

in small breeds; the Houdan embryo eggs also mature rapidly. But in Brahmas, Cochins, etc. more slowly, and if the egg-sac contained only such minute eggs, a Brahma would not lay all winter. The reason a Brahma lays well in winter is because it virtually stops laying early in the season and the eggs for winter laying are maturing during the period of rest. A Brahma pullet if destined for a large specimen will hardly begin to lay till about ten months old, and is better for it.

Although boiled vegetables are good we prefer to feed the cabbage raw, boiling frees the valuable element in cabbage (sulphur) and it is partly lost. We would also say a raw mangold now and then is better than all cooked and it is a fine thing to keep them out of mischief.

A liberal supply of cooked meat every day is too fattening and too gross, it would cause liver troubles and bowel disease. When the birds are indoors in winter they cannot work off by fresh air and out door exercise the effects of high living. A small quantity of meat twice per week is sufficient, and corn is not good for heavy breeds except an occasional feed at night in extremely cold weather, at other times in very limited quantity just enough to give the birds a change. Meat and corn certainly would fatten cockerels quickly. Another thing to remember is that you can feed a hen that is laying twice as much meat as one that is not because it is very rapidly taken up in the production of the eggs.

Your remarks re "in-breeding" are correct, but only when the stock is in the prime condition. Again, some strains will not bear 'in-breeding' at all, and some are so redundant in vigor that I have known stock to be inbred four generations, and after one introduction of new blood go back to their strain and do as well as ever. It is always better to breed back to sire than to mate brother and sister. Most beginners in changing blood go to an altogether strange strain, and so lose type in the breeds difficult to overcome. If changing blood in made breeds that are difficult to get to uniform type or plumage it is better to go back to the original before in-breeding too much. Or one could by reserving males from the first stock, and keeping a record of pullets

as advised in Mr. Rayson's interesting article some week or two since, not inbreed too much, and get a stock from the original strain for years.

FOR THE POULTRY WEEKLY

Poultry Under a Hay Mow.

SOME time ago a friend of mine, who was once the proprietor of a large store in Dakota, told me how a farmer in that country managed to get lots of eggs to sell when others got none. This man kept bringing basketsful when others would bring them a dozen at a time. How do you manage to get so many eggs this cold weather? said the merchant. Do you keep a stove in your poultry house? "No sirree," said the poultry man, "I can beat that dea." "How is that?" "Why" said he "I have the whole house covered over a foot deep with manure." This set me thinking. I could not think of covering my poultry house in that way, not much! But I will tell you how I accomplished the same object in a much neater way.

If possible select a part of the barn where you can put in a south window and have it level with the floor if possible, or nearly so. Before the hay or straw is thrown in take some old boards about seven feet long and place them in pairs in a standing position, then nail a board over the top about two feet long, then spread them until they are as high as you wish them in the center. Tack strips along the floor to hold the bottom in position. The pairs of boards thus arranged need not be placed closely together. Throw your hay in and cover the boards up, the deeper the better. Now put in a roosting pole with drop board underneath. Have a door to come in from the barn, pack in straw or hay at sides of window, keep the pen scrupulously clean, keep litter of some kind on the floor. Make the hens work for all they get, feed judiciously and if they don't just fill your egg basket, well then you haven't the right kind of hens, that's all.

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The above plan from Mr. Dunn would make a most excellent warm house for the laying stock, and just the place for those that have breeds with large single combs to take care of. The place should be as friend Dunn says, kept scrupulously clean, if not horses would reject the hay that was contaminated by the odor of the pen, if the latter was allowed to become too dirty. The plan is a great improvement on the heating from manure, the idea of which is repulsive.