand for eggs. It is, however, the highest priced. If any of our readers have experienced along these lines we will be pleased to publish the result of their experience.

Poultry for the Farm.

It is almost unreasonable to think of any farm without poultry. Indeed it is about as much so to think of a farm without a woman. This new land there are many farms without either, but we must consider them as only in a transition stage. The man who has entered on his homestead duties, or who has bought land, but looks for comfort, when he gets all things in readiness to bring home his future housekeeper. Even a few hens of course. In all this vast country I only know of one man who has been buying eggs from the "principles" of fowls. Why? Eggs are the foundation of every form of cookery in a true sense. They are the only food that procure eggs she will be sure, resort to all sorts of expedients in their stead, and in some cases, that is what she does at any time, but it is what she objects to every time and who cares to fancy the farm depending on eggs to supply the family? Then there are the fowls themselves. Nothing is more handy or more com-

forting to the manager of household supplies than the assurance that in case of emergency she can have a fowl or two ready for her table whenever she wishes. When there is sickness requiring some light nourishment and sending for beef to make beef tea, there can always, with a little labor, be made the equally nourishing chicken broth.

Now if any of the young bachelors just beginning their life out here wish one at least strong recommendation to their lady acquaintances, let it be that they are starting a good poultry. Take to your homestead at least one good fowl of some pure breed. The pure-bred hen does not eat a grain more than the mongrel, and she does not require as much care. Just as a woman who knows how to dress in clothing that corresponds one part with another, looks undeniably better than the woman who has no regard whether she wears the choicer sections are homesteaded. In the future dry farming may add millions of dollars to the grain crops of the United States will be grasped when it is remembered that one-third of the republic is known as arid America. Of this arid tract, 200 miles long and 1,300 miles wide, extending from the Canadian border to the Rio Grande and from the Gulf of California to the sea are seventy million acres of desert land. To bring this desert country under cultivation is a work that cannot be accomplished by the methods of the past. A dozen states are going on with important experiments with some of the most promising and on the continent and millions of dollars of private capital have already been invested in the project.

What effect dry farming may have upon the production of foodstuffs is a matter that is being studied. It is remembered that one-third of the republic is known as arid America. Of this arid tract, 200 miles long and 1,300 miles wide, extending from the Canadian border to the Rio Grande and from the Gulf of California to the sea are seventy million acres of desert land. To bring this desert country under cultivation is a work that cannot be accomplished by the methods of the past. A dozen states are going on with important experiments with some of the most promising and on the continent and millions of dollars of private capital have already been invested in the project.

Danger of Breeding Back.

Practically all the popular varieties of poultry have been produced by the crossing of other varieties, consequently the remote ancestors of the birds now being raised possessed characteristics different to a greater or less degree from the birds we now have in our yards. There is a danger, as all experienced breeders have noticed, of an occasional bird to breed back, and this may result in the characters of these ancestors.

Then there are a number of breeds that throw sports that possess characteristics different from the variety that is called breeding back. In this class come the Silver Wyandottes, which are a considerable number of white sports.

Persons who breed two or more varieties of fowls may find it necessary to breed back to produce sports to sometimes cause a mixup in their blood. It is done, and it is done, as this. Eggs from more than one variety are set under a hen or placed in an incubator, and if one variety is not distinguished from other varieties, for instance, if White Wyandotte eggs are placed in the same incubator, the white sport from the Silvers may be confused with the White Wyandotte. Or if Single and Rose Comb varieties that are otherwise distinct are placed in the same incubator, the single Comb sports from the Rose Combs will be classed with the Single Combs, and so on. The result of this is that the proportion of these sports will necessarily increase in the flock.

Fowls as Chemists.

Fowls may be called working or compounding chemists. Though we sometimes neglect the winter supply of vegetables for fowls, and the food into richly colored yolks. Vegetables are not only rich in minerals, but they also contain a large amount of iron and use more sulphur and iron from the general ration.

A French experimenter put some hens at a table without sand or soil. They were given lime plaster or sulphate of lime, but food with very little lime. The result was that the eggs were badly colored, and the yolks were not so rich. The experimenter, I myself, save dry, and crush all egg shells from the house, and sometimes use the plaster from the tombstone works, for chips and lime. Vegetables must be mentioned again as rich in soluble lime.

By the way it is a mistake to dump greens into the fowls' run, as if it were so much waste to be trodden into the mire and of fall, and rendered useless, offensive and dangerous. A little rack similar to a hay rack for cattle or sheep, or like those racks in cars for passengers' parcels, can be placed a few paces from the ground. Make the rack of iron, or a half wire mesh. It will be excellent for lettuce, cabbage leaves and celery, as well as clover.

In a wild state fowls obtain a great proportion of minerals and nitrogenous substances in their diet, and a whole, and proportionately very much carbonaceous matter than is supplied domesticated birds, of any kind, displaying higher shades of color than does the same species when provided for by man.

The expert gardener, on the other hand, has a ready-made garden. He will grow through suitable manures, etc. We should learn from him. By feeding the fowls with manure and other things, we can secure a firmer plumage. Sunflowers help its gloss. Cabbages and lettuce, extra feed, rather than let them grow up in weeds. There are often old corn cobs, and other things that are not doing their duty, now them to millet or buckwheat, or a few turnips or carrots, to add variety to the poultry ration.

The Use of Salt.

A correspondent of the American Sheep Breeder asks: "Why do sheep require salt? There is a natural law which controls this matter, and it is that animals must come from the food, and water used; that every animal has a waste of salt, and it is consequently necessary to supply it."

AROUND THE FARM
DRY FARMING

Apart from the tens of thousands of acres of virgin land seeded this year for the first time, the crops of 1907 will be augmented by the crops of 1906, and the crops of 1905, and the crops of 1904, and the crops of 1903, and the crops of 1902, and the crops of 1901, and the crops of 1900, and the crops of 1899, and the crops of 1898, and the crops of 1897, and the crops of 1896, and the crops of 1895, and the crops of 1894, and the crops of 1893, and the crops of 1892, and the crops of 1891, and the crops of 1890, and the crops of 1889, and the crops of 1888, and the crops of 1887, and the crops of 1886, and the crops of 1885, and the crops of 1884, and the crops of 1883, and the crops of 1882, and the crops of 1881, and the crops of 1880, and the crops of 1879, and the crops of 1878, and the crops of 1877, and the crops of 1876, and the crops of 1875, and the crops of 1874, and the crops of 1873, and the crops of 1872, and the crops of 1871, and the crops of 1870, and the crops of 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