

CULTURE

POULTRY YARD

Preparation for Winter
Anas Hovves, York Co., Ont.

If my observations serve me right I should say that not one farmer's flock in five is properly supplied with green feed, particularly on the farms where green feed can be had so cheaply and so abundantly. Green feed of some kind is necessary to the health of the birds. Many of them do not make the best winter of their kind of food and according to the tests conducted at Guelph, birds in whose ration green feed has been lacking during the winter, do not produce as high a percentage of fertile eggs as do birds plentifully supplied with food of a succulent nature.

A few of the commonly grown farm crops that may be used for green feed are, mangels, turnips and cabbage. I favor the latter. Now is the time to lay by a store of these feeds for the winter.

Charcoal is something like green feed. We do not prize it so much for its nutritive value as for its value as a condiment and an inducement to fertile egg production. Charcoal can be purchased quite cheaply in commercial forms. It can be manufactured even more cheaply by starting a fire of old boards, corn cobs, etc., and then smothering with wet hay or straw. This is the way in which I prepare my charcoal. I always have it where the hens can get at it.

The dust bath is another essential to hen comfort in winter. We can not get rid of the snow in the yard, but we can get rid of the dirt on any country road just now. I have already put up a couple of barrels for my small flock.

My suggestion that their poultry houses this fall, is along the line of some improvements I made myself two years ago. I took out the double glass windows in the front, boarded up a portion of the top of the window and left an open space two and one-half feet wide, the full length of the house. I took precautions to see that every crack was thoroughly covered on the sides, back, eaves and roof. This gives a house that is not draughty, but is nevertheless light, airy and dry.

Most of the hen houses that are renovated around here in the fall are packed up with earth, the wire netting that has been on the front during the summer substituted with double glass shades and every effort made to get warmth even at the expense of good ventilation. The efficiency of an open front house is too well proved to be longer questioned.

What Disease is This?

During the past winter and summer we have lost a large number of hens from a large flock. The incapacity of your leg is naturally the first symptom. Gradually the legs become entirely useless. Occasionally both legs are affected, and sometimes the toes are affected. It attacks the feet of the young around in this manner—death follows. It attacks the feet of the smaller flocks as well as some of the smaller ones. The hens are well housed, and we have no doubt of the cause. Would you kindly advise us? Kindly give drink containing diarrhoea in turkeys.—D. P. E. Co., Ont.

Replying to the enclosed questions would say that some of the symptoms described by your correspondent would indicate that the birds have tuberculosis, although I could not be sure of this without seeing them. It would be more satisfactory if one or two of the sick birds were shipped to the Bacteriological Dept., of the College here where an examination could

be made and a report given. Do not ship the birds so that they will arrive here on Saturday or Sunday. A post-mortem and by way of treating until the disease is checked I would suggest that lime be used freely under the roosts, etc.

The method of preventing diarrhoea in turkeys is to use a teaspoonful of Muriatic Acid in a gallon of drinking water. Also feed the small curds dried off with middlings.—Prof. W. R. Graham, O. A. C., Guelph, Ont.

Reuse Water Glass

By H. M. West

Water glass may be more than one year if properly handled. It loses its value if exposed too long to a free circulation of air, which contains carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide causes the appearance of a decided milkiness in the water glass, then a thick, heavy sediment settles around the eggs until it becomes difficult to remove them without some breakage. When this deposit is completed, only a no value of soda is left, which is a satisfactory method of keeping water glass fresh so that it may be used year after year is the exclusion of air by means of covers that fit tightly or are sealed with paraffin.

Jars may be sealed with paraffin by winding paper around the top, leaving the upper edge to extend a little above the cover. The paper may be held in place by means of a cord or rubber band, while melted paraffin is poured into the groove between the paper and the edge of the cover. It is often convenient to put the eggs in small vessels which do not have to stand open to the air very long until all the eggs in them have been used, then they may be resealed and the water glass poured into bottles and corked up until time to store eggs again.

If sealed vessels cannot be used, the deterioration of the water glass will be slower in a well ventilated room than in a cellar, where the air contains more carbon dioxide.

Alfalfa as a Poultry Food

"Feed your hens alfalfa meal and make them lay. Six pence for 25 cents." This was the rather startling advertisement that greeted us in the window of a certain grocery store.

While the grocer greatly over-estimated the egg producing properties of alfalfa, yet he must have had some idea of its value as a poultry food. And while we sympathize with the city poultry farmer who has the credulity to pay this price for alfalfa, yet we believe that many farmers do not fully realize its real worth.

We know a farmer who makes it a practice to gather up the alfalfa refuse about the barn and save it for the poultry. The leaves and small stems which become broken off are the very richest part of the plant. Save the alfalfa refuse. It can be fed dry and placed where the hens can pick at it when they require it. A convenient method of feeding alfalfa hay to poultry is to place it in hoppers made of fine mesh poultry netting.

ANOTHER PLEASED
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