

Now, in comparison, let's see what a few fowls well managed can do. In the first place, we know from experience, that hens kept in yards lay better and are more profitable than those that have unlimited range. All that is necessary so far as the enclosure is concerned, is for it to be large enough to yield sufficient grass for the flock it contains. The range should be of such extent that the grass will grow in it, despite the hens. Subdivided and fenced into four divisions.

AN ACRE OF GROUND WILL MAINTAIN 100 HENS. in four flocks of twenty-five to each flock, and afford them an abundance of grass, insects, etc.

In each one of these yards there should be a hen house just large enough for twenty-five fowls, which should be the limit. For a 100 hens divided as above, will lay more eggs than 200 hens in all one flock, no matter how extensive their range may be.

The farmer then, could safely place 100 hens to the acre. At the start, he had better limit his hens to 100 in number. This many by good management, his family could raise in one year, or, he could buy pullets in the fall at a reasonable rate to start in with. If he should have nothing but mongrels the first year, they would lay him about 75 eggs each in twelve months. Situated as indicated, the cost per fowl annually for maintenance would be about 50 cents, or a fraction over four cents per month. At the close of the year he could sell his mongrels for what they cost him and have a net profit of 25 cents per head, or \$25.00 net, for the flock, as a yield of one acre of ground, this on the basis of a cent for each egg, or twelve cents per dozen which is a fair estimate. This can be done, and is being done every year by enterprising persons.

The profits from the mongrel is small, however, compared to that which may be derived from thoroughbred hens. A hen of any of the pure-bred noted laying strains

WILL LAY 150 EGGS IN A YEAR.

Now, the difference here is curious. Note it: A mongrel lays 75 eggs; consumes 50 of them in the cost of her keep and leaves 25 as profit. A thoroughbred lays only twice as many eggs—150—consumes 59 of them for her maintenance, and leaves 100 as profit, or four times as much profit as the mongrel, while she lays only twice as many eggs.

This is a fact often lost sight of when the comparative merits of pure bred and mongrel fowls are being discussed.

So, then, if the farmers family shall have raised him 100 pure bred pullets to devote to his acre of ground, they will lay him each, in the course of 12 months, 150 eggs, and leave him

A NET PROFIT OF \$1 PER HEN, or \$100.00 to the acre. This as compared with a profit of \$7.50 per acre when devoted to wheat. After an experience of a year or two, the farmer may have two or three acres or fowls, of 100 to the acre, and care for them intelligently, thus making as much from two acres devoted to fowls as he possibly could from twenty acres in wheat, and more too.

Every fancier knows that there are several strains of pure-bred fowls that lay in excess of 100 eggs each per annum, and that 25 hens on one-fourth of an acre of ground, properly cared for, will lay to their utmost capacity.

The farmers should look to the poultry fanciers and pure bred fowls, for help, when the wheat crop grows short and times are hard.—H. B. GEER in Fanciers' Gazette.

For the Poultry Weekly.

Fact vs. Theory.

THE successful farmer and fancier of to-day is the one who accepts the fact that poultry perfectly acceptable fifteen years ago is not acceptable to-day. The demand for something better comes every year. For this reason the demand is now for good fowls, carefully bred and selling at good prices. The call for better fowls and for information as to what is good, and the best and easiest mode of handling is the cry from every quarter. We will never know all. Observation and experience are continually showing us new facts, and we should take possession of them all and call for more. We should exchange notes with each other and prove them. Don't place much reliance in theories; the facts should be clearly demonstrated before accepted. Many a person has been misled and has lost money by following theories. A fair trial will prove any reliable new method, but the trial is always attended with more or less expense. Keeping poultry successfully is a very simple accomplishment, and if there is one thing more than another that will characterize itself, it is simplicity. A great many writers make it appear that poultry keeping successfully was some high art and expensive. The appearance of a well kept yard of fowls as compared with a neglected yard, is as much the superior as high art is above ignorance, and will lend strength to the theory, but it is a great mistake. It requires good judgement, simple and pure, first, last and always. The greater mistake has been to the other extreme, and the greatest neglect has characterized the handling of fowls. Great expenses are not necessary, but great care and personal attention are the main requisites to success.

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