

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.

HANDLING EGGS.

AFTER eggs come out of storage and before they are placed in the retail market they are usually candled and graded. Candling is done by holding each egg before a candle or other bright light in a space where the diffused light of the room is excluded. Expert candlers can detect the changes in the eggs and grade them with wonderful accuracy. By this process several grades of eggs are sometimes obtained, each grade worth less than the other. In the retail markets two of three different grades may appear side by side. The patron is permitted to believe the best grade are new laid eggs and that the others are cold storage eggs. Indeed, the better grades are sometimes labeled fresh eggs, and the joke of it is that usually the buyer does not know the difference when the eggs are used. The average palate cannot tell the difference between a new laid egg and one that may be called near fresh. This is especially true of eggs that are taken from the shell before they are cooked. Those who prefer to eat their eggs from the shell must have them new laid, as whatever flavors the egg contains are all retained. Even stale eggs may be used for cooking as a part ingredient of a dish and give little or no offense to the taste.

PRESERVING EGGS.

IN THE last two or three years the water glass method of preserving eggs has been tested out thoroughly, both on poultry plants and in laboratories. In a test a 10 per cent solution preserved eggs so effectively that at the end of fourteen weeks they appeared perfectly fresh. In most packed eggs the yolk settles to one side and the egg becomes inferior in quality. Again, most packed eggs will not beat up well for cake making or frosting, while eggs kept in a water glass solution will give the same results as fresh eggs. "Water glass" is the popular name for potassium silicate or sodium silicate, the commercial article often being a mixture of the two. Water glass usually is sold in one or two forms, either a powder or a syrup-thick liquid. The retail price varies, but usually is in the neighborhood of 10 cents.

ROOSTER WITH HENS.

IT IS NOT necessary for a rooster to be among hens in order that their laying qualities may not be curtailed. The rooster, it is advised, should be allowed with the hens only during the breeding season, and eggs that are intended for hatching purposes should be fertile, as the infertile ones will not hatch. Fertile eggs spoil very quickly when subjected to the ordinary methods of handling on the farm and when marketed during the hot summer months under adverse conditions. Infertile eggs will keep in good condition in temperatures which will cause fertile eggs to rot. The department advises that on May 1 all male birds be either killed, sold, or confined until December 1 or as late as January in some localities, inasmuch as it is not necessary to the laying qualities of a hen that a rooster be maintained in the flock. Moreover, his presence during those months means fertile eggs, which mean bad eggs, and the consequent loss to the producer and the consumer.

SOFT ROASTERS.

PRODUCING SOFT ROASTERS will make cull cockerels most profitable. Such roasters bring the highest prices when produced through caponizing. This operation yields the largest possible bird. The larger the bird the higher price paid per pound. The South Shore section of Massachusetts is noted for its large numbers of tender, juicy, soft roasters, and the high market prices received for them. Having decided to raise soft roasters, select the best cockerels for the freeing pens. This can be done when they are three or four months old. Caponize all other cockerels and feed them two or three months longer. By this time they will weigh eight pounds and be in prime market condition. Cracked corn, beef scraps and water should be kept constantly before them. Feed them some

green food in the shape of cabbage sprouted oats or green rye. Capons will reach the desired weight in a few weeks without other forcing than the above simple diet. Soft roasters are in demand all the year round, but bring the best prices in the early summer. It is well for those who have been selling their cull males for low market prices to caponize and fatten them. It means greater profits. Caponizing not only increases the size and weight of the male at killing time, but the capon's flesh is more tender, juicy and finer flavored than the ordinary fowl. This is the reason that caponized soft roasters bring more per pound.

FEED FOR SETTING HENS.

FEED the hens on whole grain during the hatching period, giving them plenty of green food, pure water and a dust bath. Do not worry the hens while the chicks are hatching, but clean out the broken shells when the hatching is about completed, and then leave them quiet for a day or even more, as nothing else will strengthen the little chicks so much as rest and quiet. They should on no account be fed for at least 48 hours after they are hatched, or even longer.

STARTING THE CHICKS.

IT IS important to give the chicks a good start in life and once started to keep them growing. Hold them up on dewey mornings and days of threatened rain. Confinement at such times is better than allowing them to range through wet woods and grass. Incubator chicks are hard to control in times of sudden showers if raised "by hand," and it is generally best to confine their range to a given area and have the coops or shelters well distributed over this space.

It is well to give the chicks to hens at hatching so that they will be lotted out in small bunches, and thus every hen knows her own coop and takes her chicks into it on the approach of rain.

ELECTRIC INCUBATOR.

POUULTY raisers may look forward to lessening their duties by utilizing electricity, as electrically heated incubators and hovers are now on the market. The Electrical World describes an electric incubator and hover. The case is built of two-inch cork boards, reinforced with steel corners. The top is entirely covered with steel, and the base on which the egg tray stands is made of well-seasoned cypress covered with a thick felt pad. The egg tray is made of galvanized steel, and has a removable wire mat on which the eggs are put. A hole in the center allows the chicks, when hatched, to fall into a wire basket hung on runners under the egg tray. Air is filtered through slits in the felt pad base. A ventilating tube extending through the roof and attached to the cover leads down through the hole in the egg tray into the nursery chamber. The amount of air is varied by means of a sliding cap on the tube.

CULLING PULLETS.

CULLING of the pullets that are rapidly forging ahead should not be omitted, for there will be in any flock of young birds those that can be distinguished by this time that will not develop into profitable layers. The cost of keeping culls will before long equal what they will bring when they are sent to the market. It has been well said that if a pullet does not pay a profit the first year over and above her maintenance "she will never catch up with what she owes for her board." Furthermore it is not good policy to coddle weaklings, although one may wish to make the flock as large as possible, for they will not make good breeders and will prove a bill of expense.

WYANDOTTES CAN LAY.

THOSE who claim to know so much about the egg type of Wyandottes, and have made the claim that this breed was losing out in the production of eggs, should have been at Chicago and obtained the data of many of the real leaders of this variety, who

are justly sore that this breed, which has been among the leaders, not by booming, but standing on the record of merit for years, has been unjustly condemned by a few who have jumped at conclusions before obtaining real facts and past records. Wyandottes have always been noted for their great laying qualities, and the new standard is not going to hurt this breed in any manner. With the improved Standard the White Wyandottes should now become more popular than ever, allowing a longer bird, yet still retaining the

curves that have made this breed most beautiful to look upon.

SCRATCHINGS.

If the chickens are permitted to crowd into bunches in a close house on hot nights they will easily catch cold when a damp, cool day comes. Better move the roosts out into the scratching sheds.

In caring for poultry there are three essentials that should never be overlooked. They are: Clean water, green food and fresh air.

SEEDS The Kind that Grow

"You CAN'T Keep Them In The Ground"

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