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How to Obtain Maximum Winter Egg Production

Use Pullets from Males Which Come from a Heavy Laying
Strain—Value of the Trap Nest.

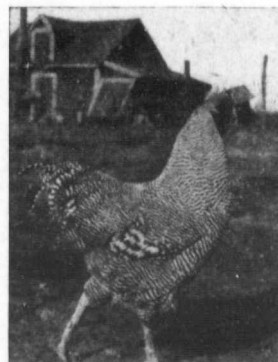
By M. A. JULL, in "Canadian Countryman"

IN view of the high price which eggs will probably soar to this winter, every one with any pullets on hand, should take care to get them laying as soon as possible. The pullets should be handled very carefully while approaching the laying stage, any

It has been found that the male has a greater influence in transmitting the ability to lay a good number of eggs in the winter months than has the female. The hen transmits the ability to lay a normal number of eggs during the spring season, but she cannot transmit the ability to produce a large number of eggs in the winter season. This ability is transmitted by the male, but he should come from a heavy producing hen. The problem, then, is to select the heaviest winter producers and mate them with a male whose mother was known to have been a heavy winter layer. The selection of the male is very important, and it is only by using a male bred from a good winter layer that best results can be secured.

Nevertheless, care must be exercised in the selection of the female breeders, for not only is it necessary to get a good male breeder from a heavy layer, but her eggs should be of good size, and sound in shell. They should run high in fertility and in hatching power. Her chicks should be healthy and vigorous. In other words, the hen should not only be a good layer, but she should be a good breeder also.

The discussion on breeding would intimate that trap-nesting is necessary, and many farmers will find it well worth while trapping from October to the last of February. It has been found that pullets which start to lay early are usually the best layers. Also, the pullets which lay best during the winter months are the best layers for the year. On the average, heavy producers can be



The Head of the House

unnecessary excitement may delay egg production, and certainly if they are not fed well, they cannot be expected to lay before Christmas. What should be borne in mind is that the sooner they begin to lay, the more money they make.

Good stock is absolutely essential, and most people now realize that pure-bred stock has many advantages over other mongrel stock. Furthermore, the pullets must be fully well matured to be most profitable.

The ability to lay eggs is inherited, and it requires careful selection and the adoption of a consistent breeding policy to develop an egg-laying strain. What is most needed is the development of winter layers, since the majority of the eggs produced in the country are laid from March to June, and although the cost of production is low the profits are small, because the eggs are worth less than at any other time.

The average farm hen should not only lay 144 or more eggs in a year, but the majority of them should be laid from November to March. Not only is this necessary from the standpoint of economical production, but from the standpoint of breeding, it is highly desirable, since heavy winter laying pullets make the best breeders as yearlings.

The selection of heavy producing females may not in itself improve the egg production of the subsequent flocks to any extent.



And the "Neck"

selected on the basis of egg production during the early laying season. Therefore, in order to secure the most substantial improvement in egg production,