

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT.

MY experience here is that where the mash is fed early in the morning the fowls become filled and many of them are bent upon taking little or no exercise for the remainder of the day. Where one feeds personally and knows his fowls, I believe equally good results may be obtained from giving the mash in the morning but with us when we are obliged to use new hands every day it is a difficult task to prevent over feeding, and again by feeding a little whole grain late at night, the fowls get exercising early in the morning, so much so that at times nothing is visible but dust. This exercise I believe warms the hen quicker and better than any warm mash could do. During very cold days we give less feed and endeavour to keep the fowls on the move so as to prevent them from suffering from the cold.

A VALUABLE POINTER.

It is quite possible to carry this exercise so far that it becomes work in which case it adds to the feed bill and lessens the egg product. Our custom is to weigh a few hens from each pen about once in two weeks; if they are getting too fat, we give more work, or if losing in flesh we reduce the amount of exercise and increase the ration slightly. So much depends upon knowing ones flock and in using a fair amount of common sense. Our method of feeding may suit Leghorns but not Brahmas and the same would hold true in regard to feeding pullets and hens. When one gets satisfactory results from a certain method of feeding, I feel rather doubtful about advising a change. I have also noticed frequently that what one calls a light feed another breeder calls a heavy feed. I firmly believe that a hen should have all she wants to eat at night and never have her appetite satisfied until that time of day, unless growth of fat is wanted.

Yours truly
W. R. GRAHAM.

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FATTENING POULTRY FOR
THE ENGLISH MARKET.INTERESTING EXPERIMENTS IN FEEDING
TO BE MADE IN ONTARIO—PARTICU-
LARS OF THE TESTS.

A series of experiments with the object of ascertaining the respective gains made by fattening poultry for market in different ways, has been commenced under the auspices of the Poultry Association of Ontario and the Farmer's Institutes. The experiments will be placed in charge of Mr. Richard Oke of London, Ont., and Mr. D. Drummond of Myrtle, Ont. The intention is to have four lots of birds in the experiment and sixteen birds in each lot. If possible they will be selected from the Plymouth Rocks, but if it is not found practicable to obtain the number required from that breed, though there should be no trouble in this, birds of similar type of the Wyandotte, Brahma or other suitable breeds will be selected. The birds will weigh from three to three and a half pounds each.

One lot will be fed and handled exactly as the ordinary fowls on the farm are treated. They will be allowed to run about freely and get all the exercise they wish. The second lot will be fed in a box stall or shed, well ventilated, but will not be permitted to run outside. The third lot will be fed in crates, such as those recommended by Prof. Robertson last year, which will have four compartments, each holding four birds. Lot number four will be fed in a similar crate, but for the last ten days of the experiment will be fed by means of the cramming machine.

As regards the food, each lot will be fed alike except the fourth lot, which as mentioned above, will be fed with the crammer during the last ten days. The feed will be one-half cornmeal and one-half ground oats and barley cut in equal proportions. During the last ten days tallow will be given the birds in the proportion of one and a half pounds to sixty birds, the tallow to be rendered and mixed with the food. The food for the crammer will be oats ground to a powder and mixed with skimmed milk.

Careful account will be kept of (1) the cost of the chickens when bought, (2) the time spent on each lot each week, (3) the weight of food and cost of same for each lot each week, (4) the weight of each lot when purchased

and their weight at the end of each week. As soon as the birds are ready for market they will be dressed and sold to dealers, who will report on the quality of each lot, and they will be marked in such a manner that each lot can be easily distinguished when killed and dressed.

As soon as one set of experiments has been concluded a similar number of fowls will be purchased, and further experiments carried on under the same conditions. The last set will be started at such a period preceding the Provincial Winter Fair as will allow of the birds being ready for killing during the progress of the fair, when prizes will be given for killing, plucking and dressing the fowls for the British markets. Each competitor will be given five birds to kill and dress. The results cannot fail to be most instructive and educational. At present it has been decided to sell the fowl tested in these experiments in the local markets, but later on other lots may be placed on the foreign market.

One result of these experiments will be to determine whether the farmer in fattening his poultry by the ordinary methods in vogue on the farm is making money or not, and if he is making some money, whether he could not do better by employing different methods. The results will be looked forward to with much interest.

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