

Brooding and Feeding of Chicks.

(Experimental Farms Note.)
 Brooding methods have undergone considerable changes of late. For small flocks the portable hover is undoubtedly the most satisfactory, but even with comparatively small flocks some are now using stove brooders. The advantage of these stoves is that they can brood large flocks at a comparatively small cost. The pipe brooder was the system that was formerly used on large plants and is still quite largely employed. It gives excellent satisfaction but is so expensive to install that the stove brooders are largely supplanting it.

These stove brooders can be used in any ordinary colony house, thus avoiding the necessity of a special brooder house. They are made in different sizes and will accommodate either large or small flocks. Five hundred chicks can be attended in a colony house with almost as little labor as 50 in a small brooder and the additional cost is comparatively low.

When the chicks are removed from the incubator, care should be taken to avoid chilling them. The brooder should be so heated that they will be able to get a temperature of 100 degrees.

If the hovers are heated to 90 or 95 degrees before the chicks are put in them, the heat generated by the chicks will bring it up to the desired temperature. The idea is to give the chicks as low a temperature as is consistent with their comfort. The temperature should be gradually reduced but never so quickly as to cause any discomfort to the chicks.

With the brooder stoves the chicks can select their own temperatures. If they want a little more heat they can get a little closer to the stove, if they get too warm they can spread out a little more. It is advisable when the chicks are first put into the house to make a ring around the stove in which the chicks are confined until they become used to their new quarters and get accustomed to the source of heat, then the fence may be removed. For this purpose a strip of ready-roofing—half width—answers to perfection, as it is easily handled and it breaks the draughts, which are liable to be along the floor and which are one of the dangers that should be guarded against in this method of brooding.

Feeding — When the chick is hatched it comes into the world with a sufficient supply of nourishment in the form of egg yolk to last it for several days. What a chick requires at the start is not feed but warmth and rest. When the chicks show positive signs of hunger, which will be in about two or three days, give them a feed scattered on a little coarse sand or chick grit. For this first feed, hard boiled egg and bread crumbs in the proportion of about four of bread crumbs to one of egg is used. Feed little and often alternating this feed with scratch grains and dry mash. Supply tender green feed such as lettuce or something similar. After the first week hoppers of dry mash should be kept before them and by the time they are about ten days old, the egg feed may be discontinued. Place grit, water and a dish of sour milk where they will have free access to them. Nothing provides animal food in better form than does sour milk.

Mud Turtles.

In a recent issue of "The Farmer's Advocate", a subscriber was inquiring about destroying mud turtles. One way is to put out a lot of hooks and lines baited with fresh meat. A float should be attached so the hooks will be from six to eight inches from the bottom of the pond. Another method is to put boards on the water, on to which the turtles will climb. In the early morning, or just before dark, a good many of the turtles may be killed by the use of a rifle.
 J. McM.

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