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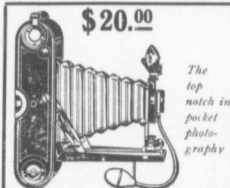
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HAMILTON

DEPARTMENT H.

ONTARIO

POULTRY YARD

Poultry and the Farmer

Prof. F. C. Elford, Macdonald College,

For the future of the poultry industry we must look to the farmer. No 100-acre farm should be without 100 hens. These 100 hens should yield at least \$300 a year. I have no sympathy with the man who says poultry do not pay when he gives his fowls no care whatever.

As a sample of what poultry can do I will tell you what Mrs. Shepherd, a lady living near Montreal, has done. From a flock of 40 hens she has a revenue of \$300 a year. She keeps a good, uniform lot of pure bred hens and gets the best quality of winter eggs and gets the best price for a fancy article. In the spring she sells eggs for hatching. Her cockerels are sold for breeding purposes. She changes her hens every year, believing that pullets make the best winter layers.

When I was a boy on a farm in Huron Co., Ont., the poultry were considered a bother. They were left to the women folk. Then, hens were not expected to lay in the winter. On that farm to-day there is one of the finest poultry plants in Ontario. About \$1,500 worth of poultry produce was marketed last year. This affords some idea of the possibilities in the poultry industry.

Scaly Leg on Fowls

My hens have very scaly legs, which greatly detract from their appearance for exhibition purposes, both alive and dressed. Please give cause and remedy.—E.C., Huron Co., Ont.

Scaly leg is caused by a mite working beneath the scales of the feet and legs. The disease may also be due to deficiency of oil in the skin of the affected parts or filthy roosting places. Fowls on very dry and bare land, on alkali soils and in small yards with ashes or cinders in them are most often affected.

The feet and legs of the affected birds should be cleaned and bathed in warm water. Then apply a small quantity of vasoline having a little kerosene oil added. Repeat the treatment every five days until cured.—M. C. Herper, O.A.C.

Selecting a Pure Bred Male

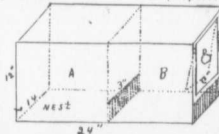
In selecting a purebred cockerel there are certain characteristics that should be looked for. For instance, if you want to increase the laying powers of any pure breed, even though it be a table breed, note carefully the comb of the bird you are about to purchase. A big, heavy, coarse-combed bird is not the one to breed from; a good laying pullet. A bird should be selected that has a good-sized comb for the variety he represents, but this comb should be rather thin and fine in texture.

Avoid the coarse-grained, "beefy" combs, whatever breed you may find them on. At one time a big comb was said to indicate exceptional laying powers, but now combs have been bred out of all proportion to the birds, with the result that the laying powers have suffered. Minoras—the present-day, thick-combed type—are not nearly such good layers as were in years gone by, and they furnish an instance of what breeding for comb has done to the breed.—J.H.E.

A Satisfactory Trap Nest

How is a trap nest made? Will you kindly give in Farm and Dairy a description of a good one?—W. B., Oxford Co., Ont.

The following is a description of a trap nest, which can be built very cheaply on any farm and it is one that will give satisfactory results. An ordinary box, 24 inches long, 14 inches wide and 12 inches deep will serve the purpose. Fit it with the following divisions: One division board in the centre 10 inches from the front, 14 inches from the back and three inches high, is simply to hold the straw in the nest. A. This board, three inches high, is simply to hold the straw in place for the nest. The front compartment B serves two purposes.



A Cheap Home-made Trap Nest

This nest is described in the adjoining article by Mr. J. L. Brown, an expert on poultry. The diagram shows the slat under the door to be about three inches wide, whereas it should be about one and one-half inches high.

A place for the trap door, C, to work in, the other as a compartment for the hen to come into off the nest.

