

Questions for Teaching Chicks to Perch

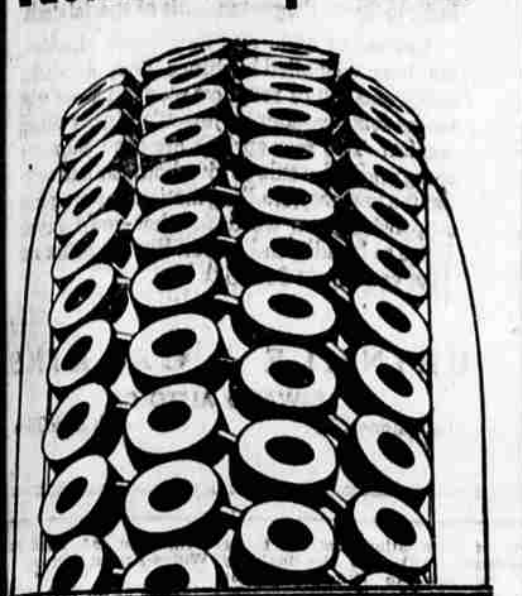
By Mrs. George H. Shoup, Poultry Specialist at Western Washington Experiment Station

very best stock in the world may be made into a commercial bird by breeding, while poor stock, though it may be good brooding stock, will never be the best stock, well known to the layman, which brings him a unit in the autumn pullets, and of bred-to-order, quick to hatch, and quick to grow, and heavy of appetite and hearty of disposition, and in the end, the profit on the breeding equipment is a serious consideration. The average egg producer in the winter egg production season, when every owner of chickens expects expert care in the laying house can entirely overcome the breeding mistakes, nor does it seem possible to get the maximum egg production from flocks where serious errors have been made in handling chicks in the brooders. The birds showing retarded development are in the cull class, which, though sometimes paying for their feed, never do make an adequate profit for the owner.

The day of the small-unit brooding of chicks for commercial poultry plants has passed. The one-hundred-chick brooders and fireless brooders have been sent to the discard, together with the 25-bird units for layers. The reason was that it is impossible for a caretaker to handle sufficient chicks or hens to make a living. The labor element is too great, and the result of a very lengthy and strenuous day's work is a disappointed owner who has lost his money and his time.

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work the exclusive time and care it certainly requires.

When chicks weigh 8 ounces they have usually acquired sufficient firmness of bone and cartilage to start them on the forced roost. At this age the deposit of night droppings has become much greater and has a very strong odor. If chicks are compelled to sleep on the deposits of previous nights, their feathers become soiled and damped up and they are very unsightly. The matted plumage affords much less resistance against cold drafts and the chicks are more likely to catch cold. The danger of piling at night is always serious at this age. So it is very important to get them on the roosts where this menace at least can be forgotten. We have never had a case of skunk bother the chicks after they have been taught to take the upper roosts and have usually left the brooder exits open all night from this period so that they can get out in the yards in the early morning.

On the 31st day of the chick's life the forced roost sections are best brought in and placed in such position that when the dropping boards, which have been hooked up against the roof until this time, are let down, the front edges of the same rest on the rear edges of the forced roost sections. The adjustable upper roosts are also let down, thus making an easy climb for the more enterprising fellows to go clear to the top once. After the last evening feed the chicks are all driven outdoors and the exit slide closed. If the evening is at all dark, two lanterns are hung up inside the brooder so that the chicks can see to find their way and learn the new method of going to bed. After all the chicks are outdoors the fence sections are put in place by slipping the bottom of the standards into the tin or galvanized iron packets on the side of the forced roost sections. These fences should stand up rigidly and be easy to remove, so plan a simple attachment which does not require nailing. The dropping board section nearest the chick exit does not require a forced roost section in front of it, as there is sufficient room on the four eight-foot sections in conjunction with the large number which take the upper roosts the first night to accommodate twelve or even fourteen hundred chicks at this age.

