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## The Press Poultry Department

Conducted by H. S. Canon, Magalia, Calif.

Send questions for this department direct to  
Mr. Canon to insure prompt answers.

### Marketing Poultry.

On many large poultry plants, especially where the production of eggs is the principal object, the hens are kept for two laying seasons, one half of the flock being replaced each year.

There are several reasons why the hens that have passed their period of usefulness and are to be replaced by pullets should be turned off in the spring. First, consider the market. Current prices for large hens in San Francisco range from \$7 to \$9 per dozen, and for extra large hens, \$9 to \$11 per dozen. This is \$2 to \$3 per dozen more than they would have brought two months earlier, and is more than they will bring a little later when the young stock becomes more plentiful.

Then consider the price of eggs. Latest quotations from San Francisco show store eggs to be worth 18½ cents per dozen, while select white eggs are 20 cents. After paying the commission merchant for selling them, and paying the transportation charges you will have left about 15 cents, which is probably about what your local merchant would pay you. This leaves a very slim margin of profit. In other words, it is costing nearly as much to produce the eggs as you are getting for them.

With their own market value at the maximum, and the value of their product at the minimum, certainly now is the logical time to market the two year old hens.

Then too, the room which has been taken up by these hens can be used to good advantage in housing the young stock where space is limited. As soon as it is possible to tell the sex of the young fowls they should be segregated, and the pullets which are to be retained for layers should be given the benefit of the range, if any, while the cockerels can be confined in the house and yard and forced for quick marketing.

Unless the hens which are to be sold are in prime condition, they should be fed a special fattening ration for two weeks before selling.

Since the object of feeding is to put on as much flesh as possible in as short a time as possible, a broad ration should be used. In other words use a ration which is rich in carbohydrates and fats, particularly the latter, and proportionately low in protein. And since the more the fowl eats and digests, the more rapidly it will take on flesh, the food given it during the day should be ground fine to save the fowl the time

and trouble of grinding it, and enable it more quickly to digest and assimilate the food. The last meal, however, should be of whole corn, which will keep the digestive organs working most of the night. If the last feed at night consisted of ground grain the fowl would have it digested in about two hours after going to roost, and during the remainder of the time until daylight, or rather until the first feed in the morning, would be drawing on the supply of fat it had stored during the day. And it is easy to see that if half of what was laid on during the day was used to generate heat during the night, it would take twice as long to get the fowl in prime condition as it would if none of the stored fat was used. By feeding the whole grain at night we furnish the fowl with heat forming food which will last it all night.

For the soft feed, mix one part middlings, one part bran and two parts corn meal. A considerable amount may be mixed at one time, but only what the fowls can eat up clean should be wet at one time, as it soon becomes sour in warm weather, and there is no surer way of defeating your object than to feed sour mixture. The fowls quickly lose their appetite for the mash, and refuse to eat it. It should be mixed with just enough water to make it crumbly, and never sloppy. It should be fed in a trough or on a clean board and the trough or board should be removed as soon as the fowls have eaten all they want, and any remaining food scraped from it. Be careful not to wet up more than they will eat. After feeding two or three time you will learn about how much they will take at one feeding.

When the fowls are ready to be shipped, they should be graded according to size, and if it is a mixed flock according to size and sex. Large hens shipped with small ones will be paid for as small ones, and it is simply throwing money away to ship the two sizes together. Hens are graded as small, large and extra large, and the prices range from \$5.50 to \$11 per dozen.

### The Napa Contest.

The latest report from the Napa Laying contest shows Blom & Son's White Leghorns still in the lead, and they have made a substantial gain over the next highest pen. Their total at the time of the report was 244 eggs, with Lubben's Barred Rocks second with 219. Stice's Barred Rocks are third with 218, Stratton's White Leghorn's fourth with 215, while Pearson's Buff Wyandottes have come up to fifth place with 214.

Eggs for hatching are now being sold at reasonable prices from any of the pens. This is an excellent opportunity to get a start in standard bred poultry.

### Thanksgiving Favors.

Decorations for the Thanksgiving dinner table arouse much interest in the candy and pastry shops. There never was such a variety before.

Three inch turkeys constitute candy boxes. There are dolls dressed in pumpkin colored paper from hat to train. In their hands they carry little bags made out of tiny pumpkins.

Little negro doll boys clap pumpkin cymbals; others guide automobiles that have pumpkin wheels. Little pumpkin coaches as charming as the one that carried Cinderella to the ball stand in line with other devices.

Fruit plates are piled with red cheeked apples, grapes, bananas, pears and lemons, each one of which is a candy box. Careful reproductions are seen in the mammoth peanuts and the miniature lobsters, which also make candy boxes.

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