

are kept in the case for two or three weeks and then removed, they will have a musty flavor, having absorbed the odors from the musty filters in the case.

There are many eggs spoiled by incubation, particularly during warm weather. Frequently a nest full of eggs is found in some secluded place. The hen may have been sitting on the eggs for two or three days, but nevertheless they are all taken and placed in a basket or case along with the other eggs and sent to market. A number of the eggs from the hidden nest were doubtless partially incubated. If they had been examined before leaving the farm they would have shown chick development and the farmer would have realized that they should not be sold for food. A fertile egg will start to hatch if placed in a temperature of 80 or 90 degrees. If broody hens are left in the nest for a day or two many of the eggs laid in the nest where the broody hens sit from day to day will be partially incubated before they are gathered. This is especially true when eggs are not collected once a day and where the collection is very irregular. In many cases ordinary summer temperature will spoil fertile eggs. In some cases the nests in the poultry-house become very warm, and during hot weather these eggs may actually start to hatch. The remedy for this is to collect the eggs twice a day, especially during warm weather.

One of the most important things for farmers to do is to produce infertile eggs. These cannot possibly start to hatch under any conditions of temperature. Under ordinary conditions they have better keeping qualities than fertile eggs, and in warm weather the majority of eggs marketed cannot be guaranteed as first-class unless they are infertile. Infertile eggs are absolutely essential if highest prices are to be expected. This means that no male birds should be kept with the females except during the breeding season. All mature male birds should be sold or killed as soon as the hatching season is over. It is largely because of the presence of the male birds in the laying flock during warm weather that so many bad eggs are produced on the farm.

The conditions under which eggs are kept on many farms before being marketed do not usually enhance the selling value. Eggs do not improve with age, and though of the highest quality when produced on the farm, their quality rapidly deteriorates.

A relatively small proportion of farm eggs reaches the market in good condition. This is largely because of the low quality of farm eggs when produced and because it takes too long for eggs to reach the consumer. This results in the waste of an enormous sum of money, for many of the eggs are thrown away, others which are unfit for food, are used for dressing leather and for various chemical purposes. The great problem is to improve the quality of eggs produced on the farm and to get the eggs to market in the best condition possible in the least time.

It is when the great bulk of eggs produced on the farms enter the regular trade channels that the greatest changes occur in regard to quality. The first responsibility for the low quality of market eggs, however, rests upon the farmer. It has been pointed out that the method