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WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS, PLEASE MENTION THE GUIDE

# Mother's Hens

By Mrs. F. E. Sheperd, Stalwart, Sask.

**EDITOR'S NOTE**—Last week Mother's letter told how to spring clean and care for the flock in readiness for setting. If you did not read the first article you should do so at once. A very profitable sideline can be made use of if poultry is properly looked after on the farm. The writer of these stories is just telling how she has been able to make money with her "biddies" on a farm in Western Canada. These stories are the best possible kind of educational material for our subscribers to read, and it is hoped that everyone will appreciate the large amount of very valuable information which they contain.

Mrs. Hazelton, Junior, greeted her husband with a puzzled expression on her face as he came in to dinner. "Oh, Will, I am so glad you've come," she exclaimed, "I am afraid two of my hens are sick; they won't come off their nests to eat or anything, and when I took one of them out she made such a funny noise and just laid still."

Her husband laughed unfeelingly, "What a dear little greenhorn you are," he said, "I expect they're cluck—broody—you know what I mean—want to set."

"Well, I never," was the rather awed response; "fancy it being that. Whatever shall I do?"

"Do?" and Will laughed louder than ever. "Why, put thirteen eggs under 'em, only give me my dinner first. I believe I could eat that number right now."

Margaret dished up the tempting dinner in silence, thinking deeply.

"Well," she said at last, "one of them has got six or seven eggs under her already, and pretty dirty they are too, looks like several had been broken there. Now I wonder if I made it up to thirteen if that would be all right? Well, thank goodness, Mother's letter will come today. Will dear," she added coaxingly, "don't you think I could have Frisky and go and get the mail myself? I don't know what I would do if Billy forgot to call for it."

"No, you sure couldn't," was the hasty reply. "She would frisk you all over the section, if you met an auto-

more regular temperature there, too, than in the dining room or kitchen, and the cellar is inclined to be damp. Of course, a special room built for the purpose is best, but a little-used room does almost as well. There will be no smell from the lamp if you clean it and trim it once a day the same as you do your ordinary lamps. Give your incubator a thorough good scrubbing with hot water and a little carbolic soap, leave the door wide open to dry and sweeten. The next day, close the door, light the lamp in the machine and sit down and study your book of directions carefully. Now, don't say you are afraid you can't manage it, they are so simple a child can understand them, but naturally anyone like yourself who has never even seen one at work cannot expect to have quite such big hatches as an old, old woman like me, for instance."

Margaret smiled to herself, as she called to mind the face of her husband's mother.

"I believe you are one of those women who never get old," she murmured, scanning once more the closely written pages.

"Now place your incubator tray on the kitchen table, and get your last two or three days' supply of eggs laid out there too. Pick them out very carefully, only the very best of them, no rough or uneven shelled ones, and no very large or very small ones. Mark them with an X on one side and the date they are to come off on the other,

### CO-OPERATIVE BEEF RINGS

The problem of obtaining fresh meat during the summer months is one which confronts every farmer. Salt meat, principally pork, is very largely used, but this soon becomes unappetising and the prospect of fried salt pork day in, day out is not conducive to pleasant anticipations of meal times, to say the least. It is said that the way to a man's heart is thru his stomach and whether or not this be true, it is certain that the efficiency of men on the farm working out in the open all day long would be greatly assisted by a change in diet occasionally. It is quite possible for fresh meat to be available on farms wherever a few cattle are kept and if the proper use is made of the co-operative spirit, much good will result. The Guide has published in past years full instructions as to the formation of beef-rings and space will not permit at this time a repetition of this material. Any farmers who are interested can obtain complete information necessary to organize a beef-ring by writing to the Director Co-operative Organization, Department of Agriculture, Regina, Sask., for Bulletin No. 42. This bulletin contains additional information on community breeding associations, seed growing centres, and co-operative egg circles and is one which every progressive farmer in the West might profitably read.

mobile, but I will spare you Maud for once."

"Oh, Maud," and she shrugged her shoulders, "isn't she rather slow?"

"You bet she is," grinned her husband, "but she's sure, and she only horse I would trust my precious wife with."

Margaret at last agreed, and shortly afterwards Will went to fetch the old mare, while his wife put on her prettiest dress, for it was quite an event going to town, all by herself for the first time.

She arrived safely, and hastily securing her letters turned into the Rest Room recently started in the town.

"It's no good, I simply can't wait until I get home," she said to herself, "I must just skim them thru." And comfortably ensconcing herself in one of the big rocking chairs, she began on her Mother's letter first.

"My dear daughter—I am going to start right into business and tell you all about myself at the end of the letter if there is time. I am sure by now you will be getting quite used to my Biddies, and begin to know them one from the other. I have been wondering whether Will has shown you the incubator yet. It is stored away in the attic. If not, I want you to ask him to get it down for you, and fix it up for you in my little parlor, opening out of your dining room. I always run it in there, it is so handy, and I like to be able to watch it. It is a

and when your tray is full place it in the machine, and close the door very gently. Do nothing but fill and trim your lamp every morning, and keep your thermometer at 102 for 48 hours. After this you will have to turn the eggs once every day. If the weather is hot and dry draw a piece of flannel dipped in warm water over the eggs before and after turning them, but you need not do this in showery weather. You should really read your little book of directions every day during your first hatch. You know you must not mind taking a little time and trouble over this business, as you will find the money come in so very handy by and bye.

"Now with the setting hens you will have to go to work a little differently. North of the house you will find an old granary. It has only the earth for a floor and that is why I always use it for a setting-house, and it always answers fine. It is nearly dark in there and the broody hens like semi-darkness at such times, and eggs of any kind always hatch better from an earthen floor than any other way. With your ever-useful handle-less hoe scrape a little hole in the corner of the granary (you can increase your nests all along the four walls as time goes on) about two inches deep and twelve inches square. Line it with nice fresh hay and make it nice and comfy, and put four or five china eggs in it. Put a jam pail full of cracked corn or whole sound wheat in