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How to Raise Poultry
By Dr. L. D. LeGear, V. S.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. LeGear is a graduate of the Cornell Veterinary College, 1892. Thirty-six years of veterinary practice on diseases of live stock and poultry. Excellent authority on poultry and such raising. Nationally known poultry breeder. Head author and lecturer.

**ARTICLE XLIX
MAKING BIG ONES OUT OF LITTLE ONES**

Proper Feeding of Vital Importance During the Early Days of a Chick's Existence.

Business took me into a small country court room recently. As I entered, a convicted chicken thief was just receiving sentence: "Thirty days on the rock pile, Henry," drawled the judge and continued, "and when you get home again, Henry get yourself some little chickens—honestly—and try making big ones out of little ones for a while, instead of always having to make little ones out of big ones on the county rock pile the way you've been doing here lately."

The soundness of this homely advice struck me very forcibly. I couldn't help thinking how much more profitable the poultry business would be if every one engaged in it could realize how many thousands of dollars are lost every year because poultry raisers generally are not doing all they should in the way of "making big ones out of little ones."

Over 20 years ago, I adopted a plan of feeding young chicks which proved so successful that I have continued it without changes ever since. Many have adopted it, tried all sorts of variations to it and have revolved all around it in various ways. Invariably, however, they return again to my original system. I know that many can profit by adopting my method, so I shall describe it as fully as space will permit. I do not claim this is the best method, for there is no best one. If your present method gives the desired results, do not change.

A great many are now successfully feeding an "all mash" ration from the start to maturity; and not feeding any whole or cracked grain at all. Many others successfully start their baby chicks on a mash "starter feed" and after two weeks supplement it with commercial chick grain, etc.

My method is quite different. When my chicks are about 48 hours old, I take them out of the incubator and put them into the brooder room that is warm, thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. The temperature under the hover should be close to 100 degrees, and the room should not be too cold. I give them at this time fresh butter-milk or fresh clabbermilk in clean vessels that are protected so they cannot get into the milk with their feet. I also provide them with water, with Chick Tablets dissolved in it, in clean vessels protected in the same way. I also give them baby chick grit, and charcoal and keep this before them at all times.

A few hours later I give them their first feed which is pinhead (steel-cut) oatmeal. This is the same kind of oatmeal our mothers used to make mush out of when we (the older of us) were young. It can still be secured in all the larger cities. Rolled oats are too large to feed at this time unless broken up. I spread papers on the floor near the hovers and put the oatmeal on the papers. I see that all the chicks get on the paper and they are soon all eating. I leave this before them for about ten minutes.

The second feed may consist of either commercial chick grain or oatmeal. After the first day and for the first ten days I mix one part of oatmeal and two parts chick grain and feed what they will clean up in about fifteen minutes, every three hours at 6, 9, 12, 3 and 6 o'clock. Milk as well as water should be kept before them all the time. Also tender grass or other green food should be provided every day. If milk is not available, one hard boiled egg should be ground up fine and fed to each 25 chicks each day.

I keep clean chaff or short cut straw on the floor of the brooder room and after the chicks are 4 or 5 days old, I scatter all their grain feed in the litter and make them scratch for it. During the second week I start feeding a dry mash made by mixing equal parts wheat bran, yellow corn meal, wheat middlings, oat meal and if no milk is being fed, I add 10 percent of good grade sifted meat scraps to the mash. For about a week I give them in hoppers at 9 and 3 o'clock each day what they will eat of this mash in a half hour. This, of course, is fed dry.

When the chicks are about two weeks old, this dry mash can be kept before them all the time in hoppers. When I begin feeding the above mash I discontinue the 9 and 3 o'clock grain feed and feed grain but three times each day. Also when I begin giving the dry mash I leave the oatmeal out of the grain and give chick grain only.

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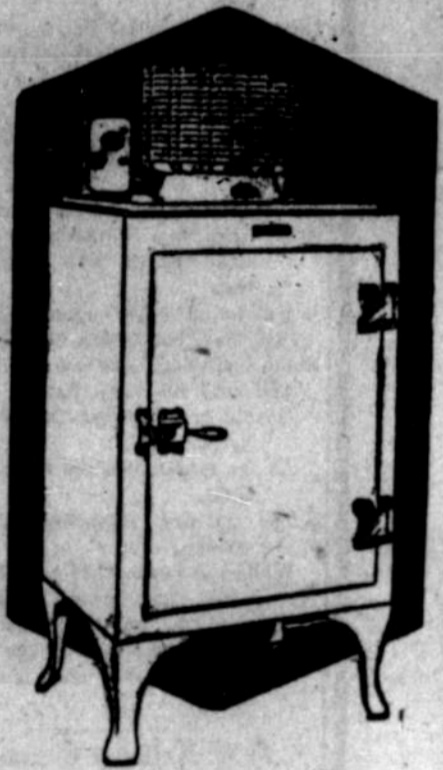
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From the third to the sixth week, I continue feeding baby chicks scratch grain in litter morning, noon and night. Gradually increasing the amount, but never giving them more than can be cleaned up in 15 minutes. At all times, keep before them mash, grit and charcoal. When six weeks old, a crumbly wet mash can be fed in troughs at noon, only what they will clean up in fifteen minutes, made by wetting the dry mash with milk, and leave off the noonday grain feed.

Beginning with the sixth week, I start feeding whole wheat, cracked corn and milo maize instead of fine chick chick grain or mix them together. Chicks now may eat whole sprouted oats and can also handle medium size grit and charcoal. Schedule and system of feeding remains as before, gradually increasing ration until the birds approach maturity. Then they may have the rations intended for laying pullets and hens or breeding males.

It is most important to keep chicks growing every minute. That is what this schedule is intended to do and it will succeed if given a fair chance. You cannot raise chicks successfully, however, without constant attention to detail—neglect will never do it. (Copyright, 1929, by Dr. L. D. LeGear, V. S.)

Farm Pointers
"Culling the lowest producers from the dairy herd not only raises the average production per cow, but also increases the cash income over the cost of feed per cow," says O. E. Reed, chief of the U. S. Bureau of Dairy Industry. "Figures in the bureau indicate that culling the lowest-producing 1 per cent of the dairy cows in this country would not lower the milk and butterfat production as much as 1 per cent, but only 1-5 of 1 per cent; and that culling the lowest-producing 10 per cent would lower milk and butterfat production only 5 per cent."

August is a good time to dip sheep for ticks. Two dippings are necessary, about 24 days apart, because the first may not destroy all the tick eggs. Various kinds of dips—such as coal-tar-cresote, cresol, and nicotine—may be used. Sheep dips are most effective when used with soft water. The sheep tick is very prevalent and spreads rapidly, especially among close-herded range flocks. Heavily infested sheep will bite, scratch, and rub against any available object. The ticks may be found by parting the wool over the neck, breast, shoulders, belly and thighs.

Loans to Coos County Farmers
Farmers of Coos county have taken advantage of the state's common school fund for loans totalling \$219,811.80, according to a report prepared at Salem the week by George G. Brown, clerk of the state land board. Only seven other counties in the state rank higher than Coos in the total of loans from this fund. In addition to the loans from the school fund Coos county farmers have also borrowed \$7,294.20 from the rural credit fund. Loans from the school fund throughout the state at this time total \$5,551,675.03. Brown's report shows, with loans from the rural credit fund totalling \$288,867.49.

John Adams, of Potato Hill, Curry county, former game warden, last week killed two stock-killing bears and a cougar near his ranch. One of the bears was of extraordinary size. Several of his varmint dogs were injured in the melep.

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