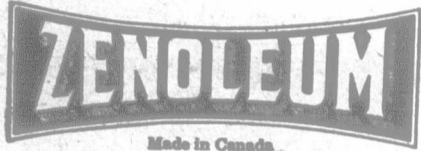




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Please mention "The Advocate."

Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous.

Poultry Pointers.

I keep 100 pullets but I cannot get them to lay as other people do, according to their statements. Pullets are hatched in March and April, brought in off the range about the first of September when they weigh from 4 to 6 pounds. The henhouse is clean, and a good laying mash and all other necessities are kept in front of them all the time. I feed the very best of scratch feed which is given them once a day at half past two P. M., at the rate of 4 quarts to 100 pullets. About the end of September I get a few eggs, but they do not keep it up. I would like a few pointers on handling the pullets.

2. Is cotton-seed meal as good as linseed meal for birds when they are moulting, or for growing pullets?

3. Is it advisable to breed ducks to their parent drake?

4. At what age does the male bird get these terms, cockerel, cock bird, and mature bird?

5. I would like your opinion of electricity for running incubators and brooders. Perhaps some of your subscribers who have had experience could also give information on it. SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—1. According to the weights given the pullets are nearing maturity in September and naturally one would expect that they would lay well during the winter. Sometimes it is unexplainable why one person is able to secure eggs from his flock while the neighbor with identically the same bird, reared approximately the same, is unable to get any returns. There is a possibility that your pullets moult in the fall, and if they do egg laying will be delayed for some weeks or even months. The feed going to furnish the development of the bird and to the growing of feathers, rather than the production of eggs. Birds that have been forced during the summer are very liable to moult especially when hatched as early as yours. However, poultrymen recommend the early hatched pullets for winter egg production. The pen must be clean, dry, well ventilated and free from drafts.

Many find the curtain front house very satisfactory. Pullets commencing to lay will consume a large quantity of feed and they require a certain amount of exercise. Grain, green feed, and meat feed must be included in the ration. A system of feeding which has given very satisfactory results is to feed grain early in the morning, buried deep in the litter on the floor so that the birds secure exercise in searching for it. Corn and wheat are very good grains for winter feed, and a half handful to each bird in the morning will probably be enough. It will be no harm to scatter a little grain in the litter again at noon, in order to keep the birds busy and green feed can be supplied in the form of mangels, sugar beets, turnips or cabbage. Clover or alfalfa leaves are also satisfactory. In the mash which you give during the afternoon it is well to add about ten per cent. of animal meal; green cut bone or cooked meat. These should be thoroughly mixed together in the dry state. Some add steamed clover leaves to the mash and find it an advantage. A little whole grain may be fed again in the evening and a plentiful supply of pure water should be within easy reach at all times. During the cold weather equal parts of shorts, bran, oat chop and cornmeal are very satisfactory for the mash. If milk is available it could be fed in place of so much animal food. As an egg producer it is equal in value to any of the meat foods. Sour milk has a slightly greater value than sweet milk.

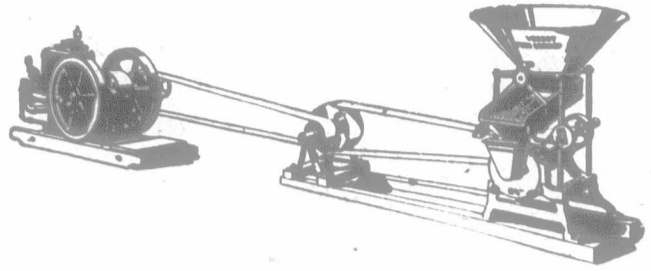
2. We would prefer linseed meal.

3. It might be all right for one generation but it is not advisable to make a practice of it as too close breeding has a tendency to weaken the constitution and decrease the size of the offspring.

4. A cockerel is a male bird under one year old; a cock bird is a mature bird.

5. Running incubators and brooders by electricity may be said to be in the experimental stage. However, we believe it is proving satisfactory and is certainly much more convenient than the lamp. An even temperature can always be obtained and the danger of fire is largely eliminated.

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