

POULTRY YARD

More and Better Hens

F. C. Elyard, Macdonald College, Que.
During the year 1907 there were kept between 225 and 250 laying hens at Macdonald College. These hens produced an average of 122 eggs of the year, which, at a uniform price of 25 cents a dozen, means \$2.54 a hen. The feed for each hen cost \$1.44, leaving a balance over cost of feed of \$1.10. This is calculating the price of eggs at a fair average and the feed at market prices. Taking the actual prices at which the eggs were sold, 50 cents for the winter months and 25 cents for the summer, the balance was \$2.52 a hen over cost of feed.

The Canadian year book shows a total increase of poultry during the ten years 1897-1906. There has been a rise over 3,800,000 head. Taking the same percentage of yearly increase to have continued to the present and Canada has to-day twenty-two million head of poultry. Granting that two-thirds of these are laying hens and we have about 14,700,000 producing eggs. According to the same authority each hen in 1901 laid seven dozen eggs.

If the Canadian hen laid the same average in 1908 that she laid in 1901, there would be for this year about a hundred and three million dozen eggs, which, at 25 cents, would mean a gross revenue of twenty-five and three-quarter million dollars.

But a good honest hen should lay more than seven dozen eggs in twelve months. No class of farm stock will respond so readily to good treatment. Providing she get this care and that one dozen more eggs per hen in the result, the increased revenue from the extra dozen eggs would amount to three and a half million dollars. Give the hen yet a little more selection and care so that the average yield would be ten dozen, or equal to the Macdonald College hen, and the increased revenue would be eleven million dollars or a gross income from the poultry yards of Canada of six and three-quarter million dollars.

Some Instructions Worth Following

Ed. The Dairyman and Farming World.—There is an enormous amount of poultry shipped in from the country scalded, for which we are unable to realize sometimes within 3 or 4 cents a lb. of what we can get for dry picked stock. We have been trying for years to educate the farmers to dress their poultry to meet the requirements of the city trade, and have been in part successful, although there are still tons of it coming along in very poor condition. By careful handling, the farmers could realize hundreds of dollars more profit during the year by following our instructions.

Our advice to shippers of poultry is to starve the birds well before killing, at least 24 hours; kill by bleeding at the mouth or throat; dry pick while warm, leaving no feathers on

whatever; heads to be taken off geese and ducks, and left on turkeys and chickens.

There are also a large number of small thin birds killed off, which with a little more feeding for two or three weeks, would show up to better advantage. We trust these few remarks will be of some use to our friends in the country.—The Wm. Davies Co., Limited, per Jas. W. Atherton.

Separate the Hens and Pullets

The highest results cannot be obtained by keeping hens and pullets together. They should be separated, for what feed it takes to produce eggs from pullets may make hens fat; so to have them lay well, they should be all on; an even age, free from lice, as vermin is poultry's worst enemy.

Thus equipped with good, healthy stock, free from vermin, you will be ready for your supply of winter eggs, if given proper handling and proper food.

Hook for Catching Fowls

The hook illustrated will be found handy to catch poultry with. It is made of a piece of 3-16 inch wire as



Hook for Catching Fowls

16 inches long, bent as shown in the drawing.

The hook is fastened by wire to a fishing pole 8 or 10 feet long for a handle. The advantage of using a contrivance of this kind is that the chickens will not be frightened as much, as if they were caught by hand in the usual way.—The Standard.

We Want Eggs This Winter

But are we going to get them? Have we made the necessary preparation? This brings up the question as to when is the time to begin to prepare, and that is where many of us make a mistake. We think all we have to do is to have hens, a place to put them in and some feed to give them and "eggs" is the inevitable result. This, however, some of us have learned is not the case, and the trouble is that we don't start soon enough. Just how far back it is necessary to begin is hard to say; but the farther back the better—back far enough that we know we have a flock that will respond to good treatment providing we know how to apply it.

Let us look at a few of the essentials that go to make up such a flock.

1. They must be in a laying strain. A strain that will respond to treatment and produce eggs in the winter time; and for best results they must be from the best individual layers of that laying strain. It is not enough that they are pure bred there is often more difference between individuals of one breed than in representatives of different breeds. To establish a laying strain of any breed it takes at least several years, and often much longer, and even then a strain is established sufficiently to be called a "strain" the work is only started. Any

hen can lay a few eggs in the summer time and not much credit to her, but to produce eggs out of the natural season in this country, where winters are so cold, requires an inherited tendency in the flock.

2. The parent stock must have been healthy, vigorous birds—no constitutional weakness to be transmitted to the present flock. A parent flock that has been affected with roup, for instance, should not be bred from. The usual cause for a predisposition to colds, and roopy diseases. Don't keep for laying, chicks that are from diseased stock and if buying pullets, be sure they come from stock that have always been healthy.

3. The pullets should be hatched in time to be well matured before cold weather comes on. Late hatched pullets very seldom make winter layers. The best months in Eastern Canada seem to be late April or May. Earlier than April brings the pullets to lay so that they sometimes do not mature before winter, which is not desirable for winter eggs.

4. The chicks must be well fed, and kept healthy. Chicks that are ill fed and stunted during any part of their development will never make the hens they otherwise would. Keep them growing and healthy. Chicks which in the brooder are sometimes troubled with bowel trouble; they often recover, but I don't think they ever make as good birds as if they had not been sick. Keep the chicks healthy by not overfeeding while young. As soon as they can get full range, give them all they can eat of hard grain, and by the time fall comes the pullets will be mature and will go into winter quarters ready for a good winter's work.

5. This winter's flock must also be kept healthy, well fed, and well housed.—F. C. E.

A shipment of breeding birds left Macdonald College last month for the new Government Poultry Station at Edmonton. Word has been received that they arrived in good condition and apparently none the worse for their four-days' journey.

Watch for colds in the poultry yards this month. One of the best remedies I have is pills kept for the purpose. To make the pills take 1/2 lb. each of mustard, red pepper and ginger, suf-

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cient lard to incorporate the mixture, then what flour is required to make it so it will roll into balls the size of marbles; one or two a day will often bring up a bad cold.

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