

POULTRY YARD

The Poultry Department in Dairy Farms Competition

Prof. F. C. Elford, Macdonald College, Quebec.

In the Dairy Farms Competition to be held this year by Farm and Dairy, the poultry department will get its share of notice. Indeed, poultry should fill no small part in the equipment of an up-to-date farm. There is no branch of Agriculture in which more farms are interested. There is not a barnyard but has poultry, and there is no department that gets less attention and would be missed more in the farmers' home.

There is no one thing on the average Canadian farm that has done more pioneer work than the hen. Long before anything but the pig, the cow, the horse, she was supplying fresh eggs and meat. She paid the grocery bills when had it not been for her they might have been left unpaid. How many of our men and women of today owe the commencement of their education to the Canadian hen. She paid for the first books, slates and pencils, the straw hats and pinfeathers.

I don't remember "pioneer" days, but I have a clear recollection of the poultry yard that did all this and much more. The weekly basket of eggs was expected to keep "things going," from the time the hens were sold in the spring till the potatoes were ready in the fall. During the other six months the "hen fruit" and dressed poultry helped materially. I have often thought that Canada owes not a little to the hen as a "home maker." This applies in the country, in the village, and even in the city. For this reason as well as for what the poultry trade is developing into, the poultry department should have a prominent place on the schedule of points in the Dairy Farms Competition, suggestions and what may go to make up an ideal poultry department have been given from week to week.

Desirable Type in Birds

While addressing the poultrymen of Peterboro recently, Prof. Graham of the O.A.C., dwelt upon the desirable type of utility birds. "We must have constitution," he said. "The broad strong head, the bright eye, with the bill stout and nicely curved

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not unlike the hawk, and legs set wide apart, are indications of this desirable quality. With long chickens the difficulty is in getting the legs wide enough apart. With such birds, the legs are inclined to both come out of the one spot. We must avoid getting them too narrow.

"The legs should be comparatively short and the scales thereon should be of a texture not unlike a kid glove. This quality is desirable since it has been found that a bird with these qualifications will have flesh and skin of similar quality.

"Get the keel bone as long as you can but not too deep. Never breed from males with curved breasts and flesh which is not well covered with fat in ordinary condition. It is a difficult matter to get cockerels that will be well fleshed over the breast bone from such birds."

Location of Poultry House

In building a poultry house, would it be better to have an inconvenient gravel-paved driveway, or a more convenient, though rather damp, dirt driveway, rather than give to the distance from the house, only a few feet in the former, and only one foot in the latter.—A. N. Simcox, Ont.

Unless there is more inconvenience in your way than you mention, go the 50 yards by all means. 150 feet is a more satisfactory distance to have the poultry from the house than a house on low, wet ground. It will become a nuisance. From your short description I would not hesitate in saying, build on the gravelly hill.—F. C. E.

Troubled with Roup

Is there any reliable cure for roup and canker among poultry? It is going all through my fowl. It is killing my young chicks as fast as they are hatched. Their eyes swell up to twice the normal size. They die in about 24 hours. The older fowls generally get better. The older birds, at least get the sight of their eyes. It is sure death for the young chicks. I separate the affected one from the rest as soon as I see they are getting it. Coal oil seems to help to cure it. The old fowls, W. Peterboro Co., Ont.

You have evidently a severe type of "roup," and if there is any remedy at all, it would be in extreme measures. Kill and burn every one affected, clean out all houses and thoroughly disinfect. For disinfecting, Zenolium, or carbolic acid preparations would do. As soon as you notice the cold a pill each day made as follows: equal parts of red pepper, ginger and turpentine, mixed in lard, soap and flour. If the swelling occurs dip their heads in a solution of mercury bichloride of potash, one teaspoonful to a pint of water, and swab the throat and mouth with the same. I doubt if it raises any more chicks, except you can put them into absolute fresh quarters, and use no eggs from your flock.—F. C. E.

Breaking Up a Broody Hen

When a hen sets she must feel the sensation of warmth under her body when she is on the nest, otherwise she will soon get out of the notion of sitting. Therefore the thing to do is to prevent her from imparting warmth to anything. Build a small coop the floor of which is of fine sand, or an inch apart. Raise the placed about the ground a few inches by placing something under the corners. When a hen is placed in such a coop she will speedily discover that she will not get warmth, and she will not air under sit very long.

If hens are broken up in this way they often begin to lay again in a short time. Some of the broody hens to occupy their nests until they get good and ready to quit. This is often a matter of weeks, and the hen

may not lay again for two or three months. It pays to break them up as soon as possible.

Set hens on ground where possible to do it.—W. R. Graham, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont.

A bulletin by F. C. Elford, Supt. of Poultry at the Macdonald Agricultural College at Ste. Anne, has been translated into Russian, and is the recognized authority on poultry farming in all parts of the Russian Empire.

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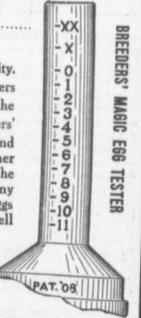
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