

The usual advance in the price of eggs, particularly fresh eggs, during the fall of the year, is due largely to natural causes. The moulting of the yearling stock shuts out this source of production leaving pullets practically as the only source of fresh eggs at this time. Pullets, particularly of the heavier breeds, do not generally commence laying before they are fully matured, and if, for any reason, the majority of the pullets have been late-hatched or have not been cared for properly during the growing season a scarcity of fresh eggs is bound to result.

The greatest hope of increasing the fresh egg supply in the fall lies in the proper handling of the pullets during the growing season. A larger fall and winter production means larger profits to the producer and a more staple market for the consumer.

HOUSING

Fowls must be kept in comfortable houses if they are expected to lay during the colder seasons of the year. The house should be located on dry ground which is well drained. The location should be sheltered by buildings or trees and the house should face the south.

The size of the poultry house depends upon the number of fowls. From four to six square-feet floor space is required for each fowl. Twenty-five fowls in a flock require one hundred and fifty square-feet floor space and one hundred fowls in a flock require at least four hundred square-feet floor space.

In regard to shape the nearer square the house is the less it costs. It should be of good depth because a long, narrow house is much colder than a short, deep one.



Part of the class which took the Short Course in Poultry Husbandry in 1916.

Dampness in the house is fatal to egg production. It is much better to have a cold, dry house than a warm, damp one. The use of cotton curtains in place of the glass windows in the front of the house will do away with dampness to a very large extent.

If a portion of the front of the house is left open in warm weather and is covered with cotton cloth in cold weather the house will always contain plenty of fresh air. A good supply of fresh air without draughts in the house tends to keep the fowls in good health. Where a portion of the front of the house is open to admit fresh air the other three sides of the house should be well built to prevent any draught from blowing through.

The house should be of simple construction, for the fewer permanent fixtures there are in the house the better. The feeding hoppers, dusting boxes and nests should all be moveable so that the house will be easy to clean. The nests are made twelve inches wide by fifteen inches deep. They should be made so that they are dark as this tends to prevent egg eating. There should be one nest for every four or five fowls. The roosts are placed at the back of the house, eighteen inches above the floor, and are made of scantling two inches thick by four inches wide. The top corners should be rounded. A Leghorn requires about eight inches roost room; a Plymouth Rock, Rhode Island Red, Wyandotte or Orpington requires about ten inches roost room.