The hover is now raised as high as it will go and additional heat is turned on so that chicks will be comfortable when spread out at some distance from the stove. In fact, the room will seem uncomfortably warm to the caretaker, but chicks are thus induced to settle down without all trying to get in the one warmest place directly in front of the stove. The exit is now opened and an additional caretaker sent out into the yard, so that all stragglers are driven back in, and the exit again closed. The flock must be kept in motion at this stage. A broom is a handy tool for this work. Most of them soon find their way to the far end of the fenced in room, but a few of them do not like this wire-bottom bed and try to get back onto the straw at the exit. This should not be permitted. Chicks must learn to do it themselves and the caretaker should avoid placing with his hands as they will expect the hands to do it the next night.

This program must be continued for four or more consecutive nights. During the teaching period the excessive heat is only kept up for about an hour, and can be reduced as soon as the chicks are well spread out.

The droppings should be cleaned out from under the forced roost sections and from the slanting dropping boards every day, as the strong acid odor affects the tender nasal passages of the young birds and may cause colds. At the end of the sixth week all the dropping boards are raised up to the horizontal position except the one section in front of the stove, which is left down for a stairway for the backward chicks who don't attempt the 24-inch flight from the floor. One forced roost section is also left in front of the stove during the seventh week. Commencing the eighth week, if the weather is warm, all heat is dispensed with and all dropping boards are horizontal with the front side of the adjustable roosts supported six inches clear of the dropping board, by baling wire attached to the rafters. During this week the first lot of 10 largest cockerels are removed to the fattening crates.

When the new laying house is used for a brooder, a four-foot width of two-inch mesh wire is used as a ladder from the inner edge of the forced roosts, slanting up to the edge of the dropping boards. Lath are laced through this wire to afford better climbing.

Here are some suggestions:

1. Have overflow pipe from brooder stove discharge outside of building, not on the floor or under the floor. This is an added fire protection.
2. Lay all pipes on top of the floor so that they can be readily cleaned.
3. Keep 1 inch to 1 1/2 inches of sand under the hover and extending at least a foot beyond by using a form made of stripe 1 1/2 inches wide and 4 feet long. This insures fire protection, warmth, and ease of cleaning.

Fourteen Women Studying Agriculture at O. A. C.

Well Rounded Course Now Offered to Female Students, Qualifying for Agronomists, Plant Pathologists and Entomologists.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, May 12.—With 14 women enrolled in the school of agriculture, the college has recognized the trend of the times and outlined a course for co-ed "ag" students. A well-rounded course in agriculture especially for women is now available, qualifying women for junior agronomists, plant pathologists, and entomologists. A thorough training in biology will also fit them to teach agriculture in grammar schools.

The first-year course given the co-eds in agriculture is the same as given all freshmen in the school. In the sophomore year some training in sewing and textiles is given, and in the third year courses in food selection, preparation and nutrition, with farm management, genetics and some social sciences are included. Nursing and child care are offered through the school of home economics in the senior year.

Predicting Weather Month in Advance Possible

While no sound scientific basis is known at present for so-called long-range weather forecasting, there does not appear to be any sound reason why science in the future may not progress far enough to make the successful prediction of weather for a month or more in advance a general possibility and the experts at the weather bureau are more or less constantly studying problems of this character. A system for constructing curves based on observed data, from which predictions may be made, has been worked out by E. G. Tingley, of the weather bureau, United States department of agriculture, who read a paper on the subject at the semi-annual meeting of the American Meteorological society, April 16.

Some trials in making temperature and rainfall forecasts for various places have given 75 per cent efficiency for future periods for a month or less. Separate curves are made for every month. The data used are based on five-year averages for the same month. With the series of "smoothed" curves thus obtained for every month of the year is combined a series of additional curves showing the weather the month preceding and that following the one under consideration. By constantly projecting these various related curves into the future, general forecasts can be made for a month or more in advance.

Hog Is Highly Efficient User of Farm Feeds

Converts Grain Into Meat at Lower Cost Than Any Other Farm Animal; Much Waste Is Saved.

What is the basis of the hog's popularity, which, in spite of his relatively small size, enables him to stand third in total value among all our domestic animals in the United States? In this place, of course, he produces toothsome meats which in some form or other combine well with most of our common vegetables, but, according to the department of agriculture, there are other reasons why the hog has become a favorite on more than three-fourths of our farms.

