

POULTRY YARD

How to Keep Eggs

The primary principle to be observed in the preservation of eggs is the protection of the interior from contact with the air. The most effective way of doing this is to immerse them in a water solution of sodium silicate, usually known as "water glass." Sodium silicate can be obtained from any druggist at from 45 to 60 cents a gallon. One gallon should be sufficient for about 50 dozen eggs.

Mix one part of the sodium silicate with from 10 to 12 parts of water. Some water glass is so thick that, with this dilution, the eggs will float. In such a case, add enough more water to make them settle to the bottom of the liquid.

SMALL DETAILS BUT IMPORTANT

The only clean water from which the air has been removed by boiling. Be sure that it is cold before mixing it with the water glass.

Pack the eggs in a jar or clean wooden box, and add the preserving solution in sufficient quantity to cover the eggs. No part of the shell should be exposed to the air.

The packed eggs should be kept cool. A cellar is the best place for storing them. Pack only strictly fresh eggs. Stale eggs will not keep for any length of time under any conditions, and they may affect the fresh eggs which are packed with them.

Do not wash eggs before packing them. Washing removes from the shell the mucilaginous coating which

nature provides for their temporary preservation.

RETAIN FRESH FLAVOR

Eggs preserved in this way retain their original fresh flavor perfectly; they are not discolored, the yolk retains its normal consistency for several months.

Other methods of preservation, though less satisfactory in their results, will keep eggs for from three to four months in such condition that they may be used for cooking purposes. A preserving mixture which has given fair results is made up of 31-2 pounds of fresh lime mixed with 3-4 gallons of water, and the whole dissolved in eight gallons of water.

Eggs may also be preserved fairly well for a few months by packing dry in a mixture of equal parts salt and sawdust.—R. M. West.

Exercise for Brooder Chickens

In the rearing of chickens in brooders the best method of feeding is that which will promote exercise, for the tendency with these artificially raised birds is to mope and idle away their time, to eat too much and sleep too much, and to take nearly enough exercise. The value of exercise is that it develops every muscle of the body and promotes rapid and healthy growth. It also keeps up the circulation and causes the chickens to breathe freely and thus to develop the lungs, and, finally, it strengthens the digestive organs and keeps them in order.

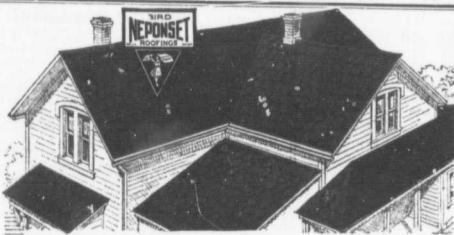
Exercise cannot be taken in the sleeping compartment of the brooder, and the place for it is in the run. This should be ample for the number of chicks. The floor of it should be clean and well littered with a light scratching material, in which the attendant should bury small seeds of various kinds to the end that the chicks may spend most of their time scratching. Probably the best kinds of litter are chaff and hay seeds, together with mill dust and the sweepings of the hay lofts. Most farmers have plenty of such materials at hand, and this is the way to utilize them to advantage. The chicks should be fed largely or entirely on dry stuffs, and every particle of this kind of food should be buried in light litter of the kind described or something similar.—Irish Homestead.

Fowls have Indigestion

I have had several hens die through their food not passing out of the crop. Even when not fed, the crop still remains full and hard. What is the trouble? What should I do?—A. A., Chateaugay Co., Que.

Your fowls are suffering from acute indigestion in the shape of being crop-bound. A despondent and listless state of things. When the obstruction is more obstinate the bird is made to swallow a small quantity of moderately warm milk; then an effort is made by working the crop to bring it made up of food. Half a teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda is administered dissolved in about a table-spoonful of water which often succeeds in causing the food to be thrown up.

If these remedies fail resource may be had to surgical treatment. In that case the food is extracted by means of an incision in the crop, the feathers on the upper right hand side of the crop must be first plucked off. An incision about an inch in length is then made through the skin and membrane of the crop. This makes it very easy to remove the food. A suture is then made, preferably with silk thread, from inside outward, and the seam is smeared with a little lard. The wound heals in eight or 10 days, during which mash should be fed in small quantities.



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