

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.

IF YOU have a supply of wood ashes, use them on the dropping boards, Lice will never prosper where they have to come in contact with wood ashes. The lye in the ashes kills the vermin almost as soon as it touches them. The ashes may be sprinkled on the boards each time the droppings are removed.

This should be done each day. Never permit an accumulation of manure on the dropping boards, for it will be a breeding place for lice, and the fumes are bad for the fowls that have to roost over them at night. The wood ashes is a purifier and also a good absorbent of the moist droppings. It is well known that wood ashes contain elements that are valuable for fertilizing purposes, and when mixed with the manure from the poultry house, become of double value to the poor land. These droppings should be removed and placed in a barrel or other suitable container, and kept where it is dry.

Such fertilizer will enrich the poorest land, and make ordinary land grow crops that will surprise you. Do not read this and forget it, but try it out this year, and you will find that many benefits will be derived from the extra effort.

Skim Milk For Poultry.

A contributor to an agricultural paper tells of an experiment he made in the feeding of skim milk to poultry that proves its value in a very definite way. He divided sixty pullets into two even lots. One lot was fed skim milk as a part of the ration, and the other was given water. The test began November 1 and closed May 1. In this period of six months the flock that had been given skim milk produced \$52.65 worth of eggs at a cost for feed of \$18.97. The flock that had been given water produced \$30.94 worth of eggs, while their feed bill was \$23.72. Buttermilk is nearly as good as skim milk and either should be fed to the hens whenever it can be had.

White Feathers.

An egg-laying competition in England has brought to light the interesting fact that all the champion layers are white hens. A scientific poultry breeder has come to the conclusion that there is some peculiar virtue in white feathers. He noticed that in a mixed lot of hens the whites went to roost last; they took more exercise and were less affected by bad weather.

This English competition suggests that hens capable of laying 250 eggs a year are more likely to come from the white Wyandotte or white Leghorns than from any other variety, but what the relation may be no one knows.

Nutrition of Eggs.

Hens' eggs contain 50 per cent water, 16 per cent protein, 33 per cent fat.

Ducks' eggs, 46 per cent water, 17 per cent protein, 36 per cent fat.

Goose eggs, 44 per cent water, 19 per cent protein, 36 per cent fat.

Turkeys' eggs, 48 per cent water, 18 per cent protein, 33 per cent fat.

Protein, as is generally known, is the substance that goes to make muscle and blood. Fat, of course, is fuel for running the body-machine. Thus, it will be seen, eggs, though half or nearly half water, are extremely nutritious, containing all the elements required for the building up and support of the human body.

Poultry Hints

THE carcass should be dressed immediately after killing. To allow the feathers to remain on for several hours will hasten decomposition.

In France parts of a carcass can be purchased in market—legs, wings, heart, or any part wanted. In this country it is the whole thing or nothing.

Neatness brings buyers. The best always goes first. Quick growth influences quick sales. The markets have a surplus of poor stuff. Poultry buyers are educated—they want the best.

Turkey hens are profitable until five years of age, but it is a good plan to change the gobblers every year. It re-

quires twenty-eight days to hatch a turkey egg, and seven eggs is considered a setting. The nests should be on the ground.

The chief peculiarities of the English method of dressing poultry are: Killing by wringing the neck, not by chopping or sticking; feathers left on the neck or a few inches from the head, also a few feathers on tail and tips of wings; the breast bone is sometimes broken down by pressing it to one side with the thumbs, and the wings are twisted.

The duck generally lays at night. It thrives best on soft, succulent food. Strong, vigorous birds can be successfully bred at four years of age. When properly fed, when at eight weeks of age, green ducks will weigh nine pounds to the pairs. The best prices for green ducks is given about May 1. Then the price gradually declines until the month of July.

"Farm-raised stock" is not always a guarantee of health and vigor. If farm-raised fowls are allowed to drink from dirty pools in the barnyard; if they are compelled to roost outdoors in all sorts of weather; if they must hunt their grain among the waste in the manure piles, we had rather take our chances with yarded stock. We like to know what our fowls eat and drink, and how comfortable they are at night.

Buy stock from good laying strains, if eggs mostly are wanted. Select stock for broilers from flocks that have plump breasts and broad backs. Such birds will "score" 100 in the market poultry, and yet probably be disqualified for the show room. While it is important to keep poultry within the line of thorough-bred, there is no particular value in scores for market poultry. It is almost next to impossible to have show records and first-class utility qualities in the same flock.

All of the little things that will be necessary for the well-being of the youngsters coming on shortly should be done now. It is not possible to put off till tomorrow what should be done today in rearing poultry.

A dark, unclean, poorly ventilated brooder house will give a low mortality. Whitewash, put on hot, with some good germicide in its makeup, will make a big difference in the number of chicks raised and the rapidity of their growth.

Fruit and poultry work well together, provided the fowls are given the whole orchard in which to run. Certainly fowls are great weeders, and if one wants to keep down the grass in the orchard he can do it without trouble if his flock of hens is large enough.

Too many useless trees in the poultry yards are a detriment, as they prevent the growing of rape and other things that make good pasture for fowls. A plum tree here and there is all right.

Don't forget that the hens want plenty of fresh water, even if the weather is not hot. Laying hens are heavy drinkers, as so much of the egg is composed of water.

Eggs from the best hens should not be eaten. When a fowl reaches the 200-egg mark in a season it is evidence of qualities which ought to be perpetuated. Eggs from this kind of stock should go into the incubator.

The purchase of a few baby chicks from some fine pen of birds will make a splendid start if you care to start in July.

July days bring hot weather and lice, and if the latter get a good start the task of getting rid of them all will not be an easy one.

Let there always be a good supply of cool, clean water and a shady spot to which the chickens can resort during the heat of the day.

Now is the time to reduce the quantity of all fattening food in the ration at least one-half. Corn, especially, is too heating and should not be fed.

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