FARM POULTRY

WELFARE OF YOUNG TURKEYS

Dampness Is Fatal to Poults During First Few Weeks—Allow Flocks to Roam at Will.

Young turkeys must have dry ground on which to roam. Dampness is fatal during the first few weeks. Poults that come out in bright weather and are blessed with two weeks of sunshine in which to get a start in life, may leave earlier-hatched birds behind. Assuming that the parent stock is vigorous, young turkeys are not difficult to rear successfully. The mother turkey will rid herself of vermin and teach the young to do the same if she has access to a good dust bath. A little pure lard or sweet oil on the head and under the wings of the poults will destroy lice effectively.

Unless the weather is unusually warm and dry it is better to keep the young birds in a roomy open air pen the first two weeks of their life. After that they may be allowed to go where they will, except that it is better not to let them out until the dew has dried off in the morning for a few weeks longer. Restraint is detrimental to turkeys, as a general thing. The average grower should allow the flocks to roam over the fields at will. By so doing they will pick up nearly all of their summer and early fall food.

MALE IS DISTURBING FACTOR

Practice of Allowing Roosters Freedom of Flock After Hatching Season Is Over Is Bad.

(By T. E. QUISENBERRY.)

The one fault in the management of farm flocks which, from the viewpoint of improving the quality of market eggs, is worse than all others combined, is the almost universal practice of allowing the males the freedom of the flock after the hatching season is over. Nine-tenths of the vast number of eggs that are candled out every summer as unfit for food are fertile eggs in which the germ has started to develop. A temperature of 70 degrees will start the germ in a fertile egg to slowly developing. A fertile egg subjected to a temperature of 100 degrees for 24 hours will be unfit for food, while an infertile egg may be subjected to the same temperature for a week and still be perfectly good for cooking purposes.

The simple expedient of shutting up or disposing of the adult male birds as soon as the hatching season is over, if it should become the general custom, would result in the saving of a million of dollars' worth of eggs every season. Another important advantage in having no males in the laying pens is the fact that the hens without males running with them are much more gentle and quiet. The male is a disturbing factor.

CAPONIZE FOR BEST PRICES

Fowls Sell in Winter for 25 to 30 Cents a Pound—Most Attractive in Dozen Lots.

(By M. E. DICKSON, University of Wisconsin.)

Don't sell late chickens cheap; caponize them.

Capons sell in winter from 25 to 30 cents a pound.

Rhode Island Reds, Plymouth Rocks and Brahmas make the best capons.

Keep fowls without food for 24 hours before caponizing.

Be careful to cut away from and not

Typical Capon.

toward the backbone when making the incisions.

Always dress capons "in style"—leave feathers around necks, hocks, on wing tips and end of the tail.

Ship capons in dozen lots; they bring better prices.

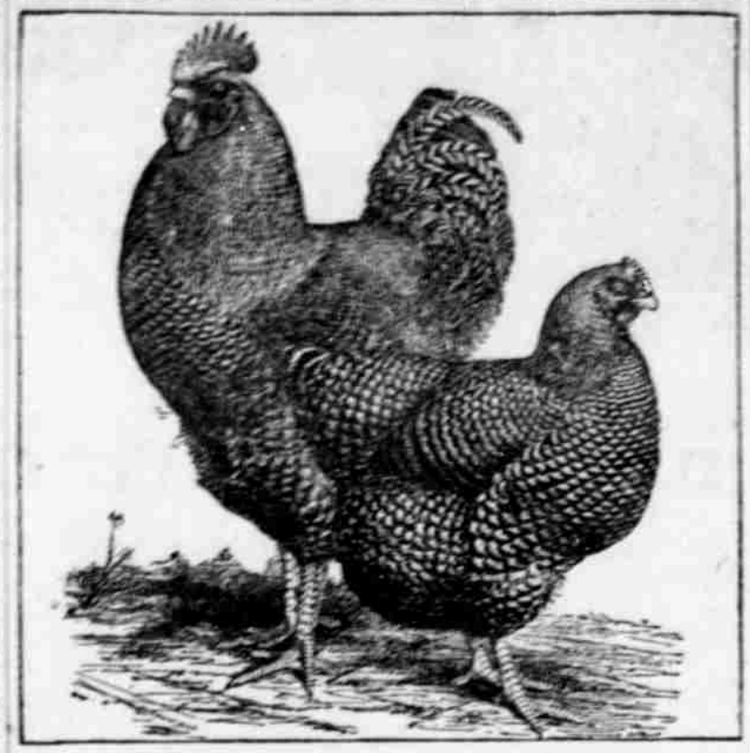
GIVE ATTENTION TO SHELTER

Fowls Require Shade in Summer and Protection From Cold and Damp Weather in Winter.

Attention must be given to shelter. The fowls will require shade in the summer and shelter from cold and damp weather in the winter. To meet these requirements it will require preparations. To wait till protection is actually needed may be too late.

One must anticipate the needs of the fowls.

QUALITIES OF BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS



PLYMOUTH ROCK HAS HARDY CONSTITUTION.

