

Leghorn-Brahma cross, 6 hens, Jan. 35, Feb. 48, March 30, April, May, June, sitting; total, 113.

Sundry other crosses, 24 hens, Jan. 39, Feb. 97, March 127, April 283, May 235, June 193; total, 971.

Eggs laid, hens running at large: July 456, August 438, September 246, October 23, November 160, December 943. Total for the year, 10,109.

The above figures are not given to show the best that could be done under conditions more favourable. What is meant by more favourable conditions may be explained in this way. In the number of layers given are included about 24 old hens and the mixed hens kept for sitters. As the warmer weather approached the sitters became broody and they were given eggs. At one time there were 40 hens either with chickens or sitting on eggs. Other hens would become broody and some time would elapse before they would be broken up and begin egg-laying again. Thus the number of layers was considerably reduced.

What would a farmer do, under the circumstances?

He would keep a sharp watch on his hens and kill off the non-productive ones, or else they would certainly reduce the profit made by the active layers. If he had a non-sitting breed he would have to keep a few of a sitting variety to hatch out his chickens, or, he might have a small incubator and brooder. It has been shown in a previous portion of this report how he could select his breeding stock from his largest, best shaped, and most prolific layers, mating them with a vigorous male which had been kept apart from them during the winter season.

The following will show how the breeding pens were made up and the number of eggs set and chickens hatched:

BREEDING PENS MADE UP.

About the beginning of March, and towards the middle of the month, the different breeding pens were made up, composed of white Leghorns, black Minorcas, Andalusians, colored Dorkings, white Minorcas, barred and white Plymouth Rocks, silver laced and white Wyandottes, white Javas, light Brahmas, Langshans, and golden Polands.

The following were mated with the view of producing crosses to make good layers and market fowls:

Houdan cock, four light Brahma pullets; white Java cock, three white Leghorn hens; Wyandotte cock, seven Andalusian pullets; barred Plymouth Rock cock, three coloured Dorking hens; Indian Game cock, coloured Dorking hens, Langshan pullets, and Red Cap hens.

EGGS SET AND CHICKENS HATCHED.

When Set.	Description of Eggs.	Chickens Hatched.	Remarks.
Mar. 31..29	W Java eggs.....	19.	Pullets eggs
Apr. 10..13	L Brahma eggs.....	6.	Old hens, rather fat
do 28..26	S L Wyandotte eggs	14.	Eggs from farmer
do 28..15	L Brahma eggs	7.	
do 30..24	P Rock-Dorking cross...	17.	
do 30..26	S L Wyandotte eggs....	17.	
do 30..13	W Java eggs.....	12.	
May 7..15	Indian Game-Langshan cross eggs.....	10.	
do 7..15	Houdan-Brahma cross...	6.	
do 7..15	S L Wyandotte-Andalusi-an cross eggs.....	10.	
do 13..26	W Minorca eggs.....	14.	
do 13..26	B Minorca eggs.....	14.	
do 15..26	W Plymouth Rock eggs.	13.	
do 18..13	Andalusian eggs.....	6.	Several broken
do 26..26	W Java eggs.....	18.	
do 25..13	W Leghorn eggs	8.	
do 31..13	G Poland eggs	8.	Breedingstock old

199

It is worth noting, while reading the above table, that the white Java eggs, which were set on the 10th of March, were from four early pullets of the year before; that these pullets laid well all winter and on being early mated their eggs, some time after, proved fairly fertile, giving 19 chicks out of two sittings of eggs. The chickens were hardy from the first and made rapid development. Indeed, the eggs from these Javas hatched remarkably well during all the season, so giving proof of sturdy and vigorous inherent qualities. The light Brahma eggs did not do well, owing to the hens being three years of age and at that age predisposed to take on fat. The Plymouth Rock-coloured Dorking cross eggs hatched well.

PROGRESS OF THE CHICKENS.

The early hatched white Java cockerels made development of one pound per month. They were attended to and regularly fed and watered, as all chickens should be. The progress made will compare favourably with previous years. Some of the weights are given as follows:

White Java cockerels, hatched March 31st, on 14th September following weighed 6 lbs. 5 oz., 5 lbs. 7½ oz., 4 lbs. 13¾ oz.; Plymouth Rock-Dorking cross, hatched 30th April, weighed 14th September 4 lbs. 1 oz., weighed 20th November, 6¾ lbs.; Indian Game-Langshan cross, hatched