

THE POULTRY YARD

CONFINEMENT OR FREE RANGE

By ED WEBER

To confine or not confine the fowls is becoming quite an issue. The advocates of both systems present quite plausible theories to prove their contentions. For both they are both right. While the farm is one of the most desirable places to keep poultry, it is a fact that the average American farmer does not make the most of this great opportunity and the business is drifting into the hands of the owner of the village acre or the back lot.

It has been found that hens can be kept on a much more limited area than has been generally supposed, and that a small plot of ground is sufficient for a considerable poultry plant. The village flock which was allowed to roam during a portion of the week, at all seasons all the time, trespassing on neighbors' yards, is becoming extinct, and in their place is found well equipped modern back yard poultry plants that are a source of profit to their owners and a credit to their surroundings.

All in Proper Attention. Hens which are confined produce as many or more eggs than those on free range, when they are properly tended and by improved methods it is no more work to care for fowls properly than to neglect them. On the well-appointed village poultry plant the birds are all securely confined to neat yards and houses or to houses without yards, which is now becoming a popular plan. Where hens are given sufficient house room and the house is properly constructed, a yard is of very little use.

Scratching Best Exercise. Scratching is the best exercise that roaming around. If the hens are made to scratch for all their hard grain in litter, and fed dry mash from a feed box, they will secure sufficient exercise. In tending hens confined, either on the yard plan or to small yards, every want must be supplied. We can not depend on their picking up the missing elements from the yard, as we can when they are on free range. There should be boxes containing grit, shells, beef scrap, charcoal, and dry mash. Water must be in full supply and renewed often as the dishes soon become foul and the water unpalatable. Where practical the water should be renewed twice a day.

To some the hen business seems to be a small business, and so it is if you count each individual hen as a unit, but by placing the hens in flocks of twenty-five or fifty, and counting each flock as a unit, the business becomes to assume some importance. If there is any business that requires close personal attention it is the poultry business. This being so, the more outside help required reduces the proportionate amount of profit. This is not to say that the business is unprofitable, for there are hundreds of immense poultry plants all over the country that are yielding good profits, but I do claim that if those plants were smaller, so that they could be handled without any outside help, the proportionate profits would be much greater than they are today.

Smaller Breeds. Eggs from the branch of poultry keeping for the "back-lot" or village acre man, unless he has the fancy in view and even then he will do better to depend on eggs as his main source of revenue until he becomes thoroughly established. For the production of eggs the small breeds will be found the most profitable in the majority of localities. It is the small, active fowl that bears confinement the best. The larger breeds can be kept in confinement, but they require more looking after to confine them to exercise satisfactorily. Pullets of any breed may be fed a dry mash such as bran or middlings from a box if hard grain is scattered in litter, but it will not do to feed 2-year-old hens of the larger breeds from a hopper or box when confined to a house or yard as they will lay freely, and become unproductive. In fact it does not pay to keep these larger fowls for egg production after the completion of the first laying year, as they will sell for all it cost to raise them, and pullets, taking up no more room, will lay more eggs.

It has also been demonstrated to my satisfaction that hens on free range will lay eggs that hatch better than those in confinement. I account for this from the fact that hens on range will generally molt late in the fall. They will then be in the pink of physical condition when their sisters in confinement, who have been shelling out eggs all winter, are somewhat run down. Then too, the contact with mother earth seems to add to fertility. Why this is I don't know, unless it is just because it is "chicken nature."

The poultry business is a man's work and well worthy the best efforts of any man. The problems are not all solved yet by any means. Let us experiment and give our fellow breeders the benefit of our experience. They will not all agree with us, to be sure. That is not to be expected, but if we start some one thinking, much good may be accomplished.

News of Vanleaves. Miss Mable Frazier, of Lincoln, Neb., is visiting here with her sister, Mrs. J. E. Dyrart. Edward Welp shipped a car of corn to Bannock, the first of the week. Mrs. Alice Hawbecker, of LeGrand, visited the week with her daughter Leona, who is a teacher in the school here.

The box social given at the school house by the school children was well attended. The boxes all sold well, netting the school \$32. "Jack" Hauser made a business trip to Lamolite Saturday. Miss Hattie Geahe, of State Center, is visiting her sister, Mrs. W. T. Pothast.

The ladies' aid held its weekly meeting at the home of George Appel. A goodly number attended and much work was done. Mrs. Appel served a fine dinner. Robert Stevens was accompanied home Saturday by his sister, Miss Nellie Stevens, and two daughters, who were out spending the day with Mrs. Mary Shearer. J. L. Nason, J. A. Turnbull and family, and Miss Elsie Hurtle were Marshalltown shoppers Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Lou Tigges and daughters spent Sunday in Melbourne with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Tigges. Clyde Campbell, of Fremont, is visiting his mother, Mrs. Pauline Campbell.

Ferguson News. Mrs. Egbert has been very sick for two weeks. Her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Surlis, of Steamboat Rock, are here helping take care of her. Mr. and Mrs. John Maurice spent Saturday and Sunday at Marshalltown. Principal O. S. Harner, Miss Mercer and Miss Swanson, were in Marshalltown Saturday attending the teachers' meeting. Mrs. Gertrude Beeler is visiting in Perry this week. Will Willis was in Marshalltown Saturday. Cary Atkins has been in Des Moines attending the grain dealers' convention. George Eitel, of Oswego, Ill., was in town Saturday. Ed Dillon, living south of town, is very sick of pneumonia. L. R. Ideo was in Marshalltown Saturday on business. An old-fashioned spelling school was held at the new school house. Miss Elsie Cunningham "spelled the school down." There will be a literary entertainment at the school house Friday evening.

