

Poultry Provides the Family Dollar for Necessities the Whole Year Through

BABY CHICKS ARE THE MAIN SHOW NOW

Much of the Former Gamble In Raising Them Has Been Removed Lately

(The Washington Bulletin, of the Washington Certified Poultry association, has in its March number a leading article on "Baby Chicks," as follows:)

The thought of the whole poultry world is now centered on baby chicks. The annual round of raising next season's layers is on in full swing. Five years ago we approached this season, always with pleasure, but with a considerable amount of fear and trembling. The things that could happen to a brood of chicks were appalling. Lucky to get by with a 20 per cent mortality, and any number over 350 good pullets from a thousand chicks put in the laying house was wonderful.

Not so today. Progress has stepped in with her enlightened knowledge and much of the gamble in raising baby chicks has been removed. The 20 per cent mortality has dwindled to 5 per cent and the number of pullets increased from 350 to 430 and better.

The most important contributing factor to this change is probably in feed and feeding. Particularly may we mention the advent of the so-called Wisconsin ration. Time was when we used to nurse the babies along with a definite amount of feed fed at all too frequent intervals. A thousand chicks kept you on the jump most of the time. Care had to be taken not to over feed or the chicks would surely die. Then the Wisconsin ration came along composed mostly of the then supposedly deadly corn meal. Hopper fed, if you please, which means available at all times.

Poultrymen pioneering in the use of this method of feeding must have looked with alarm at the full crops of chicks allowed to eat at will and wondered if they would survive the night. But they did—and lived and grew. Then the thought struck home that much of the mortality during the first few days of the old order of feeding must have been from starvation.

Some criticism has been made of the Wisconsin ration, the claim being made that it produces "soft" pullets who will not stand up under heavy egg production. No doubt there is some merit to this claim due to the abuse in the use of the ration. It is generally conceded that the ration in this section should be used as a starter only, the change being made to a growing ration about the third week and not later than the fourth week. A feed of grain also should be used each morning and afternoon to induce exercise in the brood.

The second important contributing factor to the change is due to the better handling of breeding stock. In the old order, a hen of a pullet was a breeder provided only that the required male was present. Back in 1922 the leaders in the industry, at the call of the State College of Washington, got

together and decided that all breeders to be worthy as such should measure up to certain standard requirements and be handled along lines known to produce the best results. Under the leadership of the association these requirements have been put into practice all over the state, resulting in a greatly increased quality chick.

So today the problem of raising chicks is much simplified. Given a brood of chicks well bred and well hatched the question of success resolves itself largely around a good clean brooder, comfortably warm, plenty of good feed and sanitary conditions at all times.

Supply Is Here
The Cherry City Milling company managers, in Salem, can supply the people of this section with the Wisconsin ration. In fact, they are specialists in the making up of all kinds of poultry feeds, and stock feeds generally. They have a laboratory, where scientific testing is done, by an expert of long experience. It would be well for the people of the Salem district who are interested in all phases of the poultry industry to remember that they can have expert help and advice here at home.

The above paragraph is printed without the knowledge of the Cherry City Milling company people, because it ought to be printed.

MEET THE CHICKS AT BREAK OF DAY

You recall the saying of Poor Richard, "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, and wealthy and wise." Chickens seem to have learned that a long time before Franklin did. They go to bed at dark and they are out—at least, awake—the instant it is light enough to see. The little fellows need feed as early as possible in the morning. Their "stomachs" are empty. Their appetites are gnawing at their vitals. They are suffering for lack of feed. Of course they scream with all the power of their lungs. If you lie abed till 7 o'clock, they will stand at the door of their brooder and scream two full hours. Better get out when the chickens do. Get the habit. It's fun to get up early. Folks who have to work late into the night or all night should certainly be excused for rising a little late in the morning. But the caretaker of young chicks better be out early, whether he was up late or not. His business demands it — Dixie Poultry Journal.

