

In the Poultry Yard

Poultry Items

Poultry raisers, it will soon be time to commence fattening your old hens and cockerels for market. If you shut them up in coops attend to them properly, and feed them well, you will have no difficulty in disposing of them profitably. Three or four is enough in each coop. Apply sulphur or insect powder as a precaution against lice. I used to feed them on oatmeal mixed with skim milk, wheat, oats and some potatoes. Some people kill them just as they are, but it pays better to fatten them for a few weeks.

It may not be generally known that eggs laid by hens, from which all the cockerels have been separated have a better flavor and keep fresh longer than those where the conditions are reversed. It is a good plan to kill off all the male birds at this season of the year, and buy as many as are required about the first of January. This will save the cost of feeding, change the breed, and insure more vitality in next year's crop of chickens.

We believe that pure-bred Plymouth Rocks are the most profitable fowls. They are good layers, grow very large, lay large eggs and bring in large profits when marketed. Black Minorcas are also good layers.

During the moulting season the fowls should have especial care and attention for the better they are looked after and fed the sooner they will commence to lay again. They should have some meat twice a week at least, iron mashies and plenty of milk and water. Their food should be varied. Some people imagine that because they are not laying, any thing will do to give them life. But this is a great mistake. If we help them to change their clothing they will soon commence to pay us for our trouble.

When "Biddy" is thinly clad and the weather is wet and rainy, she should be housed, for she is liable to catch cold if left outdoors. Yes, it is worth while, for plenty of fresh eggs in winter will mean plenty of money in your pockets.

A. R.

An Educational Poultry Exhibit

In our report of the poultry exhibit at Toronto last session mention was made of the display of the Poultry Division, Ottawa. A more extended description of this display has been sent us, which is given below:

Their purpose was to illustrate the work being done under the direction of the Poultry Division at the different stations throughout the Dominion. These stations are located at Bowmanville and Holmesville in Ontario, at Bondville, Oka and Chicoutimi, Quebec, at Andover, New Brunswick, and at Vernon River Bridge, Prince Edward Island.

The fattening stations heretofore conducted by the Department (about ten in number) have been discontinued, as it was felt that they had served their purpose and that the work of fattening and preparing poultry for the market was now pretty well understood by the farmers and poultrymen themselves. At their exhibit on the grounds, they had models of colony houses and indoor brooders which have given the most satisfactory results at the various stations and among the farmers who have adopted this method of handling poultry.

A fattening crate of good, blocky, Barred Rock chickens of the type desired for fattening purposes was also on exhibition. They had models of shaping boards on which the dressed fowl are shaped and cooled before packing in the shipping cases. Two of these cases packed for the market were on exhibi-

tion in a refrigerator. These illustrate not only the proper method of dressing but also the most acceptable way of packing. There were also shown models of the two different styles of poultry houses illustrating the double house and the single house with the curved roosting places. Two trap nests were also shown. These are designed in such a way as to enable the poultry keeper to keep a record of the egg production of each of his fowls if he so desires. It is not advised that farmers should attempt to keep individual records in this way of all of their laying hens, but that a number of the best from which it is intended to rear chicks should be penned off by themselves and supplied with trap nests and eggs set for hatching purposes only from the best laying fowls.

At one of the stations a record was kept of the lay of twelve pullets for one month, and they had on exhibition a basket of 31 eggs, which was the actual product of the six poorest layers and another basket containing 114 eggs which was the actual product of the six best layers. Two of these pullets laid only two eggs each during the month while six of them laid fifteen or more and one of them as many as twenty-seven eggs. It will thus be seen that there is ample room for improvement in the egg production of our farm flocks by the adoption of some system by which the worst may be weeded out and only the best kept for breeding purposes. One interesting feature of their exhibit was five baskets of eggs showing the proper grading of eggs according to color and size. Two of these baskets were from the same hen, heard to remark while visiting the exhibit that they would willingly pay three cents a dozen more for eggs of the sort shown in the basket of selected large brown than for any other basket in the lot and they would pay at least one and a half cents per dozen more for even the small white selected eggs than for the mixed lot of large and small and white and brown eggs. We noticed that this exhibit attracted considerable attention from the farmers, some of whom remarked that they had got more actual good from a visit to this poultry industry exhibit and conversation with Mr. Elford, the genial and energetic chief of the Poultry Division, than from any other feature of the Toronto fair.

