



Some Facts and Figures with Comment Showing Possible Egg Production for the Individual Hen. Rather Astonishing Records

Conducted by N. C. CAMPBELL, B.S.A.

HOW many eggs should a good hen lay in a year?

Did you ever keep books, or records, for your laying hens and find out just how many eggs they laid?

If you are keeping hens for profit, or merely just because you have always had some poultry around, you will find it exceedingly interesting to keep records of egg production—and, if you will, also of costs.

What would you say would be a good record for any one hen to make in the way of egg production for one year? And how many eggs should you expect from a good pen of twenty-five select birds?

If I were talking to you face to face and asking you these questions I reckon it would be a pretty safe wager that you would answer "I do not know, I have never thought about it in this way."

Unless my memory serves me poorly, the average flock of hens, as kept on farms throughout the country, produce from 75 to 90 eggs for each individual layer per year. I fancy this would not include a lot of those old drones—three-year-old and very old hens that cannot be expected to lay particularly well, if they lay at all!

THE moralists tell us that it is well to have a standard, to aim at some-

thing, — for if we aim at nothing we are very likely to hit it. So let me give you some facts and figures, and give you quite a bit of information this month, in these columns of **EVERYWOMAN'S** World, about what some real good hens have done in the way of setting standards to which other hens may be bred and developed to approach. I am going to tell you about some of the great international egg-laying competitions that have become popular during the past two or three years. The records made may perhaps astonish you if you have records available covering what your own flock of hens have accomplished; at least, these records furnish an ideal towards which we may strive with some hope of attainment.

An S.C. Rhode Island Red produced 254 eggs and an S.C. White Leghorn produced 253 eggs within a year in the third annual International Egg-laying contest, conducted under the auspices of the Agricultural College, at Storrs, Conn. I thought that this was an astonishing record when I first got the figures, but lately I learn that three hens in the International Egg-laying Contest running at Thorndale, Pa., during the past year made official records, each as follows:—264, 263, and 256 eggs, their average being 261.

Put the foregoing alongside of the records from your own good flock, which are probably making an average of about 100 eggs or thereabouts for the year, and you see at once the possibility that lies in still better stock and in still better feed and attention for them.

The records as given in the foregoing are really marvellous. Let us consider it in relation to some other things that we can more easily understand and appreciate:

As a hen never lays more than one egg a day, this represents 261 days' work—or more days, after deducting Sundays, holidays and vacations, than the average business man spends at his office or store!

I thought I would like to show you a picture of these wonderful hens, so I have asked our Superintending Editor to have an illustration made to go with this article this month. These birds are the three in the foreground in the illustration, counting from the left. The photograph, by the way, shows the entire pen of ten birds, whose total egg production for one year was 2,202 eggs, or an average of over 220 eggs per bird—this being, of course, an official trap test record. These birds were afterwards purchased by the Pratt Food Co., to be used in further breeding and laying tests at the Pratt Experiment Station, Morton, Pa. I am not advised as to what the purchase price was, but I know that last year's winners were valued at \$1,000.

There is something very interesting about the type of these hens. One almost

always finds this same type appearing for any exceptionally heavy layer. Notice the hen in the forefront, centre of the illustration. Her type or shape makes me think of an article I read one time by the editor of a poultry journal, wherein he stated that fowls that have made the best egg records have invariably an individuality of type, such as high tails, large combs, and either long or deep bodies.

You notice, of course, from the illustration that this particular hen is of the White Leghorn breed. Let us note that the average Leghorn hen weighs only about four pounds, or say forty pounds for this pen of hens. Their eggs, averaged at two ounces each, weighed almost 275 lbs. Thus the hens produced in eggs nearly seven times their own weight. Figured at 35c. a dozen, 2,202 eggs were worth \$64.23, which, after deducting \$1.60 per hen for food, leaves a profit of \$48.23.

I reckon that you will agree with me that it will keep any other industry very busy indeed to show a higher return, considering investment and labor.

All of the hens, of course, did not do so well as these top-notchers; in fact, out of 500 fowls that were in the competition, representing the pick of the best layers of Europe and America, only four pens (five birds each) laid above 1,100

eggs, and only sixteen pens went above 1,000. Only one out of every four birds laid 200 eggs or over, and the entire average of the 500 birds was but 170 eggs each.

High-Record Layers—Veritable Egg Machines—"Invariably an individuality of type such as high tails, large combs, and either long or deep bodies."



I HAVE given you these details

this month at considerable length because I want every reader of this page to realize now at the early commencement of the breeding season, or before it opens, just how great is the possibility of production from good laying hens. Of course, "like begets like" in poultry as with other stock; therefore, we may well be somewhat thoughtful and given to looking ahead when we come to selecting eggs for hatching from which we will raise the layers for next year and the years after.

It seems to me that great good has been accomplished by these egg-laying competitions since they have invited attention to the productivity of hens. And as people come to realize the possibilities in egg production they will come more and more to demand pedigrees of performance as well as pedigrees of plumage. The laying competitions have provided for the practical breeder the same opportunity to exhibit his or her skill and ability that the fancy breeder has enjoyed in the show room for the past sixty years. In addition to the egg-laying competitions, as referred to in the foregoing, I am advised that a national egg-laying contest has recently closed at Mountain Grove, Mo.; egg-laying competitions have also been conducted in New South Wales (I have a bulletin before me giving eleven years' records). Then in the Province of British Columbia, where poultry keeping is especially popular in Canada, these competitions have been running now for two years.

IT is not a bit too early to get plans completed and under way for the enlargement and the general management of the poultry this season. Now is the time to write the incubator firms and get particulars and prices of the equipment you will want, and get such additional information as they can give you about poultry and which is printed in their catalogues and literature.

The winter layers for next season must be the pullets that you will mature from the eggs hatched this coming spring. Make sure of hatching them not later than April or early May.

If you are going in for broilers to place on the early market at the high prices that rule you will be starting right away to run your incubator.

Success with the chickens you will hatch depends so largely upon vigorous healthy stock and the greatest possible vitality that you can well afford to give every attention to make sure of vitality. Feed, fresh air and exercise, are the points to look after in this connection.



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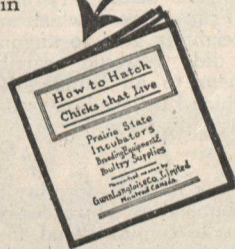
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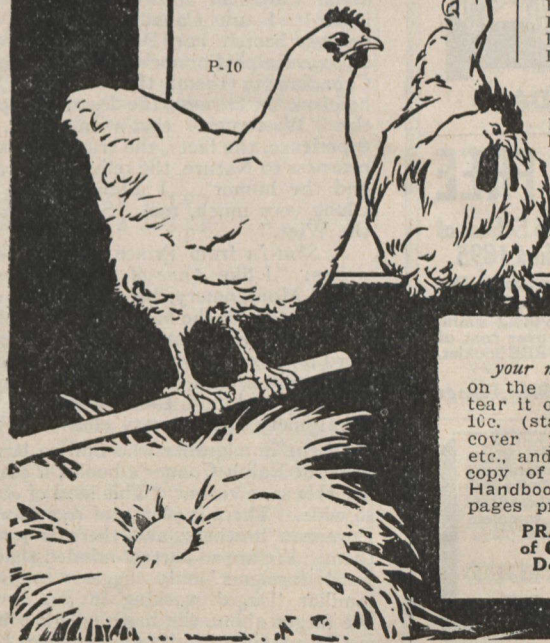
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