

START CULLING HENS IN JUNE

BY HARRY R. LEWIS.

Do you realize that the month of May, just passed, is the time of the year when the average laying flock reaches the peak of their production? The standard for a normal flock of layers in May is twenty eggs per bird for the month, or a 66 per cent. production.

In June this drops a little, due to the fact that a number of hens, having passed through the natural breeding season in spring, quit early and go on strike for the balance of the summer, changing their plumage, putting yellow pigment into their bodies and taking a long unearned rest.

The standard for the number of eggs which your layers should lay in June is eighteen eggs per bird. Are your hens laying at that rate? If not, there is a reason, and the reason probably is the existence among them of a number of birds which you would be better off without.

So June is the month to start culling among the laying birds. Culling, to be commercially profitable, should be done in a systematic way. At least every two weeks and preferably every week, on a definite day in the week, go over the layers carefully and remove those birds which have stopped laying.

This regular culling should be done through June, July and into August, or until you have gotten the flock culled down to the number which you wish to hold over the following year as laying hens and breeders.

Get a powerful flashlight, preferably with a blue or daylight globe or bulb. Go through the house when the birds are on the perches at night, picking off those which show pronounced signs of lack of production.

Put them in live-poultry shipping crates and leave them right on the floor of the house, and the following morning early look them over carefully and handle each of them to see that no mistakes have been made. Any doubtful ones can be allowed to run in the pen for another week, but the typical slackers or nonproducers should be shipped immediately as live or dressed poultry for market purposes.

Culling in the middle of the week enables these birds to get on the market in time for the week-end trade when the prices are usually a little stronger than it is earlier in the week.

In order to cull out these unprofitable hens, it is not necessary to know a lot about the details of culling. When looking over the birds at night with the flashlight when they are on the perch, look first for comb condition. The comb of a laying hen is large, bright red and plump, with a fine texture.

LOOK FOR THE YELLOW STREAK.

The comb of the nonlayer or the bird which is just going out of laying condition, will show a distinct tendency to start shriveling, will be dry and rough to the touch and will be small in size.

Next, look for the return of yellow pigment in the beak and in the ear lobes of the white-ear-lobed varieties. A few days after a hen stops laying the yellow color will begin to return to the ear lobes in the white-ear-lobed varieties. It will return rapidly to the thin layers of flesh just around the eyes, known as the eye ring, and it will return quite rapidly to the beak, appearing first at the base.

Upon examination, it will be found

Canvas Cover a Good Investment.

A large waterproof canvas or tarpaulin of good quality costs money, but there are few investments that will pay bigger dividends on the farm. If you have one handy it will prevent damage to many a load of hay or grain when sudden rains catch you in the field. With it fastened snugly over the unfinished stack at night there'll be no worry about possible showers to spoil your grain and disturb your sheep. Spread the cover over the finished grain stack and tie it securely in place until threshing time. One wet season the writer saved enough grain this way to pay for the canvas several times over.

In emergencies the canvas comes mighty handy to spread over a roof, opened for repairs or replacement. For covering machinery, cement, lumber, etc., that for the time being can't be given better shelter, it is a labor and money saver. Carry it with you on the road to protect your perishables from heat, cold and rain. You will find it invaluable protecting setting concrete from hot summer sun or from freezing weather. It's a wonderful convenience to spread over tender garden plants, supported here and there by a light stake, when frost threatens in late spring or early fall.

Hung up before the roots in the chicken-coop it will shut off deadly draughts, if there are any, and pay handsomely in increased winter egg yields. Dad and the boys will find it makes a serviceable tent when they are camping. If they have a regular canvas serves nicely to spread on the ground inside it. When not needed elsewhere it can be spread on a heavy auto to keep dust off the surface.

Very cared for, a good canvas will last many years. Every year and many uses for it in addition to those here suggested, and you'll

be returning to the skin and flesh immediately around the vent and after a hen has been out of condition for some time the yellow color will reappear in the shanks.

So the condition of the bird with reference to the pigment then is an important factor to note.

The cull hen in June is apt to be thin and out of condition, due to her inability to stand up under the strain of heavy production. Any bird which appears to be a little bit out of condition should be lifted in the hands gently to see if she is in good flesh and physically fit. If not, she should be marketed immediately, for it will be weeks and months before she can be gotten back into a well-fleshed, vigorous, heavy-laying condition.

