

A paying business can be worked up in a short time in any city. I have seen it tried with success. Chicago ought to have near it half a dozen duck farms; so ought St. Paul-Minneapolis, St. Louis, New Orleans, Buffalo, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and many smaller cities. I would be willing to be the first to start in near any one of them."

DOES IT PAY TO FUSS WITH HENS?

BY A. P. HUNTER, IN THE VOICE.

It certainly pays me, and I believe it will pay (and pay well) any one who has a few spare feet of room and a few spare minutes of time to devote to them. I kept last year, on one acre of land, 380 fowls, of which 90 were one-year-old hens, and 290 were early-hatched pullets. Those fowls laid me 3,957 eggs in the month of December, a month when most farmers' fowls are not laying at all, and those 3,957 eggs fetched at a common market price, \$130 (and a few odd cents). I buy all the food for my fowls and find that it costs me about \$1.35 to feed each fowl a year, or 11 1/4 cents each a month. the cost of food for those 380 fowls for that month of December was \$42.75, and THE NET PROFIT FOR THE MONTH, \$87.25.

Isn't that a pretty fair cash return for one month, and that the dull month of December? Most farmers would be content with \$130 cash income in that month, and \$87.25 of that clear profit!

The great difficulty with most of the fowls kept on our farms is that they are late hatched, hatched in June and July, are so poorly fed that they make but slow growth, and the cold of late fall and approaching winter finds them but half grown and in poor condition to continue on to maturity. The proof of this point is found in the fact that the average egg-yield in this country is below 100 eggs per fowl a year, and the egg-yield generally is so low in November, December and January that 40 to 50 cents a dozen is gladly paid by customers for reliable, fresh-laid eggs. In March, April and May the late-hatched pullets on hundreds of thousands of farms have struggled along to the laying point and begun to produce eggs; the price drops to 20, 15, 12 cents a dozen (retail) and there is no profit for anybody.

IT COSTS 10 TO 12 CENTS A DOZEN to produce eggs when buying the food.

Obviously there is little profit in eggs in March, April and May, when everybody's fowls are laying and prices are at the lowest point; the profit is in the eggs laid in November, December and January. In proof of this I will quote the figures from my books of three months, December, 1888, and January and April, 1889, when I had 125 fowls on my farm.

MONTH.	No of Eggs	Average Price per Dozen.	Value of Eggs of Food.	Cost	Net Profit.
December, 1888	1,626	38 cents.	\$51.40	\$14.06	\$37.43
January, 1889.	2,068	30 cents.	\$51.70	\$14.06	\$37.64
April, 1889.....	2,232	15 cents.	27.90	14.06	13.84

There we see that the larger egg-yield of the month of April paid but \$13.84 profit, while December and January, with the same fowls and same cost of food, paid \$37.43 and \$37.64 profit respectively. Could there be a more convincing proof that it pays to "fuss with hens?" What is here

MEANT BY THE WORDS "FUSS WITH HENS"

A farmer raises corn, potatoes, wheat, oats and grass, and to do that he plows, harrows and manures the soil, plants the seed, cultivates and harvests the crop; in other words he "fusses" with corn, potatoes, wheat, oats and grass. If he is a dairy farmer he "fusses" with cows and produces milk for market or cream for the dairy; and in the latter case he probably "fusses" with pigs and calves to utilize the skim-milk and produce an additional profit, and so on through the list. In other words, the term "fussing" is equally pertinent applied to any other branch of farming, or to the blacksmith at his anvil, the shoemaker at his last, the carpenter at his bench, the printer at his case, the engineer at the throttle, or the sailor at the tacks and sheets. Poultry-raising is a branch of farming, a business, just like any other branch of farming, or any other business, and it will pay, and pay

well, if attended to properly, just as any other branch of farming or business does. Any business neglected does not pay, and poultry-raising is no exception to this general rule. There is

NO MAGIC ABOUT THIS PROFIT, nothing mysterious or wonderful. Its very simplicity is a stumbling-block to not a few, who go wandering about with their eyes strained after something afar off, when the plain, simple truth is right close at hand. It can all be summed up in three short rules, and when they are written the whole of the story is told: 1. Hatch the chickens early. 2. Keep the pullets growing so they come to laying maturity in October (before November). 3. Keep them laying by good care and good food. The whole secret of profit from poultry, of "pay for fussing with hens," lies in those three short rules. If they are lived up to, the fussing pays, and pays more liberally and constantly than any other branch of farming. The three are indissolubly linked together. It does no good to hatch the chickens early if they are neglected afterwards; nor to hatch them early and keep them growing well if their bodily wants are not looked after subsequently. A fowl cannot provide eggs unless she has the material of which to make the egg supplied her in her food; hence the good care and good food in fall and winter are just as essential as the early hatch and continual growth. Lived up to, these rules will give the owner an average of 150 to 175 eggs a year from each fowl, and a profit of \$2.50 to \$3.00 each, over and above the cost of the food.

Yes; it pays, and pays well, to "fuss with hens!"

CELERY-FED DUCKS.

It is doubtful to many that such a thing as a "celery fed" duckling ever goes to market, as celery is too costly. Yet it is a fact that those who make a specialty of choice ducklings feed them on celery as a portion of their daily ration. But it is not the blanched and crisp celery that is seen in market. Celery seed is sown in rows, cultivated and then chopped up as food as soon as it is of sufficient growth. As it is not transplanted or bleached, it is simply grown the same as a crop of turnips, and the cost is not as great as may be supposed. It is quite an advertisement for those who feed their ducklings on young celery to make the fact known, and it adds sufficiently to the price to remunerate for the growing of celery. It demonstrates also that consumers appreciate quality and are willing to pay extra therefor.—Fanciers' Review.