

Be sure that the hen is dusted with lice powder several times while she is sitting, the last time just before the chicks hatch.

Spade up the poultry yard as soon as the ground can be worked. If it has been neglected, scrape up and remove an inch or more of the surface dirt, which is sure to be very foul.

The strongest chicks will come from hens which have not been forced hard for winter eggs. Selecting hatching eggs from those laid by overworked pullets is not a wise plan.

Duck eggs usually run fertile this month and this is early enough for the amateur to set them, especially those laid by Indian Runners.

Study the brooder catalogues. Outdoor brooders will be satisfactory for chicks hatched as late as March. Small colony houses with a good hover set in each give good results. After the need for heat has passed, the hover may be removed and the chicks allowed to use the house for a coop.

APRIL

Chicks of the smaller breeds hatched this month will mature in time to begin laying in the Fall.