

CORRESPONDENCE

Practical Poultry Keeping

To the Editor of FARMING:

I send you the following answer to J. R.'s poultry questions in March 21st issue:

(1) Is it possible to make hens lay as many eggs in winter as in summer? I keep purebred Barred Rocks. Forty-five hens and pullets laid during January 21½ dozen eggs; February, 32 dozen; March, 53½ dozen; total, 107 dozen.

(2) Isn't heat as essential to egg-production as proper food and exercise? My experience has been that proper food and exercise are more necessary than heat.

(3) Would 60 or 70 degrees in a poultry house be too warm, all other requisites being provided? All other things being equal, I do not think this temperature would be too warm.

(4) What breed or strain of fowl is actually the most profitable as a broiler and as an adult? Barred Rocks are good layers; the chicks make good broilers and the adults make fine roasters.

Mongolia, Ont., March 31st, 1899. J. B. LAWRIE.

To the Editor of FARMING:

Re the enquiry of J. R. in last week's FARMING, is it possible to make hens lay as many eggs in winter as in summer? I find after years of experience they can be made to lay nearly as many but the conditions are to be provided for. To secure these results poultry breeders must prepare for this now, and for next winter's profits hatch out the chickens in April, and after they are strong enough let them have free range as far as they wish to go. When the fall arrives place all the best and most vigorous pullets in their winter quarters, weeding out all the scrubby ones and have plenty of house room and if possible have a scratching place. A shed adjoining is best for cold or stormy days. Do not crowd and never place more than 30 to 50 hens in one lot. Many object to more than 25, but my experience is that with plenty of room and a proper place 50 will lay and give as good results as 25 will providing the same care is exercised. By December 1st your April hatched pullets should be in fine shape to commence laying and then is the time to feed and care for them properly. Green feed such as mangels, cabbage, turnip or clover, hay cut fine and mixed in soft feed, green bone twice a week with grit and oyster shells, gravel, etc., where they can have free access to, with a change of grain and not too much of it thrown in straw where they will have to scratch for it; these with plenty of fresh clean water or skim milk, with the house cleaned every week at least and fresh straw added will ensure an abundant supply of eggs at a time when one dozen is worth three dozen in the summer. These results can, of course, only be attained in a proper building. A building kept so that the water will not freeze and is warm enough for the fowls. Artificial heat has not as yet proved satisfactory although my opinion is if a building was heated with hot water heaters it could not but be satisfactory as there is nothing in the heat from hot water heaters that is injurious to the health of the fowls. Sixty to 70 degrees would not be too warm providing you can keep it at that point all the time. A proper building is warm enough if well and warmly built without heating. Under these conditions winter layers will be found to prove a greater profit than summer layers, and although they lay in the winter they will lay just as well all summer until moulting time as if they had not started till the spring. The best breed or strain is, I think, according to the breeder's taste for broilers and for that alone the light Brahmas make the greatest weight in the shortest time. For an all round fowl I am firmly of the opinion for sales, prices, eggs, etc., taking everything into consideration, the Barred Plymouth Rocks have no equals, and for eggs alone the Leghorn is king.

W. B. COCKBURN.

Woodstock, March 24th, 1899.

Practical Poultry Keeping

To the Editor of FARMING:

I have received a sample copy of your journal and in looking over it I see an article headed, "Some Practical Poultry Questions," which J. R. would like answered. I take an interest in all poultry matters, so I thought I would answer J. R., if not too late.

1st. Is it possible to make hens lay as many eggs in winter as in summer? Yes; if properly fed and kept moderately warm they will lay more in winter than in summer. Hatch pullets early, say in April, and they will commence laying in October and November, and if properly fed on grain and vegetables will lay all winter, and show very little inclination to get broody, not nearly so much as in summer. After August, when the hens are moulting, you will find only a small per centage of them laying, consequently they will lay all winter, but lose a lot of time in the summer moulting.

2nd. Isn't heat just as essential to egg production as proper food and exercise? Yes; moderate heat, or a warm building, but no artificial heat.

3rd. Would 60 or 70 degrees in a poultry house be too warm, other requisites being provided? Yes, decidedly; just warm enough to keep combs from freezing is sufficient. If you kept your coop at 60 or 70 degrees you would require a "drug store," in the other end of your coop.

4th. What breed or strain of fowls is actually the most profitable as a broiler, and as an adult? The Buff Plymouth Rock, as an all-round, general purpose fowl, excels all others. They mature very early for broilers and the pin feathers do not show like they do in the Barred Rock, and they are a brighter yellow when dressed than the Barred or White Rock, and a better layer than either one. Wyandottes are a very good all-round fowl, but rather small and do not mature as early as the Rock. I have tried them all and am giving my practical experience.

Yours respectfully,

T. H. SCOTT.

St. Thomas, Ont., April 3rd, 1899.

The Spraying of Fruit Trees.

To the Editor of FARMING:

In spite of all that the up-to-date orchardists are doing to make known the fact that in order that fruit-growing may be made a remunerative calling in this province in the future, fruit of a high quality and of high quality *only* must be produced; and in spite of the fact that our Government, alive to the interests and necessities of the people, is annually spending large sums of money to educate the public as to methods of producing the same, there are still many who take no heed thereto but adhere to the "good old ways." It is a pity there could not be found some far-off island to which this class of people could be transported that they might enjoy life together by living a few years behind the times.

One of the methods by which we are enabled to acquire the desired result is the thorough spraying of our fruit trees and plants. Notwithstanding the satisfactory results that have been obtained during the past few years by the growers in the Niagara peninsula who carry on this work annually, and also the remarkable success that has attended the efforts of the Government in experimental spraying, there are still many who pretend that they have no faith in the efficacy of the work. The sooner these men get out of the business the better for themselves and the fruit-growing industry, for if they have not the understanding to comprehend the advantages arising from such procedure, they have not sufficient to carry them to success in this branch of horticulture.

It is not to this class of men that I am writing this article, neither to those progressive growers who already carry on the work, but it is written that, should anyone who does not thoroughly understand the composite parts of the solution, and its application and the results obtained from