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MANITOBA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FEEDING FOR WINTER EGGS

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WHAT to feed and how to feed it, so as to produce eggs, is one of the big questions in keeping hens. The greatest difficulty, in handling most flocks, is to obtain eggs in winter.

This is not as difficult to accomplish as many poultry keepers imagine. Even though weather conditions are severe and unfavorable, with proper feed and the right way of feeding it, a reasonable number of eggs may be secured, even in winter. Feeds and feeding, however, are not the only things that influence egg production. The age and breeding of the birds, the system of housing, and the general care, all play a part. But in this circular we shall confine our attention very largely to the feeds and the feeding, except to state one or two important facts in connection with other factors that influence egg production to a greater or lesser extent.



A Barr'd Rock pullet on the Poultry Plant, Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg. She laid 76 eggs from Sept. 14th to December 14th, 1913, an example of what can be accomplished by feeding and breeding for eggs.

THE KIND OF HEN FOR WINTER LAYING.

Pullets are better layers, as a rule, than yearling hens; and year-old hens are again better than two-year olds. When a hen has reached two years, she is usually not paying for what she eats.

Then, again, some breeds are better adapted for laying than are others, the two ex-

trêmes of which we see in comparing the egg breeds with the meat breeds.

Different strains or families of the same breeds and varieties also present a difference in laying ability; high egg production, in these cases, may be due to special selection and breeding for heavy laying. How to breed and select for heavy laying is a question that affords ample scope for a special bulletin; and, if discussed at all, it should be gone into in detail.