

A Weekly Page of Poultry Hints to You

Here Is a Department Full of Bright Ideas for Readers of the Home and Farm Magazine Section.

OF THE VARIOUS kinds of live stock, poultry is most widely adapted to suburban conditions for several reasons. It can be handled successfully on a very small amount of land. The waste products from the kitchen and the table may be used to advantage as feed. The care of the chickens is pleasant work, is comparatively simple, and may be done by any member of the family. Eggs and dressed poultry are always in demand and may be sold to advantage in any quantity, or used at home, thus furnishing a strictly fresh product which is hard to secure under general market conditions; and in addition, the care of poultry may provide recreation for adults, employment and good discipline for the children, and be a source of income to the housewife, or saving in the food account for the family.

The following breeds are among the most popular in this country: Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, Orpingtons and Single-Comb White Leghorns. The Leghorns belong to the egg-laying class of fowls, lay a white egg and are especially adapted to large, commercial egg farms, or to sections where a white egg brings a premium over brown eggs.

The other breeds belong to the general-purpose class, and lay brown eggs. They are better adapted to the average person, or the farmer who keeps only a small number of fowls, as they are good layers and also make good table poultry. Another advantage of the general-purpose breeds is that they will hatch eggs and brood their chickens, while the Leghorns, and other breeds of the egg-laying class are non-setters.

Methods Are Many.

A great variety of methods of feeding and caring for poultry are used successfully. Hatching and brooding, or rearing chickens under hens, is the best method to use where a small number of chickens are raised, and especially if the care is apt to be irregular. Incubators and brooders may be used also, but they increase the cost of equipment considerably. Chickens can be reared under hens successfully by keeping the hens confined in the brood coop, while allowing the chickens to roam at will.

When many fowls are kept in a small space, the ground becomes so foul that in time it becomes difficult to rear chickens with good success. In order to avoid this condition, it is advisable to divide the lot and sow part of it with some of the quick-growing grains such as oats, wheat or rye.

By this method the yards may be rotated every three or four weeks during the growing season, turning the hens onto the growing grain when it is a few inches high. A good combination of grains is oats and wheat in equal parts, sowing six or seven bushels to the acre (43,560 square feet), and using wheat alone for the last seeding in the fall.

Fresh Air Essential.

The prime essentials in poultry houses are fresh air, dryness, sunlight and space enough to keep the birds comfortable. Allow about four square feet of floor space per bird for the general-purpose breeds, and three square feet for the smaller breeds. A good egg-laying ration may be made of a dry mash of equal parts of corn meal, bran, middlings and beef scrap, which is kept before the birds in a hopper all of the time; and a scratch ration of equal parts of corn, wheat and oats fed in a litter four to five inches deep twice daily. Regulate this feed so that the birds eat about one-half mash and one-half scratch grain, which will mean feeding about one quart of mixed grains daily to 12 Plymouth Rock hens, or to 14 Leghorns. In order to utilize the waste table products to the best advantage, a moist mash may be used in place of the dry mash, feeding once daily. If it contains much meat, table scraps may be substituted for the beef scrap; if not, merely add it to the mash given above.

The selection of stock is a matter of considerable importance, as a great deal of one's success or failure with poultry depends upon the individual specimens used to breed from. Care should be taken to select the early maturing, fast-

Tacoma Will Hold Big Poultry Show

Championship Meeting Is December 29 to January 2, and Special Prizes Are Offered.

TACOMA will give a championship show this season. At a recent meeting a resolution was passed to offer special prizes on all birds that had won either first, second or third prize at any show held after September 1st, 1914. The Tacoma show will be held December 29, 1914, to January 2, 1915.

In order to compete for these prizes the exhibitor in making his entries will state where his birds won—whether it be fair or show, and the judge who placed the awards.

In entering championship class the exhibitor pays \$1 extra on all birds he enters. This dollar goes to the championship fund, which will be divided as follows:

First money—50 per cent.
Second money—30 per cent.
Third money—20 per cent.

In other words, all money taken in for championship entries will be paid back to the class in the shape of premiums to the variety that pays in the money. This premium money will be extra—provided one of the championship birds happens to win first, second or third in the regular awards.

A special entry blank will be sent with the regular blanks, on which the exhibitors must enter championship birds.

For further particulars, write to J. A. Caddey, secretary, P. O. Box 1028, Tacoma, Wash.

growing pullets. Hens will not, as a rule, lay until they are well matured; consequently it can be readily seen that the slow-growing breeds will not begin to lay as soon as the former.

