

POULTRY FOR PROFIT.

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AWARDED EQUAL FIRST PRIZE BY THE POULTRY ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO, IN THE ESSAY COMPETITION.

HAVING been requested to write an essay on poultry, I herewith submit the following with fear and trembling. Firstly, because of its being the author's first attempt at writing an essay on any subject, secondly, acknowledging that there are many conflicting opinions on this subject, so deeply interesting and instructive to each one engaged therein, that, whilst respecting the opinions of others, the writer does not wish you to understand that the suggestions herein offered shall be accepted without having to differ materially with the views of others, who may have had greater or less experience than the writer.

RAISING POULTRY AS A BUSINESS FOR PROFIT.

First, it is essential to select the breed or breeds best adapted for your requirements. If for table or market purposes the writer would suggest the larger of the clean, yellow legged varieties.

Buy the best stock you can secure. Do not endeavor to possess the greater number to the detriment of quality (always sacrifice number for quality) for rest assured, you will always have a sufficient number of inferior specimens produced by the best stock available without beginning with inferior stock.

Having secured sufficient stock it is equally as necessary to have a proper poultry house as it is to have good poultry; so built that you have no fear from frost injuring your stock in winter and so ventilated that they will not be uncomfortably warm in summer.

Arrange your houses so that each variety (if you have selected more than one) shall be kept separate and distinct; no intermingling of the different breeds to be allowed on any pretext whatever. See that your stock are not only properly housed but that they have ample yard room; see that, when night overtakes them they are not on the limb of an apple tree instead of on their roosts, for if the sudden storms of the night come on they are not drenched and thus, the first seeds

of disease in your poultry, namely, colds and roup, are prevented; hence, the old adage—"An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure."

Having your fowls properly housed it will be found more profitable not to have them too crowded, and particular attention must be paid not to allow too many hens to be housed with one male, as the writer's experience has shown that the fertility of your eggs will be greatly interfered with, also it is the writer's conviction that two cocks in one breeding pen is equally as detrimental to the fertilization of eggs as the system of too many hens with one male, unless the system of alternating the males each or every other day is systematically adhered to, and not more than ten females (eight preferred) to each male.

The feeding of hens for laying should receive more attention than has been generally practiced. The writer's experience (admittedly limited) has been that hens, to lay well, should be fed a variety. The warm, soft feed of the morning should always be given; it being easier of digestion, and your fowls always being hungry in the morning, is more satisfying to them. The writer considers from past experience, that a morning feed, consisting of corn chop, barley chop, wheat shorts, and pea meal, mixed with boiling water and seasoned to their taste, will give the best satisfaction; at noon, feed a few table scraps; during the day a feed of green vegetables should be placed where they can help themselves, chopped turnips, beets or cabbage, are the best to give, at night, whole grain. With the above formula together with grit and ground bone, the writer from eleven Plymouth Rock pullets, (barred) April hatched, gathered 850 eggs, from October 24th to March 20th—or say, an average of six eggs per day, conclusive evidence, I think, that a few hens properly housed, carefully and well fed, will give you better returns than a larger number improperly or carelessly fed and left to roost wheresoever their inclination may lead them.

Having brought your hens to the stage of laying fertile eggs, care should be taken not to allow the eggs to remain in the nest until they become chilled. Many valuable specimens are undoubtedly destroyed annually by the eggs being subjected to such extreme changes of temperature, in some known cases from the time the egg is laid until feeding time at night. (The writer's opinion being that this difficulty may be