A. P. K.

Making Up the Duck Pens

As the autumn shows are now in full swing it will be a good opportunity for intending duck purchasers to buy their stock. As a rule ducks that are much exhibited are unsatisfactory breeders, but good ducks will be on view at the fairs and as the breeder of show birds has plenty more on hand and will be willing enough to take orders for stock from his reserve pens. If the duck pens are made up early in the autumn much dissatisfaction will be avoided.

The drakes will have settled their differences of opinion and will be all happily settled down before eggs are required. Weatherproof houses of some sort must be arranged and the ducks taught to go into them at night. When the weather becomes really stormy, they must be accustomed to being shut in. They may be packed quite close together and will not suffer for it in the way chickens do. The front of the houses should be made of wire, so that they have plenty of fresh air, as they will keep each other very warm indeed. The floor must be made of wood and be covered with litter. The heat of

the ducks' bodies resting on the earth seems to draw up the moisture and the duck quickly becomes rheumatic. Twenty-five ducks is considered by many to be an ideal flock—twenty ducks and five drakes.—A B. C. Poultry Raiser.

36

The Poultry Yard in Hot Weather

Once the "dry days" approach the fowls are very likely to be neglected. The great heat seems to affect them very much and they are not so encouraging to look at. Then the young stock has grown very much and it means heavier burdens in the way of food. At the same time it is just now that it is so important to give them good care. Shade must be arranged, meat provided and a change dust bath ensured. The hot sun must not be allowed to pour down on their thin skulls. The insect supply is much shorter in hot, dry weather, except where they can be sure of securing locusts and grasshoppers. If the dust bath is very dry it will affect the lungs of the birds more especially the young ones and will cause a kind of mechanical pneumonia. If a very little Lyes fluid is added to the washing water and desinater it will be very beneficial to the stock. It is possible to plentifully over the places where the birds are accustomed to dust themselves. It must not, however, be allowed to be in puddles or they will very much prefer it to clean drinking water and will drink it even after it has become sour. It is much the best plan during very hot weather to make a round of the houses in the cool of the evening, rinsing out the drinking vessels with clean water, filling up the feeding troughs with plenty of good oats. Remember that the fowls will never overeat themselves on oats. The meat box may also be filled with beef scraps as this will keep good for an length of time. Grit may be placed ready also, unless there is plenty on the range, and charcoal may be added. Where the fowls are fed on whole grain the charcoal will not be necessary, but it is a great safeguard where mash is fed.

MRS. OCTAVIUS ALLEN,
Ganges Harbour, B.C.

37

Clean Dust Baths

Dust baths are sometimes used as roosts by half-grown chicks, and the fine, dry dirt becomes foul. The yard also becomes very filthy. One can easily and quickly spade and pulverize a space of ground about three or four feet square after every rain to afford a dusting place for the hens. If dust boxes are used they should be emptied once a week and refilled with clean material. As a rule hens can dust freely they will assist themselves in getting rid of lice, and the use of clean, dry dirt is cheap enough for all.

38

Carnecaf a Staple Article

By judicious advertising and by selling a line of goods as good as advertised, the Carnecaf Stock Food Co. have made their business a necessary one to the live stock man. Carnecaf was only put on the market in Ontario a few years ago and yet it is to-day a staple article and used regularly by leading breeders and farmers. At the Toronto fair this staple stock food was carried as part of the supplies at the regular feed barn to meet the requirements of exhibitors who needed it for their stock, and we understand the stock had to be replenished three or four times during the fair, so great was the demand for it.