

POULTRY

EARLIEST HATCHED CHICKS ARE BEST

Experiment Shows the April Pullets Produce Good Eggs.

Reports from poultrymen in Colorado show that the tendency to earlier hatching is gaining a foothold among successful breeders. Early-hatched chicks make better winter layers, they have found, and the rapid development in the early-hatched chick results in more economical production of broilers.

The cold weather of this season of the year seems to give much greater development in a short period of time, while those that are hatched late and grow during the warm weather are slower in their development. Cold weather seems to retard the sexual development, thus holding back egg production until warmer weather, according to observations of Charles N. Keen of the poultry department at the Colorado Agricultural college.

If pullets are raised from late-hatched eggs and pushed for production, they attain a sexual maturity before the body maturity is attained. Then the first eggs produced will be small and continue so until body maturity is completed.

In the case of light breeds, such as Leghorns and Anconas, these small birds which have been forced break down under heavy production and go into a winter neck molt and often a full molt. With the larger breeds there may be less of this trouble with the late-hatched birds, but they are harder to force into laying. It takes approximately five months to mature a Leghorn or Ancona pullet and approximately seven months to mature Rhode Island Reds, Rocks, Wyandottes and other birds of the larger breeds. They should be laying not later than November 1 and not earlier than September 1 for best results.

Mash Essential Part of Ration for Layers

The mash is an essential part of the hen's diet, for she cannot make eggs economically from grains alone. In the mash should be included some of the common by-products such as wheat bran, middlings and gluten feed. These feeds are palatable and furnish relatively cheap vegetable protein.

The hen must be supplied with enough animal protein either included in the mash or fed in addition to it. Some of the more common home supplies of animal protein may consist of skim milk, buttermilk or some form of waste meat and, in the summer, insects that the hen can find on the range.

Repeated tests at the Wisconsin and other experiment stations have shown that hens cannot find the necessary amount of animal protein on the range to make profitable egg production possible. Even in the summer unless the hens have all the milk they can drink it will pay to have some additional animal protein in the mash. In the winter the hen will not drink enough milk to supply her needs and some addition should be made.

Ventilation of Poultry House Is Big Problem

The ventilation of the poultry house is a much discussed problem and many times local conditions are responsible for troubles. Sometimes the location of the house is such as to interfere with the usual results. However, if the walls of the house become damp last year it is an indication of too little fresh air. There are two methods of ventilation which are quite common. One is the use of muslin frames which may be closed at night and opened during the day. In houses 14 to 16 feet deep one should have one square foot of cloth frames for every foot the house is long. Deeper houses require more while narrow houses require less. Even with muslin frames one must not be persuaded to close them too tightly as this may result in too little ventilation at night. Their use requires discretion as does any other plan for ventilation.

Feed Heavily

January and February are the months when all flocks should be fed heavily, says T. S. Townsley, extension poultry specialist of the Missouri College of Agriculture. By January 1 most of the pullets ought to be mature and ready to lay, while the majority of hens should be through the molt. Consequently with proper feed, egg production ought to pick up rapidly during January and February and reach its maximum during March and April.

Give Hens Chance

Poor housing of farm hens during the winter plays a big part in keeping the production of the average Illinois hen down to about 50 eggs a year. It takes contented hens to keep the winter egg basket full and poultrymen who do not insure the contentment of their fowls are apt to get high egg production only during the natural laying season in the spring. It will be profitable for chicken raisers to spend money in repairing the old hen houses.

DAIRY

HIGH-PRODUCING COW IS FAVORED

Costs More to Feed but More Than Makes It Up.

Ohio, with the sixth largest number of dairy cows among the important dairying states, supports more than one-third of a million cows kept for milking purposes than are actually needed to produce the same volume of milk and butterfat now being obtained. This is the conclusion from statistics on the dairy industry of the state and on the performance of the 9,171 cows of herds in cow-testing associations.

Ohio has approximately 920,000 cows and heifers two years old and over. Average production of milk is about 4,500 pounds per cow per year. Average production of butterfat is about 160 pounds per year. But the 9,171 cows in the cow testing associations averaged a production of 7,451 pounds of milk and 315 pounds of butterfat in 1927. If that had been the average for all the cows in the state, only about 566,000 cows would have been needed to produce the same quantity of milk, and only 470,000 to produce the same weight of butterfat. That presupposes that the quality of all cows in the state, and their care and management, were kept at the same standard as those of the cows in the cow testing associations.

Looking at it in another way, if all the cows in the state were brought to the same standards of productivity as those of the cows in the associations, the milk flow in Ohio would amount to nearly seven billion pounds a year instead of only a little more than four billion. And the butterfat produced would total more than 292,000,000 pounds instead of 148,000,000 pounds.

Charts and records of feeding, kept in the cow testing associations, show that it costs more to feed the high-producing cow, but that increased cost is far below the proportionate gain.

Best Roughage for Milk Cows During the Winter

The best roughage for milk cows in the winter is a mixture of legume hay and some kind of succulent material such as silage or roots. Alfalfa hay is one of the best hays for feeding to milk cows, although clover, soy bean hay and others belonging to that family give excellent results. Corn silage is perhaps as common a feed as is available for supplying succulence, although mangels, carrots and sugar beets are also excellent. If legume hay and such succulent feeds as were mentioned are not available, cane hay, sudan hay and millet hay will give reasonably good results. When a nonlegume hay such as the three just mentioned is fed it will be necessary to make up the protein in the grain mixture. That will necessitate the use of some high protein concentrate such as linseed oil meal, cottonseed meal, gluten meal, soy bean oil meal, peanut meal or coconut meal.

