

Efficient Poultry Production in War Time

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We have come to realize that without an adequate food supply for the allied nations now at war our cause will be seriously endangered. The food problem has long since become so acute that increased production of foodstuffs is now of vital importance. The need for an adequate supply of poultry meat and eggs is common knowledge, since the per capita consumption of these products increased annually in pre-war times and the consumption has been stimulated during the war through the substitution of poultry meat and eggs for the beef and pork. In the Province of Quebec the question deserves the most serious consideration, since by far the larger part of the eggs and considerable quantities of the poultry meat consumed are imported from Ontario and the Middle Western States.

As the question of food supply becomes more and more acute the efficiency of the various domestic animals as human food producers will be taken more and more into consideration. Since it is imperative that Quebec produce more of her own requirements in poultry meat and eggs, and since the domestic fowl, under certain conditions, will produce human food more economically than most other classes of live stock, therefore, it is to be expected that farmers will give their flocks better attention and that people in the villages, towns and cities will keep poultry. These are the two important factors which should make for an increased supply of poultry meat and eggs. Rather than ask the average farmer to increase his flock materially, although he could well afford to keep one hundred hens annually, we do expect him to manage his flock so that it will produce to the maximum. The farmer who will not give his fowls the necessary attention shirks an important responsibility in the present crisis. The greatest increase in the number of fowls in the Province should take place on the village, town and city lots. There are thousands of such lots in Quebec able to accommodate thousands of fowls, the products from which would do much toward helping Quebec to feed herself as well as others.