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## CRATE FATTENING POULTRY—SOME FACTS ABOUT THE BUSINESS

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**Good profits are made from crate fattened chickens. Much poultry is being sold at a loss because it is not fattened. Specific instruction on how to make the business a success**

**S**OUND advice is that counsel "go slow with a new thing." It has a double application where poultry is concerned. I commenced to fatten chickens four years ago on a small scale. I bought 19 well bred barred rocks and 38 barred rock and white wyandotte crosses; in all 52 birds. They weighed 260 pounds alive. The account showing cost of fattening these birds is as follows:

52 birds weighing 260 lbs., at 6c. a lb. ....	\$15.00
Cost of meal ration .....	4.65
Milk .....	1.28
Grit, 40 lbs. (40c.), tallow 7 lbs. at 5c., (35c.) .....	.75

Total cost ..... \$22.28  
After feeding for four weeks, the chickens weighed 392 lbs. when starved 24 hours. When dressed they weighed 324 lbs., and were sold at 12 cents a lb., realizing \$38.88, which left a net profit of \$16.00, less my work.

### PENS VS. CRATES.

The next year, I received a better price per lb. for my fattened poultry and have increased that price each year since. I exhibited 48 fattened chickens at our Christmas market fair and received prizes on 46 out of 48 shown, none of the prizes being lower than 3rd. This lot was fattened in a pen. I cleaned the pen three times a week; it made too much work. I made troughs and fastened them to the wall, but it was impossible to keep the chicks from getting into the trough, so the next year I made crates the same

as recommended by Government experiment stations. They have been used ever since. I made crates for 500 chicks. A crate for 16 birds cost about \$1.00. They have given such good satisfaction that I would not undertake to fatten chickens in a pen again if the crates cost four times as much. One decided advantage in using crates is that you can sort the birds so as not to have small chickens and large ones together. This cannot very well be done when pen fattening is practised. In the crates the small chickens get the same chance as the larger ones.

### WHITE FLESH IN DEMAND

I fatten about 1500 birds each year. It costs about 11 cents a bird for chop,—taking the average for the last three years. In 1906 the average cost of feed was \$1.10 a cwt. Chop averaged \$1.46 a cwt. in 1907 and \$1.39 in 1908. I have used a great many different kinds of mixture. I consider that good oat chop, with the large hulls removed, should be used in all mixtures, since it tends to make the flesh white and tender. The English market demands a white fleshed chicken, and our own people are beginning to learn that a white fleshed chicken, as a rule, is only produced by special fattening. The ration that I like best is two parts of oat chop, one part corn, one part barley, one part low grade flour, one part buckwheat, all ground very fine and mixed with sour or thick milk or whey to a consistency such as will pour out of a pail. I like chickens to weigh three and a half to four pounds when they are put in the crates. They have given me bet-

ter net profit than larger ones or even smaller ones.

### THE SECRET OF SUCCESS.

For the first week the chickens should get just what they will eat up quickly three times a day. The proper amount is that which leaves them so that they would eat a little more. If the feed is not all eaten up in about five minutes, I take it away and turn the trough upside down so that they will not have anything to pick at. The whole secret of successful crate fattening is not over feeding during the first week. By over-feeding them on the start they are liable to get indigestion.

Do not undertake to fatten any chicken unless it is up to the mark. Chickens for fattening should be of blocky type. As an example to follow, model after a show bird of any of the utility breeds and you will not go very far astray. Never undertake to fatten any birds of the breeds known as the "active breeds." There is no profit in fattening them. They will make nice plump chickens, but they do not put on enough extra flesh to pay for the trouble.

### OTHER ATTENTIONS.

My fattening birds are fed twice a week. When the weather is cool I do not give them any water, as the feed contains all the drink they need. Before the birds are put in the crates they should be given a good dusting with sulphur to kill the lice. They will not do well if they are lousy. I feed the chickens from three to four weeks. If they have been properly fed and have done as well as they should, they are ready to kill in three weeks. There are always a few in each lot, however, that will take four weeks. I dress air our chickens by bleeding them in the mouth. A ring of feathers is left at the head, and at the leg joint. The tip of the wing is also



Two Cemeteries in Prince Edward County, Ont., only a few miles apart, which tell their own tale

Why is it that many of the most progressive and prosperous farming centers in Canada allow cemeteries to be neglected in the shameful manner that many of them are? The cemetery that is shown on the left, in the above illustration, is located at West Lake, in Prince Edward Co., and is a credit to any vicinity. The cemetery is an old one, it having been used for its present purposes for over 40 years. Each year a small sum of money is collected among the people of the community, and is used to pay a man to cut the grass each week during the summer season. The cemetery shown on the right is about five miles from it, and is on one of the most travelled roads in the county. When the photograph was taken by the Editor of Farm and Dairy, numerous grave stones were noticed that had fallen over, and were buried by the mass of weeds and long grass. Among the grave stones are mentioned specifically in this instance, almost every other county in the province can be so treated with more honor and respect. While Prince Edward County is mentioned specifically in this instance, almost every other county in the province can be so treated on this subject. Where nothing else can be done, why should not the township councils make small grants to insure neglected cemeteries being kept in better condition?