

## Possibilities of the Poultry Business

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had effect on any of the chickens. All that is required is a very simple device by which the natural heat of the chick is retained.

### Hatching under Philo System

The eggs for hatching are used as soon as possible after laying, a week being the longest eggs are kept before putting them in the incubators. By repeated experiments the experts of "The Philo System"



"BLUEBELL"  
First Prize Pullet, Ottawa, 1910  
Third Prize, Brandon, 1910

have found that the more evaporation eggs undergo the harder it is to raise the chickens; thus although it is possible to raise chickens from eggs that are six weeks old, yet the possibilities are that the chickens will never become sturdy fowls. Fairly successful experiments have been conducted in the matter of restoring moisture to aged eggs for hatching, but the vitality of the chickens was always impaired according to the age of the eggs. It has been found also that the lower the temperature eggs can be kept at without freezing the better they will be for hatching, as evaporation increases in a corresponding ratio as the temperature rises above the freezing point. A low temperature does not weaken the fertility of the egg; if too low, however, it kills it outright. The eggs intended for incubation are never kept with the small end down, as it is not their natural position, and after remaining in this position for a considerable length of time the germ floats near the air cell at the large end of the egg and the chick besides being impaired in vitality will not be in a position to free itself from the egg shell without help.

At the end of the first twenty-four hours after the eggs have been placed in the machine the thermometer registers about one hundred and two degrees, and this temperature is maintained as steadily as possible during the first week. The relative position of the eggs are changed from two to three times daily, care being taken that the eggs do not get a chance to cool.

At the beginning of the second week the blood veins should completely encircle the egg near the air cell; should there be a space not covered it would indicate a lack of heat, too much cooling, or a deficiency in the egg. If there is a clear space of a quarter of an inch between the extreme ends of the blood veins, and the egg is not at fault, the defective work of the first week may be partially overcome by carrying the temperature a half degree higher than is best under natural conditions during the remainder of the hatch.

### Winter Quarters

Climatic conditions differ to such an extent that it is a difficult proposition to formulate definite plans that would be best adapted to all localities. The foremost thought in planning should be to arrange the winter quarters for the comfort of the fowls, although this is generally a secondary matter and the attendant's comfort and ease in handling the poultry is often the first to be considered. This of course should not be ignored when it is possible to combine comfort for both the poultry and the keeper.

It matters not what the breed or what the feed may be, when comfortable quarters are not provided the results will not be satisfactory. Even though wishing to follow the system of an up-to-date poultryman, it is not positively essential that the old poultry houses be discarded and a lot of system coops arranged to take their place in which to winter poultry. The winter house is, in fact, the least import-

ant in the new way of keeping poultry so long as the flocks are small and the coops comfortable.

If there is one thing which the "Philo System" recommends more than another in wintering fowls, it is that the flocks must be small, not more than twelve hens in a single pen and six is considered the best number. This would be quite a radical change in the West where the whole flock, probably from 40 to 80 hens, is kept in



"MAJOR"  
First Prize Cockerel, Winnipeg, 1910  
Second at Brandon, 1910

the same pen. High ceilings are not advocated, but an abundance of sunlight is absolutely necessary.

It would take a great deal of space to follow out the progressive poultry raising as outlined by "The Philo System." First of all, careful consideration is given to the selection of the birds and the location of the poultry house. Ground space is considered of little importance as it has been found that a hen can be raised and do her very best work on a very small space of ground. In selecting breeders to produce layers no special variety is recommended as this is often a matter of taste on the part of the poultryman, and climatic conditions play a very great part in the selection. When undertaking the fancy part of the poultry business, new breeds are recommended, but for utility breeding, either eggs or meat, it is considered difficult to improve on many of the old standbys.

### POULTRY RAISING

As this is an agricultural country and the farmers are awakening to the fact that poultry raising is one of the best paying branches of the farming industry, and the Grain Growers' Guide is being read by over 22,000 farmers, I thought it well to write this article on the poultry business.

In entering the poultry business the first thing to consider is a good location, one that will be high and dry at all times. If you have not got this, it can easily be obtained by filling in around the building with soil or gravel. The next thing to consider is a suitable building. Personally I have found the curtain front house very satisfactory. This building costs me about \$1 per head for material, and I usually put up the building in my spare time. I might add here that any person wishing to construct such a building may write to me and I will be pleased to furnish the plans which I have found most

suitable to this climate. I do not advocate to build large buildings. If one is not enough, construct two. My last building is 16x30 feet, and I consider this large enough for one house. This building will accommodate from 100 to 150 birds, and costs about \$100 for material.

The next thing to consider is the stock that is most adaptable to the climate. In this I have found the Plymouth Rocks the best general purpose fowls. I breed the barred and white varieties. These I have bred for years and have got them as near perfection as it is possible to get them.

I have tried several other breeds of fowls but have come to the conclusion that I cannot find any that will equal the Plymouth Rocks for a general purpose fowl. I am not a farmer but live in a small village, having just enough land to give my fowls a nice run. I have all my feed to buy, so I know just what it is costing me. I am wintering about 300 fowls and I find that after buying all my feed I can have a very nice surplus out of my fowls.

W. J. CURRIE.

Lauder, Man.

### USEFUL POINTERS

A mistake that many beginners are guilty of is allowing the young stock to run with the old. Especially is this true of the pullets. They should be



"REVELATION"  
Second Prize Cock at Brandon, 1910

kept by themselves where they will not be picked at and where they will have enough food. The old hens seem to delight in picking and chasing the young birds.

It is time now to be mating up your breeding pens for the coming season. This may be done by the process of elimination. Cull closely and only keep such birds in your breeding pens as come up in a measure to the standard requirements. While you cannot get all of the birds to measure up to the ideal standard, you can get the pick of your own flock and breed from them for better results.

If the beginner will cull closely each year the time will come when the culling will be a very small part of the work. In fact there will be but a very few cull birds. Selection is the secret of it all, and the breeder who is carefully selecting his breeding pens will

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soon be producing a large per cent. of standard specimens. You cannot be too careful in this matter for it is of great importance in your future work with poultry.

A writer in the American Poultry Advocate writes as follows concerning one of the newer breeds of fowls: "Recently there has sprung up a breed that will, in fact, be growing wonderfully. We refer to the Columbian Wyandottes. Here is a variety that in shape and size, general markings and meat qualities is a Wyandotte; in plumage it is a Light Brahma; and in energy, quickness and egg-laying qualities a Leghorn. Happy thought—three in one." It is a winner."

Oats are an excellent feed for laying hens. They furnish the egg-elements in abundance, and do not make the hens fat.



"PEGGY"  
First Prize Pullet, Winnipeg, 1910  
First Prize, Brandon, 1910



To feed and clothe  
To gratify the  
To maintain the  
To give a day's

All letters are  
logged immediately  
and until then a  
best wishes for a

When Hatch  
cost by mail  
is paid. We  
over due posts  
to 50 cents a  
post enough to

S.G. Badger  
S.G. Pendants  
S.G. Buttons

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