

The Department of Agriculture is anxious to assist in placing the farmers' poultry-flock on a better paying basis as well as the commercial poultry-flock.

Undoubtedly there are two factors which should be taken into consideration at the present time by all persons interested in better poultry production. These factors are: First, the culling of stock for egg production during the spring months, so that as few "boarders" as possible will be kept on the poultry plant during the summer; and, secondly, all interested breeders should begin in the spring or early summer to select the stock which they intend keeping over for breeding purposes during the following year.

The Department will undertake to carry on this work whenever possible amongst breeders that are interested in increasing the production of their flocks or of building up a better strain of strong prolific birds that will under ordinary conditions give more profitable egg production.

It is preferable to have a culling demonstration on a farm or poultry-ranch centrally located, so that other persons interested beside the owner may be able to attend and thus obviate the necessity of an official visiting all separately.

It is desired that as many farmers as possible in any one immediate locality shall co-operate together in this work and fill in the card as follows:—

"We, the undersigned persons residing at _____, are anxious to have a culling demonstration in this district for the improvement of our flocks. We have a total of _____ birds."

The points generally to be observed in culling, other than early moulting, are the changes of the moist purple vent to the yellow dry one; the yellow pigmentation staying in the leg of yellow-legged birds and not fading to white, as should be the case of the heavy layer; the shrivelling and white, scaly, bloodless-appearing comb in conjunction with the hardening and tightening of the abdomen by the closing of the pelvic bones and drawing-up of the keel-bone, and various other points of less importance.

When culling for breeding-work Bulletin No. 74 of this Department is followed.

It is desired by officials of this Division that the culled birds be kept for a period of at least five days in a separate compartment so that their egg production can be recorded.

It is also desired that the cards which are enclosed with this circular be filled in by owners of each flock culled so that the Department will have some figures to show as the results of the work.

It is advisable where breeding stock is to be selected to have a good set of leg-bands on hand for banding such birds.

CULLING APPLIANCES.

There are several different methods of culling flocks, but probably the most approved is that of having a proper crate made that can be placed against the exit-hole in the poultry-house. This crate should be made of wire (1-inch mesh), with the exception of a board floor and two board (or slatted) doors (to lift up) on the top as per the attached plan. This crate should be 7 feet long, 18 inches high, and 3 feet wide.



Catching-coop.