

POULTRY YARD

Caring for Poultry

Most people have more time during the winter months in which to care for their hens and there is nothing that appreciates extra care more than a flock of hens or will repay anyone better for their efforts.

At sunrise the hens should be fed a warm mash, consisting of one part corn meal and two parts mixed feed or one part corn meal and three parts of some oat feed. This mash should be mixed up with warm skimmed milk into a crumbly state. Never have the mash partly mixed or sloppy. No rule can be given per fowl, except that only so much as will be eaten up quickly. A dry mash of the same ingredients may be fed in place of the wet mash with equally as good results.

The hens should then be let out into scratching sheds provided for the purpose, and a light feed of oats or wheat should be scattered in the litter. This will cause the hens to go to work at once and prevent them getting cold by standing around in idleness.

FRESH AIR AND SUNLIGHT.

If no sheds are provided have litter in the house where a hen can be scattered and tacked up netting over the window frames so the windows may be raised to admit fresh air and sunlight. One must use his judgment as to raising the windows. If the weather is cloudy or stormy they should not be raised but a few inches, but if the sky is clear and the sun their full height. They should never be entirely closed but left open an inch or two for ventilation, for the house should be kept dry and free from dampness.

The windows may be removed entirely and the frames covered with cotton cloth may be put in on stormy days.

As noon the hens should be fed upon

oats or wheat at the rate of a pint to be mixed into the litter which should be from six inches to a foot in depth.

About an hour before sunset corn should be scattered in the litter. If a good meal is left by the hens it is evident that they are being overfed and the supply should be cut down until the hens scratch out nearly all of it before going to rest.

SIDE DISHES.

Have a self-feeding box with three or four portions fastened to the side of the house and keep a supply of oystershells, charcoal, bedstraw, and grit always before them. Meat or fresh cut bone may be used in place of the beef scraps.

Once each day a quart of dry cut clover to every dozen fowls should be fed in the feed troughs. This is good for green food. Fine cut second crop or alfalfa are used as good. Cabbages are also excellent for green food, but should be cut or chopped fine into pieces the size of a kernel of corn, before being fed. Cabbage heads should not be suspended where hens can peck at them, in houses where they will freeze, for a frozen cabbage, like all frozen vegetables, loses its vitality and value as a food.

During severe weather warm water should be given the hens in place of cold. If given twice or three times from freezing over. Water buckets, pans or whatever is used should be emptied after the hens have gone to roost and the building closed for the night.

A deep box, 2x3 feet, should be provided and filled half full with dry earth in which the hens may dust and wallow.

A few apples, a turnip, a feed of boiled (small) potatoes fed occasionally helps wonderfully to keep the eggs yellow.

Clean the pens at stated intervals and spade up fresh earth for the hens to work in. Keep up a fresh supply of litter every day for it does not take long for a healthy flock of hens to reduce most any kind of litter to a powder.

Be sure the hens are free from lice. A good dusting with lice powder will usually free them from vermin. If the hens are affected with scaly or scurvy legs, dip their feet in a warm mixture of one part tallow, one part kerosene oil.

Keep the hens busy, be gentle with them so they will become tractable. Study their needs, give them plenty of food, fresh air, and exercise and you will not be ashamed to show the neighbors your egg record.—A. G. S.

An Attractive Offer

Give the boys on the farm something to care for, all of their own. Let them start with a few fowls this spring. Allow them to have a little time to secure new subscriptions for Farm and Dairy. For every two new we will send a setting of eggs, of any of the standard variety of fowls.

The boys can raise their own fowls, care for them, have the profits from them, and thus have a live interest way. You could not start them in a better way, or with less expense to yourself. Our circulation department will gladly send sample copies and canvassers' outfit, on request.

Feeding Spices to Hens

Is there any harm in feeding poultry food such as Dr. Hens's poultry powder to our guaranteed food to hens when power-subscriber, Halton Co., Ont.

The feeding of stimulating foods to laying hens or hens when which eating eggs are wanted may be permissible but if the eggs are required for hatching purposes I would rather not use the spices. I don't wish to condemn

"poultry foods," wholesale. There may be a time when it is even advisable to feed them in limited quantities, but I have never seen it help the fertility. Hens that have been provisionally fed stimulating food in excess will not produce the high fertility though they may not be getting the food at the time.

White vs. Barred Rocks

1. Are the White Rocks inclined to set as much as the Barred? 2. Are the White variety as healthy?—E. R. Marshville, Ont.
(1) Yes. (2) Yes.

Pointers

Give the hens plenty of fresh air and exercise, allow lots of green food, and see that they are perfectly healthy.

It is very essential that the males are vigorous and in good order. Allow one male to eight or ten hens.

Better, however, to mate up a pen or two of the best hens, hens that have proven to be good layers. In each pen put one of your most vigorous males, keep no males with the rest of the flock. Take eggs for hatching from the mated pens only.

