

POULTRY POINTERS

WHY DOES THE AVERAGE FARMER PERSIST IN THROWING GOOD FEED TO "NO GOOD" HENS?

Better to Have a Few Well Bred Pullets Laying When Prices are Highest Than a Flock of Mongrels Partly Laying Cheap Eggs.

(By E. W. Brown R. R. 2 Alvinston)

Having been requested by the editor to contribute an article on poultry keeping that would be of general interest I will endeavour to touch on a few points that may be food for thought. My connection in the baby chick field has brought me in touch with many farmers who are anxious to increase their profits from their flocks and I find some making good but it is a surprise to me to find so many satisfied to have their hens non productive through early winter when eggs bring such fancy prices. Increased profits in poultry keeping, depends largely on securing more eggs and especially more winter eggs. Winter egg production is no mystery. With a dry, well-ventilated house, matured pullets and a proper system of feeding regularly adhered to, it is quite possible to get fifty per cent production, without lights in December and better as the days lengthen out. The yearling hens should have been culled in August and kept in a separate pen. These will not lay heavily before Feb. 1st, and make the best breeders. The hen that doesn't start laying until the natural season and goes into molt in July or August has to go some to pay much over her feed. The well bred early hatched pullet, on the other hand, starts in to lay about September and if given a chance will lay five to eight dozen eggs before the average grade flock starts laying. These eggs will net the owner around \$2.00 to \$4.00 according to the market, and this remuneration comes when income from other farm sidelines is fairly dormant. The better pullet will also lay later in the fall before she molts. In short, the heavy layer has the advantage over the poor one in two ways—first, she lays more eggs; and second, she lays them when they are higher in price. A little outlay in the way of improving the flocks is paid many times over in increased production.

Mongrel flocks are the cause of an annual loss of an enormous figure and any crossing of breed unless done by experts is sure to be disastrous inside of a very few generations. All breeds have their drawbacks and it still remains for some one to produce a few that will suit everybody. It is more important to get a good strain for two flocks of the same breed are often very different. That pure-breeds are far superior to mongrels is made clear by an experiment carried on at the Manitoba Agricultural College where in 1917, 100 mongrel pullets were trapped and the average per hen was 76 eggs for the year. The best hen laid 123 eggs and the 25 best averaged 94 eggs. These were mated, without culling, to pure-bred males, their eggs hatched and the chicks raised and used as pullets for the second years work. This was done each year and the average laying of the 25 best pullets was:—1917-18, 94 eggs; 1918-19, 122 eggs; 1919-20, 130 eggs; 1920-21, 138 eggs. Showing that even the use of good males will make a fair improvement. It is a much better plan to replace a grade or mongrel flock completely and then use good males which will insure its retaining the lay habit.

Marketing the products is getting to be an important factor and the one great insufficient supply of eggs the year round. One should have large enough flock to supply case lots when the supply of fresh eggs is short. It is next to hopeless to establish a consumer trade in the heavy laying season as fresh eggs are plentiful and consumers can easily get a supply. I believe the farmer who has a hankering for poultry would be well advised to keep a flock of at least 200 hens, 125 being pullets and the remainder choice yearlings. A house 56 by 12 divided, leaving one pen 32 long will accommodate a flock of this size of light breeds. Heavy breeds require 20 to 30% more space. To renew the flock it will be necessary to hatch about 300 chicks. These can be brooded in a portable colony-house fitted with a coal-burning brooder, the brooder being removed at eight or nine weeks and the pullets left in the house to mature. If this house were made fairly large it would accommodate the yearling layers in the winter.

In conclusion I might say that the farmer with a fair sized flock, of

good breeding, properly cared for, is in a position to produce eggs at least cost per dozen and thus realize the greatest net income.

POINTERS ON POULTRY

Between making or losing money raising chickens there is only a narrow margin. Contrary to many persons' ideas, no magic road leads to success in this work. Care and attention to detail are what make one man or woman succeed while another one with similar equipment fails.

Use insect powder freely to exterminate lice when necessary.

March, April, and May are the best months for hatching, depending on the section of the country.

Having everything ready beforehand, and start your hatching operations early in the year.

A well-ventilated cellar is the best place to operate the small incubator. The machine should be operated according to the manufacturer's directions.

"WE'RE COMING HOME!"

