

FARM AND ORCHARD.

Forty-Two Important Points in Chicken Raising.

Cleanliness in Butter Making—Wood and Coal Ashes—Straight Talk—Changing Eggs—Wheat Roots—Farm Notes.

P. H. Jacobs, a well-known editor and poultry writer, condenses in forty-two points an epitome of chicken lore, which will be interesting. These are as follows: If the chicks come out of the eggs until the twenty-second day, or longer, it indicates that the temperature of the egg drawer was too low. They should begin to pip on the twentieth day.

If they begin to come out on the eighteenth day it indicates that the average temperature was too high. If chicks come out weak it indicates either too high or too low temperature, or that the eggs were from immature pullets or over-laid hens.

Give no food for thirty-six hours after the chicks are hatched. They should then be fed every two hours until one week old. After that time feed them four times a day until a month old; then three times a day will suffice.

Keep a little box of ground charcoal, one of clean, ground bone, and one of small, sharp bits of bone, and plenty of coarse, sharp sand on the floor; also a box of ground oyster shells, as grit. But in recommending these substances it may be stated that any kind of sharp, small grit will do.

The first feeding may be of rolled oats (dried slightly in the stove, if the weather is damp) rubbed between the hands to crumble it. The rolled (or flake) oats are ready prepared, cooked, and can be had of any grocer, being the prepared oatmeal for instantaneous preparation of oatmeal gruel. Feed this to the chicks dry.

State bread moistened with milk may also be given. On the third day after beginning to feed, vary the food by giving the rolled oats, the meal and bran made the next day. The prepared cake made by using equal parts of bran, ground corn and oats (corn and oats are usually ground together) and middlings (steamed) can be given, but salted to season it, intimately mixed, and cooked in a pan in the stove oven.

Sit the corn and oats first, and feed the coarse part of the mixture. If the mixture can be had, the food may be mixed with it before cooking; if not, use water. Crumble the cake fine when feeding. It should be fed dry.

Ground meal is sometimes used for chicks, but results show that too much of it causes heavy losses. If a piece of meat be cooked to pieces or chopped fine after cooking and fed twice a week, it will be sufficient. A girl of linseed meal to every quart of the dry mixture (before making the prepared cake) given once a week, will be sufficient.

After the first week any kind of food, such as mashed potatoes, cooked turnip, crumbled bread of any kind, or any wholesome food, will be of advantage. When ten days after hatching, the food should be omitted, and wheat one day and cracked corn the next may be used. Begin to teach chicks to eat wheat and cracked corn by sprinkling a little on the floor (about a tablespoonful daily) after they are a week old.

Young chicks do not eat much at a time, but eat often. Do not omit meal. Feed at regular hours. After the chicks are three weeks old the cake may be omitted, and the mixture scalded instead, but the quantity of bran should be reduced one-half.

Bran is indigestible if fed raw, and sometimes causes diarrhoea. If bran is cooked or well scalded, so as to soften it, the bran makes good food, as it largely absorbs in the phosphates, being the best of any bran. It is not necessary to dampen. Water should be given in a manner that will not make the chicks become water-drunk. The chicks must not be allowed to tread in the water. Dampness is fatal.

Get some fresh stone lime, slack it with boiling water, then make a paste of lime water. Keep it in a jug, corked. To every quart of drinking water add a gill of lime water.

If the chicks are weak or have weak legs, from rapid growth, put a teaspoonful of citrate of iron and ammonia (a solid) in each quart of drinking water. A young chick is naked like a babe just born, the down being no protection, hence everything depends on plenty of heat. Better to have a little less than too cold. If the chicks are with hens they must have a warm, tight place, as a hen cannot raise chicks in winter any better than can a chick.

It is not her natural period of the year for so doing. No thermometer is needed in the brooder, or under the hen. If the chicks crowd together, especially at night, they need more warmth. When they shove their heads out, they are too warm, and if from under the hen, the heat is just right. Whenever the chicks do not sleep near the edges of the brooder, but get as close to each other as possible, give more heat.

When the chicks show signs of leg weakness, have a coughing of the vent, and bowel disease results, there is a lack of warmth in the brooder, especially at night. The night is when the chicks must have the greater number of difficulties.

When chicks have leg weakness, and the floor of the brooder is very warm, the cause is too much bottom heat. Bottom heat is excellent for chicks until they are a week old, but after that time there should be only warmth enough on the floor not to have the floor cold, as the warmth should come over the chicks. They feel the warmth on the lack with more satisfaction than on any other portion of the body.

When the chicks have good appetites, but have leg weakness, the chicks moving on their knees, or otherwise appearing lively, it denotes rapid growth and is not necessarily fatal. Feed the chicks on clean surfaces or in little troughs; never leave a little of clean floor in the corner of the brood-house for the chicks to trample in.

When you see the chicks busy and scratching it is a sign of thrift. A single night may ruin all. Never let the brooder become cold for an hour. Once the chicks get chilled they never fully recover. When the chicks seem to be continually crying, it means more warmth needed. The warmth is more important than the food.

The chicks are stupid, drowsy, continually cry, or have fits, look on their heads and necks and under the wings for the large louse. Also examine for the little red mite. Never feed raw cornmeal to very young chicks. Crumbled state bread is always good for them.

