

THE ORPINGTONS.

A New Breed of Profitable and Handsome Fowls.

The Orpington breed of fowls is a new one which has received much attention from poultry fanciers...

They were developed in England by a fancier named Cook, who says he brought them into existence for the purpose of infusing into farming fowls a new element of profitable poultry keeping...

The first variety of the Orpingtons was the black. To make these I took a good Black Minorca, which variety is extraordinary layers, black plumage, but small and not putting on fat readily...

With these Black Minorcas I mated some Black Plymouth Rock pullets, which are 'spoon' from the Speckled Rocks, owing to the Black Java having been used in the making of the Plymouth Rock breed...

With these beautiful pullets I mated a good Langshans, of the old short-legged type, and, as well known, these birds are extraordinary winter and particularly late autumn layers of deep brown shelled eggs...

The feathers down the legs had to be disposed of, and to do this I sought out all the Langshans that were produced without feathers on the legs...

These were the original Orpingtons made. Some people objected that the single combed birds were like Langshans, and Rose Combed Orpingtons were next made by substituting a Rose Combed Langshan male...

To make the Buff Orpingtons three varieties were crossed. First, Golden Spangled Hamburg cocks were mated with Dorkings. The result was progeny were by far the best layers of this cross...

The Orpingtons have all the strength and vigor of other breeds, and as egg producers, especially in autumn and winter when eggs pay the greatest profits, they are remarkable. They lay like the tinted eggs which command a premium in the market...

Great must be sharp. Feed before water. Do no feed glass for grit. Feed a mash the year round. Good food is positive economy. Clean out the feed troughs daily. Oyster shells are too soft for grit. Never throw soft feed on the ground. Round pebbles will not answer for grit. Millet seed is a great egg producing grain. Always feed the mash crumbly, not sloppy. In feeding grain in the runs broadcast it. Beans are excellent feed, being highly nitrogenous. A quart of feed for 12 hens is a good measurement. More than one-half of early maturity is in high feeding. Milk can be fed in any form—sweet, sour or buttermilk. Barley is much used in Europe and is valuable as a variety. Sorghum and broom corn seeds are excellent for a variety. The dried blood sold for fertilizer is dangerous to use for poultry. Split the carrots in halves and allow the hens to peck at them at will. Have the feed troughs sufficiently large so that all the fowls can find their share. Beef blood mixed with ground grain is excellent for both old and young stock. Popcorn contains more nitrogen and phosphates than the regular Indian corn. Refuse crackers and stale bread make an excellent addition to the morning meal. Buckwheat is an egg producing food, but a steady diet of it is apt to be over fattening.

Feed Freshness. The egg has always been a prime object in the breeding of chickens. The jungle fowl of India lays an egg not half as big as an egg of the barnyard fowl, while the eggs of the Plymouth Rock or Light Brahma hen attain a surprising maximum in respect to dimensions. Not only this, but the modern hen's egg has been artificially colored, as it were, by choosing for breeding purposes those chickens which laid the darkest eggs. Thus a very brown egg set at all the color contemplated by

nature, has been produced. There is a popular notion, derived from nobody knows what source, that brown eggs are richer in flavor than white ones, and they bring a higher price in the market. Similar means have been employed to increase the rate of egg laying, so that now a well bred pullet will produce 200 or more eggs in the first year after she has reached maturity. It is obvious that nature never intended the eggs to be laid at such a rate, inasmuch as the mother hen would not have time enough to incubate them, much less take care of the chick after they were hatched. Yet, with the help of a wooden box and an oil lamp, the entire product of eggs can be transformed into chicks, which are subsequently reared as artificial hatchlings.

Why They Are Among the Best of All Breeds of Poultry. Mr. E. O. Rossie, the well known poultry breeder, says in an exchange that the breed par excellence known from one end of the country to the other is the Barred Plymouth Rock. There is not a farmer, amateur or fancier who does not at once recognize the sterling qualities of this most popular of all breeds. It is almost useless to enumerate their qualities, they are so well known. Yet they live up to these qualities and maintain your after year the excellence which is the foundation of their popularity. For egg producers, when eggs are highest in price, they are reliable. For good, large bodied specimens, when meat is demanded, they seldom fail, and for hardiness and general health they have no superiors. They are not beautiful, except in the eyes of the admirer, yet there is a certain steady, businesslike air about these plain specimens which appeals to all classes and stamps them the great money makers of poultrydom.