Quotations From Letters Received By the Secretary From Old Boys Who Send Their Dollar to Further the Cause.

A particularly interesting letter from Dr. Robert Seymour, Philadelphia, has unfortunately been mislaid. However, it is hoped that it will yet reappear and be published later.

Mobridge, South Dakota.

"The memory of the last Home Coming held in 1907 is still fresh in our minds.

"It was our privilege to be present at that gathering, and to meet the many boyhood friends who were at that time scattered over the Western Hemisphere. We have for some time been looking forward to the call of another such gathering, and we were overjoyed at receiving this looked for notice, forwarded to us by you as Secretary.

"I also received the one addressed to my half brothers, Ernest and Albert Edwards, in my care, which will be forwarded to Ernest Edwards now living at Grand Junction, Colorado, Rural Route No. 3 box 118.

"It is our plan now, although we are scattered somewhat, to see if we cannot work out some plan whereby we can assemble and the five of us make our plans to renew our acquaintances and meet all our boyhood friends at the 'Old Home Week' gathering, for which you are so generously making arrangements.

"I am sending you money orders to the amount of \$4.00, which will be for the membership fee for myself, A. G. Fuller, W. C. Fuller and Ernest Edwards, my half brother my other half brother, A. E. Edwards, is located at Scranton, Iowa, and if you will, would like to have you mail direct to him at Scranton, the notice of the gathering.

"Will look forward with interest to receiving copy of the Guide Advocate, if you will so arrange, which will from time to time, as I understand, contain a list of those who have expressed their intention of attending the Home Coming."

"Although we cannot say definitely that our arrangements can be made to attend, we will work to that end."

"Will appreciate receiving any data of developments from time to time. Although we left Watford in the year 1889, the memory of boyhood days in the Old Home Town is still dear to me.

"With a thousand thoughts of true well wishing to you all in this undertaking, I am, Yours truly,
N. H. Fuller.

"I am certainly looking forward to playing with my old High School chums again in Watford during Old Home Week. Attached is \$1.00 covering membership fee.

Sincerely Yours,
J. W. McCoubrey, Toronto.

"Announcement of Old Home Week received with gratification, I sincerely hope that the returns from these will approximate one hundred percent. Thanking you for the invitation, and trusting that you will have the co-operation of everyone, and meet with every success, I remain, Yours very Sincerely,
Dr. F. H. Haskett, Toronto.
P. S. Enclosed membership fee.

"Your announcement of 'Old Home Week' received and if I can make it will be very pleased to join in the merry making. Enclosed my check for \$1.00 for membership. Wishing you the best of success,
Marion Minitelly.

Manitowac, Wis.
"I am enclosing one dollar for my son, Leo."
Mrs. Joseph Shultz.

Strathroy April 7, 1924.
I received your invitation to the Watford Old Home Week, some days ago. I thank you for same and also whatever remembered me as an old resident of that vicinity. I notice that the membership fee is one dollar and will enclose that amount trusting it will reach you all right, and hope there will be a grand good time for all who get home at that time.
L. J. K. Yorke.

Paid Up Members.

E. A. Brown; Geo. Harper; Fred Rogers; Harry Hollingsworth; J. R. McCormick; T. G. Mitchell; Thos. Roche; A. B. Auld; A. D. Elliot; W. L. McCrae; Dan Cameron; Carl A. Glass; P. J. Dods; R. A. Paul; E. D. Swift; J. W. McLaren; W. C. Aylesworth; Wes. Willoughby; Phil Fuller; Mrs. Phil Fuller; Richard Williamson; Ray Morningstar; Jas. Elliot; Dr. F. Haskett, Toronto; Dr. Robert J. Seymour, Philadelphia; J. W. McCoubrey, Toronto; N. H. Fuller, Morbridge, S. D.; A. G. Fuller, Morbridge, S. D.; Ernest Edwards, Grand Junction, Col.; Mrs. Allan Phillips, Port Huron; Henry Conn Sarnia; Mrs. Henry Conn, Sarnia; Marion Minitelly, Detroit; Mrs. Joseph Shultz, Manitowac, Wis.; W. G. Connolly; T. W. Collister; Gilbert Mains, Elora; L. J. K. Yorke, Strathroy; Gordon Willoughby, Port Huron; Mr. Geo. Kingston, Sarnia; Mrs. Geo. Kingston, Sarnia.

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