

MACDONALD COLLEGE

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EGG PRODUCTION IN QUEBEC.

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Poultry are of service to mankind in various ways. Eggs and meat are produced for food while feathers are produced for comfort and ornament. Besides producing eggs and meat poultry are adapted to utilise many waste products the value of which would otherwise be lost. This is an important matter, particularly on many farms where a certain amount of grain and other food material suitable for poultry is apt to be wasted. Where small flocks are kept in towns and cities they are fed refuse material from the kitchen and from other sources. In utilizing these waste products the cost of producing poultry products is greatly reduced.

Poultry can be raised in nearly all parts of the country and under varying conditions of climate and season. The poultry industry can be combined with other branches of farming, such as fruit-growing, dairying and general farming. The orchard of the fruit grower makes an ideal place for raising young poultry. On the dairy farm there is usually a supply of skim milk which is one of the very best of poultry foods. Where grain or other crops are produced a certain amount of food is left upon the fields after harvesting and this is picked up by poultry.

CONSUMPTION

Larger quantities of poultry products are being consumed every year. One reason for this is that the quality of the products has been improved and they are received with greater favour and are enjoyed with more relish than formerly. Another reason is that the population of Canada has increased. The population of the towns and cities has increased more than has the population of the country districts and this has caused a great increase in the demand for poultry products.

The most important class of poultry products is the egg supply. This supply is made up almost entirely of the eggs of fowls since very few turkey, duck or goose eggs are consumed. The value of eggs produced in Canada in 1915 amounted to \$30,000,000.00. The production of eggs for food is the principal branch of poultry culture and is more profitable, under average conditions, than the production of poultry meat. Therefore, good egg production is the principal object in view with the great majority of poultry keepers.

PRODUCTION

The more important factors upon which egg production depends are the stock, housing, feeding and breeding. Farmers are gradually beginning to realize the superior earning value of pure breeds as compared with mongrels. The breeds best adapted for egg production in Quebec include Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, Orpingtons and Leghorns.

More important than breed, however, is the strain of fowls. There are good and poor strains in every variety and care should be taken to see that the best possible egg-laying strain is secured. The profitable laying age of the average hen is two years and consequently our farmers should make a practice of killing off their two year old stock every year. Along with this every consideration should be given to the proper development of the pullets during the growing season. This is most important because of its influence on winter egg production.

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