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### POULTRY.

#### CLUCK AND CHICKS.

The percentage of loss of young chicks is no inconsiderable item, especially with those who do not give the fledglings the very best of care and attention at the time they need it so badly. The mere hatching is the least difficult part of the breeding and management, the real trouble, care and expense commencing or dating from that time until the birds are able to care for themselves, in a great measure. It is safe to say that many poultry raisers lose from 25 to 50 per cent of the chicks they hatch out, which materially increases the price of the others, and to reduce this loss to the minimum should be the endeavor of all who wish to realize a fair profit from their poultry.

Dampness is almost always fatal to the young chicks while in the "downy state," before they have gotten their full complement of feathers, and to avoid this loss, movable board bottoms should be made for the coops, so they do not have to rest on the damp ground. Early in the morn, while the dew is on the ground, the cluck and her brood should be confined to the coop, and only left to run at large when the grass is dry and the weather warm, and on rainy or murky days they should be kept confined. Another cause of sickness and death amongst young chicks may be traced to feeding too soon and too liberally on cornmeal, which is too strong and heating for the young birds. A better plan is to feed the chicks, until two or three weeks old, on stale bread, either scalded or moistened in milk, both of which are nourishing and not at all injurious. As a rule they do not require water when fed on this food, and quite a number of our breeders do not supply the young birds with any water until well grown, believing that water induces diarrhoea and its accompanying results.

Comfortable, roomy coops, and rain-proof ones, should be supplied and the cluck had better be confined until the chicks are at least two weeks old before being allowed her liberty, else she is apt to take such long strolls as to tire out and lose quite a number of her brood. Rats are very fond of young and tender chicks and particular attention must be paid to the rodents or they will soon claim a greater part of each brood, to their delight and your disgust and loss. *Poultry Monthly*

Don't let your hens set now unless you want them to hatch. To break them put them under a box for two days.

#### POULTRY RUNS.

The best runs for poultry are where grass and gravel are plentiful. Grass runs are of great value where they can be had, but they must be large if fowls have constant access to them or the grass will soon cease to grow. Where the space is limited the fowls should only have access to them for a few hours each day, or every other day, but in the meantime should be supplied with all the green food they require.

Grass runs and shade are prime necessities for both young and old fowls. Young chickens should be kept out of high grass, especially when it is wet with rain or dew. A smooth, closely-shaven lawn is just the thing for their use, for they will find an abundance of insect food, sun and shade and plenty of agreeable exercise. Small trees, currant bushes or a shrubbery where the fowls run will be found serviceable in warm weather, and a protection against hawks. The pleasure which fowls find in scratching the loose earth or leaves under the shade of trees is quite remarkable. The shade afforded by buildings, fences, etc., is not so desirable, for nearly always there is not sufficient circulation of air, but the thick branches of a wide-spreading tree afford it, and of the best quality.

It would be well for those who are limited to a garden to set apart a portion of it as a grass run for their fowls. Hens at liberty do better, and although some fowl keepers growl about the destruction they do to flower beds and garden crops, they never take into account the myriads of worms, grubs, bugs and larva they consume during summer that would if unmolested destroy more vegetable and fruit crops in a single season than the fowls would ordinarily do during their natural lives. *Poultry Monthly*.

SOME farmers complain it does not pay to keep chickens. We are not astonished to hear this, when we know how careless and slovenly they are usually raised on farms. Chickens will pay if they get proper care, but never when kept in a slipshod way. Now it is not a very difficult matter to take care of a half dozen broods of chicks. An hour each day will be all that is needed, and if a few slatted feed boxes are put near the coops where the chickens can have easy access, it will make the labor much lighter and shorter. *Ex.*

EARLY chicks are easily raised. A hen properly fed can in cold weather stay on the nest two days without injury. Of course this would not need to be done regularly throughout the term of setting but only during a cold snap.

