

week will help to stimulate your hens to better egg records.

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The White Leghorn and barred Plymouth Rocks are now considered to be the most popular breeds on the poultry forms of the United States. The Leghorn is especially the money-maker for farmers who depend more on the sale of eggs than of fowls for their profits.

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To secure the most profitable hens breed as far as possible from the best layers, most hens are from 30 to 37 hours in developing an egg. By careful attention it is believed a strain can be developed that will do the work in 24 hours. This is the desire of a good many up to date breeders of the utility hens, and the effort is being urged upon the farmers to attempt to bring about and produce the 200 eggs a year business, hence it is already claimed to have been done by several breeders.

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### STARTING A FLOCK

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This is the time of the year where many are thinking of starting a laying flock of hens or reinvigorating an old flock by the introduction of new blood. It is a good time to do this as the spring hatched chickens are of sufficient size and so well and fully feathered as to show clearly what kind of hens they will make and breeders are now anxious to sell before cold weather sets in and the heavier requirements of winter feeding come upon them. If you have no hens or only a few old scrubs which you have decided to kill off, then the first question that naturally arises is what breed should be bought. If the object is eggs and eggs alone, then you cannot go wrong in buying Leghorns, White or Brown. With these you will never be troubled with setting hens but you must make up your mind to fence your garden not merely with a four feet fence but with one at least six feet high, if you intend to keep the hens out of it, or you must have your hen house so far away from the garden that they will seldom come near it. They are the most active breed of fowls and are always on the move. As a consequence of this alertness, if the range is large they will provide themselves during the greater part of the year with very much of the food they require and seldom become too

fat to lay. Their close plumage and compact form also conduce to hardiness and they seldom suffer from cold. Their weak point is their small size if wanted for the table. As egg producers however, they are probably unequalled, and their eggs, though not so large as those of some other breeds, are yet large enough to sell readily on the market for a full price. If the object is eggs and broilers, then I would say buy Plymouth Rocks, Brahas, or Wyandottes. These breeds are all large, heavy ones. They are of a continued restful disposition and require only a very low fence to confine them. They are good layers and good setters but their setting propensities somewhat interfere with the quantity of eggs they will produce, but this is compensated for, if chickens are wanted, by the fact that with any of these breeds, you have chickens almost at any time of the year for they have been known to set in the fall of the same year they were hatched, and to have chickens running with them at Christmas. While they are hardy, they are not so little affected by cold as Leghorns, as their quiet disposition leads them to neglect that exercise wards off the effect of the cold. They should have warm quarters in winter and they will then lay when most other breeds are resting. If you have already a flock of good hens then all you need is the introduction of new blood. In making a selection of a rooster never buy anything but a pure bird of whatever breed you fancy. In this way, if you do not buy of the same breed as the hens, you will nevertheless get good blood and not breed scrubs, but merely cross bred birds. Many of these cross bred fowls are amongst the best layers that can be kept. A cross between the Plymouth Rocks and Leghorns makes excellent layers and table fowls. The cross should be made by running a Leghorn male with the Plymouth Rock hen. A cross of Games and Leghorns is a good one. They are good layers, the hens will set, and the chickens make good broilers. The male should be a large Game, say the Indian Cornish Game.

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### OCTOBER

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The month of October is the one where the early hatched pullets should begin to lay and this should be forwarded by careful attention and good feeding. The weather is now growing colder and every precaution should be taken to guard against disease.