

It is poor economy to keep scrub-poultry in the farm; or scrub-stock of any kind, for that matter. If you do not want to go to the expense of procuring a pen of thoroughbred fowls, it will certainly pay you to procure a good thoroughbred cock to mate with your common hens and gradually elevate them to a profitable standard.

There is no department of farm-industry that requires more thought and study than the poultry-trade. The farmer who neglects to read and keep well-informed on this branch of the farm-product, is usually the one who insists that hens are a nuisance, and poultry does not pay. Every farmer should take at least one good trustworthy poultry-paper.

THE SELECTION OF BREEDS.

We have breeds for all purposes—summer eggs, winter eggs, broilers, roasters, and general purposes. We have the heavy egg records with the non-sitting breeds, but the bulk of their production is in the spring, summer and early fall. Unless under very favorable circumstances they are but ordinary layers during the winter. Our winter laying birds are of the broody kind, and they give comparatively few eggs during the warm months of the year. Much of their time is taken up on incubating. Thus, we have a class that is better adapted for raising broilers than for roasting purposes. On the other hand, we have breeds that makes better roasters than broilers. Again we have general purpose fowls—reasonably well adapted for all that one could wish for in poultry.

To become more plain, the summer layers are the Leghorns, Minorcas, Andalusians, Spanish, Hamburgs, Polish and Houdans. The winter layers are the Asiatics, (Brahmas, Cochins, and Langshans) and the Americans Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes. The best for broilers—the Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks. The best for roasters—the Brahma or Langshans. The best general purpose fowl—the fowl for the farmer—the Plymouth Rock. I prefer the white, because there are no black pin feathers to disfigure the carcass when prepared for market. It is possible that in this choice we may meet with some opposition from the champions of other breeds. But I am sincere in the declaration that I speak from

the real experience I have had with the different breeds named above during the last 25 years.

It is a mistake to keep more than three varieties; two would be better; and one would be better still. Of course, circumstances alter cases. If it is intended to run a general poultry farm—taking all the branches—eggs, broilers and roasters, then it would be best to have not less than two breeds; perhaps better have three. Leghorns, Minorcas or any of the non-sitting breeds for eggs in summer, when the others would be broody. The Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks for broilers and winter eggs. The Brahmas or Langshans for roasting fowls and winter eggs. The Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks could also be used as small-sized roasting-fowls. It is always best to have two sizes of roasters as many people prefer a small sized one to a large one. This makes a profitable business the whole yard round combination.

S. J. ANDRES.

And boilers? Do not they boil fowls "on this side"? ED.

FEEDING ANIMAL FOOD.

Be sure that whatever animal food you give poultry to eat is perfectly sweet, otherwise it had better be omitted entirely. A box of dry gravel should be at hand, which the birds will pick from constantly, for they need this to aid in the process of digesting their food precisely as at any other time. No green food is necessary at this time. All you are aiming at is to put additional fat upon the fowls, and to do this in the least possible time, so long as they will eat well, they will continue to increase in weight up to a certain period. Treated in this manner two or three weeks will bring them up to their best. If they become cloyed and lose their appetite at an earlier date, after being thus cooped up, kill them at once. They have reached the most profitable of their existence, and will no longer improve in the desired direction. Every day thereafter is a dead loss; for they cannot be kept fat; once up to the mark, if not killed, they get feverish and waste away again.

The mode thus briefly recommended is economical as well as expeditious, cleanly and convenient.

S. J. ANDRES.