

Seasonable Pointers For Farmers

WORK IN POULTRY YARD DURING AUTUMN MONTHS

Flock of Cockerels Should Be Reduced in September—The Pullets Should Also Be Culled Over in Preparation For Winter.

September is an important month in the poultry yard. This month finds the young stock maturing and showing the stuff of which they are made. The singling of the pullets, their irregular visits to the nests and laying quarters, and the developing and reddening of the combs are all indications of early laying. This is the poultryman's delight. We are all eager and on the lookout for the first pullet egg. The first egg is a forerunner of a full egg basket the coming winter.

We must not put off longer the selecting of our winter flock of profit producers. We cannot house and feed all the pullets and hens, the good and bad alike, with justice to the flock and the maximum profit to ourselves. In every flock there are more or less undesirable or wasteful birds that bring in no profit; that are a constant loss to the owner, and that pull down the good showing made by the better birds. It is our duty to find these specimens and get rid of them at the earliest opportunity. By disposing of them at once the feed bill will be cut down, the profits increased and more room provided for the birds that are doing their share of keeping money in the pockets of the owner.

Selection of the Birds.
It is most generally the case that when young stock is of good appearance as a whole, the owner dislikes to sacrifice any of the birds, although he knows certain individuals are lacking in size and vigor and are not fit to enter the breeding pens; or that there is here and there a pullet that will not lay a sufficient number of eggs to make the time and trouble taking care of her worth while. Nevertheless, it is always a wise and profitable thing to dispose of all undesirable birds as soon as they are known to be such. In any event, the culling out of the drones among the older hens should be done before the stock is put in winter quarters.

We must confine ourselves in the selecting process not only to the female side, but to the opposite sex as well. About 80 per cent of the flock, and usually more than this, is composed of cockerels and often a greater number is held over than can be properly disposed of. That is, more cockerels are allowed to grow up for sale purposes than one should really permit to mature and offer for sale. In other words, a too great percentage of inferior specimens are permitted to mature in the average breeder's yard. Thus the poultry business in general and the individual breeder in particular are done much harm unintentionally.

It should be our aim to put the poultry flock throughout the country on a higher plane—to build up and not tear down—to improve the quality in every way instead of causing stagnation or retrogression by supplying inferior stock. A breeder should therefore grade out his poorer males, retaining only the best, and offering for sale such birds as he knows, beyond a

shadow of doubt, will improve—or at least maintain—the present quality of the flock, of those breeders to whom each male bird is later sold.

Now, in earnestly endeavoring to improve one's flock, and the flocks of other breeders who depend upon us to furnish the birds that will truly be flock improvers, we must not be too lax in the culling process as regards our male birds. The flock should be gone over frequently at intervals and all those cockerels that are lagging behind, caused by inherent weakness or other conditions, or that are of inferior quality—inferior breeding ability—should be removed from the flock, fattened and then disposed of on the market at butcher prices. One will have fewer birds to offer for sale, it is true, but what are left, the cream of the flock, will find a more ready sale and will bring better prices. They will also do more to create a demand for one's stock and thus help him to build up a stable business more rapidly than he may fully realize.

Possibilities of Late Chicks.
Some breeders hatch quite a number of chicks during the month of September. It does not always prove a profitable undertaking, but when one is short of the number of chicks desired, it is sometimes a good plan to increase the size of the flock at this time. September really is, I believe, a better time to hatch and rear chicks than June and July, as conditions are more favorable.

If hatching operations were discontinued early in June and the male birds removed and not replaced until August, the breeding stock will be in prime condition to produce fertile eggs and vigorous chicks. September hatched chicks, if rushed along, will grow well before winter sets in, and will make good layers the following spring and summer.

One drawback attached to September hatching, however, is having the chicks too small and insufficiently feathered out to cope with severe winter weather. Unless they have good warm, roomy quarters, and are properly cared for, they will not develop properly. Above all they must be fed along as fast as possible so they get the necessary growth. Therefore, late hatching is only advised when it becomes necessary, or when one has the necessary conditions for proper development. If the late chicks falter in their growth, they become weak, susceptible to colds when the fall rains come, and they thus prove to be fertile sources of disease in the flock. They especially need dry, roomy quarters.

Spring and early summer hatched chicks will round rapidly into form during September, October and November. Cooler weather will make them more active, while rains will bring forth an autumn crop of green sprouts. Worms and bugs will again increase, and it is even more important to push your chicks with rich mash feed. Cut the long grass in pens to avoid fall colds from wet weeds, but do not close coops to shut out fresh air on cool nights.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS REGARDING THE JERSEY

This Animal Has Been Bred To Perfection in Canada—The Records Indicate That It Stands in the Front Rank For Butter Fat Production.

[Specially Contributed.]

The native home of the Jersey is Jersey Island, one of the group of Channel Islands situated about fourteen miles from the coast of France. It is a British possession, and is eleven miles long and six miles wide, containing 25,580 acres. The principal crops are potatoes, fruit, flowers and Jersey cattle. The climate is balmy and healthy, but varies in its shade, reddish, or silvery fawn. Some are termed milk-berry black. White, as a whole, does not occur, but white marks are common. The color of the eyes and muzzle is generally a light creamy or greyish shade. Some of the identifying marks are the tongue, white or black, and the switch, white or black. It is necessary to register these facts.

Records of High Production.
Some of the features that indicate the capacity for high production are strength of muzzle, nostril, heart girth, barrel, milk-veining and udder. The horns of the bull should be short and strong, curving around forward and upward, and slightly inward. A white or amber-colored horn, with blackish tip, is the favorite, and many times the horns of the cow are the greater sign of rich milk production. The skin should be thin, elastic and mellow, with a fine thick coat of hair.

Outside Jersey Island itself the standard of perfection for Jerseys is higher in Canada than in any other country. In no part of the world has such great progress been made in Jersey breeding during the past few years as in British Columbia and Quebec.

A great deal has been accomplished by the Jersey Association. By hundreds of breeders meeting together and discussing the various phases of the industry, much information has been gained, and by official tests it has been proved that the Jersey is not only a thing of beauty, but a commercial milk and butter producer as well. The value of Jersey milk for producing superior butter was recognized in England over a century ago.

For cheese-making Jersey milk ranks high also. At the World's Exposition it has been made clear that milk rich in butter-fat is more valuable and better cheese than milk poor in butter-fat. If milk were paid for on a butter-fat basis the result would be a great boon for the Jerseys.

Good markets for Jersey butter can be developed if there is a constant supply. The Eastern Townships of Quebec demand a ton weekly.

Early Maturity.
The early maturity of the Jersey is more marked than with any other breed of cattle. Both males and females develop rapidly, and are frequently in service too early for the good of the herd or breed.

Cases have been known where the owner has bred the heifers to come into milk at 18 or 20 months. Some of

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"Another similar detriment," he states, "is the excessive fitting required by many American shows. Fitting cattle for such shows, particularly young stock, hinders the proper development of the animals for milk production purposes and for general constitution and vigor."

Accredited Herd Plan.
Mr. Bull favors the principle of the accredited herd plan to eliminate tuberculosis from the dairy herds of Canada, and is of the opinion that by the close of the present year ninety per cent of the Jersey herds of Canada will be entered in their test. He also advocates better ventilation in dairy stables than is found in several parts of the country, and his opinion is that tuberculosis cannot be combatted successfully in solid cement or stone stables as hollow tile or wood walls keep the atmosphere drier.

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