The door in front is hung from the top with two small hinges or wire fasteners. When opened it is at such an angle that the hen upon entering will raise the bottom of the door a little higher than when in position, the door being held in place by a little wooden pin E, and falls out of its set position as soon as the door is moved by the hen entering the nest. The door has a circular hole, D, directly in the centre; this prevents any other hen from entering the nest, while it is occupied.—John I. Brown, Hochelaga Co., Que.

The Crammer not Essential

Is a crammer machine a necessary and profitable investment on a farm where a large number of birds are to be fattened? Please give me some experience on this matter.—S. T. Compton Co., Que.

In the hands of an expert and where a large number of chickens are to be fattened, the crammer machine might be used with profit as it is in England. For that country, the chicks are purchased when weighing three or four pounds from the farmers or other poultry raisers by the higglers who go about from place to place with express wagons on which are crates. The chickens are then fattened in large numbers. In Sussex, England, three and four thousand chickens are "crammed" at a time, the process lasting three weeks.

In Canada the fattening of chicks by the crammer machine has not been successful and where it has been abandoned. It is certainly not the work of the farmer who should be content to raise the proper market type to the saleable age and as early as he profitably can. In fattening chickens to a profit there are two conditions necessary: 1. Chickens must be fattened in quantity; 2. by

men expert in the business.—A. G. Gilbert, Manager Poultry Department, C.E.F., Ottawa.

Crate Feeding of Fowl

N. McMurchy, York Co., Ont.
The first essential to success in crate fattening of fowls is to have well-bred birds of the utility type. A shaded spot out of doors is the ideal place to put the feeding crate during the warm weather. When put in the crates the cockers should weigh two and a half to three pounds or over.

For the first three or four days feed very small until they get thoroughly accustomed to their new surroundings. Then gradually increase the amount of feed. Feed them all they will eat twice a day. If any feed is left in the trough at night remove it. Give plenty of water at all times.

The feed which I have found best is finely ground oats. They are letter with the hulls sifted out. Mix the oats with sour milk or buttermilk until it is ready to eat. Feed them on a spoon. Meantime of some kind or ground green bone should be given during the last week. The birds should be fed regularly and by the same person every time.

Cockerels of a good vigorous breed carefully fed in this way should double their weight in 21 days. That is as long as it is profitable to feed them. If the crates are located indoors, the room must be airy and well ventilated and have no drafts.

The most important point of all is to kill the lice on the birds at the start. They will not thrive when infested with lice. Insect powder and sulphur, well rubbed in, is an effective remedy. They should have a second dose about the tenth day.

A House for 250 Hens

Please give me information as to plans, materials, and so forth, for a farm hen house to accommodate 250 hens.—G. W. H., Hastings.

The house should be located on land having a southern slope. In planning the house allow from three to six square feet of floor space per bird, depending upon the breed kept—lighter breeds require less space than the heavier breeds. The house should not be over 16 feet wide in order that the sun may strike the back part of the building during the day time. Have the sides about seven feet high.

No material needed will be 2 x 4 in. scantling and inch lumber either rough, or tongued and grooved. Where rough, lumber is used the cracks should be strapped with inch slats. The north side should be double boarded. Arrange your roosts along the back part of the building. Have a drop board about three and one half feet wide three feet from the floor and put two perches about 10 inches above the floor. The back roost should be long enough to allow each bird from eight to 10 inches. The south side of the building should be half glass and half curtain. Have the south side boarded up two feet from the ground and about one foot at the top, then put in your windows and curtains. For roofing material we consider cedar shingles as good as anything.

A straw loft can be made in this building by laying inch boards four inches apart, putting the straw on top of this. Divide the house into about three sections; have 85 birds in each flock. This will give better results than where all the birds are in one flock.

Arrange the nests below the dropping boards. The dust box, drinking fountains, feed hoppers, etc., can be put in the most convenient places. The floor of the building may be made of ordinary sand or gravel. During the winter the gravel is not so coarse.—M. C. Herper, Poultry Dept., O.A.C., Guelph, Ont.