Start Dairy Industry by Using Pure-Bred Sires

Dairying, as with other forms of live stock production, is not a thing which should be promoted. Ill-directed ventures usually result from promotion and rapid expansion. It is growing, and the use of good bulls, good pastures, and good home-grown feeds are excellent steps on which to build for the future. A hickory grows slowly; a castor bean grows rapidly. The hickory lasts from year to year and makes a tough and desirable wood. The castor bean dies at the first touch of frost. The dairy industry started by the use of better bulls, grows like the hickory, slowly but steadily, and withstands cold, low prices, and other discouraging influences.

New Electric Clippers Are Handy for Dairyman

A new electric clipper and groomer, operated somewhat on the principle of a vacuum cleaner, has been invented for the use of the dairyman who wishes to produce the cleanest milk possible with the least effort and expense. This device attaches to the milking machine vacuum pipe line and removes dirt, dust, germs, hair and filth which might get into the milk and injure its quality and purity. A similar device, but operated independently by an electric motor instead of the milking machine system, is another recent development that has proven its ability to keep dairy cows clean economically.

Cull Boarders

The need of more economic and efficient production is quite apparent on every hand. The dairy farmer must cull out the low producing cows from his herd and build for a greater production for each cow through keeping records of production, by using better sires, and by following the best methods in feeding, breeding and management. The same problems must be considered by the manufacturer and distributor of dairy products.

Are You Ready



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All Noisy
Mrs. Movemore—Goodness! This is the noisiest neighborhood I ever got into. Just hear those children screech.
Maid—They're your own children, ma'am.—Pathfinder Magazine.

A man's intentions may be good, but the grocer often fails to credit them.

Can't Stand Severity of Norrland Climate

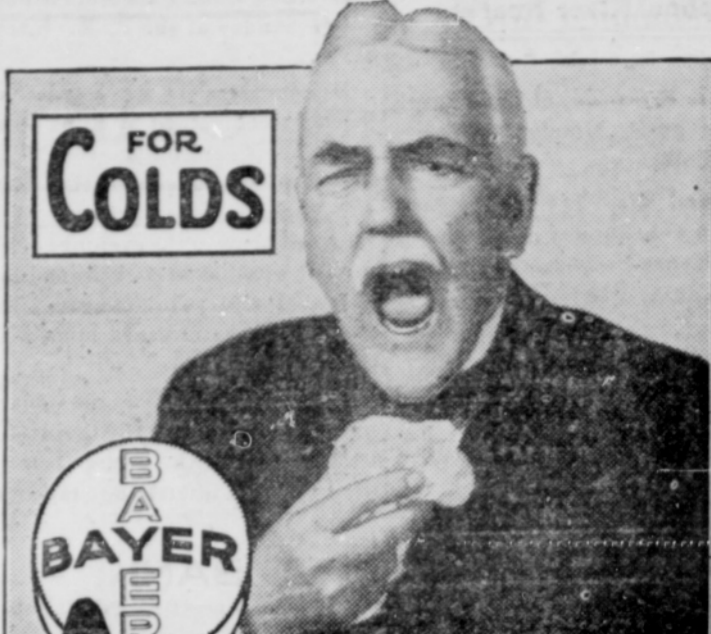
Sweden's attempt to colonize the forested regions of Norrland with dissatisfied farmers from other sections is apparently destined to go on the rocks. A large number of the 450 colonists financed by the government in the hope of securing a permanent population for some of the remotest northern districts have announced their intention to move back to central and southern Sweden. The soil is unfit for cultivation they declare, and the severe weather endangers their lives. They also complain of the lack of hospitals and schools and of misrepresentation by government agents. On the other hand, another scheme for colonizing the districts adjacent to the Gulf of Bothnia and the many rivers of the country has proved successful. The government has loaned money to the children of farmers to enable them to purchase their own holdings from their parents, and thus many who might have left for the cities remain to till the soil. More than 1,000 such loans are made to people in Norrland every year, and eventually it is hoped to build up a fairly large population. Norrland is a rugged, timbered country stretching up into the Arctic circle and includes 50 per cent of the area of Sweden.

Auk Is Stupidest Bird.
More than 100,000 little auks, birds so stupid they cannot tell the difference between a man standing still and a pile of stones, were observed on Hakluyt Island in the Arctic ocean by Dr. R. M. Anderson, Canadian government zoologist, on an expedition into the Far North last summer. Taking advantage of the birds' stupidity, the natives catch them by sweeping them up in the ordinary landing nets used by fishermen. The little auks stand upright, resembling the penguin, and, like their larger relative, form in lines of almost martial array.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Not in History
Willie (reading book)—Paw, can you tell me about Bunker Hill?
Paw (golf fan)—Nope; but I can tell you about the bunker I ran into this morning on the course.

Chums
"These two girls seem to be very close friends."
"Yes, there is a compact between them."

No one likes a sand-papery tongue; neither does he like a velvety one.



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The Department of Agriculture says that both sexes of the glow worm give light, and that light is also found in the larvae of some species. In the same degree in which a man's mind is nearer to freedom from all passion, in the same degree, also, is it nearer to strength.—Marcus Aurelius.

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