



MAKING THE FARM

THE LITTLE PAY

By C. C. BOWSFIELD

THERE is liberal profit in broilers for those who have skill in poultry raising. The matter of location is not so vital with this commodity as with some classes of produce. In raising broilers it is seldom necessary to drive to town oftener than once a week. Customers will be satisfied with a weekly service, provided it is regular.

For this reason a poultry farm may be three or four miles out, where land sells at \$75 to \$100 an acre. With a dairy or garden truck it is unprofitable to locate so far from a station, and where land is bought within a mile or two of a good town it costs \$200 to \$300 an acre. Location must be considered also if the owner has to go to the city daily.

Broilers weighing two pounds or a little less sell readily for 35 cents apiece. The cost of feeding is not over 5 cents on a farm. A profit of \$25 to \$50 per 100 is pretty fair. Hotels, restaurants, clubs and well to do private families are regular buyers, and the demand exceeds the supply. A little farm ought to produce 1,000 or 2,000 broilers every year.

I know of a place of five acres, about an hour's ride from Chicago, where not less than 2,500 chickens are produced annually, many of them being sold as broilers. The owner raises an acre of wheat and three acres of corn. He supplements this with table leavings and ground bone. Chicks get nothing but meal and breadcrumbs soaked in skimmed milk or dry, according to judgment, for the first three weeks.

After this the variety of food is enlarged. Cornmeal, wheat, boiled potatoes and scraps of all kinds make a satisfactory diet for growing poultry. In dry weather they need a chance to run about. They may be confined to a building or yard the last week or ten days for fattening. Cornmeal, boiled

potatoes and skimmed milk will do nicely for the fattening process. Such things as shorts, cracked wheat, oatmeal mush and table scraps also produce a nice looking and palatable young chicken. Even in winter chickens ought to have a chance to exercise when the weather is bright. Few people keep their poultry free from vermin, and this is why so many fall at the business. Chickens are less hardy than ducks and geese, and if lousy there is no profit in raising them.

After considerable experience I am able to keep poultry clean by providing plenty of dust heaps in the yards, whitewashing coops and houses, and occasionally applying kerosene or grease to floors and roosts. A few tobacco leaves hung about the nests have a good effect. There are many good remedies, but the chief thing is vigilance.

The clean and careful handling of chickens will tell in growth as well as quality. Therefore it pays to be thorough. At least one good incubator is necessary. I have made it a rule for several years to turn most of my egg production into poultry. Broilers at \$4 a dozen pay better than eggs at 30 cents a dozen. But when one is in the business there will be a percentage of full grown chickens and also some proportion of eggs to market.

Winter prices are invariably the highest, so that it is best to hatch as many of the summer eggs as possible and have a heavy supply of poultry around Christmas and, in fact, all winter. Broiler customers demand their supplies at all times of the year. The farmer needs to have a regular day for furnishing this commodity. If it is necessary to ship to a large city it is possible to have a hotel or club take the entire output. It is easier to make such arrangements than many would suppose. Have the quality right, and the selling will be easy.

A LESSON FROM NATURE.

When the busy bee flits from flower to flower
He's not on a pleasure tour,
He's gathering honey to store away
To make the future sure.

When old Dog Tray hides a bone in the ground
He's not doing that for fun
He'll dig up that bone some other day
When his other bones are done.

When the frisky squirrel gathers hickory nuts
It's not a grand stand play,
He's storing food in his cozy nest
For the long, cold wintry day.

And thus the man who is wise in his day
Will not be a butterfly,
But he'll be building a bank account
And stacking the dollars high.

And thus when the winter of life shall come
He'll not be hungry and cold,
He'll sit in the warm and cut coupons
And draw on his reserve gold.
C. M. BARNITZ

SANITATION OR RUINATION.

Filth isn't just filth, and the bad smell isn't the worst of it. Filth means multiplying microbes, and with poultry that means tuberculosis, cholera, enteritis, white diarrhea, turkey blackhead.

Filth is the breeder of gapeworms, tapeworms, round worms and the scaly leg parasite.

A hen can't roost above droppings and breathe the poisonous air without detriment, nor can tender chicks and turkey poulters sleep in filthy coops or run on filthy ground and live or normally develop.

Feed and water contaminated with filth are killers.

This is an age when the word sanitary has become ordinary. Sanitation is preached everywhere.

Sanitation as applied to poultry, young and old, means keep the house they live and sleep in clean, keep the vessels they eat and drink from clean, keep the ground on which they eat and run clean, and keep the fowls themselves as far as possible free from vermin.

Such preventive measures, coupled with pure food rightly fed to vigorous stock, insures maximum success.

Great mortality among chicks is nearly always the result of neglect of one or more of these precautions. We have seen parties buy high priced eggs from most vigorous pure bred stock and raise the worst of culms from the hatch because they raised them on the hog pen plan, but of course the fancier who sold the eggs was blamed.

Many people keep flocks that don't pay because they think it doesn't pay to take time to treat them decisively, but if anything is worth doing at all it is worth doing right.

FEATHERS AND EGGSHELLS.

Have you noticed many fanciers sell thirteen eggs for a setting and guarantee a lucky hatch from the thirteen and consider thirteen just the right number to set under a hen? Yet if these same fellows get show coop 13 or are asked to take room No. 13 at a hotel, most of them quickly get cold feet. Funny, isn't it?

