POULTRY FACTS

EARLY HATCHING MEETING FAVOR

Breeders Find Chicks Make Better Winter Layers.

The official results of laying tests recently concluded show that early-hatched chicks of the heavier breeds make the best winter layers. Rhode Island Red pullets which were hatched in March gave a winter egg production of 42.35 eggs. April-hatched pullets gave a winter production of 35.40 eggs and May pullets gave a production of 22.50 eggs.

The profit in producing eggs comes largely from producing them at a season of the year when they are highest in price. This means that we must plan to produce eggs during the winter months. The experiment referred to shows that, with the general-purpose breeds, the early hatched chicks are the ones which mature in time to start laying in the latter part of October and continue throughout the winter.

Many people have failed to raise early chicks for the reason that they have trouble with leg weakness and brooder troubles. The leg weakness can be largely overcome by the ration advocated by the Wisconsin experiment station as the result of their experiments in overcoming this trouble. This was reported at an earlier date but for those who overlooked it we are repeating the formula which they suggest: eighty pounds ground yellow corn, twenty pounds wheat middlings, five pounds ground raw bone, five pounds pearl grit and one pound of common salt. Skim milk is used freely but no water is furnished. Infertile eggs or cod liver oil is added in limited quantities if the chicks do not have access to sunlight.

The first experiment quoted shows that April pullets produced a fairly good quantity of eggs. This is undoubtedly on account of the fact that they were well grown. This is a fact that the producer who has late-hatched chicks should take into account. Oftentimes April-hatched pullets which are well fed will mature before March pullets that are stunted and poorly grown.

Crop-Bound of Fowls Caused by Rough Feed

"Crop-bound" is caused by eating food too large to pass through the gullet from the crop to the proventriculus or true stomach. Chicks become crop-bound if fed whole wheat when too young. The wheat swells and becomes too large to pass out of the crop. Coarse feed with an excess of crude fiber often causes this condition. The paralysis of the muscles of the crop is another cause. This occurs in cases of cholera.

Sometimes the contents can be removed by drenching the fowl, then kneading the crop and holding by the feet head down and working the contents out by the mouth. In severe cases an operation is necessary. Remove the feathers, make a slit through the outer skin, spread apart, then make an incision in the crop and remove the contents; then sew up the crop, then the outer skin. The crop membrane and skin should be sewed separately.

Pullets Require Green Feed When Confined

When the pullets are penned and set to their work task of egg laying, their need for succulent green feed must be met, say the poultry specialists of the Ohio university. Succulent green feed provided for the pullets for the first few weeks after they are housed will keep them in good physical condition. Rape, green clover, and alfalfa are satisfactory for this purpose.

If no succulent green feed is available, the poultrymen recommend a dose of Epsom salts for the birds soon after housing. One pound of the salts for each 100 birds should be dissolved in their drinking water, and no other water should be given until that containing the salts has been consumed

Care of Pullets

Poultrymen who buy pullets at this season should have facilities for properly housing the birds and ranging them separate from old hens. The pullets will be unfamiliar with their new location and possibly changed rations, and every day that they go underfed means a day or more of egg production lost during the winter. It may be possible to learn the ration used by the former owner and make changes gradually to the rations you are using.

Hens Need Mash

Don't get the idea that because it is cold that your hens do not need anything but corn. Corn is all right and has its place in the menu, but if you want eggs, and also to get your hens in good condition for hatching they must have something besides corn. Give them a good egg mash and it will be better if it is fed moist and warm once a day—better still if it is fermented for 24 hours with yeast. Do not feed all they want. Make them clean it up.

The DAIRY

FEED LIBERALLY FOR BIG PROFITS

Farmers Make Mistake by Cutting Down on Supply.

Some farmers when they find the price of dairy feeds going up seem to think that the only and most profitable thing for them to do is to cut down on the amount of feed which they are giving their cows, and some feeders have been known to cut down to such an extent that they reduce the body maintenance requirement, says a writer in the Michigan Farmer.

It is known that a cow which is fed the proper amount and quality of feed uses about one-half of it for maintaining her body and the other half for the manufacture of her product, hence, cutting down on the ration by 10 per cent may reduce the milk flow 20 per cent while the amount of feed which is used for the maintenance of her body will remain practically the same. The animal must first keep up its body weight and then whatever feed is left over goes for the production of milk.

It is of first importance that the cows have sufficient food for both body and production maintenance. A dairy cow that is bred for production, with the right kind of handling, will pay for her feed, and in many cases she will return two dollars' worth of dairy products for every dollar's worth she consumes.

Many dairy farmers make the mistake of reducing the grain ration in the spring, when the supply of grain begins to get low and the grass is beginning to start. It is well to keep in mind that green grass can in no way compare with concentrated grain feed, until the grass crop is well established. After the stock has been fed liberally during the winter, do not reduce the ration too early in the spring, and thereby lose much that already has been gained, and in making the change do so gradually.

Prevent Tuberculosis by Thorough Cleaning

After diseased animals are found and removed from the premises, a very thorough cleaning and washing of the inside of the barn and other buildings where the animals have been should be made. This must be followed by the proper application of some approved disinfectant. The use of disinfectants without first doing the necessary and proper cleaning is ineffective for the reason that the germs of the disease must be exposed. All utensils or anything else that may have become contaminated by use around the diseased animals should likewise be cleaned and disinfected. The manure and refuse must be hauled from barnyards or lots to plowed fields, spread thin, and exposed to the sunlight. The yards and lots, including feed troughs, water troughs, and fences, can then be sprayed properly with the disinfectant.

All this means much work, but it must be done to prevent infection from spreading to the healthy animals.

