

How to Raise Poultry

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BEATING THE HEN AT HER OWN GAME

Because an incubator of of a more or less mechanical nature, there is undoubtedly a temptation to treat it as if it were almost entirely automatic in its action. A good incubator will accomplish much with astonishing little attention, but it must have a reasonable amount of the right kind of care if the best possible results are to be obtained. Quite often I have seen an incubator condemned as a failure when the operator was really at fault. Proper attention is just as essential in the artificial incubation of eggs as it is in any other mechanical operation. I shall, therefore, give a few pointers which I hope may show at least a few of my readers how to get better results than they have been able to obtain heretofore.

First of all I want to say a word to those who have not yet used incubators but expect to do so. Above all things don't select your first machine with price as the principal consideration. Poor construction almost always goes hand in hand with a too cheap price and the first saving is soon lost many times over. Secondly, I advise getting a machine that is plenty large enough for present needs and those of the immediate future. One big machine is cheaper to run and gives better results than two small ones. When making your purchase, therefore, take future needs into consideration. Of course, it would be foolish to buy a machine out of all proportion to your needs.

Caring for the incubator is not a hard task but it does require attention to details, good common sense and judgment. The machine should be visited at least three times a day to be sure that whatever source of heat may be used is functioning properly, that temperature remains constant and that conditions generally are as recommended by the manufacturer.

Large hatcheries usually have specially constructed houses or cellars for their incubators. Smaller operators cannot afford the expense of constructing such quarters and indeed, do not require them. An incubator should, however be placed in the most favorable position possible to secure best results. The room or cellar used should be well ventilated but free from draughts, should be so arranged that temperature can be kept even at all times, and must have a goodly amount of moisture. The temperature, where incubators are operating should never fall below 40 degrees; between 50 and 70 degrees is good, and an unvarying temperature of 60 degrees is ideal.

Incubators should never be operated in a room where there are odors of gases such as come from oils, vegetables, or decaying matter,

nor dust nor dirt of any kind should be permitted. Baby chicks should never be brooded in an incubator room or cellar. The shells of eggs are porous and their contents would rapidly absorb odors with harmful results.

An incubator must be absolutely level to secure even distribution of heat within. Eye judgment should not be trusted. Use a spirit level and be sure to secure a level in all directions—not merely from front to back or from side to side.

When all details of installation are completed, a good dip and disinfectant should be sprayed into every portion of the inside of the machine to kill all disease germs. Then the machine should be closed up and operated for a day or two at about 102½ degrees before eggs are placed in it. The next step is to get the temperature up to the point recommended by the manufacturer and regulate the thermostat so it will keep the temperature constant.

Any incubator will be accompanied by detailed instructions for operating, maintaining heat, regulating the source of heat, what heat and moisture to maintain at various stages, and all other details of operation. It is not necessary, therefore, to give minute instructions to these points. I receive hundreds of letters from people all over the United States asking how they should operate their incubators. My answer is always the same, "Follow the manufacturers instructions closely and you will be successful." The manufacturers of each machine should know more about the minute details of operating their machines they make than I do, therefore, their directions should be followed closely in every detail.

An incubator is a real convenience and a wonderful time saver when properly operated. One attendant will consume no more time caring for an incubator containing 2,000 eggs than would be necessary to give adequate attention to a dozen hens. On the other hand, because individual hatches are quite large, carelessness or lack of proper understanding may cause material losses. It is easy to see, therefore, why the manufacturers instructions should be carefully followed in every detail.

FARM POINTERS

Generally speaking, it requires from 15 to 20 pounds of garbage to produce 1 pound of pork.

There is no known method of keeping strawberries bearing year after year without resetting. Two or three years is the average profitable period. The producing life of commercial plantings is discussed in an Oregon Experiment station bulletin entitled, "Cost and practices in Strawberry Production in the Willamette Valley".

Oak is the best wood available in Oregon for the smoke house fire, but willow, or any of the fruit tree woods are good. As is best to keep the temperature below 120 degrees Fahrenheit, it has been found a good practice to use some hard wood saw dust on the fire, says the experiment station. This will cause it to burn more slowly.

That bacon fat, used in muffins gives a delicious flavor. Cooked bacon, rather finely chopped, may also be mixed in the batter.

Cow testing associations in India if there were any, would have hard sledding in view of the religious antipathy the Hindus have for harming a cow in any way. No matter how poor a cow may be, she is assured of life and liberty until she dies a natural death, says W. A. Hayes, Oregon State college graduate, who has just returned after seven years' service as an agricultural specialist in India.

Many orchard diseases are held over from year to year by fallen leaves which contain the disease spores. Much new infestation may be prevented by plowing under these leaves just as early as possible. Favorable weather during the winter is frequently utilized by Oregon orchardists and berry growers for this, says the experiment station. With field crops the same result is obtained through rotation of crops.

"TIGER ROSE," HERE WITH MONTE BLUE and LUPE VELEZ

STATE THEATRE—Warner Bros. present for four days starting Sunday, January 12th, Monte Blue and Lupe Velez in the Vitaphone production, "Tiger Rose". Directed by George Fitzmaurice. Adapted from Willard Mack's stage play of the same name. Scenario by Harvey Thew and Gordon Rigby.

"Tiger Rose" is one of the most colorful and exciting melodramas it has been our good fortune to witness. It is a splendid story of love and adventure, well acted by a cast of capable actors, each one convincing and sure. The story is splendid material for the talking screen. There is so much depth and substance to it that there was no need of filling in weak spots, as is often the case. This tale holds up from start to finish, with bright, interesting dialogue, powerful dramatic episodes and outdoor scenes that are spellbinding.

The cast was well chosen. Monte Blue plays the role of Sergeant Devlin, of the Northwest Mounted Police. It suits him perfectly. In the first place, he looks like a hero of the great Northwest and that gives him a great start. Then his talents permit him to sincerely portray the

man of great courage who is tender and gentle in his love for Rose.

And where could one find an actress better fitted to play the wild, untamed Rose than Lupe Velez. Here is a girl worth watching. Every glance, every motion, every word is vivid and delightful. H. B. Warner gives another of his excellent characterizations, and Gaston Glass, Tully Marshall, Grant Withers, and Bull Montana are all fine. Rin-Tin-Tin adds color to the proceedings. The story is of primitive, outdoor people who resent the invasion of the modern scientists and engineers. Rose, foster daughter of Hector McCollins, the Hudson Bay factor at the Loon River Post, is the belle of the North Woods. Every man about the place is in love with her. She loves Bruce, young engineer who is one of a group of men who have come to build a railroad.

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