

## POULTRY YARD

### Success with Poultry

J. Marcy, Simcoe Co., Ont.

Because she is looked upon as of small account the hen is being neglected on many farms. She is being allowed to fall behind all other branches of farm work. All other branches of farm husbandry are kept to the front, new blood is added to the stock; new implements and methods are constantly being introduced to secure better results. Not so with the poultry business.

The hen is one of the farmer's best money getters, if she is given half a chance, or a small portion of the care that is bestowed upon the various other branches that do not give near as much profit as the plain hen. A comfortable house on a dry site, is essential. Roosts should be arranged so as to give plenty of room, and should be cleaned every day; market gardeners know the face value of poultry droppings. Arrange the wire downs so as to prevent fowls from roosting in a draught.

Stock must be pure bred, healthy, active and vigorous. You cannot gain either size or eggs by cross-breeding. In feeding, avoid all cold sloppy feeds. If you want eggs give the necessary elements and you will get the eggs. You do not feed a cow for to obtain milk and expect to dress her for beef. It is the same with the hen, feed for eggs and you get them, feed for market and you have market fowl. Growing chicks which are making flesh, bone and muscle and feathers at the same time, must be fed a varied diet of nourishing food. Cold water mixtures are poison and especially so when fed exclusively.

Cleanliness is a vital necessity and to neglect it will quickly undo all your efforts. Fowls cannot breathe a vitiated atmosphere continually at night and keep healthy. Lice and vermin result from neglect to keep the poultry house in proper condition. The stamina of your flock always should be your object. Always select your best, build up, not down, keep a record of your layers, so you will know what to breed from. By carefully selecting your eggs to hatch, you soon build up a uniform flock and this will be increased wonderfully.

### A Settin' Hen

When a hen is bound to set, Seems as though 'taint celtit, 'Dowin' her in 'water till She's connected with a chill, Seems as though 'twas skuraley right 'Givin' her a dreadful fright, 'Tyn' rags around her tail, 'Poundin' on an old tin nail, Chasin' her around the yard, Seems as though 'twas kinder hard 'Hein' kicked and slammed and shoosed 'Cause she wants to raise a brood. I sh'd say it's gettin' gay, Jest 'cause natur' wants its way While ago my neighbor Penn Started bustin' up a hen; Seems to yank her off the nest, Hen, though, made a peck and jest Grabbed his thumb nail good and stont, Liked to yank the darn thing out of Penn, he twitched away and then Tried again to grab the hen, But, by ginger, she has spunk, 'Cause she took and nipped a punk 'Big's a bean right out his palm; Swallowed it, and cool and calm Listed up and yelled, 'Oah-dah,' Sounded like she said, 'Hoo-rah!' Waal, sir, when that hen done that Penn he bowed, took off his hat, Spunk jest suits him, you can bet— 'Set,' says he, 'darn ye, set!'

### In Favor of Hopper Feeding

Many farmers contend that chickens are largely destructive to grain crops. By means of the hopper system of feeding, Prof. W. R. Graham of the O.A.C. has overcome this trait of the hen so annoying to the farmer. Chickens kept in the College orchard last summer that had been taught to eat out of the hopper from the time they were hatched did not bother the tomatoes or touch the strawberries among which they roamed. They apparently did not find out that these fruits were good to eat.

One side of the hopper used at the college contains a mixture of wheat and corn. On the other side, in one compartment is beef scraps and in the other a dry mash.

### Rice as a Poultry Food

Of what value is rice as a food for fowl, as compared with other grain? Is it a desirable food for growing chickens or as an egg producer?—Reader, Port Kella, B.C.

Rice is not generally used as a poultry food; it may be on account of price, but also because of its lack of protein, an element so desirable in poultry foods. In every 100 pounds of rice has only 4.8 lbs. of protein while buckwheat has 7.7 lbs., oats 9.2 lbs., and wheat 10.2 lbs.

As a chick food it is often used as an astringent, but it is always boiled. When chicks are afflicted with bowel trouble well boiled rice fed in small quantities will sometimes eliminate the trouble.

### The Hens Won't Lay

Have a cement hen house 18 x 20 ft. in which we keep 70 hens. They are all in healthy condition, are very red in comb. They eat a variety of grain, clean water, and very often skim milk or sweetened milk. They are mostly barred plymouth rocks, and are not old hens, but do not lay. They did not lay at all in winter, and only started the latter end of March. We have never got over two dozen a day yet. It is a sunny corner, and are always so hungry. Do you think the cement house has anything to do with them not laying in winter?—Perplexity, Huron Co., Ont.

I can only surmise what the difficulty may be. They may be lousy. Give them a good dusting of insect powder or dry sulphur. See that the house is clean and disinfected. The

fact that they are mopy may point to indigestion or liver trouble, but as you do not say that any have died, it is probably not this. You probably do not feed enough. 70 hens would take from four to six quarts of mixed grain a day besides scraps, green food, etc.

The cement house would only affect the birds if it were damp. If the house is dry and well ventilated it should make no difference how it is made. First see that the hens are free from lice and have the house clean. Change the feed somewhat and give each hen a dose of epsom salts, about ½ of pound to the flock. Let them out onto a run of grass and if they are healthy and still won't lay I'd kill them and get another strain.—F.C.E.

The Government of British Columbia has recently purchased a special edition of 4,000 copies of Prof. Edward Brown's Danish report of poultry societies in Denmark. Mr. Brown who is one of the first poultry experts in England is author of several valuable reports including report of the poultry industry in America, which was published a year ago. He has made a study of poultry conditions throughout Europe and his Danish report should be one of much value to the poultrymen of Canada.

### Points

Hens don't lay because they have to. They lay because they want to.

A pound of poultry can be grown at less cost than a pound of beef, and is worth more.

Too much glass makes a coop cold at night during the winter months and warm during the summer months.

It is best to build the poultry houses during the spring or early summer, for then they have time to dry out during the hot days.

Whatever you do the coming season make it a hard and fast resolve to provide shade for the growing chicks. If you have no trees, plant corn or sunflowers.

Middlemen destroy the profits of poultry keeping for the producer. Keep as close to the consumer as circumstances will permit and thereby reap all the profits possible.

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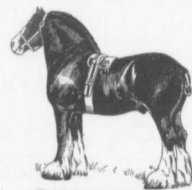
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