The hog converts much of our corn crop, 30 to 40 per cent annually, into a concentrated food, and in this work of concentration he is no waster. He is an efficient user of feed. It takes about six pounds of grain and 6 pounds of hay to produce a pound of lamb (live weight), 10 pounds of hay and 10 pounds of corn to make a pound of beef, and 5.5 pounds of corn for a pound of pork. Hogs are frequently used to "hog down" or harvest crops, and in this way they save the labor of harvesting.

In this country pork and lard enter prominently into our food supply. The average annual consumption per capita for the last five years was 67.3 pounds of pork and 12.3 pounds of lard, as compared with 60.9 pounds of beef.

Elephants Stage Duel to the Death



One of the rarest photographs ever received in this country shows two bull elephants, with huge tusks, engaged in a battle to the death, in which the bull on the right was killed. The terrible affray was staged in India for the entertainment of the governor of Madras.

Lake Creek Valley Has Two Strong Calf Clubs

Holstein Club Has Five Members and Jersey Club Has Nine; All of Jersey Club Members Own Pure-Bred Calves.

CORVALLIS, Ore., May 5.—(Special to the Register.)—R. B. Tilson, of Blachly, is local leader of a Holstein calf club, of five members and a Jersey calf club of nine members. All of the Jersey calf club members have pure-bred calves and the Holstein members will have by fall. Mr. Tilson was leader of a club in the same community last year in which all the members except two had grade calves.

New Farm Use Is Found for the Automobile

By Fastening Length of Hose to Exhaust Rats Can Be Successfully Asphyxiated in Their Burrows.

Are you troubled with rats, especially around the chicken house, garage, barn or vegetable garden? Fasten a length of hose on the end of the exhaust from your gasoline engine—whether it be a power or a tractor—back the engine, within reach of the rat burrow, and adjust the carburetor for a rich mixture. Pack damp earth around the hole at the entrance to seal it. Run the engine at a moderate speed for ten minutes or more and the rats will be destroyed. This method is entirely practical, according to the United States department of agriculture, when there are only a small number of holes or the area to be fumigated is not too extensive. It may also be used successfully in destroying rats beneath floors and other places where a concentration of the gas can be obtained.

Community effort is urged in getting rid of rats by the above means and also by cleaning up rubbish, spreading poison baits, setting traps, and rat-proofing buildings. Individual properties from which rats are exterminated soon become reinfested if there are rats in the neighborhood. The biological survey, United States department of agriculture, is willing to assist in organizing and carrying out anti-rat campaigns wherever possible and will furnish upon application bulletins and detailed directions for poisoning with barium carbonate and setting traps.

Oregon Farm Pointers From O. A. C. Experiment Station

Alfalfa is ready to cut for hay when the new shoots bud out from below or when the crop is about one-tenth in bloom. Delay in cutting when the new stems are coming up sets back the next crop several days. Letting the alfalfa go into late bloom makes coarse hay.

Success with corn depends much on getting a good stand. Plant plenty of good seed—12 to 15 pounds an acre if it is good—in warm ground and do not cover too deeply.

Favorable conditions now prevail in the dairy industry, due to better labor conditions and increased export trade in the United States during the last year. Prices of dairy products average higher than last year because of the increase in the buying power of

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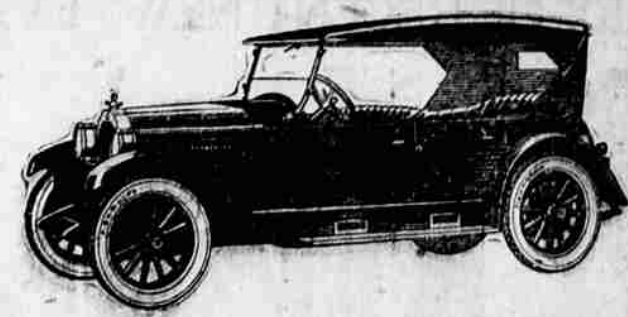
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