Liscomb News Notes. William Sommerlot is in Des Moines on business Tuesday. Miss Wanda Coyne returned home from Albion Tuesday. Nelson Piacus has returned from a visit with his parents in Indiana. George Morey, of Eldora, spent Tuesday in Liscomb. Mrs. Lettie Brockenridge, of McIntire, spent Tuesday with her sister, Mrs. W. A. Gould. Irvin Smith went to Belmont Wednesday morning for a visit with his grandmother, Mrs. Vienna Carter. Ben Wheeler returned Wednesday from a business trip to Des Moines. Rev. J. B. Swartz has gone to Des Moines to attend the laymen's convention. Miss Bess Buchanan has returned from a visit at Swo City. Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Fannon attended the school program in Albion Friday evening. Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Coffelt, of Marshalltown, are spending a few days visiting at the J. B. Sweet home. Mrs. Lyman Schryver was in Marshalltown Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. G. B. O'Bryon and son, George, of McIntire, are visiting here.

Something Good. Those who have nasty medicine should try Chamberlain's Tablets for constipation. They are pleasant to take and their effect is so agreeable and so natural that you will not realize that it has been produced by a medicine. Obtainable everywhere.—Adv.

Hot Water for Sick Headaches. Tells why everyone should drink hot water with phosphate in it before breakfast.

Headache of any kind, is caused by auto-intoxication—which means self-poisoning. Livers and bowels, which before breakfast, suck into the blood, thru the lymph ducts, excite the heart which pumps the blood so fast that it congests in the smaller arteries and veins of the head producing violent, throbbing pain and distress, called headache. You become nervous, dependent, sick, feverish and miserable, your meals sour and almost nauseate you. Then you resort to acetanilide, aspirin or the bromides which temporarily relieve but do not rid the blood of these irritating toxins. A glass of hot water with a teaspoonful of lime phosphate in it, drunk before breakfast for awhile, will not only wash the poisons from your system and cure you of headache, but will cleanse, purify and freshen the entire alimentary canal. Ask your pharmacist for a quarter pound of lime phosphate. It is inexpensive, harmless as sugar, and almost tasteless, except for a sourish twinge which is not unpleasant. If you aren't feeling your best, if tongue is coated or you wake up with bad taste, foul breath or have colds, indigestion, biliousness, constipation, or sour stomach, begin the phosphate hot water cure to rid your system of toxins and poisons. Results are quick and it is claimed that those who continue to flush out the stomach, liver and bowels every morning never have any headache or know a miserable moment.

Real Estate. Now Is the Time to List Your Farm Land and City Property for Sale. We have a number of prospective buyers for farm lands, and we want to list all the good farms we can for the season of 1916. BARGAIN IN CITY PROPERTY at 302 West Church street. Lot 90x120, possession at once. Owner is a non-resident and offers it for sale for \$800 less than it could have been bought for two months ago, as he got it in trade and needs the money. SEE US IF YOU WANT TO BUY OR SELL, WE GET RESULTS. Phone—Office, 1303; Res., 638. C. E. Pearson Land Co. Over Electric Light Office.

Wanted—Men by United States government as clerks, 1100 month. Steady work. Marshalltown examinations April 19. Write immediately for free sample questions. Franklin Institute, Department 106 M, Rochester, N. Y.

Wanted—Man at once who understands care of cows. Must be a good milkster. Apply at 207 South Third avenue.

Wanted—Girl as chocolate dipper; experienced. Royal Candy Company.

Wanted—Apprentice girl. Weber Millinery, 317 East Main street.

Wanted—Competent girl for housework. Small family. High wages. References required. Address S-25, this office.

Wanted—At once, waitress and chambermaid at Chicago Hotel.

Wanted—Middle aged woman for cook at country farm. Also woman for general housework. Phone or write County Farm.

Wanted—At once, a widow lady to keep house on a first class farm in Minnesota; must be good housekeeper. A-24, care Times-Republican.

SITUATION WANTED. Wanted—Work on farm by experienced man. Inquire 308 South Second avenue.

Wanted—Experienced man and wife want position on farm. O. C. Blankenship, care of Times-Republican, Marshalltown, Iowa.

Wanted—Work on farm by married man. Experienced. A. L. Hulshiser, Ferguson, Iowa. Box 63.

Business Chances. Wanted—A good live partner to go in the billiard hall business. Address, X-14, care T-R.

Detective Agency. J. E. Jacobs Company, executive offices 314-316 Manhattan building, Des Moines, Iowa. Long distance phone Walnut 850. Dictograph service.

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Public Auction. At auction house, 106 East Church street, Saturday, Feb. 25, two fine dressers, commodes, stands, rockers, buffet, kitchen cabinet, combination case and writing desk, plush divan, gas range, heater, fine enamel bed, bed springs, mattresses, large and small rug, fine set of dining room chairs, table, washer, canned fruit, house doors, window frames, dishes, and many other articles. Here is a fine lot of furniture. Don't miss it. Kendall & Pitcher.

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