

POULTRY YARD

Poultry Industry in British Columbia

M. A. Jull, B.S.A., Poultry Expert for B.C.

Few realize the vastness of the British Columbia of to-morrow. Its many progressive industries are the backbone of the Province, and as one of these, agriculture is endeavoring to develop to as large a measure as possible a self-sustaining Province. Among the various branches of this industry there is one which is deserving of much more attention than it has received in the past. The adaptability of British Columbia for poultry raising is not questioned, nor are the profits on the capital invested too small.

Poultry-raisers realize greater profits in British Columbia than elsewhere in America in the production of commercial products. Notwithstanding this fact, over two million dollars are sent out of the province annually in the importation of eggs and poultry flesh, besides the thousands

produce its egg laying characteristics in the offspring, at the same time maintaining the highest possible degree of vitality. Inherited stamina, fresh air, plenty of exercise and proper food are necessities if constitutional vigor is to be maintained. All of these factors must be considered when endeavoring to improve the qualities of any strains of birds.

Suggestions on Raising Ducks

E. G. Cooper, Halton Co., Ont.

In raising ducks for profit, two plans may be advisable. First, after selecting the best eggs to be hatched and the little birds have seen the light of day for the first time, care should be taken to pick out those that would be best to fatten quickly for market and those that would be best to keep growing until fall. To have about half in each division is about right.

Second, take the ones selected for forcing and put them in a pen by themselves. The necessary quarters are as follows: A warm pen, say 10x14 ft. to every 25 ducks. Provide them with a small trough of fresh, clean water daily and feed as follows: In the morning, soft feed, shorts, just wet enough to crumble. At noon, corn meal fed in the same condition.

horn for table use. Kindly advise me what breed of male to use, or should I continue with the Leghorns? I would like to keep the flock white in color.—Mrs. J. H. W., Oxford Co., Ont.

You do not state how old your hens are but from the fact that you say they have been laying well other winters, it would indicate that they have seen a number of them which probably explains the thing. Old hens do not lay well in the early winter. Hens that lay well during the winter and moult early in the summer very frequently lay during the early fall months and moult again during the early winter which is doubtless the case with your flock.

We have in our pens pullets hatched in March that laid during August to December, but since then have gone into moult and will not likely lay again until March or April. Your early Leghorn pullets have done the same thing. I find that in order to have a fair supply of eggs from Leghorns during the winter late April or May hatched chicks are early enough. Just as soon as your flock has finished its moult it will probably start again.

If you want a larger White bird than the White Leghorn why not try the White Wyandotte or the White Rocks. I would not advise you to cross a male of either of these breeds with your flock but would prefer getting some eggs for breeding purposes.

—Prof. F. C. Elford, Macdonald College, Que.

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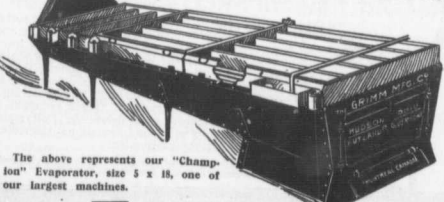
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Ducks and Geese in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia

Ducks are capable of returning profits, but they require to be handled carefully. Advantage should be taken of their feeding qualities in having them rushed to market while young. Photo courtesy Dept. of Agri., B. C.

and of dollars that are sent abroad for breeding stock. It is quite time that something be done to modify the existing conditions and one might infer that we should be exporting produce rather than importing.

INTEREST IS INCREASING

A remarkable change has already taken place and greater interest is now manifested throughout the Province in this important industry. Fruit-growers, dairymen, ranchers and poultrymen are anxious to learn, and there is a great field for work along educational lines. The industry speaks for itself and the important question is not to foster poultry-raising, but to direct the industry through the correct channels, where maximum returns may be realized with minimum expense. The people know "why" but they want to know "how".

PRICES ARE EXCELLENT

The average number of fowls per farm in British Columbia is about 45; the average yearly production per fowl is 65. With these figures before us we can clearly see room for improvement. The urgent need is to increase the number of fowls and more particularly to increase the number of eggs from each fowl. A 65 egg hen will realize a small profit even with our high priced feeds, but the average hen in every flock should produce at least from 120 to 160 eggs a year.

The thing of importance is to breed a heavy egg laying strain that will re-

At night, shorts or bran with the same proportion of water as in the morning.

Green food should be provided in proportion as the ducklings increase in size. If milk is obtainable, it should be used instead of water in mixing with the mash.

The other birds should be provided with large runs, plenty of grass, a running creek, if obtainable. When full grown, fatten quickly with corn or peas. Green food should be given in the form of garden truck, or any kind of vegetable while the ducks are in the growing state.

Old Hens—Winter Moults

My flock of 40 well bred White Leghorns have always been splendid layers until this winter. When putting them into winter quarters they never looked more promising. Some of them moulted last July, and were all through moulting before the 1st of November. A few commenced laying in November, but about the middle of December the whole flock showed signs of moulting, and now they are nearly all naked including the early hatched pullets.

What causes them to moult twice in a year? Since the 1st of October I have been feeding them wheat, corn, oats, buckwheat with a warm mash of table scraps, shorts and bran for the noon feed. They also had all the skim milk and butter and grit always before them. The hen house is not warm, but dry, and plenty of light from south windows. I would like a bird of larger size than the Leg-