Individual Feeding of Dairy Cows Is Favored

Different cows have different capacities for converting feed into milk. No man who has not a full appreciation of the wide variation in individual cows will be fully successful as a feeder. Some cows may have natural capacity for producing large quantities of milk, and may not receive feed enough for maximum production. By increasing the feed of the highest-producing cows and carefully consulting the milk sheets on which each cow's daily production is recorded, the skillful feeder will soon find that some cows in the herd will respond to the increased allowance and return a good profit on the additional feed given. On the other hand, there are cows that have a limited capacity for milk production and are very liable to be overfed. By carefully studying each individual cow the feeder will soon ascertain the point beyond which any addition to the grain ration becomes unprofitable.

Salt Overlooked

Feeding salt is seldom overlooked during the summer months as most men have flock salt before the animals at all times. During winter months dairy cows are housed in barns where they are entirely dependent upon their owner for all the feed they eat and some men overlook salt, except at irregular intervals. Large quantities of salt given at irregular intervals do not accomplish the same purpose as a regular supply.

Wintering Herd Bull

Best breeders winter the bull away from the herd, but too often he is kept in a dark, dirty stall, without exercise. Exercise, protection from weather, and a moderate ration will keep him in good condition.

Build a strong stall in a corner of the cow barn, with a strong paddock or corral adjoining, or a cable can be run from stall to some point about 60 feet from the barn; a short, strong chain run from the ring in the bull's nose to a ring on the cable.

Best Treatment for Seed Grain

Copper Carbonate Favored for Preventing Smut of Wheat and Oats.

Copper carbonate is the best fungicide for preventing stinking smut of wheat and the smuts of hulless oats.

Formaldehyde is the best fungicide for preventing smuts of hulled oats and covered smut of barley.

Formaldehyde should not be used for treating wheat. It prevents the covered smut, but it is likely to injure the seed severely, especially if the seed is dried after treatment, or sown in dry soil.

Copper carbonate does not prevent the smuts of hulled oats nor the covered smut of barley. It reduces the amount, but is not as effective as formaldehyde. Formaldehyde does not injure the seed of oats and barley and is therefore recommended.

Patent fungicides are not better than copper carbonate and formaldehyde. There are many patent fungicides now on the market, write E. C. Stakman and H. A. Rodenhiser in the Dakota Farmer.

How to Use Dust.

Get a good grade of fine, fluffy, copper carbonate. This light material is as effective as the more expensive heavier material. Any dust with a 20 per cent copper equivalent or more is satisfactory. Use two ounces of dust per bushel. If the seed is very badly smutted, use three ounces. For small quantities of seed mix the dust with the seed in an old barrel churn or a similar homemade device. Rotate the churn seven or eight times. This is long enough to mix the dust thoroughly. For treating large quantities of seed, it probably would pay to buy a smut machine. Treat the seed any time before sowing. Treat it now.

Marquis wheat seed need not be treated more than once every other year, because Marquis is somewhat resistant to stinking smut.

How to Use Formaldehyde.

There are three general methods—the dip, sprinkle and spray methods. For the first two, use one pint of formaldehyde to 50 gallons of water. Either dip the seed into this solution, or sprinkle the solution onto the seed by means of a sprinkling can, while one person shovels the seed over. In either case, one gallon of the solution will be enough for about 50 bushels of seed. After treatment, the seed should be sown as soon as possible, preferably while it is still moist, for the best results.

The advantage of the spray method is that it does not wet the seed. Mix one pint of formaldehyde with about a gallon of water and spray this onto the seed with a compressed air sprayer—not a sprinkler. Use exactly one pint of formaldehyde to 50 bushels of seed. It can even be used without water. The exact amount of water does not make any difference. It is used merely as a carrier for the formaldehyde to 50 bushels of seed. After treatment cover the seed with sacking or canvas for five rours. Then sow immediately, or spread out to dry.

Various Tools Required for Handy Repair Shop

According to Arkansas College of Agriculture authorities, the farm shop will pay for itself many times in money and time saved. Care, however, should be exercised in choosing the equipment for the shop.

Woodworking tools should be chosen first. The following will make the basis for a good kit; a medium weight claw hammer, a 24-inch framing brace and bits of ¼, ½, ¾ and 1-inch in diameter. The above list of good quality can be bought for from $10 to $15. As needs demand the following tools may be added: 25½ point rip saw, a 24-inch wrecking bar, a 24-inch level, a ½ and ¾-inch wood chisel, and an 8-inch draw knife.

A very satisfactory wood for a bench vise can be made by using a 1-inch by 16-inch screw and using a well seasoned piece of hard wood for the vise face. For metal and pipe work a bench or leg type vise which has a removable set of pipe jaws will come in very handy.

Miscellaneous tools to be included very profitably are: a 14-inch pipe wrench, a 12-inch adjustable wrench, a 10-inch hack saw and a dozen extra blades, two cold chisels, a machine punch, a 2½ pound ball pean hammer, a pair tin snips, and ¼-inch, ⅜-inch and ½-inch drill bits, with square shanks.

Agricultural Hints

With a big crop of beans, farmers will find this crop valuable to use in feeding swine.

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When soy beans are fed to hogs they should be accompanied by a good mineral mixture.

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When there is a creep in the pasture for feeding grain to calves, lambs, or colts, it is a good plan to keep the salt box near the creep.

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When soy beans are used properly as a supplement to corn the danger of soft pork is practically eliminated, according to Purdue specialists.

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Stacking is a very satisfactory way of storing soy bean hay. Soy beans will keep perfectly in the stack if thoroughly cured before being put in

OUR COMIC SECTION

Interference

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