

Value of Hatched Chicks

By G. L. Wood.

(Special to Farm Magazine.)

EXHIBITION season has arrived for the poultryman. This and the succeeding three months will demonstrate the quality of fowl that has been produced during the spring and summer months. The poultry exhibits at the early fairs so far have brought out an average display with a noticeable shortage of early birds. There are a few breeders who continue to carry away most of the blue ribbons at the early shows with February and March hatched chicks. Size is the one big factor that wins in the fall, all other points being comparatively equal. The quality of these early shows can be greatly improved with the bulk of the exhibitors laying their plans in the winter for the full size birds in the early fall. There is so much disappointment, especially among exhibitors with limited experience, in showing birds a month or two before they have reached full development. It is true that it requires in many cases a latter chick to win at the winter shows than the ones that will pull down the blue in the fall. The cockrels might go a little coarse, and a pullet that has been laying two or three months will not be in as good show condition as the one that is just ready to lay her first egg. There should be some difference between the time planned for development in the larger and smaller breeds. The Leghorns and other breeds in the Mediterranean class develop more rapidly than the Wyandottes, Reds and Rocks, and do not need to be gotten out quite so early.

There is little to fear in raising the early hatched chick. The thought of getting out a January or February chick on the Coast while the rainy season is still on and the winter seems still in full swing throws a horror into the breeder who has never tried it. The fear is unfounded, however. The early chick, if raised in dry coops, with a sheltered run, and allowed to get out on the grass after a month old, at least a portion of the middle day, will outdo the April and May chick in growth, vigor and vitality nine times out of ten. Such chicks get through the early stages practically free from the ravages of body lice, and nearly all of the germ diseases to which poultry is subject, come in the warmer months. Under favorable growing conditions the early chick is more profitable from every standpoint. With the exhibition value out of the question, the February broilers can be sold while the market is at its best, and the minimum chick loss in development in raising these broilers places

the average profit per hatched chick as high as 50 per cent.

The April hatched Wyandotte or Red will make the best winter layer. These will not have reached a sufficient development to have laid a few eggs and moulted before the winter season catches them. The early chick that moults before December and the late one that does not lay before December 1st, as a rule, will not pay their keep in eggs during the winter. This roll up the profits for the breeder, is the season when the layers help and the poultry business is not much unlike any other business in the respect that not one single item of possible profit must be overlooked if the business is to succeed.

Hatching Chicks By Electricity

POUULTY RAISERS may look forward to lessening their duties by utilizing electricity as electrically heated incubators and hovers are now on the market. Where oil-heated chicken hatching apparatus had to be continually inspected to see that the oil supply had not become exhausted or the apparatus was not on fire, the electrically heated devices may be left unattended except to transfer the newly hatched chickens from the incubators to the hovers.

The Electrical World describes an electric incubator and hover. The case is built of 2-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 of galvanized steel and has a removable wire mat on which the eggs repose. 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.

The front of the case is provided with a small glass window to show the interior and allow the thermometer to be read. The heating units are contained in the roof and slip into spring clips, making them interchangeable and removable. These units are of the cartridge type and are so arranged that the heat is equally distributed over all parts of the egg tray. The supply of heat is automatically controlled by means of a thermostat. A signal lamp indicates when the heating circuit has been opened.

The hover has a roof made of cork board covered with sheet steel; the sides are closed by heavy double canvas duck curtains with a layer of 0.5-inch felt in between and above the slits. An automatic heating system similar to that employed in the incubator is used, the heating coils being placed just beneath the roof and enclosed with heavy wire screen.

Variety of Food

EXPERIENCED poultry raisers vary in their preferences for the food they give and it will be good practice for everyone not to stick to any fixed ideas but change rations accordingly as common sense may dictate. Variety will be appreciated by birds as well as by other animals. Try the following for a change: Where wheat is the most readily procured grain, this mash is an unusually good one for growing stock and layers: Ten parts each of oats, boiled potatoes and skim milk; 20 parts of alfalfa or clover, five parts each of bran, cracked corn, ground oats and wheat middlings; two parts meat scraps. This is 1:4.

Turnips or mangels can be substituted for potatoes, meat liquor may be used in place of skim milk, meat scrap may be lessened and oil substituted. Food sprouted oats, at the rate of

one ounce per hen per day where green feed is procurable. If clover, alfalfa or similar green food is not obtainable, double the quantity of sprouted oats. The best way to sprout oats or other grain is to soak for 12 hours, drain in a perforated box, sprinkle and stir night and morning until they begin to sprout, then stop stirring and spread in a layer an inch thick. At end of a fortnight they will have formed a mat nearly three inches thick and have sprouts an inch long. Young chicks should have some of these sprouts rubbed off and fed to them. Each half-dozen laying hens should have about three square inches of this mat, if also fed clover or alfalfa.

Whatever the feed, do not neglect pure water. One hundred birds need one ounce of salt each day.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST FAIRS.

Sept. 29-Oct. 2, Lewiston, Idaho, Lewiston Clarkston Fair Association.

Sept. 29-Oct. 4, Puyallup, Wash., Western Washington Fair.

Oct. 1-3, Condon, Or., Gilliam County Fair.

Oct. 2-3, Sandy, Or., Sandy Grange Fair.

Oct. 5, Salt Lake City, Utah, Salt Lake (Utah) Fair.

Oct. 5-10, Colfax, Wash., Whitman County Fair.

Oct. 16-17, St. Johns, Wash., Harvest Carnival.

Oct. 26-Nov. 14, Portland, Or., Manufacturers' and Land Products Show.

Oct. 28-31, Tacoma, Wash., Washington Boys' and Girls' Agricultural and Industrial Contest.

Nov. 16-21, Spokane, Wash., Spokane National Apple Show.

Nov. 25-28, Walla Walla, Wash., O. W. R. & N. Corn Show.

Nov. 30-Dec. 5, Lewiston, Idaho, Northwest Livestock Annual Show.

Dec. 7-13, Portland, Or., Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Union Stockyards.

Dec. 7-13, Portland, Or., Oregon Poultry and Pet Stock Show.

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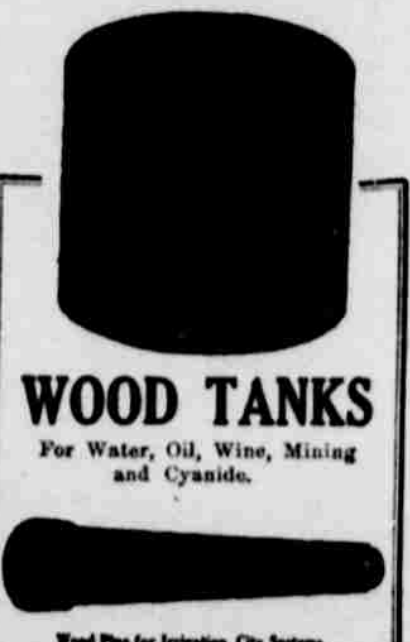
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