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Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous.

Mating Poultry.

Can you tell me how long a male bird has to be in the breeding-pen before the eggs are good for hatching? J. P.

Ans.—The male bird should be with the hens a week or ten days. Of course, fertile eggs may be had with a shorter mating period, but it is safer to allow this time.

Horse Injuring Foot.

I have a horse that treads in the stall, or stands with one hind foot over the other. I had her shod sharp last winter, and she calked herself so badly I had to take the shoes off. Had her shod again this winter with dull heel-calks, and she has again badly bruised and torn the foot. Can anyone tell me how to prevent the treading (right hind foot only affected)? R. V. K.

Ans.—Are you quite sure this is not due to the horse's efforts to rub an itchy leg with the other foot? Such is a common cause of this trouble. Examine the leg and see if it does not show signs of itchiness. If it does, treat as so often prescribed in these columns. If the injury is the result of habit or accident, all we can recommend is to treat the injury as an ordinary wound, keeping it clean, and if swelling occurs, bathing with hot water.

Fertile Eggs.

1. In the case of hens, how many eggs may be fertilized at one mating?
2. Is a small, round, white spot, about three-sixteenths diameter, on the yolk, an indication that an egg is fertile? I. N. B.

Ans.—1. Eggs may be fertile from the second day after the male bird is introduced into the flock, and for over two weeks after he has been removed from the flock. Fertility is generally as good for from seven to ten days after the male bird is removed as when he is present with the flock. It is usually wise to have him with the hens for a week or two before keeping the eggs for incubation.

2. The germ of an egg may be seen when the egg is broken, as a little white speck on the upper side of the yolk. This germ is on all eggs, but it requires a certain amount of incubation to tell whether or not the egg is fertile.

Diarrhea in Turkeys.

Turkeys, in a clean, well-ventilated place, take disease. The first symptoms noticeable are that they stop eating, and stand with head drawn back into feathers the greater part of time. In some cases there is food in crop, and in others the crop is empty when sickness appears. In cases where there is food in crop, the food does not move out of crop while the turkey lives. After two or three days, a diarrhea appears, of bright yellow or orange color, and grows worse. The turkeys linger from four to six days. Disease does not seem to spread among the flock from any one diseased bird, as only one or two in two or three months will be affected and die with it. In only one case have I known more than one bird to be diseased at one time. Disease first appeared while full-grown turkeys were feeding on the ground outside in the fall. During winter, one bird, a large male, weighing 24 lbs., feeding in clean, dry shed, and drinking clean, pure water, died of it. Turkeys were fed on whole wheat or peas. What is disease, and cause? Is there a cure for it? A. H. H.

Ans.—There are so many diseases of poultry with symptoms so similar that it is difficult to diagnose. As this is not apparently contagious, it must be the result of something in the feeding, the housing, or management of the fowl. It would be a wise precaution to isolate affected birds, and to disinfect and clean the pen in which the flock is kept. Check the diarrhea by giving boiled milk to drink. Feed on dry feed until checked. Give the healthy birds a mixed ration—mixed grains and green food, and allow them to exercise in an open yard. Send one of the diseased or dead birds to the Bacteriological Department of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont., for examination.

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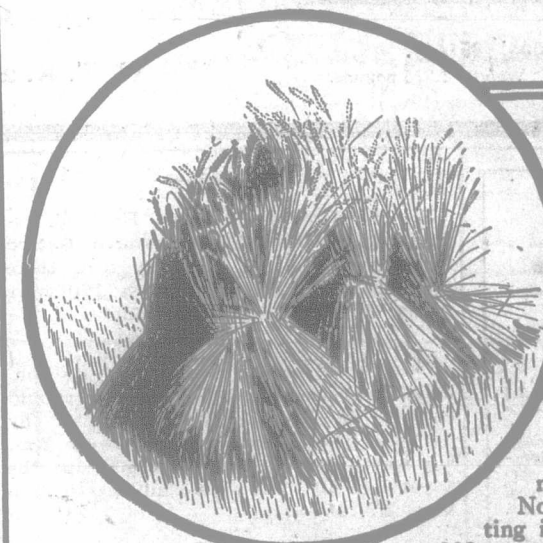
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