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37

Deal with Farm and Dairy Advertisers



### Feeding the Chicks

By F. E. Ellis.

**A**RTIFICIAL incubation is easy; at least we have found it so. It is artificial brooding that calls for the utmost care and it is here that the poultryman registers his heaviest losses. We have never failed to hatch out a good percentage of chickens, but during the first season or two when we were getting our experience with artificial brooding, we paid dearly for the knowledge gained. The method that we have found most satisfactory is one recommended by Prof. W. R. Graham at Guelph. It is a method that calls for care, as the chicks are fed five or six times a day and every ounce of feed that they get must be weighed carefully.

The first day the chicks are in the brooder house they have warm water to drink and grit on the feed board. For the second day and the rest of the first week they are fed six times—at 6.45 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m., and 2, 4, and 6.30 in the afternoon. The first week they get a mash mixed in the following proportions: Two cups bread crumbs, two cups rolled oats, one cup hard boiled eggs and grit on the feed board once a day. The second day of this feeding they are given one quarter of a teaspoon of chick feed in the litter to 60 chicks after each feeding when they have cleaned up their mash. This amount of feed is just about right. They will go after the chick feed so energetically that they will throw the litter a foot or two and there is no surer sign that they are being overfed than when they do not take an interest in the chick feed. This first week they get no milk, but the several drinking fountains are always full of clean water.

The second and third weeks the chicks have sour milk to drink in addition to the water. We give them two feeds a day of the same mash as the first week with the amount slightly increased, but with no chick feed following. Two feeds of chick feed, one and a quarter to one and one-half ounces to 60 chickens, and two feedings of a wet mash, composed of 100 lbs. bran, 100 lbs. low grade flour, 100 lbs. corn meal, 100 lbs. beef scrap and 25 lbs. of bone meal. Fine white middlings may be substituted for the low grade flour, which is not now generally obtainable. At one feeding, the chicks are given all they will eat and in the third week the chicks are fed the same, except that they get all of the mash they will eat twice a day instead of once.

The fourth week we start to hopper feed the chickens and they have rolled oats in front of them all the time. These are not the table rolled oats, such as are used in their mashies the first three weeks, but horse oats or bruised oats. At noon they get a mash crumbly wet of corn meal, rolled oats, middlings and beef scrap, equal parts of each, or where skim milk is fed, one-half part of beef scrap will be sufficient. At night they get chick feed in the litter, all they will clean up. The fifth week this same system is followed, but at six weeks and thereafter they are hopper fed, except for a wet mash at noon. It will not be long before they will be neglecting the wet mash and from then on they are entirely hopper fed, with a choice of rolled oats and a mixture of cracked corn and wheat. Charcoal, fine grit and fine oyster shell are kept before the chicks at all times from the first week on.

If there is any one point that is more important than another it is that perfect cleanliness be preserved

throughout. The litter must be clean and free from dust. We have found that alfalfa or clover leaves make an excellent litter. The drinking ditches are washed and scalded regularly and the angles on which the chicks are fed are never left on the floors longer than it is necessary for the feed to be eaten. If they have not a run of fresh green grass, they are given finely pulped mangels or sprouted oats. They take a lot of enjoyment scratching over the green soda which we cut and throw on the floor of the brooder house. And again let me say—it is absolute regularity and care in weighing rations that makes for successful feeding of small chicks.

### Poultry Facts and Theories

By M. K. Beger.

**T**HERE used to be a theory, and with some it is still believed, that the presence of a small pigeon-sized egg means that that particular hen has laid out her litter and will not begin for some time. That theory has been exploded by the aid of the trap nest. The records in the writer show that on February 17 Brahma hen No. 27 laid a small, pigeon-sized egg; the next day she laid another small egg, but somewhat larger than the one of the day before. Two days later she laid a regular-sized egg, and continued doing so until the 26th of the month, when she laid a double-yolked egg, which proved that both the pigeon-sized and double-yolked eggs are the product of hens that are too fat. This hen in question was very fat.

Meat in some form must be fed poultry. Fowls on free range, especially in an orchard, gather a vast amount of bugs, worms and insects that furnish them all the meat food required. But very few flocks have the advantage of an orchard range and as the majority of flocks are kept in confined quarters, the question of a meat supply must be carefully considered. The great bone outlier has done much in solving this important question, but an injudicious use of green bone has caused troubles in other ways. It developed worms in fowls, and it produced irritabilities in the stock. In young growing stock it caused a too rapid development of the comb and wattles. A fresh meat diet should be given cautiously—not more than an ounce for each hen, and no oftener than every other day. An excellent substitute for green bone is the commercial meat sold by poultry supply houses. Being thoroughly cooked and dried, it is in a safe condition for feeding, and can be safely fed at the rate of 12 to 15 per cent.

While we believe in breeding up for heavy records, at the same time we would rather have our hens average 120 eggs a year, and remain in robust health, than to have their systems drained of vitality in the race to pass the 250 mark. There is a reason in all things. If we are to force our stock ahead to be champion layers, we are going to do it at the sacrifice of something else. What will become of our meat supply if we are going to put all the forces to work on eggs? When we spend our food and attention on the fowl with a view to creating an ideal carcass, do we not make the egg yield suffer? Will not this unnatural flow of eggs tend to cripple fertility and make weak puny chicks? Why not work for both eggs and meat? Why not have a limit? If we can gradually increase the powers of a hen so that she will average 200 eggs a year, we can maintain health and meat qualifications, it is advisable to go ahead. But to build up the one at the expense of the others will eventually produce a delicate race. We want the 200-egg hen if we can get her within reason.

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