

treatment, yield a net profit of from \$2.50 to \$3.00.

(5) As to the question of cost between eggs produced in winter and summer, we do not propose to answer, speaking from the advanced methods of poultry culture of to-day, it is not a matter of consideration. Successful poultry farming to-day is divided into two distinct seasons. The winter for the production of eggs, and the summer for the production of meat. In the first place, you have to feed the poultry during the winter whether they lay or not. If they do not lay, then the whole of the winter feed and labor becomes a total loss, and it will take a large percentage of the summer eggs to counter-balance the loss sustained during the winter months. On the other hand, if the right class of fowl is kept, under satisfactory treatment, the grain that is now fed at a loss would produce eggs worth from 60c. per dozen, as compared with feeding all winter with no receipts, and selling the summer eggs at 15c. per dozen.

The pullets should commence to lay early in October, and their eggs marketed until May. The incubators should be put in operation, and by the end of June, at the latest, the pullets will have given you their greatest earning power, and should now be marketed, as at this season there is no poultry on the market, and they will then command prices equal to the chicken in the fall. Attention can now be given to the rearing of the chicks, and the summer months will become as profitable as the winter months.

(6) There is nothing whatever to prevent a farmer from securing plenty of eggs in winter if pullets are used. Hens should never be kept on the farm, with the exception of a few especially intended for breeding purposes. This is the great cause of the failure to get winter eggs.

Mrs. Joseph Yuill, Carleton Place, Ont.:

(1) Is a modern, up-to-date poultry house necessary for the successful production of winter eggs? No. My best results this winter are from thirty-five hens in a little house 6 feet by 8 feet, and 6 feet high, with a nice bright scratching pen, 8 feet by 12 feet, with boxes nailed to the walls for nests.

(2) At what age do hens give the best return in winter eggs? From six months to one year old.

(3) What ration have you found to be most profitable for winter egg production? A mixture of vegetables, grain and clover chaff, with an occasional feed of meat scraps.

(4) What have you found to be the greatest hindrance to successful winter egg production? Poor feeding in the fall. Aged hens and vermin.

(5) What is the difference in cost between producing eggs in winter and in summer? In summer all that is necessary to provide for the hens is a little grain and plenty of fresh water, in winter she must be provided with vegetables, meat, water, grain, clover, grit and a scratching pen; all this, of course, causes more labor.

(6) Provided he has the proper equipment, is there anything to prevent a farmer producing winter eggs? Nothing but lack of experience. In answer to question 1, I should have stated that from these thirty-five hens in their little house, I have sold on an average of twenty eggs per day since December 4th.

S. H. Baldwin, Deer Park, Ont.:

(1) The henhouse must be modern

in the sense that it must be planned to meet the comfort of the fowl by having the north wall, ends, and roof so made as to exclude draughts; it should be well lighted with large windows to the south, and these windows made to be readily opened every day, if possible; and planned also to provide that the droppings may readily be removed daily just as one would clean out their cow and horse stable.

(2) I have White Wyandottes exclusively, and find that pullets hatched in April will commence laying about November following, and will make the best egg record their first winter.

(3) Wheat and oats with some corn or buckwheat for grain to be scattered in the litter to make the fowl exercise by scratching; a light feeding of mash made of bran, shorts, crushed oats, with some meat, cut bone, or meat scraps, or meat meal moistened with hot water or hot soup from the farm cauldron. Only feed of the mash what they will eat up readily, and then give some oats in the litter to make them scratch. Supply lots of vegetables; mangles, sugar beets, cabbage and some clover.

(4) The lack of well developed pullets in good vigorous condition in the fall.

(5) Cannot give definite figures.

(6) With reasonable care and with proper stock, I cannot see why a farmer should not do well with his poultry on the farm, and receive as good, if not better, return for the capital and time required for his poultry as from his cattle.

J. D. Walker, Stratford, Ont.

(1) Yes, just as necessary as modern, up-to-date stabling for horses, cattle, swine or sheep, in order to better enable the poultryman to produce at the lowest cost what he has to sell.