A good index to a hen's ability to pay a profit over the cost of feed and labor is her ability to be continually on the move.

It is advisable to keep but one breed of pure-bred fowls, as the product from a flock of the same variety is more uniform than that from a flock of mixed breeds of mongrel stock.

Healthy Flock Needed.

It takes a healthy, well-fed flock to produce eggs. Fowls must not be allowed to become too fat, as but few eggs will be laid by hens in such condition. To prevent their getting over-fat, it is best to make them work for most of their feed by scratching in the litter, of which there should be about four inches on the floor. This litter can be of straw, leaves or chaff, and should always be kept dry.

A good feed for egg production is one composed of corn, wheat and oats, equal parts by measure. It is advisable to use home-grown grains whenever possible. In sections where corn and oats do not thrive, other grains can be used to good advantage; for example, a mixture of equal parts by measure of kafir corn, oats and barley will produce good results. Scatter a small handful of this mixture for every three hens in the litter morning and noon, and give them all they will eat of it in a V-shaped trough at night. In the winter time some green feed should be fed at noon; cabbage or mangel-wurzels, either chopped or whole, are good. Every few days look in the litter carefully and see if the fowls are eating all the grain being given them; if not, reduce the quantity. Fowls that have to work for what feed they get seldom become overfat. Grit and oyster shells in a hopper should always be kept before them. The grit is used to grind their feed, and the oyster shell furnishes the lime for the eggshells. Be sure to keep water before them at all times. Birds that are laying drink much more water than those that are not laying. The water should be kept out of the direct rays of the sun.

The period of time it takes to hatch eggs of the domestic hen is 21 days. There are two methods of incubation and brooding, namely, natural and artificial. In natural incubation and brooding the hen is allowed to sit on a nest of eggs and brood or mother the young chicks when hatched.

Poultry Lice Killer Recipe Given

HERE is one of the best possible recipes for a poultry lice killer, and one guaranteed to do the work.

1. Bisulphate Carbon.....2 ounces
2. Carbolic Acid.....8 ounces
3. Oil of Tar.....1 ounce
4. Kerosene Oil.....64 ounces

Mix Nos. 1, 3 and 3 in a receptacle large enough to hold one gallon. Into this pour No. 4 very slowly, stirring vigorously during the mixing. You can purchase the first three ingredients at any drug store, and they can be mixed at once. The kerosene, one-half gallon, can be added from your home stock, and should be 150 degrees fire test. The mixture should be kept tightly corked and it will last indefinitely.

Directions for use—With a brush, a baby broom answers excellently, paint the walls, floors, roots, nests, boxes, dropping boards, etc., of the poultry house thoroughly. In special cases paint the bottom and sides of the box and confine the fowl within, covering the box with a sack for three hours. If you wish to note the effect, put a white cloth on the bottom of the box before putting in the hen. Do not put chicks in the box. It will be sufficient to subject the mother hen to the special treatment, as the odor from her feathers will kill the lice on the chicks.

Do Not Sell Eggs From Incubators

A NUMBER of poultry raisers, it seems, are putting on the market infertile eggs that have been tested in incubators from three days to a week. As soon as the breeder finds that the eggs will not hatch he takes them out and sends them to market along with his fresh spring eggs. After the eggs have been in the incubator for this period they are distinctly stale and rot very quickly if kept any length of time. Even when just taken from the incubator these infertile eggs are not fit for boiling or poaching, although they may be used for frying, and are good for cake or certain other baked foods. These eggs when they reach the market, however, are classified as low-grade No. 2.

The mixing of incubator eggs with the fresh spring eggs leads the egg packers, who get their principal cold storage supply in the spring, to cut the price they pay the farmer, Department of Agriculture investigators find. The spring eggs designed for keeping for winter consumption must be absolutely good. Moreover, the egg packers in the spring do not candle eggs but hold them three at a time in the hand and clink them to discover any crack and then judge their freshness by their fresh powdery look on the shell. The mixture of infertile incubator eggs with fresh eggs interferes seriously with this clinking and forces the packer to candle the eggs. He then deducts this added expense from the price he offers to the producer. Eggs which have once been subjected to the heat of the incubator cannot be stored, even though frozen.

●The farmer who sells incubator eggs to the dealer, therefore, is very liable to injure his own market for fresh eggs. When dealers find a percentage of low-grade incubator or other eggs in their fresh spring egg supply they lower the price for all eggs so that they will be certain that they have covered themselves against losses from this cause. The Department's specialists advise farmers to use any infertile eggs they may take from their incubators for home consumption and to send only fresh eggs to market.

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For booklet containing further information, address

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