

quired that 90 per cent. of the chicks will live to five months of age, and that the cockerels at this age be well developed and weigh—if from general purpose breeds—at least six pounds each, and, finally, that the pullets be good layers. If the pullets lay well during the fall, then I consider holding their brothers as breeders. We try as far as possible to test the males along similar lines, as to producers of plenty of strong vigorous chicks that also live, grow, and lay well. There is probably as much difference between males as there is between females.

The above method entails much work, so much so that it is only practicable to experiment stations, and to a few specialists. I would strongly urge the breeders of pure bred stock to exercise as much care as possible in trying to produce families or strains, that are high in the hatching power of their eggs, and that are equally as high in the living power and growth of the chicks.

There are many who cannot adopt the above method, but to the average grower the best advice we can give is to select a male that has been strong and vigorous from a chick up, one that has matured to normal size quickly, and that has never been unthrifty. Small, fine-boned, quick maturing males have been disastrous where they have been used, possibly not the first season, but shortly afterwards.

The hens bred should be the best you have. Select the hens that are active and look thrifty. Avoid the narrow headed ones, and those that are lazy and awkward.

The following table gives a comparison of two flocks of twenty-three Barred Rock pullets, that were in every way treated alike, except as to the method of breeding. They are the same age, were hatched and reared by the natural method, and have always lived in the same houses and enjoyed the same range.

The one flock, known as the heavier layers, has been bred for some years for early maturity and winter laying.

The other pullets are bred from birds that have been bred mainly with the idea of producing good specimens of the breed, as to shape, color and size.

The bred-to-lay pullets were larger by October 1st, but the others are larger at this writing, February 1st. In other words, the former matured earlier. Their brother's average weight at five months of age was nearly six and one half pounds.

EGG PRODUCTION FOR THREE MONTHS OF PULLETS HATCHED DURING THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL.

	October.	November.	December.	January.	Total.
23 Bred-to-lay pullets ..	101.	337.	296.	179.	913.
23 Common pullets		66.	190.	132.	388.