

When the chickens are young they should be kept in the night coop during rainy weather, and also until after the dew is off the grass in the morning. By taking all these precautions, and giving careful attention to all their wants, the raising of chickens can be made successful.

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### MAKING POULTRY PROFITABLE.

Five hundred hens can be made to pay on an average as large a profit per bird as fifty. There often is more fault with the keeper and management than with the fowls. The care of poultry, in order to make it profitable, is no child's play, but a daily task. Chickens are early risers and eager for the first worm. Successful poultry keepers are full-grown, sensible men and women. They succeed as a matter of course, and the business looks very easy to outsiders, as in all kinds of enterprises carried on for money-making. One reason why so many fail is because they are not satisfied with the slow working up. There are some who are really fond of the poultry business, who would gladly unite profit with pleasure, but do not know how to manage it. If one is actually willing to work, can endure fatigue, and can control the temper, it is well to begin low down.

Begin (if no previous knowledge has been obtained, with a cock and a dozen hens, and ascertain just how much patience, time, labor, food, and housing, are needed to serve this small stock of fowls, together with their progeny. There is frequently great loss with chickens from ignorance as to feeding. I always recommend small grain, whole, with cracked corn. It must be given freely, increasing the quantity as they grow, and never stinting them while growing, or afterward. If small numbers are kept at first and gradually increased as fast as found profitable, there would be fewer disappointed poultry keepers. There is something in breed, of course, but often more in the keeper. In the first place it is a good thing to understand what the fowls are intended for, whether for eggs or poultry, and treat them accordingly. No one expects to get much flesh on a Leghorn, neither do we expect many eggs from a Brahma.

If the Dorkings were better known, they would be found in almost every case to meet the needs of the poultry keeper for eggs, and especially for poultry where early broilers are required. They are heavy feeders until grown, but then, for their size, they are considered light consumers. Fowls that are in profit must be large consumers, or they will fail to give a profit. In keeping fowls in large numbers, the mistake is often made of herding too many together. They must have room to breathe in, and room to exercise and to scratch. It is as natural for a hen to scratch as to breathe, and when taken out of their natural run she must have something to scratch for. The person who undertakes keeping a large hennery for profit will learn much through dear experience, and if successful will know what it is to work hard.

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### Milk production in Winter and Summer.

We are giving 6 lb. of cotton cake, 1 lb. of linseed, 6 lb. of hay, about 20 lb. of pulped mangel, and 2 bush of chaff per diem to our dairy cows. The cotton cake costs £6 7s. 6d. delivered at the nearest station, and probably £6 10s. before it arrives at home. This means 6s. 6d. per cwt., about  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. The cost of cotton cake is, therefore, 3s. 3d. per week. The linseed costs 8s. per bush., and the cows receive 1 lb. each. It is first crushed in a grist mill; and, after each day's rations are prepared, the next day's allowance is placed in the cauldron and allowed to steep in cold water for

some twenty hours. The fire is then lighted, and it is boiled for about four hours, and thus converted into a thick mucilage, distributed through 24 gal. of water. We find the linseed costs close upon 1d. per lb., or 7d. per week. The linseed mucilage is poured over a couch of straw chaff, and pulped mangel is then sprinkled over at the rate per head above given, and the whole mass is well incorporated by mixing. The cows receive two bushel baskets at two separate times; each basket contains about 24 lb. of the mixture. The cake constitutes a third meal, and the hay is given at 8 o'clock at night, making four meals per diem. Assuming the consuming value of water meadow hay at £3 per ton, or 3s. per cwt., and taking the quantity consumed at 42 lb. per week, we have here an additional charge of 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per week. Mangel is difficult to value, but if we estimate the cost of production at £7, and the crop at 20 ton per acre, we should be correct in calculating this cost upon a basis of 7s. per ton, or 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cwt., 20 lb. would therefore cost  $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and the charge per week further raised 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The cost of labour is estimated at 1s. per week per cow, and this may be made to include coal used in preparing the food and of chaff cutting. We would also be inclined to put down 1s. per week for interest and depreciation, &c., on cow stock. This is done to cover the unavoidable losses which are caused by cows refusing to breed, slipping, losing quarters, or even dying. We are not aware of any other cost directly incurred by the cows, and should be disposed to notice such other charges as railway carriage on milk, or expenses connected with the making up and disposing of goods, at a later stage. The cost estimated on a liberal scale per cow per week appears then in our case to be as follows:—

### EXPENSE OF MAINTAINING COWS IN MILK DURING WINTER.

	Per week.
Cotton cake (42 lb. per week).....	3s. 3d.
Linseed (7 lb. per week).....	0 7
Hay (42 lb. per week).....	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mangel (140 lb. per week).....	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Labour and coal.....	1 0
Interest, loss, and depreciation.....	1 0
Total.....	7 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

We believe this to be a fair estimate, rather above than below the actual cost—as all good estimates should be. It should also be mentioned that this is the cost of cows actually in milk, and not of a mixed herd of dry and wet cows. They will not average more than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  gal. of milk per diem, which at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. equals a money value of 9s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per week, and a profit of 1s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., which again must be reduced to pay for railway carriage, &c. Those who dispute our figures would do well to think whether under any system of winter feeding the cost of maintaining a cow can be reduced below 7s. 6d. or 7s. per week. Also, whether a higher winter average than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  gal. per cow per day can be maintained in a large dairy where a constant herd is kept up, and fed on such moderate fare as the above.

It is during the summer that the chief profit is to be made from cows. It is then that the milk is secreted in the largest quantities and at the lowest expense. When the actual cost is scarcely more than rent, and the cows are paying 10s. per week per head, dairying is then truly profitable. Taking the case of 100 acres of grass rented at £2 per acre, 50 acres of which are mown, we might expect 50 tons of hay, which at £4 per ton equals £200, or the rent of the entire 100 acres. Then there is the extra grazing for sheep, work-horses, and young stock, which may perhaps pay for the cost of hay making. The prospect of profit in this case seems more