

POULTRY YARD

We Want Eggs This Winter

(Continued From Last Week)

5. No matter how well we can qualify in the foregoing points, let our pullets be from a good laying strain, and healthy stock, hatched at the right time and kept growing and vigorous. If they are not kept healthy after they go into winter-quarters, they are not likely to produce many eggs during the cold months. In this country, where hens are long and severe, it requires attention to keep hens in the best of health. If the pullets, however, have gone into their winter quarters in a good thriving condition, the poultryman, under ordinary conditions, should keep them so.

Plenty of fresh air and exercise during the day, with comfortable, well-ventilated quarters at night, are no small factors in continuing the healthy condition of the laying pullets throughout the winter.

So-called egg-producing food of a stimulating nature, may have their place in some flocks, but I would prefer not to be obliged to depend on them. The poultryman also should be fond of hot mash—especially where hens are housed in cold quarters. Neither of these are necessary to health, and, in fact, are usually detrimental.

6. Just what is the ideal food for laying hens. I am not prepared to say. This is where the judgment of the feeder must come in. We hear a good deal about "balanced rations" for our laying hens—in fact some writers make it so complicated that no person but a chemist can understand what to feed. Don't let such writers scare you. The easiest way out of the difficulty is: Let the hen balance her own rations. Give her a variety of good, wholesome food in food and you may have no doubt that the hen will make a wise choice.

In the artificial conditions in which hens are placed during the cold months, it is, of course, necessary to supply certain elements in the food; for instance; the grit, the lime in the oyster-shell, the animal food in the beef-scrap, or milk, the green food in the vegetables. Keep up the appetite of the hen by giving her this variety of food. Don't be afraid of giving her too much—you cannot over-feed a laying hen.

SYSTEM OF FEEDING

The system of feeding is, to a certain extent, important. There are so many systems, however, that one need not be at a loss to find a method, or a combination of methods, which suit conditions. The method used at Macdonald College is a combination of the hopper system and feeding in the litter. In the hopper is placed dry bran, which insures a regular supply of food to the hens at all times. I do not like to see a hen going to bed hungry—especially on cold nights her crop should be full. She then can the better stand the low temperature. This hopper, as well as a small hopper containing grit, oyster-shell and beef-scrap, is

accessible at all times. Once a day, between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, a liberal allowance of mixed grain is thrown into the litter. The hens scratch for this, fill up their crops before retiring, and, when morning comes, there is still sufficient grain left in the straw to keep them scratching until the next feed in the afternoon.

The advantages of this system are twofold. The grain in the litter encourages the fowl to exercise, which is very essential, and, as they prefer the whole grain to the bran, they will scratch for the latter as long as there is any grain left. Should the supply be exhausted before they are fed again, they go to the hopper, and need never be very hungry.

The quantity we feed to each hen varies. Some hens eat more than others. Hens eat more days than they do others. The only standard we have is the standard of the hen's capacity. We like to keep a little grain in the litter, so that if a hen is hungry she is not discouraged by scratching and not getting anything. On the other hand, if there is too much left in the litter, she gets it too easily, fills up too quickly and does not require to scratch for it. Let her have then all that she will scratch for, and, when she gets too lazy to scratch for her living, reduce her rations.—F. C. E.

A Proper House

If we want eggs in the winter, and have the stock and the feed, it is also necessary to have a proper house. By a proper house, I mean (a) a house in the first place that is dry. Damp houses never hold healthy stock. (b) A house with plenty of ventilation but without drafts. During the day the house should be opened up, so that the hens can get in and out as they please. Let them enjoy an atmosphere as fresh as out-doors. (c) Don't put on double-windows in the house. It requires to be warm in the house. It but adds to the humidity. Open up the windows, give the house a chance to become pure, and, no matter how cold the house is, if the air is pure and dry, the hens will not suffer.

At night, especially in the extreme cold, have a curtain to drop down before the roosts to give them an extra cover. (d) The house need not be expensive. A cheap house, simply constructed, so that it will be easily cleaned, without drafts, gives the best results.—F. C. E.

Annual Meetings at Winter Fair

All meetings, unless otherwise specified, will be held in the northwest wing of the City Hall, Guelph, (upstairs), opposite the council chamber.

Western Ontario Poultry Association—Thursday, December 10th, at 1:30 p.m.

American Leicester Breeders' Association—Tuesday, December 8th, at 7 p.m.

Ospington Club of Canada—Wednesday, December 9th, at 10 a.m.

Canadian Barred Plymouth Rock Club—Wednesday, December 9th, at 1:30 p.m.

Canadian Game and Game Bantam Association—Queen's Hotel, Guelph, Wednesday, December 9th, at 2 p.m.

Canadian White Plymouth Rock Club—Wednesday, December 9th, at 3:30 p.m.

Canadian White Wyandotte Club—Thursday, December 10th, at 10 a.m.

Turkey and Waterfowl Club of Canada—City Hall, Guelph, Thursday, December 10th, at 10 a.m.

Three Don'ts For Turkey Breeders

In my eight years of turkey raising, we find there are three don'ts we must observe. These are:

First—Don't over-feed the parent stock, or the little ones.

If the breeders are too fat, they will not lay nearly so many eggs and the eggs are apt to have rough or soft shells. An over-fat hen will likely break her eggs when sitting. If we over-feed the little ones, it spoils their digestion and causes bowel trouble.

Second—Don't inbreed.

We always introduce new blood into our flock at least every two years, and sell all the pullets the first year. In this way our birds are not related, and we never have any little, puny turkeys, as there are sure to be if we carry the lines too close.

Third—Don't allow lice or mites in the flock. Commence fighting them when you set the hen. Dust her well with insect powder. When she is done dusting, I grease her back with lard and sulphur. When the little ones are three days old, I dust them, and I am particular to get the powder among their little wing quills on the outside of the wings, as the quill lice, as we call them, are the first to make their appearance.—The Standard.

Indigestion in Turkeys

What can I do for indigestion in turkeys?—Mrs. Leish, Richmond, Ont. Que.

Give a dose of epsom salts, two teaspoonfuls to a grown bird. Give in water, or rub up your food directly into the mouth.—F. C. E.

Sitting Incubator Now

Do you think that it would pay you to start my incubator now so as to have early chicks to sell as broilers?—D. H. Hastings, Ont.

No. Unless you have a good brooder house or even then it may be doubtful.—F. C. E.

Short Courses in Poultry

Where are short poultry courses given that one could attend this winter?

You might write Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont.; Macdonald College, Guelph, Ont.; University of Guelph, Truro, N. S. I am not sure whether or not the Winnipeg College offers one.—F. C. E.

A New Poultry Paper.—We have received the first copy of "The Standard, the Poultry World Bi-weekly," printed at Quinly, Ill. The first appearance gives promise of an up-to-date poultry

paper, made up in the neat, attractive style characteristic of the editor, Mr. Frank C. E. The first class of the poultry division at Ottawa. Mr. Fare will be remembered by many, and he has the best wishes of his Canadian friends.—F. C. E.

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