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### The Harvest of the Poultry Yard

We often tell ourselves that appearances are deceitful, but in the sphere of marketing the person who neglects appearances in regard to produce will find that sales are largely affected by the way the goods are made to attract in the first place. A hen is a hen, we will all concede, but on the other hand, the public is not running its business on philanthropic lines but goes to buy on the merit system and looks for articles of produce that have the appearance of cleanliness and freshness as a backing to sterling quality.

The plea may be advanced that there is generally little time for putting the finishing touches to poultry products before they leave for market. Time is certainly money, and the time spent in such improvements has its value and will considerably enhance the chances of sale. Grading is an essential. Any poor looking specimens will, figuratively speaking, put the good ones under a cloud, and the loss on the crate will in a good many instances not be in proper proportion. In marketing eggs the same thing applies, as by omitting the grading principle, many good eggs will be subject to prejudice for "keeping bad company".

There are many means employed to bring about improvement in poultry produce intended for market, and cleanliness stands out as a very important one. Clean crates for fowls and clean cartons for eggs will put a good push into the sale. Uniformity of size is another important item.

ing had free range and the necessity of working for their feed to a great extent will find the lack of exercise while in the crate together with a large amount of easily gained feed too much for their digestive powers. It is a good policy to let them go without feed twenty-four hours after they are put in the crate.

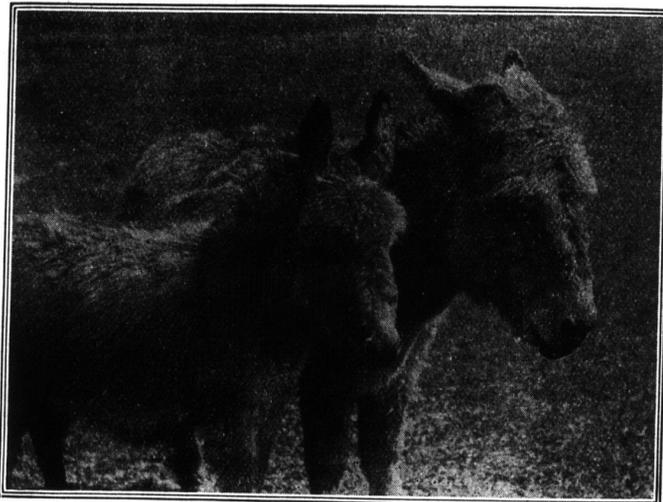
All feed should be finely ground. Corn, oats, barley, etc. are recommended, and such a mixture mixed with buttermilk produces good results. Milk is very important for mixing the feeds. If buttermilk cannot be obtained, then skim-milk may be used in its place.

To summarize, it is necessary to follow the fresh air rule in regard to the health of the flock. Do not try to follow up a line of breeding from weakly parent birds, but kill these birds as soon as possible. Swat the rooster after the breeding season is over, in order to obtain infertile eggs that will keep advantageously.

### Poultry Advice

Get rid, at once, of all your non-producing stock, also old stock. Secure stock with pedigree laying strains, but be sure never to breed from a male bird being related.

In setting eggs, it is always advisable to wash them in some disinfectant, cleaning off all dirt and excrement, which may adhere to the eggs. Some poultry breeders use methylated spirit diluted. It is very effective and cleans the eggs readily. A whole batch can be done in a very short space of time.



The system of dating eggs as they are collected and having special boxes for them is a step in the right direction to general improvement, and though the advantage to the producer may not be immediate, the reputation of the producer will be enhanced and he will be assured in the future of having a name for reliability. In marketing chickens or eggs, there are instances of really good stuff not getting full justice owing to the fact that it is not in a presentable state as it might be, that is, it may be badly packed, or the containers may be dirty.

In regard to market economy, as broilers bring very much more per pound in May or June than they would bring as roasters in the fall, it is considered a good plan to market all cockerels that are large enough in the former period and save considerably in cost of production.

Crate feeding of poultry is an essential to marketing and all crate fed poultry will commend a higher figure than they would do if just taken from the yards. This applies especially to cockerels. It is considered that about two weeks is sufficient time to crate feed females, though cockerels may be given up to four weeks. Keep the fattening crate clean and disinfected. White wash will prove a good disinfectant for the crate.

Fattening crates can be made from light lumber and building laths, to be used as slats. The lumber will make the oblong framework while the slats form the walls, roof and floor, the slats being spaced sufficiently in front to allow the chickens to feed from the trough. The floor slats should be closer.

In crate feeding it is most important to avoid over feeding, as the poultry hav-

This is a great preventative for white diarrhoea in the chicks, which plays terrible havoc with a brood causing death.

Take great care of growing young. They should have lots of attention, kept from getting wet from the rains or in wet, especially long grass, as by crowding, as they do together at night for warmth, a cold is soon started, and with wet nostrils and swollen eyes, they soon give their owner a great deal of trouble, and it is a great drawback to their health and growth.

Keep the hen free from all insects. See that her nest is wholesome and clean, and that she has ventilation in the top of the setting box. It helps both the hen and eggs.

It is best during cold, damp days to use a little tonic powder in the soft food. This will keep off the colds and the birds in good health, which of course, will increase the supply of eggs. I don't agree with giving tonics for all time, as with us, so with birds. When we feel a little out of sorts, a tonic helps. Where the temperature varies very much, it is bound to sorely try the health of the birds, and a tonic will be found to help counteract the influence.

Don't forget that frosty nights and days destroy the fertility of an egg, which renders it useless for probable hatching purposes. Remove an egg from the nest as soon as possible after being laid, as it is more susceptible to be frost bitten, than when cold.

An important need is both flint and grit for the welfare of your poultry. Many imagine that there is plenty and enough in the ground, yet that ground may never be turned over, and what grit may be found is mostly of no benefit. It will be found that far better results can be ac-



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