(2) April hatched pullets, if properly cared for, are the best layers, and will begin to lay in October, and continue throughout the winter. Yearling hens also lay well.

(3) A warm mash in the morning, composed of the leaves and seed which fall off clover hay, when it is thrown down to feed stock, where from day to day the leaves and seed collect, we take the finest of this and to every two gallons we add one gallon of finely ground barley and oats, giving the birds all they will eat up clean, after first having poured boiling water over it and mixing thoroughly. At noon we scatter wheat, barley and oats in cut straw on the floor, and just before dark give all they will eat of these named grains. For green feed we give apples and mangolds, we also feed green cut bone when we can get fresh bones to grind, feeding at the rate of 7 lbs. to 100 birds three times a week.

(4) Late moulting, insufficient exercise, an improper ration, crowding, overfeeding and too many old hens in the flock.

(5) We find the average cost to be about 50 per cent. greater in winter than summer, while eggs average nearly 100 per cent. more in winter.

W. A. Jack, St. John, N.B.

(1) No, not by any means.

(2) Pullets hatched in April or early May, or hens in second winter, if of "bred-to-lay" strains.

(3) Wheat, oats, corn, buckwheat, clover, and animal food in some form.

(4) Lack of sunshine, keeping males with layers, and lazy hens.

(5) As far as I am personally concerned, I don't think there is any material difference. I calculate that it

costs me 90 cents per hen, or about $\frac{3}{4}$ cent a day per annum.

(6) Not if he is interested in his work, profits by experience, and is not afraid of small beginnings.

This winter I am doing a little experimenting in the way of substituting clover hay (which is cut into two inch lengths, several handfuls being scattered each day in the litter of cut straw), in the place of turnips, mangles or other raw vegetables. It seems to me that the clover fed in this way approaches nearer the way in which the hens naturally feed, besides, inciting them to exercise.

J. W. CLARK, CAINSVILLE, ONT.

(1) Yes, to get the best results.

(2) Yearling hens or early pullets; pullets preferred.

(3) Grain in the morning composed of the following mixture: Oats (plump grain), barley and buckwheat, one-third each; grain should be fed in chaff or straw. Noon feed: Ground or finely cut clover, scalded for two hours, shorts and ground green bones, all mixed together with skim-milk. If you have not a bone grinder, use livers chopped fine, or the prepared foods, such as beef scrap, or blood meal. At night feed, in cold weather, corn or wheat, corn preferred if very cold.

(4) Unsuitable buildings, cold and damp, over-feeding, insufficient exercise, improper feeding and too old hens.

(5) About one-third more in winter than in summer where birds are confined to limited runs.

(6) No, not if hens are properly fed and watered.

W. D. MONKMAN, BORDNEAD, ONT.

(1) To secure eggs in winter, one needs a house that is dry and light, also free from draughts or severe frost. It need not necessarily be expensive, and the fewer alleyways and stationary furniture the better usually. (2) If pullets are early enough hatched to start laying in the fall and keep right on, they are the most profitable, otherwise yearling hens are best.

(3) One meal of soft feed a day with grain of different kinds thrown in litter at other times to induce scratching. Meat or green bone as often as possible, with grit and fresh water or milk before them always.

(4) Lack of green food in winter and late moulting.

(5) If hens are well cared for in the fall when moulting, the cost is not nearly so great as one would think. It is hard to tell the difference there, but it is.

(6) Beside the proper equipment, he should have some experience, more intelligence and a liking for the business.

W. A. GREENFIELD, PLATTSVILLE, ONT.

(1) I think that a modern up-to-date poultry house is not necessary for the successful production of winter eggs.

(2) Hens one year old, I believe, will give the best returns, and pullets hatched in March and April will also give good returns.

(3) I believe in feeding a variety of grain, also mash in the morning with roots and cabbage.

(4) I believe the greatest hindrance to successful winter egg production is late hatched pullets and insufficient exercise, with plenty of food.

(5) I cannot very well answer.

(6) If the farmer has the proper place he should produce more winter eggs than the citizen who has to house his fowls the year around.

(Continued next issue.)