Clover hay, cut very fine and steeped in boiling water over night, and sprinkled with cornmeal slightly, fed three times a week, is excellent, but unless it is ex-

ceedingly fine the chicks cannot eat it. One of the best investigators, however, is an efficient clover (clover tea), given in the place of the drinking water occasionally, but must be fresh, and not stale. Drinking water in winter should be tepid, not cold, and always fresh and clean.

Feed very early in the morning as soon as the chicks come out of the brooders. Never keep them waiting for breakfast. Milk may be given, but should be fresh and the residue carefully removed, but do not wash for water. Five water to chicks from the start. Curds may be given two or three times a week, also from buttermilk from parveer. Milk is necessary where it is difficult to procure.

A chick should weigh a pound when five weeks old. The average is a pound for weeks when eight weeks old. To fatten for market give plenty of wheat and cracked corn. Hatching should begin in October and end in April or May.

It costs five cents in food to raise one pound of chick. The clover, eggs, labor, buildings, etc., is extra. The heaviest cost is in the eggs (which are high in winter), as they often fail to hatch. Hens are better than pullets for producing broilers. The males should not be less than ten months old.

Eggs from fat hens, molting hens, immature pullets or old hens, are not good. Give no food for thirty-six hours after the chicks are hatched. They should then be fed every two hours until one week old. After that time feed them four times a day until a month old; then three times a day will suffice.

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State bread moistened with milk may also be given. On the third day after beginning to feed, vary the food by giving the rolled oats, the meal and bran made the next day. The prepared cake made by using equal parts of bran, ground corn and oats (corn and oats are usually ground together) and middlings (steamed) can be given, but salted to season it, intimately mixed, and cooked in a pan in the stove oven.

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ceedingly fine the chicks cannot eat it. One of the best investigators, however, is an efficient clover (clover tea), given in the place of the drinking water occasionally, but must be fresh, and not stale.

stock and retain his calves for the dairy makes a mistake. One of the greatest sources of loss is the practice of buying stock from the dairy. The dairyman knows when a cow is bought, nothing is known of her until she is tested for her results. She may be a many faults, and may bring disease into the herd. Abortions in some herds is due to this cause, as it is known to be contagious. A well-bred cow, raised on the farm, is a more productive stock, is more valuable than two animals purchased at random, and can be raised at less expense than to buy an inferior animal.

COMMERCIAL. SACRAMENTO MARKET.

SACRAMENTO, February 7th. FRUIT—Lemons—\$1.50 per box, 75¢ California, \$1.50 per box, 75¢ Island, \$1.50 per box, 75¢; Oranges—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Apples—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Peaches—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Plums—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Cherries—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Strawberries—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Raspberries—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Blackberries—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Currants—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Grapes—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Pears—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Quinces—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Nuts—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Walnuts—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Almonds—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Pistachios—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Cashews—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Peanuts—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Beans—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Lentils—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Peas—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Corn—\$1.50 per bushel, 75¢; Wheat—\$1.50 per bushel, 75¢; Oats—\$1.50 per bushel, 75¢; Barley—\$1.50 per bushel, 75¢; Rye—\$1.50 per bushel, 75¢; Clover—\$1.50 per ton, 75¢; Hay—\$1.50 per ton, 75¢; Straw—\$1.50 per ton, 75¢; Wood—\$1.50 per cord, 75¢; Coal—\$1.50 per ton, 75¢; Oil—\$1.50 per barrel, 75¢; Lard—\$1.50 per barrel, 75¢; Butter—\$1.50 per pound, 75¢; Eggs—\$1.50 per dozen, 75¢; Milk—\$1.50 per gallon, 75¢; Cream—\$1.50 per gallon, 75¢; Cheese—\$1.50 per pound, 75¢; Soap—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Candles—\$1.50 per box, 75¢; Paper—\$1.50 per ream, 75¢; Cloth—\$1.50 per yard, 75¢; Linen—\$1.50 per yard, 75¢; Cotton—\$1.50 per yard, 75¢; Wool—\$1.50 per pound, 75¢; Hides—\$1.50 per pound, 75¢; Skins—\$1.50 per pound, 75¢; Bones—\$1.50 per pound, 75¢; Horns—\$1.50 per pound, 75¢; Tails—\$1.50 per pound, 75¢; Hooves—\$1.50 per pound, 75¢; Manure—\$1.50 per ton, 75¢; Fertilizer—\$1.50 per ton, 75¢; Lime—\$1.50 per ton, 75¢; Cement—\$1.50 per ton, 75¢; Bricks—\$1.50 per thousand, 75¢; Tiles—\$1.50 per thousand, 75¢; Slate—\$1.50 per thousand, 75¢; Shingles—\$1.50 per thousand, 75¢; Boards—\$1.50 per thousand, 75¢; Planks—\$1.50 per thousand, 75¢; Lumber—\$1.50 per thousand, 75¢; Iron—\$1.50 per ton, 75¢; Steel—\$1.50 per ton, 75¢; Coal—\$1.50 per ton, 75¢; Oil—\$1.50 per barrel, 75¢; Lard—\$1.50 per barrel, 75¢; 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