

sore part of the shoulder. I have done this for 15 years, and never have any horses with a sore shoulder, and work as many as 14 head in seeding time, but I always watch their shoulders, especially in hot weather, that is the time when they will get cold by doing extra work. After the horses are unharnessed in the evening just strip their shoulders with your hand, and if there is anything there which should not be there, get cold water and wash it good and clean. It will pay you big for such a little extra work. I never used grease of any kind to put on sore shoulders.

WINTER EGG PRODUCTION

By Prof. W. A. Brown Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Canada

Winter egg production is one of the phases of the poultry industry on which much has been written and much been said, but one, nevertheless, in which much practical work remains to be done in order to bring the standard of production up to what might reasonably be expected.

It is not the purpose of this article to go into the subject in detail, but rather to point out and duly emphasize some of the more important features underlying the subject as a whole.

The chief essential in the production of winter eggs is to possess good stock, and by good stock is meant, strong, hardy, healthy, vigorous, pure bred pullets that have reached maturity before the cold weather comes in the fall of the year. This implies that these birds must

drink. This causes the interior of a tightly closed poultry house to become very humid, and in cold weather the walls and ceiling become frosted. This also has a direct bearing on the frosting of the birds themselves.

Dampness must be eradicated. Two methods are in common use, (a) the use of the straw loft; this consists in placing a thick layer of straw on poles or rough lumber placed at intervals on the collar beams. This plan, of course, is better adapted to square or hip roofed houses than to shed roof houses. (b) The use of the cotton or open front houses. Many people are of the opinion that the cotton front houses are colder than those having many windows. This is an erroneous idea. It has been proven without doubt, that glass is a more excellent conductor of heat than cloth. Thin cotton or burlap allows the moisture in the house to pass through, and brings about an equalization of outside and inside humidity, and while no doubt the temperature in an open or cotton front house may be lower, than in a closed house, it is common knowledge that any medium will freeze more quickly in a damp cold atmosphere than in one which may be colder but drier.

The second consideration in a good house is ventilation. Poultry in order to thrive and retain the vitality essential to the production of winter eggs must have an abundance of fresh air.

The third consideration in a good winter laying house is that it be well lighted and permit of plenty of sunshine within. Windows should do this, but in the average farm poultry house, they are so dirty, so covered with cobwebs, that but little bright light penetrates the



A fine group of young Holsteins.

have been hatched early, kept separate from the old stock during the summer, and given every possible opportunity to thrive and grow.

It takes from five to six months for the average pullet of the general purpose varieties to mature. Under suitable conditions they will grow at the rate of a pound a month, and thus to have pullets laying the latter part of November it is necessary to have them hatched not later than the twentieth of May. From the middle of April to the middle of May is the best time to hatch stock for winter egg production.

The pullets should be carefully selected and placed in their winter quarters early in October. It takes them, as a rule, a month or more to become fully accustomed to their new surroundings. In classifying stock for winter production pullets should never be placed in the same pens with hens, and the late-hatched pullets in pens with those more matured. For best results only those should go together in the same pen that are of the same size, age and maturity.

The second essential in the production of winter eggs is a good poultry house. At the present time there is more agreement among poultrymen on the principles of house construction than on type, in fact type is still in a state of evolution.

A good winter laying house must be dry. Dampness in any form, whether emanating from outside sources or from within, seriously impairs the vitality of the stock and directly affects production. Fowls are anatomically different from other farm animals, in that they exhale from the lungs, in the form of vapor, a large proportion of the water that they

depths within. The cotton front on a hinged frame, opened on all bright days, overcomes this difficulty and affords the birds the opportunity to fluff their feathers and dust themselves in the dry earth and litter on the floor.

A fourth highly important consideration is that the house be clean and sanitary. Poultry may lay in a dirty house, provided other conditions are right, but it is evident from the present condition of the product that a campaign of sanitation and cleanliness is necessary in the poultry business. Fowls delight in a clean, dry, well-lighted, well-ventilated house, and it pays to cater to their desires in this respect.

Other features to be considered in the production of winter eggs are good feed (well fed), good management and plenty of suitable exercise.

Experience has shown that as great egg production can be secured by a judicious use of the simple home grown feeds as by the purchase and use of many of the higher priced feeds; provided that the fowls have the necessary vitality and maturity.

The hard grains, wheat, corn, oats, buckwheat, etc., and their by-products, have been and no doubt will continue to be the staple poultry foods. They may be used singly or together as desired, but the fact that variety is important should not be overlooked.

Meat food in some form is necessary. Beef scrap, fish scrap, meat meal, raw meat, green cut bone or milk are used, and of these, experiment has shown that none give more satisfactory results than buttermilk, or sour skim milk.

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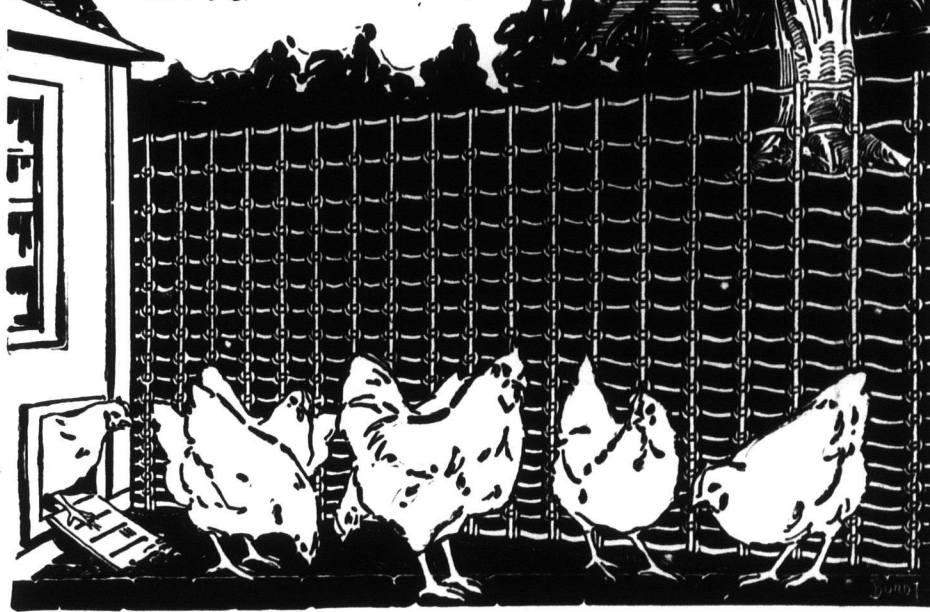
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