

# POULTRY

## MORTIMER'S MONTHLY MORSELS.

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If the ground is not already frozen cut a load or two of sods and pile them up in one corner of the house. You have no idea how much the fowls will enjoy it.

[What time of the year does Mr. Mortimer imagine the ground freezes in Canada? Ed.]

Be sure and cut the size of your flock down to fit your accommodations. We have plenty of farmers and poultry keepers who get no eggs in winter simply because they keep a larger stock than they can care for properly. There is no profit in it.

In winter especially, it is desirable to have plenty of chaff scattered in the houses for the fowls to scratch and pick over, for otherwise they would have nothing to do but eat their meals at regular intervals, and would spend the intervening time in moping around or sleepily sitting on their roosting benches.

Do not put over 12 chicks with each hen. If more than this number is given to them, some will get chilled and die or become stunted.

Give each hen with her brood, a dry, roomy coop, with two or three inches of chaff in the bottom. Don't allow the hen to roam until the dew is off, but on bright sunny days let them range and hunt for insects for their brood. Chicks raised in this way are the birds that carry off the ribbons in the winter shows.

Beans and peas cooked and thickened with bran, and fed twice a week, is an excellent food for laying hens.

Feed boxes should not be kept full of feed. If they are, the hens will have no inducement to work and scratch.

Some goose hints.—No doubt the most profitable kinds are those that grow largest, says an exchange. A goose is never noted for its great number of eggs, as they usually lay but one litter, unless broken up. The number ranges from eight to fourteen. A goose will nearly always sit anywhere you wish, if you cover her for a few days, or until she gets wonted to her nest. She should be accustomed to handling while sitting, so that at hatching time you may be able to look over the eggs occasionally, for if any one should slip over another egg it would be nearly impossible for the unborn gosling to break both shells. The food for goslings may be the same as that for chickens, but after they have learned to eat grass they care but little for anything else and will grow finely. They should be allowed quite a field with running water.—*National Stockman.*

Do not forget to supply your fowls with plenty of charcoal as it assists in keeping the fowl's craw in a healthy condition, and assists in the digestion of its food. A good way to supply it is to sift coal ashes in a box in the yard.

If you do not wish your fowls to lay, get them very fat and keep them in idleness.

It should be advisable for those who look to utility or beauty after deciding on going into the poultry business, to look over the large varieties of fowls

now in our fancier's hands, learn all you can of their characteristic qualities and then make your selection.

Feathers on the legs, very large combs and wattles, and heavy chests do not add anything to egg production and can be dispensed with.

There is no difference in any respect between chicks hatched under hens and those hatched in incubators. If there should be a difference it will be due to the kind of food and management. All the incubator does is to get the chicks out of the shell. A hen will do the same thing for the duckling but the duckling does not become a chick.

Although many advise the use of red pepper, it should be given very moderately. A teaspoonful in the soft food for 50 hens, three times a week will be found sufficient.

There is nothing so handy for the good housewife as a nice flock of half-grown fowls to draw on for a meal when an unexpected emergency shall arise.

You want eggs for winter: use the ounce of prevention—give the fowls warm dry quarters and a variety of food shell and bone.

When your birds have bowel disease, change the food a day or two, and change grit, one half the troubles are from lack of sharp, hard grit.

Wheat is one of the best feeds you can give your fowls to produce eggs, it is also good to feed young chicks after they are a week or two old, for their evening feed.