A farmer not long since referred to a flock of Barred Rock pullets which he possessed as his "Dairy Shorthorns."

The metaphor was apt. As the dairy shorthorn is perhaps the best dual purpose cow which we have, so is the Barred Rock the best dual purpose hen.

She is a heavy layer, has a hardy constitution, and is an excellent table bird. True she cannot compete with the best individuals of the heavy meat breeds such as the Brahma or the Cochins, but it takes a good specimen of the special egg producers to rival her even in their own special department.

Origin of Breed.

The Barred Plymouth Rock breed probably originated in Massachusetts about the middle of the last century. It is said to have sprung from the cross of a Dominique cock with a Black Cochin hen. The Barred Rocks combine the qualities of both of these breeds. They more nearly approach the Cochin in size but in other respects closely resemble the Dominique.

Since then, other strains have been added. H. B. May of Natick, Mass., found the stock to lack stamina. He tried a light Brahma cross on it with unsatisfactory results. Then he chanced on a cock which he described as a grade game and which promised to give the desired result. The cross proved satisfactory. In three years all undesirable features had been bred out. From this May stock of the original strain has appeared the modern Barred Rock.

In his work with this stock May devised the double system of mating necessary to produce birds for the show pen. The ideal in color of this breed is bluish-gray barred evenly all over—both sexes of the same shade and marking. It was found impossible to produce this with regularity by mating males and females of the desired shade. Consequently the double mating system was introduced.

These are really two subvarieties of the exhibition Barred Plymouth Rock. These are usually described as the male line and the female line. The exhibition male is produced by mating exhibition males to females of the same line of breeding, these being much darker and less distinctly barred than the males. The exhibition female is produced by mating exhibition females to males of the same line of breeding, these being much lighter in shade and usually less distinctly barred.

The color of the Barred Rock is difficult to describe. It varies in varying lights and the effect depends much also on the width and regularity of the bars. As now described in the American Standard the ground is grayish-white, the dark bars just stopping short of positive black.

Resemblance to Dorking.

It is maintained by many breeders that the quality of the flesh of the Plymouth Rock approaches to that of the Dorking. The flesh is certainly of good texture and flavor. Considering their size they mature early. They are also hardy both as little chicks and as mature birds.

Their laying capacity is much above the average of fowls. Authentic records are reported of more than two hundred and thirty eggs per year from a single hen. They are good winter layers but for best production they should not be kept longer than two years.

UNIFORM EGGS FOR MARKET

Crated Article of Large Size and Same Color Will Bring Highest Price—Best Feed Mixture.

A practical poultryman says: "If you want uniformity in a flock, begin with the eggs. For hatching select eggs all as near alike as possible, for size, color and conformation. In this way you will produce a flock of hens that will lay just the kind of eggs you want for home use or for market." A crate of large eggs, all very near of one size and color will sell more readily and for a higher price than eggs of just as good quality, but of different sizes, colors and shapes. Study the market and furnish just the eggs that will bring the best market price. As to color, tastes differ, one city wants brown eggs, another white eggs.

As a rule dark-shelled eggs, all of one size, bring the best market price.

Give the poultry grass range, shade, clean, pure water and egg-producing food. There is no better egg-producing food than a combination of oats, bran, corn, grass and clover, skim milk and insects.

LOOKOUT FOR LITTLE MITES

Pests Will Be Found in Cracks and Crevices in and Around Perches and on Walls.

Be on your guard for mites; they will first be noticed under the perches and in cracks and crevices immediately adjoining same on the walls.

When first noticed clean the house thoroughly and spray all nests and other fixtures, such as dropping boards, perches, etc., with common kerosene and repeat this operation at least once a week until completely eradicated.

SUPPLY RIGHT KIND OF FOOD

It Must Contain Enough of Feeding Constituents to Maintain Bird and Stimulate Growth.

The kind of food should be such that the fowls will relish it and it must contain enough of the feeding constituents to maintain the birds and stimulate growth and development. This will require study and attention to details which is, of course, method.

HANDLING AND STORING EGGS

Much Deterioration Caused by Improper Methods—Unlimited Demand for Best Quality.

The fresh egg is clean, wholesome, and of good flavor, but is very susceptible to deterioration by improper storage and handling. It often happens that the points of egg production are distant from the place where they are used, and there must be some delay before eggs reach the consumer. There has always been an unlimited demand for best-quality eggs, for which discriminating customers do not hesitate to pay a premium.

The recent disclosures of putrid eggs being used for baking purposes have produced much alarm among consumers. This has had a tendency to reduce the consumption of eggs. There is also a fear in the mind of a person breaking a boiled egg that it will be spoiled. It is not the loss of food contents in the egg that is feared, but rather the mental shock produced by the sight and odor of a spoiled egg.—Arizona Experiment Station.

ERADICATE MITES AND LICE

Dust Fowls With Insect Powder and Provide Plenty Dust Wallows—Use Kerosene Oil.

(By L. HASEMAN, Missouri College of Agriculture.)

