

**SEASONABLE POULTRY NOTES.**

The temperature of the poultry house is important, especially when eggs are to be produced. Under no circumstances should the temperature be allowed to fall below 40° degrees, and if the breeds kept are those with large combs and wattles, a higher temperature would be better. The house should be built in such a way that the temperature will remain at about as stated above, but should not be permitted to get too near the danger point. Better have the house a little too warm than a little too cold. Eggs intended for hatching should not be over one month old, and they should be kept in a room where the temperature will not vary much from 50 degrees. Turn them at least once in every two days. Do not set eggs from hens that are not full of life and vigor, or from hens that are diminutive specimens of their breed, or from those that lay but few eggs. The future profit in the egg industry depends upon the stock raised, and if a little care is taken the future egg-producers can have a record of 200 eggs a year quite as well as one of half that number. Bear in mind that it requires more than double the amount of time and labor to care for sick fowls than it does to keep them well, so that every hour spent in keeping the poultry houses clean, seeing that the water and food are sweet and clean, and that the hens are kept contented, is an hour well and profitably spent. Remember that nearly all, if not all the diseases that fowls are likely to have during the winter may be avoided by a little care, and that all of them are due to the following causes: over-crowding, damp and filthy houses, draughts, over-feeding, too close in and in breeding and neglected colds. All these causes may be easily removed or prevented entirely.

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**CONCERNING THE DUST BATH.**

To make hens pay, they must be treated appropriately, and one of the great things essential is the dust bath.

In fact, the dust bath to them is what the bathtub is to the human race; aye more! for it not only cleanses their bodies and gives them exercise, but it drives away vermin. Let a fowl be busily engaged in dusting itself, and it shows that the bird is happy and in good health.

No flock, therefore, can be so well depended on to prove compensative in winter, as one having this positive essential provided artificially for its thrift and comfort. According as the season in autumn advances into winter, the poulterer ought to look to it that a goodly supply of clean dry earth is stored away for that purpose; since, when once the ground is covered with snow and frozen hard, by no means is the procuring of it an easy matter. Now, road dust is most excellent, provided it is clean, but rather than always gathering this, and perhaps injuring the road, I suggest that the material be taken from some well cultivated field, just after the crops have been gathered. Usually, there comes a dry spell in fall; yes, several of them. When this occurs, simply scrape up a little of the surface soil here and there, where potatoes have been dug, or beets, turnips, carrots and the like have been plowed out; and if not sufficiently dry, spread the same in the sun on some boards or hard, smooth ground for a while. And if the soil is stony, it matters but little. All the large stones should be picked out, of course, but if the small ones are left it will afford the fowls a world of delight in winter to look them over.

Well, harvest enough earth in this manner to fill several barrels, though you may have only a small flock, and having mixed some sifted coal-ashes (not wood-ashes) with it, store the whole away in the cellar or some dry place, easy of access where it will be handy.

Never use wood-ashes. Why? because if fowls get their feet wet as they frequently do during the winter, not only will the caustic properties of the potash irritate the feet, but possibly injure them. Coal ashes moderately mixed with earth however will not do this.

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**EXERCISE.**

I have frequently had occasion to refer to the matter of exercise for hens, and at no season of the year it is more essential than in winter. It is then they need it, and it is then that we can best see the results. The laying hen certainly needs plenty of exercise. It benefits the nervous system, sends the blood faster through the veins, building up broken down tissues, and supplying the digestive organs with plenty of the vigor necessary to aid in the assimilation so essential to the laying