

bone, we are able to produce chickens for market purposes that have, on an average, well covered breast bones.

BREEDING FOR EGG PRODUCTION.

Can the egg yield be increased by breeding from the best producers, or is one just as likely to get as many eggs from any strain, family or breed, provided the birds are strong and vigorous, and hatched at the proper season of the year?

The writer's experience is that there is a difference between families of the same breed or variety as far as egg production is concerned. Some families appear to lay much more readily than others, and a few families that have come under my observation require very careful attention and feeding in order to get a reasonable egg production.

The question naturally arises as to what number of eggs should be expected from a hen. The average over the Province is probably under 100 eggs per hen per year, and many of the good flocks do not average above 120 eggs per hen. Much, of course, depends upon the season of the year in which the eggs are laid. There is an over production of eggs during March, April and May, and an under production during October, November, December, January and February. The writer believes it is within the possibilities of most farmers to produce from 108 to 120 eggs per year from each hen kept, and it is also his opinion that large flocks may be expected to yield 150 eggs per year if well bred, and proper care and attention be given. Many small flocks will probably average much higher, but not in flocks of from 600 to 1,000. A dozen hens might be selected that would lay from 180 to 200 eggs each for one year, but with 500 or 600 similar hens or pullets it would be a very difficult task.

Good, strong, vigorous birds are essential for egg production. The simple fact that a hen has laid 200 or more eggs in her pullet year is not sufficient to warrant her being used as a breeder. The writer has seen a number of 200 egg hens with long narrow heads and sunken eyes, which indicate low vitality, and, moreover, has tested a number of them as breeders, and has yet to see one that was worth while breeding from, judging from the performance and living powers of her offspring.

A hen used for breeding, especially for the production of males to head the breeding pens the next season, should not only be expected to lay a large number of eggs per year, but these eggs should be high in hatching power, and the chicks should live, and, furthermore, they should develop into good sized birds quickly, and the pullets should lay well. Perhaps it might be well to give here the method that is used by us in breeding from selected layers.

The hen is required to be a good winter layer, and to lay at least 150 eggs in her pullet year. The next requirement is that her eggs hatch well—that is, it is expected that over 80 per cent. of the eggs will be fertile, and 90 per cent. of the fertile eggs will hatch. It is then re-