Not counting feather beds, we hundred million Americans pillow our heads on about 300,000,000 pounds of feathers every night. These feathers wear out at the rate of about 20,000,000 pounds per year and that much pillow stuffing must be renewed every year. Now, we ought to gather that quickly from the millions of fowls eaten in this country, but no, we Americans are such frenzied feather fanciers that we throw millions of pounds of feathers on the dump and go and import vast quantities from foreign countries. Better call the fool killer.

"Rome was not built in a day." That's a sentence from your old school grammar, but it applies to many projects today. You can't expect to build up a big poultry business and make big money the first year. Whoever heard of a millionaire poultryman? Did you? There's money in it, but not a million unless you break the record.

Pennsylvania has many big Leghorn farms along the New York line. These ship their eggs across to those egg loving New Yorkers, who are so stuck on white shelled eggs that they pay from 5 to 7 cents extra for them.

Michael Bewley of Powers Lane, Md., claims to have America's oldest hen. It was given him when he was a baby and is twenty years old. A hen of such antiquity need not fear that she will go to chicken heaven by the cook pot route unless she belongs to a preacher.

Fowls of breed shape and standard size are only produced year after year from pure bred, healthy, vigorous stock. Strong constitution is the foundation of strong reproductive power and is only achieved by careful breeding for a term of years.

The statement "All stock and eggs sold only from the farm" is appearing in many poultry advertisements. Yes, farm raised stock and eggs certainly have the bulge on what is produced by the city lot canary cage plan.

A well grounded knowledge of the poultry business, willingness to work, a fair amount of working capital and ability to buy and sell are the chief requisites for successful entry into the poultry business. It is necessary also to state man or woman in single harness in this business is a dismal failure.

When the little Leghorn roosters' combs turn over "top" look for life. Head lice will cause that, as will crowding, colds, bad air from filthy quarters and insufficient or unwholesome feed. Roup will loosen a rooster's comb, make it turn over and so weaken him that his tail will turn wry and he will finally turn up his toes.

C. M. Barnitz

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WHAT ROTATION DOES.

If a man's land is already rich he must keep it so. If it is yielding minimum crops he must increase its producing power. This may be accomplished by properly rotating crops, maintaining and increasing the humus content of the soil by returning all organic matter and growing leguminous crops. Further than this, there is scarcely a farm that would not be greatly benefited by plowing under some green manure crop. —Wyoming Bulletin.

THEY "KNOW IT ALL"

It is strange that any one should claim to know all about farming, which is one of the broadest and deepest subjects among men. When we contemplate what might be accomplished in plant growth and animal breeding if men knew, we are apt to be overwhelmed with the ignorance of men upon scientific agriculture. And yet occasionally one may be found who thinks that he has learned all about farming. — Farm and Ranch.

OPEN AIR POULTRY HOUSE.
Good For the Fowls in All Weathers, Not Excepting Cold Months.

A correspondent of Orange Judd Farmer writes as follows concerning open air poultry houses:

My open air poultry house I like very much. The yards join the center of the house, making one house do for two pens. The openings are covered with poultry netting, thus making them secure against prowlers. Inside are muslin curtains stretched on frames to fit the openings. These are hinged at the top and hooked back to the inner roof when not in use. They are used only in bad weather.

The roosts are arranged above a platform, which is also hinged, and can be let down to remove the droppings. The roosts themselves are made of sassafras, which is said not to harbor vermin, but I have found that it does just the same. The floors are covered

BARREL NEST AND RUN.
Give the Hens a Comfortable Place to Hatch Their Eggs.

The illustration here reproduced shows how the barrel nest and run are made. The former is a flour barrel laid on its side in an excavation sufficient to bury the side of it about two or three inches. The dirt secured

NEST AND RUN COMPLETED.
[From the Farm Journal.]

In digging this ditch is spread on the inside of the barrel and upon this is a nest hollowed out and filled with tobacco stems.

On the top of the barrel is fastened heavy roofing paper. If this paper is nailed to cleats and fastened by wire it can be readily removed after the hatching season and used for years.

The run is constructed of whole length plastering lath and made in sections, as shown in picture.

At night a wide board is placed in front of the barrel, with an opening above sufficient to afford ventilation. The nest being on the ground, the eggs receive plenty of moisture and a better hatch is assured.—Farm Journal.

POULTRY COLONY HOUSE WITH CANVAS FRONT FOR VENTILATION.

with deep litter. In this the fowls scratch and sing and hunt for food.

I whitewash the houses and keep them sweet and clean. The roofs are covered with felt roofing, and three sides of the building are made perfectly tight, no cracks or knotholes. I found last winter during severe weather my fowls did much better in the open front houses than those in the other kind. There was never a frozen comb in the open front house, while I found two of my best cockerels with their combs badly frozen in houses supposed to be warmer. A small hole is placed at the lower right hand corner for my little flock of ducks. It is closed at night. The ducks drop their eggs on the litter.

Hint For Cabbage Growers.
Lime is a good preventive of club foot in cabbage. If you have a quarter of an acre of the plants scatter on ten bushels of the lime.

CRITTER WISDOM.

See to it that your breeding sow has a good balanced ration. Don't go to the extreme of feeding her too much corn or barley or roots.

Mighty easy to feed new corn to the hogs, stalks and all, but you will find that if the corn is first run through the shredder the animals will eat it up clean.

You can greatly improve the looks of your cows by taking a little care of their hoofs and horns. A few moments spent with a coarse file and a pair of pliers may change entirely the looks of an animal.

Cold pressed cottonseed cake possesses a high feeding value and with corn and stover gave larger daily gains than any combination of feeds at the Nebraska station. This was shown in a test for economical beef production.