

more eggs on a given amount of food than any other breed. The Leghorns are the most profitable producers; that is, they will produce eggs at a lower food cost than any other breed. But eggs are not the only product of this domestic flock. They also produce meat. Egg and meat production go hand in hand. The hens must be killed off at least every other year, and considerable money is made from the sale of the old hens. The Plymouth Rocks, or hens of that type, are worth twice as much as the Leghorns for eating purposes on account of the larger size and the greater proportion of meat attached to the bones.

The Plymouth Rock has a body of medium length; the Wyandottes have a shorter body and shorter legs, and a more blocky form. The Rhode Island Reds have more the shape of the Plymouth Rock. Perfect specimens of Plymouth Rocks should weigh as follows: Cock, male one year old or over, 9 1-2 pounds; cockerel, less than a year old, 8 pounds; hen, over a year old, 7 1-2 pounds; pullet, less than a year old, 6 1-2 pounds. These weights are given by the Standard.

As a whole the Barred Plymouth Rocks are the most popular breeds in this country; they are found more on farms than any other breed. On special poultry farms Leghorns are the most popular breed; while in the farming districts of Rhode Island the Rhode Island Reds are almost entirely used. As a general-utility fowl the Wyandottes enjoy considerable popularity. The Rhode Island Reds and Plymouth Rocks both lay brown eggs. The Leghorns lay a white egg which is the cause for their higher demand on the market, although there is no difference in the quality of a white or brown egg. In selecting a pen of fowls for egg and meat purposes it is best to select those that have health and vitality.

A fowl with constitutional weakness is shown in various ways: Small in size, lack of breadth and depth of body, thin, wabby legs and knock-knees, and shallow breast usually indicate lack of vigor. It is a safe plan not to use any pure-breds that do not come up to the Standard weights. That a chicken is a pure-breed is no sign that it is profitable to keep. In purchasing be sure to select fowls with vigor, alertness and size. Vigorous "mongrels" are better than "pure-breds" lacking in stamina.

Generally speaking, it pays to keep pure-bred fowls. The one advantage is that their offspring are more uniform in size and shape. Uniformity of products, whether of eggs or dressed chicken, always has a market value. The barnyard fowl with a mixed ancestry will usually produce chickens of different sizes, and shapes, different in color of skin and legs, and different in quality of flesh. The thing to be avoided, however, is the buying of chickens just because they are pure-breds,