As a final check-up on the laying conditions of a bird, when removing it from the perch at night, place the hand over the abdomen. A heavy-laying bird will show softness and pliability. There will be considerable distance between the pubic or lay bones. There will be considerable span between the rear of the keel and the pelvic arch, whereas the nonlayer, or the bird going out of condition, will appear somewhat hardened and shrunken in this section; the lay bones will begin to draw together.

These are but a few of the factors to consider in the big problem of culling and selection, but they are what you need to consider in eliminating the poor hens.

No matter how careful we are in brooding and no matter how ideal the rearing conditions which the pullets have, there will always be in every brood some chicks which, due to inherited traits or to a poor start in their early life, never develop up to the average or the best of the flock.

Did you ever stop to think that it was a waste of time and money to hold these birds until maturity? When the chicks are from eight to twelve weeks of age and you begin to ship your broiler cockerels, then is the time to weed out the inferior pullets, those which show lack of development, and let them go along with the cockerels to market.

The results will be fewer birds on the range, less contamination of the soil and better growth and better development all of the way down the line. Next winter and early spring we will be needing a lot of fine well-developed breeding cockerels. There is no better time to select them than right now.

When shipping your early broilers, remember that those big, long-bodied, wide-backed, chunky, well-developed cockerels are just the ones which will grow into the good breeding males for next year's hatching work. So why not separate them from the rest of the birds immediately, put them on a separate range by themselves and give them every opportunity to grow and develop all of the inherited traits which are in them?

Keep at least twenty to thirty more than you will need. Some will get killed through injury or possibly the natural enemies will get a few, but do not let June go by without picking your breeding cockerels and giving them a real chance.

June, like the other months of the year, is a busy one for the poultryman. Many are the opportunities to insure success in weeks and months to come.

wonder how any one could get along without such a convenience.—H. E. G.

I Can't Save Money on a Checking Account.

One of the most successful men I know has a way of saving money that is very simple and very effective. Talking with me about it, he said:

"Long ago I discovered that a man can never save a penny on a checking account. I found also that a regular savings account is not always satisfactory. I have two checking accounts in our two village banks. The first is my regular account against which I draw to pay current expenses. The second is my account against which I never draw except in paying for a high-grade bond. It is, in reality, a savings account, but subject to cheque. Whenever I get \$100 ahead on it, or possibly \$500, I buy the highest-grade first-mortgage bond procurable. A man can always get at least 6 per cent. interest on such an investment these days. But I keep this account strictly for the buying of bonds for permanent investment."

"Another thing I've learned: if a man puts all his money in a checking account, he'll never save any of it. And if, upon the receipt of money, he sets out to pay all debts and buy in addition everything in sight, he has no chance to save. If he has \$200 coming in, let him put \$100 in what I call my 'bond bank.' Then he can worry along well enough on the other \$100, until more comes in sight."

"I've tried many ways of saving money, but this one has been by far the best for me; and I believe it would be a good plan for most men."—A. R.

The average sow produces but four pigs per litter. This low number of pigs makes them cost more than they should. Where five pigs are produced the cost of 100 pounds of pork is reduced by \$1.70, according to rural economists. Another additional pig will still further reduce the pork cost.

NURSES

The Toronto Hospital for Incurables, in affiliation with Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, New York City offers a three-year Course of Training for young women, having the required education, and desiring to become nurses. This Hospital has adopted the eight-hour system. The pupils receive salaries of \$100 a month, a monthly allowance and traveling expenses to and from New York. For further information apply to the Superintendent.

The Toady Frog.

Going home from school one day
Along a country road,
I didn't see what I was doing
And stepped upon a toad.
I had crushed the little hopper
So deep within the sand;
At night I missed his singing—
He was leader in the band.
I told at school the story
About the Toady Frog,
And when I looked around
He was sitting on a log.
I said that I was sorry,
He bowed and hopped along.
That night I heard him singing
The old familiar song.
—Isobel Luke.

Locating My Perennial

I like a good perennial garden. It contains the asparagus, rhubarb, sage, and other herbs, and a good plot for horseradish. The latter is not really grown as a perennial but as it sprouts badly and becomes a pest if other crops are planted where it has been once I prefer to set it to horseradish each year, feeding it liberally, for the large roots planted will make a growth that will not take harm from the smaller growth of the rootlets left in the ground. Both asparagus, and rhubarb want the soil very rich, and a heavy mulching with stable manure each winter is the best way to grow it. Many use salt freely on the asparagus, and does not harm the asparagus. Some have contended it is a benefit, but I think not.—A. H.

Fly-Paper Holder.