Some people will not inbreed, that is use their own males. If the males are strong as they should be it is better to use birds of the same flock for mating. No harm can come if he developed more quickly by inbreeding.

Don't be afraid to cull out your stock, for there are in all flocks some fowls that do not promise a profit. It is not profitable to compel half the flock to support the other half. When a portion of the flock becomes expensive and the other portion is profitable get rid of all but the good and send them to market. Culling out a flock is like the trimming of unfruitful trees, it must be done severely.

242 EGG STRAIN (Kulp)

Brown Leghorns from the biggest birds and biggest layers of big eggs (up to 32 oz. per doz.) Best business breed in America. Hardy, hand-book orders only for guaranteed fertile eggs at \$2.00 per 15. Circulars free.

GRANT POULTRY YARDS, Brantford, Ont.

Our DAIRY NUMBER

will be published on April 8th. We advise makers of Separators, Dairy Supplies, Factory Supplies and Wholesale Commission Men to have their advertisements in this issue.

IS YOUR "COPY" IN?

Forms Close March 30th

FREE SETTINGS OF EGGS

For only two new yearly subscriptions to Farm & Dairy, at \$1 each, we will send, absolutely free of cost, a setting of eggs, of any of the standard varieties of fowl. Replenish your flock. Add to it. It will cost you nothing but a little time. New subscriptions to Farm & Dairy are easily obtained.

Sample copies on application.

Circulation Department,
FARM & DAIRY
Peterboro, Ont.

FENCE TALK No. 6

The Page "Empire" Fence (White Brand)—there's a fence that outclasses them all, at every point of fence-value. It's the strongest wire-fence made in earth, and it will outlast two—yes, three—ordinary wire-fences.

It is not an expensive fence, although every upright and every horizontal wire is made of 9-gauge steel. Not expensive even though its horizontals are High-Carbon Galvanized Steel wire guaranteed to stand 2,400 lbs. tensile strain without breaking. (Other fences use "hard drawn" wire, that breaks at 1,800 lbs. and less.)

Not expensive, even though it's coated with a permanent white that defies weather and rust and makes it slightly enough for a pale lawn.

Decidedly not expensive, just as any Page Fence is not expensive, because the toughness of the wire, the springiness and the solid-joint lock-knot, insure that this fence will stretch tighter, stand up better, and never sag, even though but two posts are used as against three on any other fence.

With all its betterments, that no other fence even approaches, a Page "Empire" Fence costs less, in the first place and in the long run once it's up, than any fence made.

Shall we prove that to you? Ask nearest Page place for free booklet that tells about the many kinds of Page Fence (including "Empire") and shows how you can prove any fence before you buy it.

The Page Wire Fence Co., Ltd., Walkerville, Toronto, Montreal, St. John, Vancouver, Victoria.

"PAGE FENCES WEAR BEST"

It is desirable to mention the name of this publication when writing to advertisers

FOR SALE AND WANT ADVERTISING

TWO CENTS A WORD

THIS DEPARTMENT is one of the most valuable in the Paper. At a cost of only two cents a word, you can advertise anything you wish to buy or sell, or situations wanted or vacant.

THE ADDRESS must be counted as part of the advertisement, and each initial or a number counts as one word. Minimum cost 25 cents each insertion. When replies are to be sent to a box at our Office, 10 cents extra is charged to each advertisement. Extra charges to advertisers must accompany each order.

COPY must be received at our Toronto office, 72 Queen St. W., Thursday to guarantee insertion in issue of the following week. NO BLACK-FACED TYPE or display of any kind will be allowed in this header, thus making a small advertisement as noticeable as a large one.

EGGS.—High-class Rose Comb Brown and Single Comb White Leghorns; \$1.50 per 15. J. H. Rutherford, London East, Ont.

ROUSEN DUCK EGGS at \$1.25 for six, or \$2.00 for 12. These ducks are bred from imported eggs.—J. H. Rutherford, Caledon East, Ont.

NINETY-FOUR PER CENT. of our readers keep poultry. Get rid of that surplus stock by placing an advertisement in this column.

BUFF ORPINGTONS.—Imported stock Mrs. Wilkinson's strain, mated with Clark's Pedigreed layers. Eggs \$1.75 per 15.—Mrs. Newby, Lovering, Ont.

FARMERS ARE NOW BUYING settings of eggs in large quantities. If you have any, place an advertisement in this column, and see how fast you sell them.

WANTED.—To give away free, 100 settings of eggs, of any of the standard breeds of fowls, in return for the new yearly subscriptions to Farm and Dairy for \$1 each. Write Box 333, Peterboro, Ont.

SPECIAL SALE.—White Wyandotte pullets, one fifty each, from prize winning fifty eggs, hundred—Highland Park Poultry Yards, Peterboro, Ont.