If mites or lice appear, dust the fowls with insect powder and provide plenty of dust wallows. Use plenty of kerosene or coal oil on the perches or any cracks or dark places in the chicken houses that could possibly be infested. Clean out often and keep the houses well lighted and well ventilated.

FATTEN FOWELS FOR MARKET

Mistake to Ship Poultry That Is Not Well Fleshed—Big Difference in Price Received.

A good way to lose money on market poultry is to ship the stock to market without making sure that it is well fleshed and fat.

It costs but little and takes but little time to fatten a lot of market fowls and it usually increases their value from 25 to 50 per cent.

Temperance

RAISES STANDARD OF LIVING.

Miss Gertrude Vaile, executive secretary of the bureau of charity and correction, says in the Denver News:

"We have been asked many times whether prohibition has had any effect on the work of the city relief office. We feel that it has very greatly helped us. The number of families asking relief from the city office has been about a hundred a month less than for the corresponding month last year.

"Most of that difference is accounted for in the employment problem. We have had very much less trouble with unemployment this year than last. That may not be due to prohibition, but at least, prohibition has not created a hard unemployment problem, as some people anticipated. We can recall only two cases in which relief has been asked because the man had been thrown out of employment by the closing of the saloons.

"Men are using their wages more for their families. Among us all in the office we can think of only two cases since the first of last January in which a woman has complained that her husband did not bring home his wages. Last year that was a frequent and bitter complaint.

"Grocers tell us, without exception, that they are better able to make their collections, and that people are buying more and better quality of food. One grocer commented that it was worth a great deal to see the increased manner of self-respect with which the women did the buying since they could buy better things.

"So we are convinced that however much or little actual drunkenness may have had to do with the poverty we meet, at any rate, since the closing of the saloons people are being better fed, and that will go far to reduce some other cause of poverty.

"They are doing better about meeting their just obligations, and that will go far toward raising their self-respect and their general standard of living."

PROHIBITION BENEFITS MILKMAN

A Massachusetts man, investigating the dairy business in Denver, found that during the first four months under state prohibition there was an increase in milk sales of over $21,000.

One dairy had a milk route in a district where 47 saloons had been its best customers, and the proprietor expected to take that particular wagon off. But with the closing of the saloons came the opening of more lunch counters and milk sales in that district increased about $15 a day.

There has been little increase in the better residence districts—Park hill, Capitol hill and the well-to-do parts of the North and South sides, where, if people drank, at least they could also buy milk. But a route around the stockyards has an increased business of $5 a day; one around the railroad shops an increase of $6 a day; one in the district between Curtis and Larimer street, an increase of $8 a day.

BEER DRINKER AND HIS FAMILY.

"It is difficult to find a heavy beer drinker 40 years of age with a normal liver, kidneys or heart," says Dr. D. H. Kress. "These vital organs, from the excessive burden that is thrown upon them, wear out prematurely. The beer drinker may have an abundance of flesh, but it is of inferior quality. Surgeons do not care to operate upon him, because the chances of recovery are minimized. Should the beer drinker be stricken down with pneumonia or some other febrile disease that taxes the heart and kidneys, he would have but three chances out of ten to make a recovery."

GOOD BEGINNING.

Alabama's state-wide prohibition law went into effect July 1. Saloons in Birmingham closed their doors at eleven o'clock the night of June 30. A dispatch reporting the business of the recorder's court of that city for the morning of July 3, says there was not a single case of drunkenness nor assault and battery on the docket, the first instance of this sort within at least four years and the clerk thinks he is within the truth in stating that the period is more likely eleven years. It was the lightest docket that the clerk can remember.

VOTE FOR MEN.

A woman with a drinking husband used to wash for a living. When a petition was presented to her, asking that women might vote, the overworked woman cried out "Good gracious! Have we even got to do the voting for the men?"

LAST AND FIRST.

The last to be hired,
The first to be fired,
The drinker.

Lower Grade Price.

It doesn't pay to mix second grade with first grade because your first grade at once becomes second grade in the eyes of the purchaser and you get the lower grade price.

Room for Vegetables.

Do not grow vegtables too thick. Give them plenty of room for full development.

Potatoes for Planting.

Select only the best potatoes for planting

Hereditary.

Tottle (aged six)—But you have only one dolly. I have seven.

Tottle (aged eight)—Well, none of our people ever have large families, anyway.

Postponed It.

The Recruiting Sergeant—But you surely are not eighteen yet?

The Recruit—I should have been, sir; but I was ill for a couple of years.—London Sketch.

A Domestic Sympathy Strike.

Knicker—Has your wife gone on strike?

Bocker—Yes; she struck as a cook out of sympathy with herself as a dressmaker.

"U. C."

"That man talked for four hours and a quarter."

"Yes," replied Senator Sorghum.

"When it comes to using up time he's one ultimate consumer who doesn't have to pay."

Dark Accusation.

"Did you see where a man somewhere accused his wife in court of lighting the gas with two-dollar bills?"

"Well, I don't blame him for getting mad, if she made light of his earnings that way."