

Mrs. Robt. Millsbaugh and daughter are visiting at Roseburg with Mrs. Millsbaugh's sister, Mrs. L. Hewitt and family.

Roy Stone, a Sophomore in the local high school has joined the marines and is now located in San Diego.

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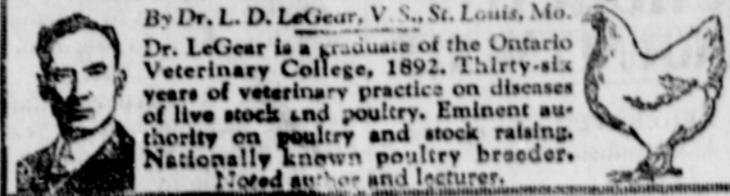
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## How to Raise Poultry



Broody Hens Represent an Economic Loss When Not Needed for Hatching—Harsh and Cruel Measures Not Needed to Overcome Broodiness.

In a recent radio talk, Raymond Hitchcock stated that even though he had called all his hens together and scolded them severely, they still refused to lay any eggs for him. Not many people would employ the famous comedians method for trying to get eggs but many of the ways used to break hens of broodiness are just as ridiculously ineffective. It is really important that better ways of overcoming broodiness should be known. A broody hen is an unprofitable hen especially where incubators do all the hatching. Consequently the sooner her broodiness can be broken up the sooner she can begin once more to earn her board and lodging.

It is a mistake to frighten a broody hen by tying red ribbons to her tail, plunging her into cold water, or confining her in a closed box without food, water or light. Such methods belong to the dark ages of poultry raising. They do not actually cure broodiness but only put the hen in poor flesh and health. The only way to get a hen out of this condition is to get her mind off the subject, so to speak, so she will, once more begin eating and drinking in normal fashion. One good way to accomplish this is to confine one or more broody hens in a small coop with a vigorous male.

Broodiness can also be easily and humanely overcome through the use of broody coops. The important thing in using such a coop is to get the broody hen into it the very first day she shows any sign of that condition. If this is done she will forget her broodiness in less than half the time that will be needed if she is allowed to stay on the nest, two, three or four days. The longer broodiness is allowed to continue the harder it is to overcome and the greater will be the loss of egg production. I shall describe two broody coops that I have found exceptionally effective.

For just one hen make a coop 2 by 2 by 2 feet. The sides are to be of slats for ventilation, and the top of solid for protection. Using a single rope or wire fastened to the center of the top, hang this coop from any convenient rafter or branch of a tree. Such a coop will sway with every gust of wind and with every step the hen takes. That will keep her so busy trying to retain her balance that she soon forgets her broodiness.

The second form of broody coop I wish to describe may be used with good effect when a number of hens all decide to go on a strike at about the same time. This coop should be 3 by 4 or 4 by 5 feet and two feet deep. The sides should be made of slats or poultry netting and the floor either slatted or solid. A good roof should be provided and should extend far enough on each side to give good protection from the rain. This coop should be at least 2 or 3 feet off the ground to allow for good circulation of air all around the hens. This is very important, as broody hens should be kept cool. From three to six hens may be placed in this coop and kept in it day and night. It should be put in a cool, shady spot instead of the sun.

Plenty of good feed and clean water should be kept within easy reach of the broody hen. This is very important and should not be neglected under any circumstances.

Hens so confined constantly fuss among themselves, which tends to make them forget their broodiness. Seeing other fowls at liberty also helps considerably to speed up the end of broody spells. This method should have the desired effect in from three to five days. It is a particularly good method not only because of its effectiveness but because it is absolutely humane.

Better than any method of curing broodiness is the plan for eliminating it, now being successfully used by many poultry raisers. With careful breeding it is possible to develop a strain of non-sitters, or hens that will not go broody. Only hens that do not go broody should be used for breeding and if care is used in selecting just the right hens, broodiness can be practically eliminated in a few generations.

A broody hen unless needed for hatching eggs is simply a nuisance and an unnecessary nuisance at that. It is so easy to break up the habit there is no reason why it should be tolerated and a great many reasons that every poultry raiser knows well why it should not be tolerated. But to be successful, one must not make the mistake of using the harsh methods one so much in vogue.

The right way is always the cheapest and best. That is why I recommend sane, humane methods of curing broodiness. They work along scientific lines by not trying to scare the hen out of her broodiness, but by replacing the brooding idea with something else. This method brings 100 per cent success because it leaves the hen in excellent physical condition ready and willing to resume her profitable job of laying eggs. Diplomacy and gentle methods are just as superior to force when dealing with feathered strikers as they usually are with the human variety.

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