When using sticky fly-paper, hang it near the ceiling, where it is not only out of the way, but near the favorite resting-place of the flies. The fly-paper should be rolled into a cylinder with the sticky side out, fastening it thus with ordinary wire paper clips at each end.

Since the sticky coating is liable to drip from the bottom, a lid from an old tin can be used to catch this. Punch a small hole in the centre of lid. Pass a stout cord with a knot on one end through this hole, then up through fly-paper cylinder to small hook or screw-eye in centre of ceiling. The fly-paper cylinder will thus rest upon the tin lid.

WRENS AND PEE-WEES

The Elliott family go very early in the spring to their country-house. As soon as grandmamma and the children are out of the carriage, their first thought is of the birds' nests, and to have the house-cleaning of the bird-houses on the porch well attended to.

They found the pee-wees beginning to build on top of a round earthen-house, which had been the home of the wrens for years before, and, of course, they did not touch that house, but let the little birds finish their nest, which seemed so hard to make on top of a round house; but it was very secure, and fitted as nicely half-way round it as if a carpenter or mason had been at work.

We watched mother and father pee-wees each day working together. Then the mother was seen to sit very quietly a long time, and the children always went on tip-toe, so as not to disturb her; but one day when she was out of sight we peeped in and saw some lovely light-blue eggs.

The father pee-wee was nearby, making a great fuss, telling us to keep away from his house. We enjoyed watching this pair so much, because it seemed so strange they should prefer making a home on the top of the house, when the door was wide open

for them to go in. It seemed very like the dog in the manger.

By-and-by the wrens came flying round. It was time for them to go into their summer home. They were very uncomfortable, and were no more pleased than you and I would be if we left our home in the autumn and found in the spring our clean house was taken possession of by a strange set of people who wanted to live on top, and would kill us if we went in. They behaved, too, very much as we should have done under the same circumstances.

I presume they went away and told their friends. Perhaps the birds have polkemen, for one very warm day, grandmamma and I were sitting on the porch enjoying the young, fresh vegetable life about us, when all of a sudden—in less time than I could write it—a wren flew down on Mistress Pee-wee, gave her such a shaking that the feathers came down in our laps. They turned her out, upset the eggs—there they lay on the floor, all broken. They then broke up the nest, and in a few days, Master and Mistress Wren quietly went into their stone-house, built their own nest, and raised a brood of little wrens. This was done for two years, and we shall watch them again this spring, but we hardly think the pee-wees will try it again.

CLIPSE FASHIONS



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MY GREATEST STEP-SAVERS

BY BONABETH G. BRICKELL.

Every progressive homemaker reads about and (if she does not already possess them) plans to purchase as soon as possible all the modern step-saving devices that have been perfected for the present-day housewife. But while she envies the chic ladies pictured in alluring kitchens and sighs for a bungalow like the first prize in the home-lovers' contest, mother must not overlook the little step-savers in most homes—the lively boys and girls. Their surplus energy can be very valuable, if converted into real help.

Any mother will admit that it is easier, much easier, to do all the trivial tasks about the house than it is to teach tiny, untrained hands to do those tasks, but patient teaching brings about two results: The child is taught to do his share of work, as well as play, and gradually mother realizes that many things are being done for her.

If the oldest child has been carefully taught to do a number of things, the younger children take helping much for granted. As soon as a baby can get about the room, he can help mother put his toys away, if there is a box to hold them. After helping many times, he will learn to put them away, without the help. After learning his lesson about toys, he can learn to hang his coat and cap on a low hook, and mother will not need to pick up these garments. At this point, though, father must help by setting a good example, for men often feel that their presence is not recognized unless their belongings are spread about the house.

When a number of papers and magazines come to the home, keeping them piled on a table is an easy task for a child, and a little praise helps hasten the work and straighten the piles. And, while doing this, the usual litter that accumulates in the living-room can be collected. By using more praise and more patience, it is surprising how soon a little girl can put a room in order, use the carpet-sweeper, and do the dusting. Of course, this is not a careful, weekly cleaning, but it is a daily "straightening-up."

One secret of helpful children is helpful toys. A little broom will sweep as well as a big one and is just right to keep porches and steps clean. A little iron, with a stand and holder just like mother's, has been used so much and so happily, that now my little helper irons ever so many plain things, and irons them well.

Water systems are fine, and I am going to have one as soon as ever I

can, but the lack of one is not the worst calamity in the world, if the burden is distributed. Small buckets, with bales that do not cut tender hands, will be used often and willingly. Little daughter used such a bucket to water our entire flock of young Leghorns last summer, and she did not mind the work in the least. She fed them, too, five times each day. By gathering the eggs, she saved me hundreds of steps with the poultry work alone.

