

POULTRY YARD

Successful Feeding Methods

Mrs. Jno. Roseburgh, Brant Co., Ont.

The greatest profit from poultry is secured when most of the eggs are laid during the winter, when prices are high. To obtain winter eggs, not only should the fowls be young and of a good laying strain, but the feeder should have a full knowledge of the proper feed and its preparation.

In feeding poultry a valuable lesson may be learned from Nature. In the spring the production of eggs on the farm is an easy matter. Fowls which are at liberty to roam find an abundance of green and animal feed on their range, which, with grain, furnishes a perfect ration for laying hens. In addition to this they get plenty of exercise and fresh air. So far as lies within his power, then, the feeder should aim to make the winter conditions spring-like.

SYSTEMS OF FEEDING

There are two systems in use for the feeding of fowls, in one of which all the feed is given dry and in the other one or more of the daily feeds consist of a moistened mash. The greatest advantage to be derived from the dry system are the saving of labor and the lessened danger of bowel trouble resulting from sloppy or soured mashes.

The grain mixture for dry feeding that we use is as follows: 200 lbs. cracked corn, 300 lbs. whole wheat, 130 lbs. whole oats. This mixture is scattered in the litter early in the morning and again about four o'clock in the afternoon. This gives the fowls plenty of exercise. I always give them a wet mash about half-past eleven. We also feed a dry mixture, consisting of 32 parts cornmeal, 30 parts animal meal, two parts oyster shell, one part grit, one part charcoal.

We put this mixture in a box or hopper on the side of the wall so the hens can get this mixture as they eat it away at the bottom. After dinner we take the top off the hopper so

the fowls can have free access to it for the remainder of the day.

A Necessity in the Hen House

Fowls need a chance to wallow in the dirt in order to free their bodies of scales and lice. Without this, their hens become covered with broken down scales which, together with lice, cause intense itching.

In the winter a dust bath usually has to be provided inside of the poultry house and should be near an open window so that the sun shines on it during a part of the day. For this purpose a common box filled with fine sand to which has been added a little insect powder is quite effective. Sifted coal ashes and road dust, etc., also make effective dust baths.

In a house which has a good dry sand floor, or in a cement floored house where the floor is covered with three or four inches of fine sand, a dust bath is seldom needed as the hens will wallow in the sand on the floor.

Dirty Eggs a Serious Loss

While there are a few egg producers who take the best of care of their product, most of our farmers consider the eggs produced on our farms a by-product, and makes very little provision for their care, aside from gathering them.

A large loss is caused by dirty eggs, the number being enormous, and, according to the estimate of Secretary Wilson, of the United States Department of Agriculture, this money loss to the farmers in the United States amounts to about \$5,000,000 annually. The loss in Canada also is large.

This loss is very largely brought about by not gathering the eggs often enough. In wet weather more dirty eggs are found than at any other time. This is caused by the fact that the hen's feet are often covered with mud or other filth, and in going to the nest to lay she soils the eggs already in the nest.

PROVIDE CLEAN NESTS

An insufficient number of nests is often the cause of many of the dirty eggs found. Eggs are often covered with ground and around the hay and straw stacks, and, becoming stained, are

classed as "dirty." Again, when too many eggs are allowed to remain in a nest some are broken and many of the others become smeared with broken yolks. This condition is often brought about by allowing the broody hens to use the same nests with the layers. On a farm where one nest to every four hens is provided, and the nests are kept clean and well bedded, it is found that very few dirty eggs are produced.

After gathering the eggs, care should be taken not to put them where they will become heated, and near oil, onions or other vegetables, as they readily absorb odors. Although dirty eggs may be perfectly fresh, they invariably sell as "seconds," and when but a few dirty eggs are mixed with an otherwise fresh, clean lot, they materially decrease the price of the clean eggs.

Fouly Pointers

Lining nests with green tansy is said to be a good preventive for chicken lice.

A more mixture is all right, but it is a trouble and expense to keep a good mixture than to keep one breed pure.

There are many hens on the farm, and among many of the poultrymen's flocks that do not lay 50 eggs a year, and some even less; and a few with 350 egg records; and a few records even higher have been recorded.

While preparing things for the poultry through the winter, don't neglect to provide poultry literature to your information. Select what seems best suited to your part of the business, then make good use of your selection.

Books on poultry matters are very valuable, but the up-to-date poultry papers and the poultry matter in farm papers, usually contain good advice, and experiences, hints and observations that you cannot get from books; so don't neglect that branch of the poultry business; also remember there is no gold mine nor "get rich quick" scheme, in the poultry business, but if these four words are put in practice, cleanliness, punctuality, perseverance and care, a good profit will be received from poultry.

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