It is safe to say that the demand for Plymouth Rocks is far in excess of that for any other breed. This does not reflect unfavorably on the other breeds. It simply shows that they are the public's favorite. The very best quality any breed can have is hardiness. A vigorous constitution in fowls is the first thing to consider. With it we may expect a good growth, an early maturity, a good egg yield and a fine carcass; without it we cannot depend upon any of these results. Health and prime condition go hand in hand, and both mean the best results obtainable in poultry. The healthy hen is the egg type and the showroom specimen. Condition should be the first consideration. Where can be found a healthier, stronger and more reliable bird than the Barred Plymouth Rock? Climatic conditions do not affect them. They are bred in all sections of our country. They are alike indifferent to cold or heat. No matter how low the temperature, this popular American breed stands strictly to business, and if they are comfortably housed at night and kept busy during the day we may look for a full nest box at gathering time. If they lay a brown egg, and if the demand should be for white eggs, or both white and brown, we must look for another breed to run side by side with them, in order that the demand for both may be supplied.

Among the business breeds which lay white eggs or whose color is limited, we have the Leghorns, Minorcas and Andalusians. The Minorcas lay a large, egg, and, if properly handled, plenty of them—but are they business egg machines? The Andalusians also are prolific layers, but if we breed them to perfection is the demand sufficient to justify their being kept for profit? We are forced to fall back on the Leghorns. Here we have truly egg machines. Can they be beaten in this quality? The choice of the entire family is probably the White, Brown or Buff. It matters little which we select—it is a fancy admirer of each claim superiority. Are they popular? Yes—almost as much as the Plymouth Rocks. They are well distributed throughout the country. The public has adopted them, and the demand for them has been, is and always will be strong. Any person who cannot make money out of eggs and keeps White, Brown or Buff Leghorns does not deserve to be called an egg farmer. They are active, healthy, beautiful and profitable. Does any other breed combine more good qualities?

Their enemies, and they have some, call them spring and summer layers. They will lay as strong in the dead of winter as any other breed, if properly housed. Being a closely feathered variety, they need warm quarters. Keep them snug up all winter in a house where the water never freezes in the pans, feed them liberally and keep them busy and they will lay continuously, and when spring comes and the warmer air permits them to run out they will, like all other breeds, increase their egg yield, but in greater proportion. They are the fit mates for the Plymouth Rocks for egg production. Being a nonsitting variety, they continue the laying when the Plymouth Rocks become broody.

The great objection to the Leghorn is said to be its small carcass for market purposes. This is hardly an objection, except to those who demand size and weight alone. As the chicks grow very rapidly and are very active, they can be made to dress as fine a broiler for sweet, fine grained meat as any breed known and at the earliest broiler season. As roasters there is nothing better than a well fattened, three pound Leghorn cockerel. To conclude, therefore, we may consider that the great business team of all the breeds is the Plymouth Rock and the Leghorn.

Points For Shippers. One of the greatest mistakes in shipping live poultry is that of mixing fat hens and roosters in the same coop. The hens cannot be assisted in bringing better prices by having males with them, while buyers will not buy in large lots and pay good prices for mixed stock. The roosters only take up room in the coops and assist in crowding the hens. If the fowls are shipped, let them be 'chick' in the market. If roosters must be sent, put them in a separate coop. It means a difference of several dollars on a coop of fowls if they are shipped properly. Dressed stock should also be assorted, and no fowls should be sent to market unless they are fat—Farm and Fireside.

Chickens with cancer should be at once removed from the flock and kept in separate quarters. It is very contagious. Wash the spots with kerosene and dissolved in new run. Cleanse thoroughly morning and night and remove the cancer daily. A weak solution of nitrate of silver can be used to touch the spots, but this must be done with great care, as it is rather a severe treatment. Farmers should never ship eggs unless they have first endeavored to get better prices for them nearer home. If the would not selling eggs and seek customers, a large sum would be added to their receipts from poultry. Fresh eggs are always salable, for every family needs a supply of them. It frequently happens, when eggs are scarce, that a farmer must buy them from another and in every village and town will be found those who prefer to buy from a farmer than from the dealers.

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