

POULTRY YARD

Seasonable Poultry Notes

S. Short, Carleton Co., Ont.,
in Canadian Horticulturist

Frequently the question arises as to which are the best times to keep for winter laying. In weeding out sometimes it is either the hens or pullets that have to go for lack of room. Experience has taught the writer that the best winter layers are yearling hens that have moulted early and that were late-hatched pullets of the preceding season. Next come the early-hatched pullets. As a rule the yearling hens will lay larger eggs. The late-hatched pullets rarely lay before the middle of winter. In any event, if yearling hens and pullets are available, they are likely to be more profitable than older hens. This applies to the heavy utility breeds such as Brahmas, Cochins, Plymouth Rocks, Orpingtons and Wyandottes. Hens two and three years old sometimes prove exceedingly profitable of such breeds as the Minorcas, Leghorns and Andalusians.

Care should be exercised not to overfeed the laying stock when they are first shut in their winter quarters or in fact at any time. Enclosed feed will not get the exercise they have been enjoying when running at large and are more susceptible to crop binding and going off their food. Keep them fairly hungry for the first week and then increase allowances. By feeling their crops at night, a good idea may be obtained as to whether or not they are getting enough or too much. When feeding in the morning a general inspection of the fowl may be made and any birds that appear moribund and indifferent about eating should be caught and the crops felt to see if they have indigestion. If so, they should be put in hospital for a day without food and plenty of water. If no change has taken place, the bird should be treated by feeding with lukewarm water from a spoon and the crop kneaded until the contents are soft and the fowl returned to the hospital for another day. Usually one treatment of this kind will effect a cure.

CURTAIN FRONT HOUSES

Government authorities and others advocate the curtain front house as being the best adapted for this climate. Descriptions and plans tell us they are easy and cheaply built and results from fowl so kept are better than any other method. They are made with one thickness of boards so do not cost much. The curtain front is cheaper than glass and the fowls are better housed and appear healthy and lively because the air is fresher. These statements bear some explanation. Any curtain front house I have inspected and I have seen a good many have especially constructed sleeping rooms, double-walled and double ceiling, either sealed under the rafters or else a small loft between the slatted wood and the space between the slatted wood and roof stuffed with six or eight inches of dry hay or straw. The fowl, therefore, sleep in a warm and most comfortable sleeping apartment where it is absolutely necessary for laying fowl. The curtain front is on the scratching pen adjoining which is sometimes very small and made of one thickness of first-class lumber so that there are no cracks or crevices for the cool wind to get through. The fowl go out into these whenever they are disposed to scratch and dust themselves. On the whole the arrangements are good and comfortable and better than some of the old time double boarded houses made of old iron and sealed and which admit no fresh air and are damp and deadly. These curtain houses seem especially suited to small combed fowl. I have not

seen Minorcas or Leghorns kept under these conditions nor do I think the scratching room would be warm enough for them in zero weather for their large combs easily freeze and frost bites will stop hens from laying.

Early Pullets for Fall Eggs

Prof. F. C. Elford, Macdonald Coll-ge

About the middle of July we put into laying pens a few extra early pullets of the following breeds: Barred Plymouth Rocks, white Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds and white Leghorns. These pullets were all hatched from the 24th of May to the end of the month and were, therefore, between four and five months old. The first egg laid was from a Rock pullet, that celebrated the day she was five months old by laying her first egg. The first Wyandotte egg was laid on August 4, and the first egg received from the white Leghorn was August 10. No egg was received from the Red hen until August 25.

Into each pen was put 25 pullets, or 100 in all. Up to the 1st of November only 68 of these have laid as follows: Rocks, 19; Wyandottes, 15; Reds, 12; Leghorns, 11. The egg yield to date, time with the average number laid by each pullet that was laying is: Rocks, total 482 eggs, average 25 eggs; Wyandottes total 208; average 14 eggs. Reds to total 180, average 16 eggs. Leghorns, total 142, average 13 eggs. The best individual records for the pen is: Rocks, 46; Wyandottes, 34; Leghorns, 33; Reds, 27.

For the 68 pullets that laid, the total eggs laid was 1021 or an average of 15 eggs for each pullet. At 25 cents a dozen it means that each pullet gave 30 cents worth of eggs in the three months. In reality they paid better for new laid eggs being so scarce the price was much higher but for one who wants a constant supply the experiment may be worth considering.

The Rock pullet that laid the 46 eggs is the pullet that laid first, commencing the day she was five months old. By the time she was six months old she had laid 28 eggs. She then quit for five weeks, and started in again and laid 18 eggs during October and 5 eggs up to the 1st of November. This was a little experiment. We wanted to see if we could get eggs from early pullets during the fall months, when eggs are usually low. Just how these pullets will lay during the winter remains to be seen.

Profitable Pure-Bred Poultry

C. Murray Smith, Brant Co., Ont.

With eggs at 40¢ already and going up (likely as high as 60¢) and before long the wise farmer will be likely to sit up and take notice if never before of the profits to be made in the egg industry. The cold storage houses in the height of the egg season paid 23 cents a dozen, a record price for them.

Millions of eggs are shipped from Russia to England. There they are cleaned, canned up, frozen and thence shipped to the United States where they are used by bakers and confectioners. There is no danger of eggs ever becoming cheap again if only on account of the ever-increasing demand for their use in the Arts and Trades to say nothing of the growing consumption for table use.

TO SECURE THE BEST PRICE

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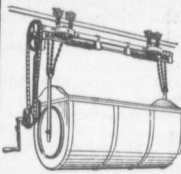
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bring the fancy prices that a lot of uniform size and color does. The same applies to marketing poultry, the poorest specimen lowers the price on the lot.

The better way would be to grade them all, fat hens in one lot will sell on sight, poor hens and late chicks will not bring good prices at any time.

This uniformity in eggs and birds is only one of the many advantages in keeping a flock of pure-bred poultry. Now it is a curious fact that many farmers who would be ashamed to deal in sheep, cattle, sheep or swine will cheerfully tolerate mongrels in the poultry yard. The time for contempt of "chicken raisin'" has gone by. It can be proved that fowls pay better and pay quicker than any other farm stock; an accurate book showing expenses and receipts will soon convince anyone of that.

Blooded birds cost no more to raise or keep than the mixed flock does and there is this difference that there is always a demand for settings of eggs at a good price from petting places, cockeries and pullets find a ready sale at one dollar apiece and upwards.

Peterboro Poultry Show

The officers of the Peterboro Poultry Association have issued the prize list for their forthcoming exhibition to be held in the next few days at Peterboro, on Jan. 4, 5 and 6. The exhibition of this association last year was a decided success, and the one this year promises to surpass it in every way. A large number of special prizes have been donated. Eight silver cups, \$5 gold pieces and other valuable prizes are in the list. Besides special ribbons given by the Barred Plymouth Rock Club and the Canadian White Plymouth Rock Club.

One class which should be of especial interest to farmers will be the exhibition of dressed poultry, which will be judged by a competent man from the Guelph Agricultural College. Turkeys that have starved and withdrawn, with head, light and tail feathers left intact. The prizes will be \$6, \$3 and \$1.

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