

Hens in Winter

Written for The Western Home Monthly by E. Ferguson, Port Arthur, Ont.

If farmers would only give the hens a little more care they would make him rich and that in a short time.

Eggs sell at fifty or sixty cents a dozen in the winter and spring, so let us see if we cannot get the hens to lay all winter. First, let us look at the hen house; it must face south or south-east, and be in a sheltered place. I built my henhouse with two ply of lumber and tarred felt. If you leave an air space between the lumber it will be good and warm even in coldest winter. Put windows in the south side to within fifteen inches of the floor. These will light and warm the house and help to keep the floor dry. I made a floor to keep out any rats by digging it out to a considerable depth, then I put a layer of pebble stones, then a layer of broken glass. Any old glass bottles or glass broken into moderate sized pieces, then I levelled up with dry sand. This makes a place for the hens to sun themselves and keeps out all rats. Every morning rake the floor up and sprinkle with sand if you have any. I always keep a pile near, and dry sand will not freeze. A pile of ashes in a corner will add much to the comfort of the hens.

Do not put the perches up very high, two or three feet high is lots high for hens will fight for the highest perch and the strongest will get it. In this way many hens get knocked down and hurt. You will notice, too, that hens always face the windows when they roost.

The droppings from fowls are very poisonous so let us see to the ventilators. One should reach to within three inches of the floor; the bad air always falls to the floor and in this way is drawn off. It will also save the heat made by the solar action by your glass windows. If ice forms around the ventilator in dull, cold weather it will be removed in a few minutes by holding a kerosene light near it and opening the top ventilator. After doing this, you will notice all that damp, chilly sense of feeling is disposed of. See to this often and you will not have any roup in your flock, and you will thereby keep up the egg production. Always make the perches removable so they can be cleaned and the ends dipped into whitewash or carbolic acid water. By doing this insects are kept away easily. Many people would be surprised at the myriads of lice which swarm over birds when they are roosting on roosts not so protected.

Let us have lots of nests or they will fight for possession. About one nest for every three hens is good, if we can have room for so many. Be sure and make them removable so they can be kept free from lice. A good plan is to use nail kegs. Put them on their sides with a stringer three inches wide, against which the open end of the kegs may rest. Take these out and whitewash inside and outside once in a while and you will not be troubled with lice.

Plymouth Rocks are very good layers. Their eggs are small, but very rich in flavor. For table use you will find they have a good supply of meat on the breast. They are very hardy and can be kept on almost any soil. They also make good mothers.

I find Leghorns very good, too, for general purposes. They are a very pretty bird, and a favorite with English people.

I never put a stove in the henhouse as I find they do more harm than good. If you give good substantial food and a large run it will do more good than any artificial heat, however carefully applied. I have wooden shutters I put on the windows on very cold nights. Wash the windows once in a while to let in all the sun you can. Do not overfeed for a fat hen will not lay, but give a change of diet often.

If you will only keep an account book of the cost and gain of your hens kept in this way you will be surprised at the gain they are to you, and will no longer consider the hen as something not worth much trouble.

Horse Talk

Individual excellence is better than a lengthy pedigree.

Viciousness in a horse is usually due to training or association.

Punishing a horse for things he cannot help is one way of ruining him.

The horse weighing about 1,400 pounds is spoken of as the "handy weight".

A team that works in the field all week should never be put on the road Sundays and holidays.

Horses very often lose their eyesight through dust and hayseed falling into their eyes from the loft above.

Five minutes' vigorous work with a rough cloth on a horse's hide after a hard day's work will do him a lot of good.

The small stomach of the horse indicates the impropriety of long fasting. Feed three times a day at all times of the year.

A good pair of draft mares will perform more work on a farm than a light team and at the same time grow a pair of good colts.

If dusty hay is fed, sprinkle with water and it will save the horse much annoyance; but better not feed it at all.

Large-boned but smoothly bred to a good-sized jack of will produce the best mules.

One-third of the success of comes through having good plough, cultivate and market with.

Moderate work is not so but beneficial to mares certainly is better than keep up in the stable or allowing out at large with other mares.

For horses that are being ground grain is better than but when concentrated feed i have some light seed mixed as a divider. Bran, cut hay oat chaff, moistened, will as

A man who will work a sore shoulder and make no



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