



Drink for the Chicks

A. Pardes, Simcoe Co., Ont.

If all of the causes that lead to losses among young chicks could be assembled and compared, I sincerely believe we would find more dead chicks due to impure water than to anything else. Chickens will drink water from old stagnant pools in the barnyard, from mud puddles in the lane, just so as it is water. The only way to avoid the trouble that ensue is to keep them well supplied with cool, fresh water all the time.

I find that cool, fresh water cannot be supplied in the ordinary drinking pan. A water fountain is necessary. Suitable fountains can be had from poultry supply houses or better still they can be made at home. My fountains are made as follows:

Take empty tomato cans of the largest size and punch holes around the open end about half an inch from the rim. Then take a saucer (a dish of any kind more than half an inch deep), fill the can with water and hold the saucer over the open end, and quickly invert.

The water will run out and fill the saucer until the holes punched in the can are submerged. Then the pressure of the air on the water outside the can will prevent more from coming into the saucer and there will be half an inch of clear water there for the chickens, which is constantly supplied, as water is lost either by the chickens drinking or by evaporation. It is well to have the drinking space around quite narrow, say half an inch, so that the chickens cannot get into the water and dirty it.

Poultry Keeping Without Frills

Mrs. C. Anderson, Peterboro Co., Ont.

There are too many frills to the way in which poultry is managed in this country. I believe that this is due in large measure to the fact that we women are responsible for the care of the poultry on the average farm. We are so used to fussing around the house putting unnecessary but much demanded frills on the regular meals for the family, that it comes natural to us to worry around with wet and dry mashes three times a day for the hens.

I have grown so disgusted with this continual fussing with poultry rations that I decided to solve every hen on the place and buy eggs. Just then a Special Poultry Number of Farm and Dairy set me on the right track, and I am now keeping poultry without frills, have labor reduced to a minimum, have healthier fowls, and am getting more eggs. I am following what is commonly known as the hopper system. Here are my methods briefly and exactly:

The mash that I feed consists of one-third bran or middlings, one-third cracked wheat, and one-third cracked corn. This is kept in a self-feeding hopper, and has only to be refilled once a week. In another smaller hopper is a supply of smashed oyster shell and grit, usually sharp and still another hopper, this one being made of wire netting. I keep a supply of well cured alfalfa or clover hay. From these three hoppers the birds can feed themselves whenever they wish. The mash, of course, is fed dry, and there is no mixing to be done.

The floor of my poultry house is littered to a depth of four or five

inches with cut straw, which is removed as soon as wet or dirty. In this I feed a mixture consisting of two-thirds corn and one-third wheat in winter and two-thirds wheat and one-third corn in summer. This grain is mixed thoroughly with the litter early in the morning. Of course, my fowl are supplied daily with water or milk, the latter when I have it. This is what I call poultry keeping without frills.

Poultry Jottings

Poultry should never be eaten the day it is killed. The tenderest fresh killed chicken will be tough as soon as the animal heat has left the body. In about 12 hours, however, the muscles will relax, and it then becomes acceptable for food.

It is estimated that it requires the feathers from about 10 ducks to make a pound; the sale of which just about pays the cost of dressing the fowls for market.

Some years ago, A. J. Hallock, of Long Island, one of the most extensive duck growers in the United States, kept records of the growth in weight of ducklings from shell to market. He found the following averages: Half out the shell, 2½ ounces; all out the shell, 2½ ounces; one week old, three ounces; two weeks old, 5½ ounces; three weeks old, 7½ ounces; four weeks old, one

pound three ounces; five weeks old, two pounds, six ounces; six weeks old, three pounds, 12 ounces; seven weeks old, four pounds, 12 ounces; eight weeks old, six pounds, two ounces; nine weeks old, seven pounds four ounces; 10 weeks old, eight pounds; 11 weeks old, nine pounds, three ounces.

It requires about four geese to make a pound of feathers. Picking live geese for their feathers is a practice that has been discontinued in this country.

According to the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, the cost of food, per chick, to weigh one pound, on ground grain, is three cents; on whole grain, three and seven-tenths cents. After repeated experiments in feeding, this station says the ground grain ration proved considerably more profitable than the whole grain ration with the growing chicks; and the same was true of capons of equal weight from the chicks, and from others of equal weight and age, fed alike before canning. No difference was noted in the health or vigor of chicks or fowls fed either ration.

The following recipe for carbolated kerosene emulsion, gives not only a vermin killer, but also an odor to the hen house that is effective in the cure of cases of bad cold and discharges of mucous substance from

the nostrils: Half pound ordinary laundry soap, one gallon of water, one quart kerosene oil, four ounces crude carbolic acid. Cut the soap in small pieces, and drop into the water and boil. When it comes to a boil remove from the fire and add the kerosene. Shake or stir the mixture until nearly cool. Put away in a well covered vessel until wanted, at which time add about 12 to 14 quarts of hot water and the carbolic acid, and mix well. Use as a spray once a week.

List of Fairs

- Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, Brandon, Man., July 20 to 25.
- Regina Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, Regina, Sask., July 27 to August 1.
- Edmonton Exhibition, August 10 to 15.
- Moose Jaw Agricultural Exhibition, August 11 to 14.
- Dominion Exhibition, Victoria, B.C., September 21 to 26.
- Cobourg Horse Show, Cobourg, Ont., August 18 to 25.
- Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, August 29 to September 14.
- Western Fair, London, September 11 to 19.
- Eastern Exhibition, Sherbrooke, Que., September 5 to 12.
- National Dairy Show, Toronto, October 22 to 31.

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