The meanest man in the world is the fellow whose wife went to a summer resort to take exercises and take off some weight. She wrote him one day that in four weeks she had reduced her weight one-fourth. "When shall I come home?" she asked.

The brute answered: "You better stay about 12 weeks longer."

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NO MYSTERY ABOUT RAISING OF CHICKS

Just the Faithful Observance of Some Very Simple Practices

(W. D. Buchanan, extension poultry specialist of the State College of Washington, gives in a current bulletin the following timely hints:)

There is no mystery about raising young chicks. All that is required in a faithful observance of some simple, but fundamental practices. Many points must be considered and important among them is proper feeding.

When the chicks are 60 hours old, counting from the end of hatch, they are ready to be fed; that is, if they are good vigorous chicks. If they are a little weak, wait 10 hours longer.

Take the chill off any water or milk fed during the first week. Adopt a good feed and a good feeding schedule and stick to it. Growing or developing mash should be hopped, or trough, fed from the beginning. Scratch may be fed in troughs or in the litter. It is usually best to feed it on paper plates or boards for the first feed or two. You want all chicks to live and grow; therefore, give them enough drinking and eating space so that they are never crowded.

There are many good commercial chick mashes on the market. If you use one of these, follow the directions given you by the manufacturer. If you mix your own mash, or chick starter grain, be sure you secure good materials. Little chicks will not stand any spoiled feed.

Many people in the state are starting their chicks on some modified form of the so-called Wisconsin ration. One of the rations most commonly used is as follows:

- 80 pounds ground yellow corn
 - 15 pounds wheat bran
 - 5 pounds low grade flour or Red Dog
 - 5 pounds steamed bone meal
 - 5 pounds chick grit
 - 1 pound fine salt.
- This mash is fed in troughs or hoppers, with about 2 square inches of eating space for each chick.

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and with milk, without water, to drink for a period of 4 to 6 weeks. The ration may be used by mixing 30 pounds of powdered skim milk in the mash and giving water only to drink. A small amount of grain, (about 1 pint per 1000 chicks) should be fed twice daily to keep chicks busy.

An excellent good ration could be made as follows:

- 60 pounds ground yellow corn
 - 20 pounds wheat bran
 - 20 pounds ground (chilled) oats
 - 5 pounds steamed bone meal
 - 5 pounds chick grit
 - 1 pound salt.
- Feed with liquid skim milk, or a good grade of butter milk, or by adding 30 pounds of powdered skim milk and giving water to drink.

Any ration adopted will be improved with an abundance of green feed, and by the use of sunshine and fresh air. If sunshine is not available, 2 per cent cod-liver oil should be added to the ration.

In conclusion, these are the things that are necessary if most of the chicks are to be raised:

1. Good vigorous stock.
2. A good brooder house with plenty of room.
3. A brooder house, and yards, that are spotlessly clean.
4. A brooder stove that can be depended on to give heat at all times.
5. Fresh air, without drafts on the floor.
6. Sunshine, or some substitute for sunshine.
7. A good ration, intelligently fed.—should include some milk.
8. An abundance of green feed at all times.

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9. A poultryman who is wide awake to every changing need of his chicks.

THE EASTER BUNNY

By Maude Wood Henry

Is there any beast as funny As the little Easter bunny With a nest of colored eggs Peeping from beneath his legs? How is it that bunny knows When it's Easter, do you s'pose? Don't you think it's very queer That he brings eggs once a year, And is never known to fail? Cunning little cottontail!

Lots of laughs come from the remarks of the kiddies, and the trouble is we do not always preserve them. Here is one.

Bobbie and Jimmy had been fighting. Bobby said Jimmy hit him first. The teacher, trying to get at the root of the matter, asked: "Bobby, did Jimmy hit you in anger?" "No sir," replied Bobby. "He hit me in the back."

The delicate flavor will be brought out in salt fish if it is soaked in sour milk before cooking.

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