

be continued until the calf is four months old, or longer if a more profitable method of using the milk is not available. In all cases separated milk should be used sweet, and as fresh as possible from the separator. It is well to remember that cleanliness in the calves' houses, cleanliness in the vessels in which milk is kept, and cleanliness in the methods of calf feeding are essential. Feed frequently with moderate quantities of food, and have everything connected with the feeding kept scrupulously clean.

The Poultry-Yard.

(CONDUCTED BY S. J. ANDRES).

THE HEN OUT OF SEASON.

It is doubtful if its pays to attempt to hatch and raise chicks with hens during the winter season. In the first place, the hen has a will of her own, and does not become broody just at the time most desired. Hens in winter labor under many disadvantages, and cannot undertake the task of hatching a brood except at a risk to themselves. The principal obstacle is the attention required for a hen are than for the chicks, as she is compelled not only to keep warm herself but also to protect her brood. The cost of the food for the hen is also an item, as well as the time lost in not laying. If a number of hens become broody about the same time the cost of the chicks will be much less than when there are only two or three broods, as it requires but little more labor, as well as time bestowed, than for a few. The difficulty is that, as the chicks grow, the space covered by the hen when she is hovering the chicks at night becomes smaller, and some of them consequently become chilled and droop. Hatching with hens in winter should not be attempted without the aid of comfortable coops and runs, which should be under shelter.

THE CURING OF CLOVER HAY FOR POULTRY.

The use of clover hay for poultry has become so popular among poultrymen that I have corresponded with parties who have been using it for years with great success and good results in the

production of eggs in winter. I presented to our readers the following method used by a large breeder of poultry. I give it in his words: "The first thing is to get a field of second crop of clover that is about three or four inches high. Mow it early in the morning, directly after the dew dries and let it lay until the evening; turn it over two or three times during the day.

"Gather it up in the evening and either place it in a small stack, covering it up so the dew will not be allowed to fall upon it or place it in some shed or barns.

"Dry it thoroughly by spreading it in some good place where the sun will strike it. Continue this about three days, until you are positive it is thoroughly cured then place it in the barn. Put it in a stack for about twenty-four hours and you will find it will begin to sweat; turn it over, shaking it up, then allow it to lie about twenty-four hours longer, spread out and let it thoroughly dry. Then run it through a clover-cutter, cutting it from one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch long. After you have cut it let it lie in a pile and examine it occasionally for about thirty-six hours, to see if you find any sweat on it whatever and if you do you must spread it out and dry it again.

"Never allow clover that you are curing to get wet by rain after you have it cut. If you find there is no sweat whatever on it after examining it, you can barrel it up or put it in sacks. You can keep it for two years without it becoming musty or mouldy. In feeding it to your chickens, it should be scalded, or in other words steamed, and it will have the same effect as feeding newly cut clover to them."

Some of our readers may think this method too tedious and troublesome and not worth the labor, but I can assure them that it is a matter which has been talked about and written about and repeatedly questions have appeared in the poultry journals asking how it can be done. The trouble appears to have been that those who have tried to cure it say it would not keep sweet and clean without mildewing and therefore offensive to their birds. But as it only requires a moderate quantity for each flock and the result of feeding clover hay to poultry so satisfactory that I know from personal experience it will be well worth the trouble to prepare each season a good quantity for the birds to use as a bulky food in winter and reduce the grain bill which is a considerable item