#### CHICKEN CHOLERA.

Commissioner Leduc has issued a paper from the Department of Agriculture upon chicken cholera, giving the results of some recent experiments made under the direction of the department, by Dr. Salmon for the prevention of this very troublesome disease.

Dr. S. says:—For this disease a very cheap and most effective disinfectant, is a solution made by adding three pounds of sulphuric acid to forty gallons of water (or one fourth pound sulphuric acid to three and a half gallons of water,) and mixing evenly by agitation or stirring. This may be supplied to small surfaces with a small watering pot or to larger grounds with a barrel mounted on wheels and arranged like a street sprinkler. In disinfecting poultry houses the manure must be first thoroughly scraped up and removed beyond the reach of the fowls, a slight sprinkling is not sufficient, but the floors, roosts and grounds must be thoroughly saturated with the solution so that no particle of dust, however small escapes being wet. It is impossible to thoroughly disinfect if the manure is not removed from the roosting places. Sulphuric acid is very cheap, costing at retail not more twenty-five cents a pound, and at wholesale but five or six cents; the barrel of disinfecting solution can, therefore, be made for less than a dollar and should be thoroughly applied. It must be remembered, too, that sulphuric acid is a dangerous drug; to handle, as when undiluted it destroys clothing and cauterizes the flesh wherever it touches. *Kansas Farmer.*

#### FIRST POINTS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CHICKENS.

Years ago I commenced on a small scale, trying to make a little money, by raising chickens and selling eggs. It was rather up hill work. Every ill that could befall chickens came upon my broods. If I had a fine lot hatch out, they would either get drowned, or have the gaps or some other ailments that was sure to carry them off before they were well feathered out. Usually just as they were hatching, there would come up a heavy shower that would finish them off, and the mother hen would cluck around with three or four chickens. One year I had about a hundred chicks hatched out, without any serious accident. I fed them on corn meal wet with milk. They would eat well, and in about two hours they would tumble over, kick a few times and die. In the morning four or five would be missing. An old lady rela-

tive came to make me a visit of a few days, and I asked for the benefit of her wisdom and practical knowledge. She told me not to feed them at all until they were twenty four hours old, the best food to give them then being bread soaked in milk with the addition of pounded crockery. She said I must always have chicken food well soaked and swelled before it is fed to them. She thought that the cause of so many of my chickens dying, was simply feeding them on dough just mixed, and they filled their little crops so full that when the food swelled it burst the thin skin, and so of course they died. The pounded crockery was to help make their food digest.

I asked her what I should do when they had the gapes. "It is better to prevent their having them," she said, "by stirring up a little sulphur with their food, once or twice a week, and a little black and cayenne pepper. Giving them sulphur also prevents their getting busy, and adds to their good condition and growth. A chicken that is covered with lice will be weak and puny." She said that Indian corn and wheat bran are good food, using sour milk to wet it with. Sour curd given occasionally, is good. They must always have water enough to drink. I told her that my hens never laid well in the winter, although I fed them well. She gave several reasons for this—feeding too much, so as to fatten them, or they needed lime, bones, charcoal, or warm water to drink, and above all a warm place to live in.

I also asked her why so many eggs that I set never hatched out. She adduced various causes.—perhaps their diet was one reason, any article of food that makes the white of an egg thin and watery is not good for them. Wheat is the best for laying hens, swelled with hot water. Cayenne pepper once a week makes hens lay, also scraps of meat, burned bones, etc. If hens eat their eggs, that can be remedied easily enough by giving them a clear tal-

low to eat. My aunt closed by saying that there is as much science required to understand raising poultry as there is in studying astronomy, and perhaps it pays better, especially when eggs are twenty-five or thirty cents a dozen, and the hens lay well. *Farmer's wife in Country Gentlemen.*

Don't fuss too much with your fowls. Give them plenty of good food, clear pure water, and get them tame. Change food occasionally, and in setting, get them as near the ground as possible.