

I have never tried any but purebred Plymouth Rocks for fall roasters, but from what I have seen of some crossbred fowls I should judge that a cross of the Cornish Indian cock on Plymouth Rock or Light Brahma hens would be preferable. Such crosses make very rapid growth, often reaching five and six pounds at twenty weeks. Any fowls with yellow skin and legs will make good roasters if they mature rapidly, so as to be soft and tender when fattened. "Stargy" roosters, and hard, "buddy" birds do not command such good prices, consequently we should select stock that will meet the requirements of our market. The Plymouth Rock, Wyandotte, Brahma and Cornish Indian, or crosses of these will do it, but the smaller breeds are too "buddy" for 'his purpose.

Warm quarters are required to carry such stock through to a marketable age, and if one has a large brooder house he can devote a portion of it to such stock, but if not he can build a small, cheap but warm house at a slight expense. I shall use houses 5 x 8 feet in size by 4 x 3 feet in height, and shall place twenty-five fowls in each. I can build such houses for about five dollars each, and have them warm enough to keep the fowls comfortable. I shall not use yards in connection with these houses, but will allow the fowls to roam where they will. Here the ground is usually bare of snow the greater portion of the time during the winter, and they will pick up much food. It takes about two weeks' heavy feeding to fatten them off, after they are five or six months old, and before that time I feed them so that they will make a rapid growth. I place the expense of feed for these fowls at 35 cents each, and as they will always bring 75 cents each, and often twice that, there is a nice margin on the profit side, and one that I have been unable to make from spring hatched chickens, when sold on the market.

Many poultry writers recommend egg farm poultrymen to sell off their stock about the middle of June. It is a question when is the best time to dispose of hens that are not desired for another year. If kept through the molt there will be a number of weeks that they will not lay, and thus be unprofitable, and usually in the fall the price of such fowls is very low. They will bring a better price if sold in June, yet June, July, and August are good months for the egg trade. Prices are usually better than in early spring, and the hens, if not molting or broody, will be producing the largest number of eggs. Last year July was my best month, the whole flock averaging twenty eggs each during that period, and the price held steadily at 16 cents per dozen.

I believe that it is a good plan to weed out the poor layers, and those that are inclined to molt late, from June to August, selling them in small lots, but keeping a sufficient number of the best fowls to furnish eggs from that time on until the pullets begin to lay. An egg farmer should have eggs at all seasons, and especially when the price is high. He cannot do this if he disposes of all his hens as soon as they begin to molt. Hens lay very few eggs during the molting season, but it is often as profitable to keep them as it is to raise young stock. It takes from five to seven months to grow a pullet to laying age, while a hen, if well cared for, will not entirely stop laying more than three or four weeks, and three months at the longest. While pullets will produce more eggs in the first year, counting from the time they commence to lay, hens will be productive at a time when the pullets have not reached maturity, and when eggs are comparatively high in price. I think it is a good plan to have the flock composed of at least one-third yearling hens, keeping them until they are two years old.

Ontario Crop Estimates

Last week we gave a short review of the August crop report issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. The same department has since issued the crop estimates for 1899 from which we take the following. The acreages are final, but the yield, except in the case of hay, will be revised in November from actual threshing results:

Fall Wheat.—This crop has an area of 1,049,681 acres harvested, yielding 14,201,314 bushels or an average of 13.5 bushels per acre. Last year 1,048,182 acres gave 25,158,713 or 24 bush. per acre. The average for the 17 years, 1882-1898, was 900,382 acres, giving 18,442,511 bushels or 20.5 bushels per acre. The yield for 1899 is, therefore, an abnormally low one. There were 214,785 acres of fall wheat ploughed in the spring, or over one-sixth of the area sown.

Spring Wheat.—Spring wheat has an acreage of 398,728, yielding 7,087,099 bushels, or an average of 17⁸ bushels per acre. This is a good showing, as last year the acreage was 389,205, and the total yield 6,873,785 bushels, an average of 17.7 bushels per acre, while the average for the seventeen years is 15.3 bushels per acre.

Barley.—490,374 acres of barley gave 14,622,922 bushels, or 29.8 bushels per acre. In 1898 the acreage was 438,784, giving 12,663,668 bushels, or 28.9 bushels per acre. The average yield for 1882-1898 is 25.8.

Oats.—This crop has the largest area of the grains. The 2,363,778 acres have yielded 89,542,162 bushels, being an average of 37.9 bushels per acre. Last year's acreage was 2,376,360, and the total yield was 86,858,293 bushels, or 36.6 bushels per acre. The average for the seventeen years is 34.5 bushels per acre.

Rye.—There were 137,824 acres in rye, yielding 2,271,382 bushels, or an average of 16.5 bushels per acre. The acreage in 1898 was 165,089, and the average yield per acre 16.2. Much of this crop, however, is fed green.

Peas.—743,139 acres yield 15,549,670 bushels, an average of 20.9 bushels per acre. Last year's acreage was 865,951, giving 13,521,263 bushels, or 15.6 bushels per acre. The average for 1882-1898 is 19.6 bushels per acre.

Beans.—40,485 acres of beans give 849,793 bushels, or an average of 21 bushels per acre, compared with 15,220 acres in 1898, giving 759,657 bushels, or 16.8 bushels per acre. The average yield of beans for the seventeen years is 17.4 per acre.

Hay and Clover.—2,505,422 acres have yielded 3,498,705 tons, an average of 1.4 tons per acre. Last year's figures were 2,453,503 acres, giving 4,398,063 tons, or 1.79 tons per acre. The average for the seventeen years is 1.39 tons. There are 2,710,268 acres in pasture.

Other Crops.—Acreages only can be given for the following crops: Corn for husking, 333,590; corn for silo, 171,935; each being an increase over last year's figures. Buckwheat, 132,082; potatoes, 168,141; carrots, 11891; each being less than in 1898. Mangel wuzels, 53,401; turnips, 153,440; each having an increase. There are only 2,206 acres of tobacco reported under cultivation, which is less than one-third the acreage of last year. There are 33,762 in rape, 7,103 in flax, and 1,146 in hops. There are 338,073 in orchard and garden, and 10,802 in vineyard.

Breeding Notes

By Stockman

Galloways.—The wonderful hardiness of Galloways has had a recent illustration from Nelson Morris, the well-known Chicago packer. In 1885 Mr. Morris bought from Mr. Bass fourteen young Galloway bulls, which he sent west to his ranche in Wyoming. In 1886 two of these died, leaving twelve. These twelve were all alive and active on the ranche at the roundup in 1898, having stood the work for thirteen years.

Herefords.—The Stone estate, of Guelph, represented by Walter Macdonald, have recently sold to Frank Harding, of Waukesha, Wisconsin, five pure-bred Herefords, consisting of three cows and two young bulls. These have gone west to a customer of Mr. Harding's in Oregon. They are animals of good individual merit, the young bull Picture-29, being an especially promising youngster. They will be good representatives of the white faces for the far west.