

it place the perches in such a manner that they can easily be removed. The droppings will be caught by this platform, which should be cleaned off every morning. On the perches pour coal oil once every two weeks in winter and every week in summer. Besides this the whole house should be whitewashed, fumigated with sulphur or sprinkled carefully with a coal oil emulsion with the spraying pump at least every fall. Clean out the nests often, pour coal oil about them, put tobacco, sulphur or insect powder in them. To keep them from feather-eating and egg-eating make them work, give them a little meat and give plenty of fine gravel or broken crockery for grit.

Your poultry house should be warmly built and supplied with plenty of windows to admit sunlight, which is very necessary. It need not be any more suitable to the needs of your fowls than your horse and cow stables are to the needs of your horses and cows. As you do know that it is a terrible waste of food, time and money to try to make beef and milk when your cattle are almost frozen, supplied with dirty water, covered with vermin and irregularly fed, so you can easily understand that fowls treated in a like manner cannot be any more profitable. For illustration, we shall suppose that a farmer has ten hogs in a pen that he wishes to turn into pork. Does he keep them where they are almost frozen and go to them once a day and throw them a bushel of peas, perhaps into the filth, at the same time giving them a drink of water? He knows better than to do this, because these are pigs and pay to feed properly, but those hens that are only a nuisance anyway and never pay, when he goes to feed them in their filthy cold stable he will throw down a lot of wheat in the filth once a day and let them eat snow for water. No wonder these hens don't pay. Now, which hen will cost the most to winter, the one fed all the wheat she will eat and kept in a cold filthy place, or the one kept in a warm clean place, supplied with clean water, and fed somewhat as follows: At daylight, cut clover and crushed oats mixed, steamed, and fed in troughs, just enough for them to eat up greedily and leave them so that they want more. In an hour or so after put up the troughs and scatter a very little wheat over the pen, covering it deeply in the straw and sand. Do this three or four times during the day, so that they may be kept scratching continually from morning till

night. At night, just before they go to roost, put all the wheat that they will eat into the troughs, and after they have gone to roost empty the troughs. Keep a turnip, cabbage or mangold before them all the time. There is no cheaper or better food for fowls than cut green bones. If you have cut green bones and vegetables very little grain will be needed. Now, which hen costs the most to winter? I am going to let you answer. The first hen never laid an egg until April, when all the hens in the country were laying and they were cheap, the other laid all winter when they were dear. I know that the second hen cost more trouble and work than the first, but did you ever accomplish anything without trouble and work? I never did.

The breeding-pen that you mated early in February should be laying well by the beginning of March, so that by that time you will have eggs ready to set. If your fowls are a large variety all your chickens should be hatched during March and April, and if a small variety as late as the end of May will do.

Never set a hen in the poultry-house if you can avoid it. Put her where she will not be disturbed. Place food, water and a dust-bath near her. Always set several hens at the same time, and after they have set six or seven days test out infertile or clear eggs and put fresh eggs under as many of the hens as you can. The nest should be so solid that the eggs cannot sink down into it. Take a shallow box, fill it to within three or four inches of the top with earth, on which place hay-chaff. The earth should be smoothed nicely and slope slightly to the center. Put tobacco in the nest—I use cigar stumps when I can get them. Dust the hen thoroughly with insect powder when you set her and again a few days before the chickens come out. Before taking the chickens from the nest dust them carefully. If you take these precautions your chickens are not likely to be troubled with lice. Lice cause more trouble and loss amongst chickens than anything else and you must keep them down if your chickens are going to thrive.

As soon as the chickens are at least twenty-four hours old remove them with the hen to a coop placed in a shady place, where there is grass and where no other fowls can get to it. I run wire netting about the coops, which keeps all large fowls out while it gives the chickens liberty. A hen can take care of