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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(LIVE STOCK BRANCH).

HINTS ON EGG-HATCHING.

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ARTIFICIAL INCUBATION.



DO NOT expect to get good hatches from stale eggs. The sooner eggs are incubated the better. Eggs shipped from a distance should always be set within a few minutes of receiving same, other advice notwithstanding. White and brown eggs should not be put in a machine together. The white eggs, if of equal age, generally hatch first, and the chicks bother the others just hatching.

Do not expect too much of a sitting hen or incubator. Far better to leave space in incubator than fill up with unhatchable eggs.

Try and get eggs of even size. Better distribution of heat then ensues.

If eggs are kept more than five days, they should be turned occasionally. Those placed in trays or racks should be covered with cloth or blanket.

Eggs are best set unwashed. Never wash eggs unless you are forced to. In other words, try and set only naturally clean eggs.

Eggs that show blood-rings present at test may have had blood-clots present before incubating. Don't blame the incubator always.

Never operate an incubator near a stove, or in a room where the sun's rays can reach the machine.

Wash out incubator with hot water and soap, to which has been added a little disinfectant.

Don't let children near incubator, and also see that the thermometer is correct.

When incubating duck, turkey, or goose eggs in incubator, see that the eggs at back of tray do not touch thermostat.

When turning eggs with tray full, put some of the eggs in hat or cap; something that is not stone-cold.

Keep top of incubator clear, and never put coal-oil lamp on top of incubator.

Always wash hands before turning eggs, and never start turning until eggs have been in three days.

Remember to omit turning eggs in morning if you find temperature below 100 degrees. It will help to prevent chilling.

Do not cool eggs on morning of the night you are testing, or vice versa.

To comply with egg-grading regulations, only eggs of standard weight (24 oz. to dozen or over) should be set. Pullets laying small eggs may mean a difference of 10 cents per dozen less, at market prices.

Don't test eggs too often. Heat of light may kill germs.

Leave in doubtful eggs, but mark them for identification. Learn by experience.

If you get poor results with a good incubator and apparently good eggs, omit about half the cooling period in future hatches.

Remember a hot-water machine can dry out the eggs as quickly as a hot-air machine. A supply of moisture (in pans) is advisable right from the start until

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