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Spring Poultry Work and Pointers

By M. C. Harmer, Professor of Poultry Husbandry, Manitoba Agricultural College

The demand for pure bred males for breeding purposes and eggs for hatching has been heavier this year than ever before, which goes to show that the poultry industry is in a healthy condition. One word of advice. Fifty chickens properly cared for will be worth more than one hundred poorly looked after. Don't overdo it. Hatching as many as you can raise well, and put on the market in good shape next fall.

Which breed is the best? Some day when we get older and know a little more about poultry we'll tell you. Until then you will have to keep on experimenting with different breeds or else give the breed you have a little better care and attention.

One lady writes in for white Plymouth rock eggs for hatching, saying, "They are the best breed, but they are scarce around here, so would like to know where I could get some eggs." Another lady poultry breeder is highly incensed because her favorite breed, the Houdan, were not given the position of being the one and only breed that is worth keeping, and they have not only the good qualities of all breeds, but at the same time also not poor qualities—the very zenith of perfection as it were. And so they go on, each one claiming that his or her own special bird is the best—which may be true, providing "you do not take in too much territory."



PROFESSOR HARMER

number of complaints have come in giving the following symptoms, i.e., dullness, ruffled feathers, eyes closed, bird staggering, almost helpless. This is invariably starts in the afternoon, and towards evening the bird gets worse. By nightfall she improves again, and may probably be sufficiently recovered to be able to get on the roost. The next day this hen is likely to lay. The reason for this condition is feeling heavily on soft manure, boiled potatoes or other stimulating foods. Lack of green food and fresh air appear to make conditions even worse. Artificial conditions such as a long continued winter also contribute their share towards the trouble. When this ailment is noticed the stimulating foods should be dropped from the ration and hard grains fed exclusively. Also provide green food and try and get the hens outside by opening the poultry house door and throwing straw or litter on the snow so the hens can get out. This sickness is most common just before the winter breaks up completely.

At Hatching Time

Hatching season is now well on, the very late this year. Now is the time to take those pullets which laid last winter, separate them and keep their eggs for hatching. This is the easiest way to select for improving farm egg production. Early hatches this year are not nearly so successful as last, owing to the late winter. You should have all the chicks hatched you will require this year by June 15. The early hatched chicken will make the best winter layer. As much as possible use 2-year-old hens for hatching, or hens that have hatched chickens before. The young or unfired hen is apt to huddle down too close to the eggs at hatching time and crush the chicks to death right in the shell.

By testing out the eggs the ninth day you may be able to double up and put the fertile eggs under fewer hens and reset the others again. A hen, if properly looked after, will stay with it for six weeks.

In setting hens they should be removed to another building if at all possible, and the room where they are set should be darkened by hanging of brown bags over the windows. Try out the hen with one or two laid eggs for a few days, then if she is all right put in the other eggs.

Poor Advice too Common

The other day I had occasion to look over some advice given on feeding chicks which, if followed to any great extent, would put the majority of our farm poultry raisers out of business. Book learning is all right in its place, but, personally, we believe very strongly in the principles of experience. In these special instructions given on feeding chicks were mixed articles that are not procurable in this country at all, and others again would be so high priced that the farmer could never afford to buy them and feed them as directed. The directions may be all right for certain localities, but as far as the West and a new country is concerned they are out of the question entirely. The practicability, the usefulness, and the real value of a thing is what we should have in mind when giving instructions in any line of work. But in poultry work probably more than in anything else there is a tendency for an inexperienced hand to give out information or to try and learn the business out of books. The error of the poultry business today is that every Tom, Dick and Harry is trying to give advice, even if he does not know a pointer from a hen. Our extensive poultry breeders who have made an attempt at large scale poultry keeping and found it unprofitable will substantiate the above statement. Had these "would-be" poultry raisers gone three

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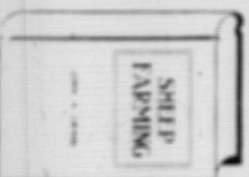
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SHEEP FARMING

By JOHN A. CRAIG

One of the results of the war will be to give a great impetus to sheep raising. The Government has made it a point to encourage the raising of sheep by the establishment of a special department of sheep raising. The Government has also made it a point to encourage the raising of sheep by the establishment of a special department of sheep raising. The Government has also made it a point to encourage the raising of sheep by the establishment of a special department of sheep raising.



Book Dept., The Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

\$1.60

Cramps or Rheumatism?

This spring there has been considerable trouble with what some term cramps or rheumatism in laying hens. This is doubtless due to the long continued winter weather. This complaint is found more frequently in pullets than in hens. Usually the bird is only temporarily disabled. Quite a large

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