

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 a 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 was helping make revenue, she was supplying fresh eggs and meat. She paid the grocery bill 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 a 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 hens 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 tract is developing into, the poultry department should have a prominent place on the schedule of points in the Dairy Farms Competition. I suggest now and what may go to make up an ideal poultry department will be 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 gives us a bird 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 when 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 use an inconvenient gravel dump, location, or rather rather given to the distance from the house, only a few feet in the former, and only a few feet 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 few feet. Poultry placed near the house on low, wet soil would soon 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 cancer among poultry? I am going all chicks as fast as they are hatched. They and the males of the same sex. The fowls generally get better after about two weeks at least get the sight of their eyes. It is sure death for the young chicks. I separate the affected ones from the rest as soon as I can. They are getting it. Coal fowls but it is too much for the chickens. 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 be. As soon as you notice the cold appearing in the hens again give them a pill each day made as follows: equal parts of red pepper, ginger and mustard, mixed in lard and flour. Roll into pills the size of a marble. If the swelling occurs dip their heads in a solution of potassium permanganate of potash, one teaspoonful to a pint of water, and swab the throat and mouth would be with the same. I doubt if it raise 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 do anything from imparting warmth floor of which is of laid placed about an inch apart. Raise the coop from something under the corners. When a hen is placed in such a coop she will speedily discover that an air under nest is cool, and she will not want to sit very long.

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

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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