



Buff Orpington house, owned by J. W. Clark, Cambridge, Ont.

There can be no doubt that the present plan of producing the bulk of the eggs in this country in summer is all wrong. If, say one-half, of our egg products were produced in winter it would add very much to the returns from the poultry yard.

Desiring to obtain information that would be helpful in enabling farmers to produce more winter eggs, we submitted the following questions to a number of prominent poultrymen:

(1) Is a modern, up-to-date poultry house necessary for the successful production of winter eggs?

(2) At what age do hens give the best return in winter eggs?

(3) What ration have you found to be most profitable for winter egg production?

(4) What have you found to be the greatest hindrance to successful winter egg production?

(5) What is the difference in cost between producing eggs in winter and in summer?

(6) Provided he has the proper equipment, is there anything to prevent a farmer producing winter eggs?

Several replies follow:

A large number of replies were received, too many in fact to publish in one issue. Several follow in the order in which they were received. The remainder will appear in later issues.

Percy C. Gosnell, Ridgeway, Ont.

(1) A modern, up-to-date poultry house is not necessary for the winter production of eggs. One ply of inch boards well battened and a good dry ground floor is all that is necessary. Drafts and dampness must be avoided.

(2) Pullets hatched between 1st of January and last of April lay better the following winter than at any age and to get them this early an incubator and brooder is quite necessary.

(3) Three times a day is often enough to feed for winter eggs. The following ration has proved satisfactory: Oats, wheat or buckwheat scattered in a straw litter four or five inches deep in the morning, just what they will eat with a relish. Mash, composed of wheat, bran and oatmeal in equal parts at noon, warm mash preferable. At night give them all the corn they will eat, never let them go to roost without a full crop.

(4) Lack of exercise and too many fowls in a small place are the common causes for hens not laying in winter.

(5) The difference in cost of producing eggs in winter is about 5 cents. Winter eggs should be produced for 9½ cents per doz., and summer eggs at 4½.

(6) Providing he has the proper equipment there is nothing to prevent the ordinary farmer producing winter eggs.

I give a few pointers as follows:

How to Produce Eggs in Winter

Clean the pens regularly. Supply the birds with fresh water every day.

Feed regularly and do not overfeed.

Supply green food and animal food in winter if at all possible. Supply grit to fowls in confinement, if you expect good results.

Keep a good litter on the floors all the time, and make the hens scratch for every grain if you want lots of eggs.

A. W. Foley, Government Fattening Station, Bowmanville, Ont.

(1) While a modern, up-to-date poultry house is not essential to the production of winter eggs, it is certainly a means to that end. Poultry should be housed with due consideration, the same as live stock, to become productive. A house entirely free from frost will not, as a rule, give better results than one more or less cold; so long as the combs of the laying stock are not frozen, and other conditions are favorable, winter eggs can be readily produced. Remember, however, that it is not the house that makes the hens lay. Profitable winter egg production can be had only from fully developed pullets, and the result of consistent care.

(2) Hens do not give good returns as winter layers, and as a result of practical experiment we find the most profitable period to be during the first twelve or fourteen months of the chick's life. Up to this time the chick, or rather pullet, will give more profitable returns than at any other time, from the fact that at this time the pullet is in her best condi-



Buff Orpington Hen, owned by J. W. Clark.

tion to produce eggs from the rations fed. The hen lacks the thrift and industry characteristic of the pullet, and will produce fat, rather than eggs.

(3) As to rations, oats, barley, corn, buckwheat and wheat are all good, with wheat as the standard food. It is well not to keep feeding any one kind of grain too long. A change is enjoyed by the hen as is the case with ourselves. The great secret of winter production is to make winter conditions conform as nearly as possible with summer conditions, and if such is done, the question of winter eggs becomes as easy to produce with the practical poultryman as summer eggs. These conditions may be summed up as follows:

Good clean grain, considerably fed; fresh drinking water daily; a constant supply of grit and oyster shell; plenty of green feed, such as roots, cabbage or clover hay; and a very important ration is animal meat.

(4) The greatest hindrance to successful winter egg production is the fact that farmers keep hens, instead of pullets, and the general lack of interest taken in poultry. Apparently the average farmer keeps hens as a necessary expense and for the sake of appearance. Because he has neglected to interest himself in the advanced methods advocated by those who are, in a practical way, making a special study of poultry culture. To him there is no money in poultry, when, as a matter of fact, a chick, by the time it is twelve or fourteen months old, will, under favorable



A familiar summer scene on a Canadian farm. Sometimes the fowls get the eggs, sometimes he doesn't; then the housewife wonders why the hens don't lay. —Photo by Ballows, Godrich.