



Egg Laying Contest in P. E. I.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND is going to produce more eggs to the square foot than any other province in the Dominion. Already eggs are one of the big exports and the island is bound to make it bigger. To further this patriotic ambition an egg-laying contest is being staged at the Experimental Farm, Charlottetown. It is conducted by the Experimental Farm System Poultry Division. It starts November 1st, and will continue for 11 months.

The contest will be open to birds from anywhere in America, but accommodation is made for only 20 pens of eight birds, or 160 birds in all. The first 30 applications will be the ones accepted. There will be two classes—Class No. 1, light breeds, and Class No. 2, heavy breeds.

Full information, including rules and regulations, application forms, etc., may be secured by applying to superintendent, Experimental Farm, Charlottetown, where the contest is being held, or to the Dominion Poultry Husbandman, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Fall Suggestions

DAMPNESS is the greatest cause of disease among poultry. Poultry suffer very little from cold, but once put them in damp quarters and rump will start to decimate the flock. For this reason we favor the open front poultry house. We have had experience with the warm, tight, glass front houses, and we were never able to keep the houses dry or the birds healthy. The houses we now use are 20 feet square of the shanty roof type, and in the front is an open space, 3 x 8 feet, covered with wire netting. Over this opening we drop a burlap curtain on the coldest winter nights, or when the storm is beating in from the south-east. At all other times there is nothing but wire netting between the pullets and the weather. As we have

single comb white Leghorns, the combs freeze more or less every winter, but we have never noticed that this freezing had any appreciable effect, either on the egg yield or the comfort of the birds. One type of house that is being commonly built has an opening across the entire front. We have been in several houses of this type and have found them somewhat drafty when the wind is blowing. The defect may be remedied by using a cotton screen over the opening to combat on which the wind is coming.

Offentimes the pullets are put moved into permanent winter laying quarters until late in the fall. One of our neighbors recently asked us to come and tell her what was wrong with her chickens. She had quartered them in a packing box in the barnyard when they were small chicks and there was lots of room for all in the box. They have been quartered in that packing box ever since. They are now badly overcrowded and, as no roosts are provided, they huddle together on the floor. Closely packed, they get overheated, and overheating inevitably leads to colds. Roosts

should have been provided in commodious quarters long ago, and had this been done, a dozen or two fine pullets would have been saved. Where colds do break out from this or other causes a little potassium permanganate in the drinking water is excellent.

Red mites are one of the greatest enemies of poultry. These mites lodge in the cracks and crevices of the roosts and adjoining woodwork, and attack the poultry at night. They are not carried around on the bodies of the fowl during the day. Our method of combating them is to wash the roosts and all adjoining woodwork with a strong solution of kerosene. We do this once a month during the hot weather and less frequently during the fall. We have not been able to find any mites in the winter time when summer treatment was persistent. The nests are treated in the same manner.

Now is a good time to select a breeding flock for next year. The farmer will do well when he visits his poultry pens to have a small package of leg hands handy and slip them on to some of the late moulters that seem to have good constitution and correct conformation for the breed. When we first started into poultry we knew nothing about conformation, and it seemed almost ridiculous for us to start or try to select a breeding pen. The whole difficulty is in getting started. As the work progresses the poultryman becomes skilled in noting the points of a good bird, and it is on this selection that flock improvement depends.—C. G. P.

Egg Contest Results

THE Seventh International Egg Laying Contest, being held on the Exhibition Grounds, Victoria, B.C., is drawing near to a close, the tenth month's report now being available. As there is only one more month to run in the 11 months of the contest, the present standing of competitors will probably be fairly well maintained. In the class for light weight varieties, in which are entered 19 pens of White Leghorns and one pen of Anconas, 16,745 eggs have been laid to date and 2,442 in the last month. The highest total production is credited to the one pen of Anconas—555 eggs laid by six pullets in 11 months. In second place is a production of 946 eggs by a pen of White Leghorns.

White Wyandottes predominate in the class for heavy weights, with representatives also of the Barred Rocks, Buff Orpingtons, Buff Dories, Rhode Island Whites, Sussex and S. C. Reds. The 20 pens in this class have a total production to date of 16,208 eggs and in the last month 2,097. The highest production is credited to a pen of Barred Rocks, 1,052 eggs. In second place is a pen of White Wyandottes with 951 eggs. The two lowest pens of the whole 40 are of the Buff Orpingtons with 503 eggs, and the Sussex with 359.

Comparing the two classes, we find that the average production of the so-called egg breeds is very little in excess of the average production of the heavy weight varieties whose average is pulled down by the two low pens mentioned. It is noticeable, however, that the pens of light weight varieties have a uniformly high production, the lowest pen of all being credited with 753 eggs, as compared with the high mark of 955. In the heavy weights the production varies all the way from 359 eggs to 1,052. It should also be mentioned, in justice to the lighter breeds, that the strains of heavy weight breeds represented are not truly representative of their breeds, in that they represent special bred-to-lay strains.

The Eighth International Egg Laying Contest will be conducted from Oct. 15th, 1918, to Sept. 14th, 1919. The contest is open to the world and entry forms may be had on application to R. Terry, Department of Agriculture, Victoria, B.C.



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