

An Endorsation of Artificial Incubation

Homer J. Maybce, Northumberland Co., Ont.

FARM and Dairy asks the question, "Are incubators a practical success?" I have operated one for two seasons, and we have come to the conclusion that the artificial method is both more convenient and profitable than the natural way.

We have always had more or less trouble getting the hens to set in the proper place at the right time. When one would show signs of broodiness, she would be on one of the layers' nests, which we would not want occupied by a setter. When we would transfer her to a satisfactory nest, she would usually refuse to operate, probably spoiling the setting in the bargain. This was such a nuisance that we decided to try a machine.

200-EGG MACHINE PURCHASED

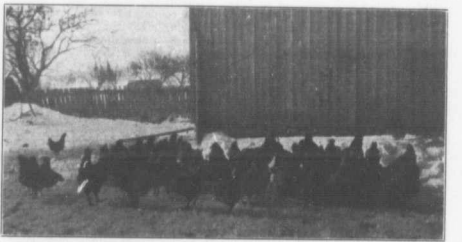
We purchased a standard make of hot-water incubator, of 200-egg capacity. I think that is a good size for the average farmer. Last year I started with a full machine, and tested out 56 infertile eggs by the candle

It is not as big a nuisance to run an incubator as most might imagine. The lamp has to be trimmed and filled every night and morning, also the eggs aired and turned. My machine very rarely has to be touched more than this, if it is placed in a well-ventilated room of even temperature. Of course some one should take a look occasionally, to see that the lamp is burning evenly.

ONE HATCH A YEAR BEST

One hatch a year should be sufficient from a 200-egg machine for a flock of 50 hens, allowing one-half for cockerels. It is more convenient to have all your chicks hatch at the same time, because you can feed and tend one large flock much easier than several small ones; and then they are all coming along together. You can feed them all the same kind of feed and make the different changes in their care at the same time, which makes less work.

Although we have used a home-made brooder with fair success, we



Pure Bred Rhode Island Red Fowls that were Incubated Hatchlings

In an adjoining article Homer J. Maybce, of Northumberland Co., Ont., tells why he believes in the incubator for the farmer, poultry man. This young man is a son of the well known Holstein breeder, M. E. Maybce, and takes a special pride in the poultry on his father's farm.

test, and it "came off" with 100 chicks, making a hatch of about 70 per cent of the fertile eggs. I test twice; first on the sixth day and again six days later. It is beneficial to take out infertile eggs, because an egg without life in it absorbs heat and expels bad odors after it has been in the machine several days.

The eggs that are taken out at the first test are not fertile and are perfectly alright for cooking, the heat taking no harmful effect. I test twice; first on the sixth day and again six days later. It is beneficial to take out infertile eggs, because an egg without life in it absorbs heat and expels bad odors after it has been in the machine several days.

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Some people think it is necessary to put water under the egg trays to provide moisture, but I have never tried that. Last year I put damp sawdust in the nursery trays, and I believe that supplied sufficient moisture.

prefer to set two or three hens at the same time we start the machine, so that they can take all the chicks. Our hens, the Rhode Island Reds, will do this without any difficulty. We have never had any chicks die from weak constitution, caused by artificial incubation. One can start a machine when he likes, and operate it to suit himself, while a hen only wants to set at certain times, and then she is very apt to go on strike just as you think she is getting settled down to business.

Yes, with us at any rate, the incubator has proved a practical success.

Practical Suggestions

Ever have a poultryman tell you that he "has to work like a dog?" The Press, Concordia, Kan., says: "You have heard people say they 'worked like a dog all day.' If it were literally true, the twenty-four hours would be spent thus: One hour digging out a rat, two hours gnawing a bone, one hour waiting for a cat to come down from a tree, half an hour begging to get into the house, and the rest of the time sleeping on a mat in front of the door, fighting flies." Now that you know what it means, don't work like a dog. Of course this Kansas summary don't take account of biting fleas. "Dave Harum" said: "A reasonable number of flies is good for a dog; it keeps him from broodin' over bein' a dog." Better be a man and work like two men. During chicken time you need to. You can't afford to "work like a dog" in the poultry business.

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Tells why chicks die

J. C. Reuter, the poultry expert, tells why chicks die. He is giving away free a valuable book entitled "White Diarrhoea and How to Cure It." This book contains scientific facts on white diarrhoea and tells how to prepare a simple home solution that cures this terrible disease over night and actually raises 50 per cent of every batch, should write Mr. Reuter for one of these valuable FREE books.



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