

## POULTRY YARD

### Government Fattening Stations

The Department of Agriculture, Regina, will operate three chicken fattening stations this season. They will be located at Moosomin, Tantallon and Langenburg, and will be conducted in connection with the creameries under government supervision buttermilk being used for feed in conjunction with fine oat chop for fleshing purposes. The work is under the charge of W. A. Wilson, Superintendent of Dairying, who will be assisted in doing the outside work by experienced poultrymen, and the various creamery managers.

For 1908 the following rules will regulate the work:

1. All birds must be delivered alive free of charge at the fattening station.
2. Only spring birds will be received.
3. All birds should weigh at least 3½ lbs. (By this it is not meant that good birds weighing less than 3½ lbs. will be refused. Our desire is to supply the requirements of the trade respecting suitable weight for roasters, which, on the average, calls for a bird weighing about 4½ lbs. To meet this as nearly as possible we would like the minimum weight when the birds are delivered to be as stated. We will, however, accept good birds under this weight and prepare them for marketing as best we can.)
4. In no case will cock birds, crippled, deformed, sick or diseased birds be accepted. The operator in charge of the fattening station will classify all birds and may refuse to accept those which in his opinion are unsuitable for fattening purposes.
5. The crops of all birds must be completely empty when received at the fattening stations. This is easily accomplished by cooping and not feeding the birds 24 hours previous to delivery.
6. All birds will be weighed alive on delivery at the fattening station, and the seller giving credit for the total weight.

The Department of Agriculture, Regina, will make advance payments on birds as follows:

1. For scrub or grade birds, and also for cross-bred birds of the egg-laying and heavy strains, seven cents a pound live weight.
2. For pure bred birds of the Rock, Wyandotte and Orpington strains; together with their cross, showing good conformation, ten cents a pound live weight.

From the work conducted by the Department last year, it was clearly demonstrated that it was practically impossible to suitably meet the requirements with the type of birds kept by the average farmer. Neither would these birds show creditable gains for the food consumed. In consequence of this it was decided to make advance payment according to the quality of the birds delivered, which would also tend to encourage farmers to raise pure bred birds suitable for table purposes. The western market offers favorable opportunities to the poultryman who will supply good plump birds well fleshed and neatly prepared.

The work at the poultry fattening stations promises to be quite extensive and the farmers are manifesting an enthusiastic interest in the development of the work. Quite a number of fowl has already been received, fattened and disposed of. The prices received in all cases is gratifying. This is the second year the work has been conducted, and there is every evidence that the demand for good

birds can be greatly increased. It is apparent also that the farmers are going to make an attempt to supply this demand. The Department through its fattening stations, is endeavoring to encourage and develop this trade.

### Should Be Well Housed While Moulting

There is no time in the year when the poultry yard looks less attractive than during moulting, and poultry-keepers are liable to lose interest in their unproductiveness, inactivity, and unsightly appearance. The birds look dull, ragged, and in many cases almost bare of feathers, and the runs are untidy and repulsive with cast feathers which have blown into the corners and lie strewn about the walks. In autumn leaves which herald the approach of winter. But there is no time at which the poor birds require more care than when in moult, and everything which can be done ought to be done to improve their condition and promote the rapid growth of new feathers.

When hens are moulting, it is of considerable importance that they should be well and comfortably housed. They do not need to be closely shut in nor is it advisable that they should be allowed less air in their houses than at other times; but hens which roost in comfortably warm houses generally moult earlier and better than those which moult in open sheds or in the branches of trees, and, as I have already said, early moulting is, in all things, most desirable. But it is still more important that suitable day shelters should be provided. The roosting house, course, is rainproof, unless it is a very poor one indeed; but it is of little use to protect fowls at night if they are allowed to become thoroughly drenched with heavy showers in the daytime, and in the moulting season. The feathers which are dropping out have a tendency to accumulate in the corners of the houses, and to form a haven for insect vermin; but it does not take any great time to sweep them up and burn them or consign them to the manure pit every day. All ordinary precautions must also be taken to keep the houses free from vermin, and these may include lime washing of the walls and perches, frequent cleaning of the floors and the free use of air-sinked lime upon them, the renewal at regular intervals of the litter and nesting materials.

### England's Egg Supply

Consul-General Robert J. Wynne of London, reports that suggestive figures in reference to England's egg supply are furnished by a member of the National Poultry Organization Society, from which we compile the following:

"The total import of eggs in 1906, in great hundreds (120) was: Russia, 7,322,028; Denmark, 3,353,042; Germany, 2,644,242; Belgium, 2,444,740; France, 1,401,269; Canada, 231,719; and other countries, 1,105,263. Altogether these figures represent an import of nearly 2,225 millions of eggs, of the total value of \$39,900,685.

"Although the number of eggs imported from Denmark fell off in 1906 by 34,193 great hundreds, as compared with 1905, the value of the total import increased by \$83,500. In England, the production of eggs has in the last few years increased enormously. The value of last year's home product was \$12,500,000 greater than was the case twelve years ago, while the \$7,500,000 paid to France, for eggs, a few years since, has now dropped to \$1,000,000. Yet experts are of opin-

ion that it will be many years before home producers have caught up with the demand for eggs of high grade.

"In 1906 the import of eggs from the United States was but 41,000 great hundreds, valued at \$86,000. In 1901 the number imported was valued at over 460,000,000; in 1902, at \$320,000; in 1903, at \$100,000; in 1904, at \$30,000; and in 1905, at \$24,000, in great hundred lots.

The decline in imports from the United States was, as stated in an annual report from this consulate-general undoubtedly due to the vastly increased supplies from European countries."

### Chicken Cholera

My chickens have something wrong with them and are dying of the flies. They get just as thin as a rail and so weak they cannot stand. They don't want to eat but go moving around until they fall over dead. The droppings are white and simply jump on each other until there are only two or three left. I separate them into small lots, but it makes no difference the big ones are affected the same as the little ones. I have done everything I can think of but it does no good.

Quite likely chicken cholera, and the best remedy I know is sulpho-carbonate of zinc, one teaspoonful to each gallon of drinking water. Keep all other drink away for a few days. Kill and burn all infected birds. Clean the premises thoroughly and disinfect. Droppings will transmit the disease to the other flocks on the farm in the same way. Repeat the dose in a week's time.

Make arrangements for fattening all birds, either cockerels or old hens before they are marketed.

If there is any second crop of clover being cut on the farm, give it a little extra attention so that it is cured well and put away in a corner where you can get it for the hens in the winter. A fork full of this thrown into the pen during the cold weather is one of the best feeds you can give your hens.

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