When wood is used for fuel, it can be hauled to the house in a small wagon, and chips and cobs can be carried in light baskets. Children like to do chores when father is doing his, and any feeling of importance or co-operation makes tasks ever so much easier.

Children naturally take pride in nice things, and they can help much with a yard and flowers. They can use a basket to gather the trash that accumulates, to be burned later. And children will pull out weeds, if they understand that flowers can not grow and bloom when they are choked by the weeds.

First attempts at bed making may bring laughable results, but pillows can be shaken, and wrinkles smoothed out of sheets, and before you realize it, the beds look nice enough for any one. Wash-day, with the best of equipment, is not easy, but it helps to know that a child can hang out the stockings and plain pieces while mother does the cleaning up. A mother feels a sort of rejuvenation when a child really begins to dress himself, and she can hasten the day, too. All the garments that button-in front can be buttoned by tiny fingers, and bloomers should have a mark on the band in order to distinguish the front from the back. Stockings supporters will never pull or draw, if the children are taught to stand while fastening them.

It takes hurrying and planning to make a four-mile drive to Sunday School and be prompt, but it saves several minutes if one of the children can assemble lesson leaves, clean headkerchiefs, gloves and change for collection.

So if, like myself, your mechanical step-savers are more dreams than realities, do not overlook the energy which fills the bodies of your children. Some day they will be glad you taught them to help, and if the family works together, maybe mother can read a few books, rest oftener, or go to her club more regularly. I'm strong for the God-given step-savers right in our homes!

Health and Beauty Found in the Garden.

Now that spring is here, we look forward with pleasure to seeing fresh vegetables upon our tables, for our bodies need toning up; we need tonics. Will you take yours from a bottle every hour, or will you take it from a vegetable dish three times a day?

The best medicines are to be found in the vegetable garden; lettuce is good for the nerves, beets contain iron, tomatoes tone up the liver, celery is good for rheumatic patients, spinach is the broom of the stomach, asparagus cleanses the kidneys, and rhubarb provides generous amounts of mineral salts which go to make up the various soft tissues and the bones of the body and which are important in the regulation of the body functions. Like all fruit and fresh vegetables, it acts as a mild laxative and for this reason is a valuable food.

We need vegetables for their mineral content which makes good blood and bone, for the vitamins which are necessary for growth and protection against disease, for bulk which counteracts constipation, and for their delightful flavor which stimulates the appetite.

Our bodies call for these foods now. However, we should not restrict these fresh vegetables to spring use alone. They should be eaten freely throughout the year. This means that we must plant enough in our gardens to enable us to have surplus products for canning. Remember the all-year-round body requirements when the garden is being planted. See to it that enough vegetables are raised to feed the family properly throughout the year. Dr. McCollum in his "American Home Diet" states that we should eat cabbage 188 times during the year; car-

rots, 42 times; lettuce, 64 times; spinach, 68 times; tomatoes, 87 times, and asparagus, 32 times.

Think about this. Plant your seeds in due time, eat vegetables in their season, can the surplus so you can eat them when they are not in season, and save doctor bills.

Asparagus is in Season.

Asparagus, one of the earliest spring vegetables, is cultivated for the early shoots which are cooked and served hot, with various sauces or served cold as a salad.

To cook asparagus: Wash, tie in a bunch and trim the ends evenly so the bunch will stand in a porcelain kettle. Pour in enough boiling water to just cover the asparagus, add a little salt and cook gently for 20 or 30 minutes, according to its freshness. Arrange squares of bread (toasted and buttered) on a platter and lay the asparagus quickly on these so that the water draining out may soften the toast. Pour a little melted butter on the tips; a little lemon-juice added to the butter varies the taste, or a little grated cheese sprinkled over it is liked by some. Cream sauce and drawn butter are also used with asparagus.

To make drawn butter, rub together one tablespoonful each of flour and butter. Place in a saucepan, over the fire, add slowly (beating all the while) one-half pint of boiling water. Stir until it reaches the boiling point, then add one-half teaspoonful of salt and a teaspoonful of pepper.

When it was discovered that two people could together roll a heavier stone than could be done by one alone—that was the beginning of co-operation.—Calvin Coolidge.



STARS MAKE TRIP THROUGH CANADA

Harold Lloyd and his wife, Mildred Davis, photographed on the Canadian Pacific steamship Princess Victoria, en route from Victoria to Vancouver during the course of their recent journey across Canada.