

and again laying, but this is just the time when many say, "They don't lay an egg now, let them scratch for a living."

Much of this increased demand for feed could be saved however, if more would do as the lady referred to did—sell off all the roosters and at-all-old stock just as soon as the heavy spring and early summer laying is over with.

We do not know how it is in all places, but wherever we have been prices for such stuff has generally been better early than later.

Training Chickens

Don't read this title and think that I am going to tell you how to teach your chickens to do all kinds of fancy tricks. My object is to say a few words about teaching chickens to do what you want them to do in the everyday course of events.

As we all know, chickens, together with all birds, are well advanced in the scale of animal life. In other words, they have a certain amount of what we call "intelligence." In the course of mental development from the very lowest animals to the highest there are four conditions of mental activity. The first and lowest of these is consciousness. Consciousness forms the connecting link between the inner animal self and the outside world. This condition is found in the lowest animals which possess no nervous tissue. The next in line is known as "instinct." Instinct is found in its highest development among animals which have a more or less complete nervous system but not necessarily a complicated system. Instinct is the definite reaction to a given outside stimulus. Animals with the highest degree of instinct are unable to change that instinct by learning to react contrary to it. The next highest state of mental activity is what is known as "intelligence." It is possessed by all the higher forms of animal life. Intelligence is the ability to learn and to remember what has been learned. Intelligence differs from "reason"—the highest form of mental activity—in that every reaction must, at one time or another, be learned by the individual either by accident or some other means.

A chicken, therefore, having a certain amount of intelligence, has the ability to learn and has the ability to remember what is learned. Knowing this, the fundamental principle of teaching a chicken to do as you want it to do is never to let it learn by accident or any other method what you do not want it to know. A chicken not having reason is unable to do new things without some degree of teaching. Intelligence quickly leads an animal to form a habit. After your chickens have once formed a habit do not try to break it at once, because it is beyond the comprehension of the brain of the chicken. Teach your chickens from chickhood on up, and never allow them to do the things you do not want them to do. Do not give them an opportunity, although you may think you can trust them, to do the things you do not want them to do.

Even the habit of flying over fences can be easily avoided if the chicken is never allowed to fly over any fence. If necessary to keep your young stock within an inclosure, keep a covering over it. If this is done until the birds have reached near maturity and have learned that a fence is a fence, they will not attempt to fly over, and can be kept from that time on without ever attempting to fly over.

Getting Ready For Winter

It is now time for the farm poultryman to begin making his final clean-up arrangements for disposing of his surplus stock. Cull closely and keep over for winter laying and as breeders only the well-developed, healthy and vigorous

It is in Demand.—So great is the demand for Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil that a large factory is kept continuously busy making and bottling it. To be in demand shows popular appreciation of this preparation, which stands at the head of proprietary compounds as the leading Oil in the market, and it is generally admitted that it is deserving of the lead.

fowls. Let the culls go to market, even if it seems to cut your flock down lower than you intended. It won't pay to winter the culls for market purposes and they will in no case be fit for breeders.

After selecting out the best for future use pen the culls and late-hatched stuff up separately and feed them for a couple of weeks or until they are in prime market condition. Make corn the bulk of the ration. Three-fourths corn meal and one-fourth shorts or middlings wet up with skim milk makes a fine ration and should be fed three times a day, all the flock will clean up. Keep water before the birds and the feeding troughs clean but feed no green stuff.

If the pens can be darkened slightly it will aid in keeping the birds quiet and gaining rapidly. By all means fatten your poultry before selling. It will take but a couple of weeks time and will give you big returns in increased weight and price per pound.

The Buildings

The poultry quarters should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and riden of lice and mites. The walls and roof should be looked over for cracks and holes where draughts may enter. Arrangements for good ventilation should be made if not already installed. Arrange to have plenty of sunlight on the south but tight glass windows do not afford good ventilation. Half the window space may usually best be covered with muslin to allow slow air circulation and yet admit light.

Don't crowd your poultry in their winter quarters. About four square feet of floor space should be allowed for each fowl. Crowding does not pay and very often results in disease and loss and almost surely in a very low egg yield.

Arrange your roosting platform above the floor three feet so the birds may make use of the entire floor space. Putting the nest boxes under the roosts conserves space also. Have the feed hoppers and water-pans up off from the floor on a low platform. Make the roosts and dropping-board easily removable. Keep the quarters clean and sweet. Winter profits from farm poultry are sure and pleasing if conditions, flock and care are as they should be. Just now do close culling and rush the culls and young stock off to market as soon as they can be made fit.

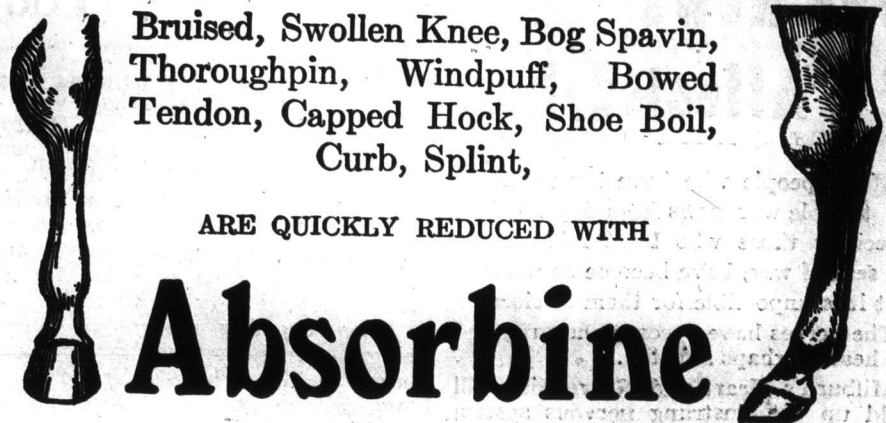
A Poultry Killing Knife

For killing poultry a special knife may be made, according to the following directions by H. C. Pierce, of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The knives in common use in bleeding and braining poultry are not suited to their purpose. The blades are too broad and too long, and the curve at the point should be on the back instead of on the cutting edge. The handle is so large that the killer is encouraged to use too much force in making the cut to bleed, whereas a light touch of the sharp knife, properly directed, is all that is needed to cut the blood vessels. The knives are also insanitary in that dirt collects at the junction of the blade and handle.

The knife which is to be used to bleed and brain poultry should be small, with a narrow blade; stiff, so that it does not bend; of the best steel, so that it can be kept sharp and is not nicked when used in braining; and the handle and blade should be in one piece. Such a knife, with the aid of the packing-house emery wheel or grindstone and oilstone, can be made from an 8-inch flat file.

To make this knife the handle of the file should first be ground off. Then the blade should be shaped from the small end of the file. It should be 2 inches long, one-fourth inch wide, and one-eighth inch thick at the back. The curve to make the point should slope from the back downward. A blade of this shape reaches the blood vessels to be cut more surely than does a blade on which the point curves upward. After the blade is made the ridges on the file should be ground down, leaving just enough roughness to prevent the knife slipping in the hand of the killer. The length of the knife, over all, should be 7 inches.



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