

Pity Poor Chanticlear

The old expression, "Cock-o'-the-

walk," doesn't mean as much now as it once did. In former times, Sir Chanticlear strutted about with all the insolence of one whose indispensability could not be questioned. He became the central figure of many

a legend, even to becoming the hero of a great fanciful drama by the master playwright, Edmond Rostand. Well he might strut with all this adulation, for his day of greatness is now gone forever. At best he is merely tolerated during breeding season and as a reward for faithful service he is then condemned to the axe or to exile.

For this, the one time supreme dictator of barnyard society must lay the blame on fairly recent scientific discovery. Like the musician who sees his livelihood threatened by Vitaphone and Movietone, the ex-sultan of chickendom now finds himself in a very precarious position. My investigations on my experimental farm prove to me that all roosters should be removed from the flock as soon as the breeding season is over. They should then be comfortably housed or sent to the butcher. I am convinced that fully \$50,000,000 is lost every year by poultry raisers, who, through carelessness or because they do not know any better allow roosters to run with the flock out of breeding season.

The rooster's part in poultry raising is merely to fertilize the eggs intended for hatching. Hens will lay just as well with no male birds present, as when they are. Some poultrymen contend they lay even better without male birds. Furthermore, an infertile egg will keep much longer than a fertile one.

The fertilization of eggs causes them to spoil much more quickly than they would if not fertilized, especially in hot weather. Heat causes the germ in the egg to grow and as soon as much growth starts, the egg is no longer fit to use as food. On the other hand I have fully demonstrated the keeping qualities of infertile eggs by keeping them in incubators for varying lengths of time. I have tested such eggs after the tenth day of incubation and found them still comparatively fresh. Had they been fertile, they would have been completely spoiled after two or three days in the incubator. In warm weather fertile eggs will spoil almost as quickly as they will in an incubator or under a setting hen unless they are kept in a cool, dry place.

Eggs should be gathered twice a day in hot weather and marketed at least twice a week. Nests should be kept in a clean, dry place and the litter in them should be frequently renewed to insure cleanliness and help to keep down vermin. Small, soiled and deformed eggs or those that are off color should be kept for home use. Eggs of good color, uniform size and above all, those that are not fertile, command the best prices.

So many of the stations where eggs are bought now conduct tests for fertility that their sale is the more reason for segregating or butchering the rooster as soon as his period of usefulness is over. As soon as one breeding season is over, therefore, all male birds should be put in comfortable pens to themselves or should be marketed for

table use. Any poultryman who is not already practicing this plan of handling the male birds of his flock is losing money through his old-fashioned methods and will be well repaid for adopting more up-to-date practices.

FARM POINTERS

On Oregon garden lands where crops have been removed, bulky organic fertilizers may well be applied and disked into the soil during the fall, says the experiment station. Lime for legumes may be applied at any time when the soil is dry enough for cultivation, and harrowed in after spreading.

Very little in the way of medicinal treatment can be done for an animal that has ruptured a small blood vessel in the udder. The animal will usually recover completely in a few weeks, says the Oregon Experiment station, but giving it a little formaldehyde in skim milk once a day for three days will tend to act as an antiseptic for the udder.

Some succulent food such as kale, root crops, silage, etc., is always of value in the ration of dairy cows.

Thrifter calves result if they are fed wholemilk for at least the first two weeks, it has been found. The practice at the Oregon Experiment station is to feed the calves wholemilk up to about three weeks of age and then gradually change to either calf meal or skimmilk. The calf meal is fed dry, and animals receiving it have been noticeably lacking in intestinal disorders. It is essential, however, that young calves receiving dry calf meal also be fed a good quality of hay, and plenty of fresh water.

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