

## POULTRY YARD

### Feeding Pullets

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How best to feed growing pullets so as to have the finest egg production throughout the winter months, when prices are highest, is a problem that interests the wide-awake poultry raiser at this time of the year. Frequent experiments have been conducted along this line with varying results. One thing seems to be certain, that if winter eggs are wanted the pullets must be matured. A properly grown pullet should be ready to lay by Dec. 1. This presupposes they come of a strain that can produce eggs in the winter time. The feed can vary as much as the conditions on the average farm, but pullets should not be stunted in any part of their growth. Farm pullets have the best chance to develop any.

If they are hatched early, April or May, and fed liberally, it is a question if the pullet that is not ready to lay before Christmas is worth keeping and breeding from. At the Cornell station one experiment has been tried to find out the best way to feed the growing pullet. A bulletin has been printed from which we take the following:

**OBJECT OF EXPERIMENT**  
The object of the experiment here described was to find out how to feed early hatched pullets in order to secure best results in development, production and profit. While early pullets are generally recognized as the most profitable winter layers, it is commonly supposed that pullets hatched extra early are not so well adapted to the purpose.

It has been thought that these earliest pullets should receive special treatment designed to check the laying tendency during the late summer, with the hope of getting larger egg yields in the early winter. This treatment is called retarding. The pullets just approaching maturity are allowed a grass run, and a satisfactory ration of whole grain with a limited proportion of beef scrap, but no ground grain.

It is thought by many that if these pullets are forced—i. e., fed a rich, stimulating mash to induce egg production—they will lay a few small eggs and moult prematurely, thus greatly reducing their vitality, that, in this case, it would be a long time before they would be prematurely stunted, and their eggs would continue smaller than is natural to their variety.

This experiment was undertaken with the hope of obtaining results either for or against these theories, and of finding a method of feeding which could be recommended for early hatched pullets.

The experiment was begun with 80 single comb White Leghorn pullets and conducted for a term of 364 days, the time being divided into 13 periods of 28 days each. It was started July 28, 1906, and closed July 27, 1907.

The four pens were numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively, and each contained 20 pullets hatched on Feb. 27 making them five months old.

Some of the pullets were laying (though most were less mature) and all seemed to be healthy. They were so selected that the flocks as nearly as possible were equal in weight, vigor and maturity, and their surroundings were practically alike. No males were put in the pens till December 1, 1906.

The pens were all in one house, and were separated from each other by wire partitions. Each had a floor space of 86 square feet, or 4.3 square feet per hen. The house had 13.2

square feet glass surface, and 10 feet of cloth surface. The entire air space was about 2,350 cubic feet, or 29.3 cubic feet per hen. Except on extremely cold days, the cloth windows were removed in the morning, the openings being covered only by wire netting.

There being only two yards available for the four pens, the hens were alternately allowed a grass run until Nov. 30, 1906. From that time until March 20, 1907, they were confined in the pens, but from the latter date they were alternated as before until the close of the experiment.

The pullets were weighed at the beginning of each period of 28 days, and also at the end of the experiment. From Aug. 1, 1906, to March 1, 1907, and from July 1, to July 27, 1907, they were inspected individually each week as to their condition of moult. Between March 1 and July 1 they were examined only once each period of 28 days, at the time of weighing. To make sure that the moult was correctly observed, the pullets were dipped in Diamond Dyes at the beginning of the moulting observations, thus making any new white feather distinctly visible.

The hens were trap nested during

for their feed. Do not allow them access to water where they can swim, as they will not gain as readily then. If they are fed all that they will eat they will seldom go far from their feeding place. Ducks can be fed more corn and heavier feeds than can be fed to chickens or turkeys. The feed used must depend to a large extent upon the feed on hand and upon the prices of different grains. Corn, oats and barley are the grains that are mostly fed, shorts is also good.

Ducks should be killed by the use of the knife. Hold the mouth open till the duck is bled as the blood will clot if the mouth is closed and death is slow. Scalding is the easiest method for the inexperienced in dry plucking, as dry plucking is difficult for any one but an expert. These birds may be much improved by proper dressing and packing.

Forty good hens never can make up for ten poor ones.

The first cockerels to begin to crow, mature more quickly than their long-legged brethren, which means that females bred from cockerels of this build and disposition will mature more quickly and lay earlier than



A simple and ordinary, yet a Satisfactory Feed Trough

The illustration shows a cheap style of brooder house on Mr. L. H. Baldwin's place, in York Co., Ont. Mr. Baldwin advocates and practices feeding chickens when outside on flat boards. The rain washes the boards clean, and the sun disinfects them, thus they are sanitary. The curb or warp caused by the sun and rain is an advantage in giving a greater capacity to the boards.

the entire time, and individual records kept. The eggs were weighed for six consecutive periods, and after that for a week at a time at intervals of two months, until the close of the experiment. Eggs from each pen were incubated, and records kept of the results. The conclusions drawn from the data of this experiment will be given next week.

### Fattening Ducks for Market

Robert Smith, Lambton Co., Ont.  
To fatten turkeys is often regarded as troublesome, but the average farmer worries more over the fattening of his ducks. He worries when the turkey turns away from the food with a sickly look, but Mr. Duck eagerly shovels down the feed as ducks only can, and loudly proclaims his ability to get away with more much to the annoyance of the farmer. But, "cheer up," friend, you do not actually waste your feed, for ducks gain with surprising rapidity as they eat. Ducks, to be profitably handled, must be sold at from 10 to 12 weeks. They should be hurried along as they grow very rapidly till that age. When older, they eat more and gain less. Ducks sold readily at summer resorts and at first-class hotels and boarding houses during the summer and fall. Chinese laundries are also good markets, as a rule.

The ducks should always be fed all they will eat for two weeks before they are marketed as they pay well

those bred from larger-sized phlegmatic parents.

### Canadian Horses at New York

The New York Horse Show, which will be held shortly, will, for the first time in its history have a fine exhibit of Canadian Clydesdale horses. Graham Brothers of Claremont, Ontario, are taking in addition to their Hackneys, about 12 of their best Clydesdales. Their two-year-old stallion of exceptionally fine quality and weighing 1,900 pounds, is expected to take a leading place in the show. Hodgkins and Tisdale of Beaverton, Ontario are also taking six excellent Clydesdales to the New York show. The prizes offered for each class are: first, \$150; second, \$75; and third, \$50.

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