

THE FARM FLOCK

BY

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It is but a comparatively short time since farmers regarded the keeping of fowl as something beneath their notice. Such fowls as were allowed on the premises were looked after by the women of the house when they could get time, or were not looked after at all, roosting any place around the out-buildings or where they could get the best shelter and often going hungry in the winter, simply because the farmer regarded as wasted the food they consumed.

Now, owing to the high prices paid for new laid eggs and high class poultry, and the fact that it is possible to get cash for these products instead of store trade, many farmers have turned their attention to the one-time despised hen. Opinion has so changed that the poultry work is now regarded as the most profitable on the farm.

Every farm should have its flock of fowl, the size will depend on conditions and the individual taste of the owner. One hundred may be regarded as suitable for ordinary conditions and these should be as well housed and as carefully tended as any other live stock on the farm.

The Manager.—It will be found that where some one person is placed in charge of the flock better results will be obtained. An able-bodied boy or girl if given some share of the profits as an incentive, will, with a little guidance, usually make an ideal manager and it will also help to interest them in farm work.

One hundred hens properly housed and provided with labour-saving devices will entail but very little extra help and can in almost all instances be attended to without drawing very much on the energy of the existing help.

It is confidently claimed by some successful dairy and poultry men that the time necessary to look after 100 hens is equivalent to that which should be devoted to the proper attention of one cow.

It is for the farmer himself to decide whether or not he should allow an opportunity of this kind to be neglected.

To-day a flock of 100 hens should, without any great effort, return a profit over cost of feed of something like \$300 per year. This is an item worth while when the small capital outlay is considered.

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